



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator
for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes

High-Level Launch Event
17 June 2016 – Vicenza, Italy

CONCEPT NOTE

- WHAT:** Launch event of the OSCE project “*Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes*”
- WHEN:** Friday, 17 June 2016
- WHERE:** The Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) – Vicenza, Italy
- WHO:** The event will be attended by representatives of the OSCE executive structures, interested OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, partner international organizations, civil society, academia and the media (only opening session).
- OBJECTIVE:** The conference will serve as the official launch of the OSCE extra-budgetary project on “*Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes*”. During the event, participants will discuss current human trafficking threats along migration routes and learn more about the project activities and the expected outcomes. Participants will also have the opportunity to visit the Italian *Carabinieri* training facilities in Vicenza.
- FORMAT:** The launch event, to be held in English, will be divided into three sessions:
During the **welcoming remarks and the keynote address**, the OSCE Secretary General, the General Commander of the Carabinieri, the President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament and the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (SR/CTHB) will address the participants and introduce the initiative. This session will be open to the press.
The **first session** will include presentations by relevant international actors on the scope of the human trafficking threat, including recent trends and tendencies, as well as the practical challenges of

identification and prosecution of human trafficking against the backdrop of the on-going migration and refugee crisis.

The **second session** will offer an opportunity to focus on the concrete project activities, and particularly on the innovative simulation-based learning exercises, and on how these are expected to improve the capacities of key stakeholders to identify victims and fight the impunity of traffickers along migration routes.

The **event will be closed** by the CoESPU Director and the SR/CTHB.

BACKGROUND: During the 2015 *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* conference, many participating States stressed the importance of putting policies into practice to better identify victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) within mixed migration flows, as well as to prosecute the traffickers. In an effort to add value in comprehensively addressing the on-going migration and refugee crisis, the OSCE developed an extra-budgetary project on Combating THB along Migration Routes.

The project aims to enhance the ability of interested participating States and Partners for Co-operation to effectively investigate human trafficking, and to promptly identify THB victims along migration routes by promoting a multi-agency and human rights-based approach.

The project consists of an innovative simulation-based training exercise for approximately 200 police officers, prosecutors, labour inspectors and civil society representatives. This approach is intended to promote "*learning through reflection on doing*"¹, as it replaces real experiences with simulated ones, emphasizing key elements of the anti-trafficking action in a fully interactive fashion, thereby promoting international co-operation and joint solutions to common challenges.

The training sessions will have a particular focus on identification and criminal investigation of forced labour and sexual exploitation. In parallel, participants will be encouraged to make proactive use of special investigative techniques, including financial probes, to trace and seize traffickers' profits.

The first simulation exercise for 50 beneficiaries from the Balkan route will take place in November 2016. The second and third training exercises shall be organized in 2017, each targeting 70 participants. The project will strive to assist those national stakeholders who are more negatively affected by the current migration & refugee crisis.

A handbook and a video clip providing guidance on how to organize similar simulation-based learning exercises will be produced in 2017. The handbook will be translated into another OSCE official language to ensure broader usage in the region.

The OSCE will partner with the Italian *Carabinieri* throughout the project. All simulation exercises will be conducted in the state-of-the-art training facilities hosted by CoESPU in Vicenza².

¹ Felicia, Patrick (2011) - [Handbook of Research on Improving Learning and Motivation](#).

² CoESPU is the leading Italian *Carabinieri* training center and doctrinal hub established by G8 countries in 2005, which has trained over 8,000 police, military and civilian peacekeepers worldwide. The expertise in planning and conducting large scale, complex simulation exercises has been enhanced also thanks to its role in the framework of the EUPST 2011 -2013 project, where 2,400 peacekeepers have been trained *inter alia* in combating THB.