

Trafficking in human beings

Trafficking in human beings is a serious crime and a gross violation of human rights. It affects the lives of countless people across the world, with several hundred thousand women, men and children victims of trafficking every year in Europe alone.

The EEA and Norway Grants contribute to combating this modern-day slavery through various targeted programmes and activities.



WHY FOCUS ON TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking creates victims who are often some of the most vulnerable members of society. Traded as a commodity across borders or in their own countries, victims may suffer physical, sexual and emotional exploitation and abuse, made worse by poor living and working conditions.

But the impact of trafficking also goes beyond individuals; it strikes at the heart of European commitments to democracy and fundamental rights of freedom and equality. And according to the EU's statistical agency, Eurostat, the number of trafficking victims in Europe is rising:

- > 18% increase in the number of trafficking victims within the EU from 2008 to 2010
- > Six out of ten victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, while one out of four are trafficked for forced labour
- > 68% of victims are women, 17% men and 15% children

WHAT WILL WE ACHIEVE?

The Grants support programmes and activities aiming to prevent trafficking in human beings, prosecute traffickers and protect victims. The rights of the victims are at the centre of all efforts to tackle trafficking. The programmes contribute to:

- > Preventing trafficking and cross-border crimes involving human beings
- > Strengthening the capacity of national governments to combat trafficking
- > Assisting communities to help victims of trafficking and their families

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE IT?

The EEA and Norway Grants are addressing trafficking through programmes in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovakia. Support from the Grants is focused on activities such as:

- > Funding shelters and other support services for victims of trafficking
- > Information campaigns and other activities to raise awareness of human trafficking
- > Reinforcing preventive and investigative capacity of the police to tackle trafficking in human beings

Snapshot of projects

- > Establishing a support centre for child victims of sexual abuse and trafficking in Lithuania. This is one of several measures in a programme aiming to improve the lives of children and youth at risk.
- > Strengthening the capacity of the police in Poland to tackle cross-border trafficking. The programme aims to improve regional cooperation for combating trafficking.

COOPERATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The EEA and Norway Grants have entered into a strategic partnership with the Council of Europe to protect and assist victims of human trafficking and to combat this vile crime. The Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) provide guidance and direction for our efforts.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Many of the programmes include partnerships between organisations in the donor and beneficiary countries. The aim is to enhance knowledge and mutual learning. Several public bodies from the donor countries are involved as programme partners. They play a strategic role in programme planning and implementation as well as in facilitating project partnerships.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW: TRAFFICKING

Country	Focus of action	Amount (€ million)
Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration and social inclusion of trafficked persons Shelters for victims of trafficking Follow-up of GRETA recommendations 	0.42
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing support services for victims and perpetrators of violence against women and trafficking 	*
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support services for victims of trafficking and women at risk of being trafficked. Anti-trafficking hotline service Awareness raising activities and strengthening NGOs 	1.20
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of centre for child-victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking 	0.07
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up of GRETA recommendations Establishment of regional cooperation structure for combating trafficking Regional conference on Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Victims of Trafficking (November 2013) 	1.15
Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a crisis centre for victims of trafficking in Bucharest Awareness raising activities on risks associated with trafficking, with a particular focus on Roma communities Follow-up of GRETA recommendations 	1.69

*Funds allocated to specific projects following open call for proposals.

In addition to these programmes, initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking will be supported through NGO Programmes in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovakia.

