



**Workshop on
Models for exchange of information in preventing and combating THB
Mavrovo, Macedonia, 30th October 2008
MARRI Regional Centre**

CONCLUSIONS

Workshop “Models for exchange of information in preventing and combating THB” presented an excellent opportunity to exchange the best practices, identify gaps and possible solutions for establishment/improvement of models of formal and regular exchange of information, models of early warning systems among MARRI Member States institutions responsible for combating THB and smuggling of migrants as well as internationally.

Furthermore, the contacts established among MARRI Member States’ national experts as well as EU and US experts increased and facilitated regional and international co-operation.

For successful combating THB and smuggling of migrants it is essential responsible national institutions to co-operate on the international level.

In order to more effectively prevent and combat THB and smuggling of migrants, improve regional cooperation and exchange of information, enhance capacities of national institutions involved in THB and smuggling of migrants issues, the participants agreed on the following:

- ✓ Establishment of legal instruments as a legal ground for development of regional information exchange mechanisms and early warning systems in preventing and combating THB and smuggling of migrants and their implementation in practice has been recognised as crucial.

They need to be based on and harmonised with relevant instruments of international law, in particular UN “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially woman and children“, UN “Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime“, ILO Convention 182 on Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour; ILO Convention 29, Forced Labour; ILO Convention 105, Abolition of Forced Labour, Personal Data Protection legal instruments (i.e. Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Automatic Processing of Personal Data – C 108 and Additional Protocol to the Convention 108, Council of Europe Recommendation No R (87)

15 of 17th September 1987), the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe;

- ✓ Priority areas for information exchange should be the full implementation of Articles 3 to 6 of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe which is already the national legal base for data and information exchange in the member states of the Convention- which are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia). The Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe entered into force in all countries and is now part of the national legislation in member states;
- ✓ For the regular information exchange to combat illegal migration Article 8 of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe should be used in the member states of the Convention;
- ✓ Building a confidence among national institutions responsible for preventing and combating THB and smuggling of migrants has been identified as a very important step in creating foundation for successful international counter-trafficking efforts;
- ✓ Establishment/improvement of tailor-made models of formal, regular regional information exchange and early warning systems in preventing and combating THB and smuggling of migrants applicable to the current capacities of national institutions (i.e. SEE OCTA could be used as instrument for making annual joint analyses in order to have an uniform level of information about the THB crime situation);
- ✓ Development of Liaison Officers Network;
- ✓ Development/improvement of intra-agency, inter-agency and inter-state co-operation and information exchange among various national institutions responsible for preventing and combating THB and smuggling of migrants which will enable them to perform duties more effectively. Co-operation and information exchange among countries, in particular among neighbouring countries, has been recognised as essential;
- ✓ Establishment/improvement of advanced IT and information support system which serves for reliable and timely exchange of information/early warning system in preventing and combating THB and smuggling of migrants.
- ✓ Development/improvement of links with information exchange capacities of EUROPOL, INTERPOL, FRONTEX, SECI, SEPCA, Police Cooperation Convention Secretariat, US DHS – ICE, MARRI.

- ✓ **Promoting of Regional Projects for Building a Regionally Integrated Approach of MARRI Member States for Successful Preventing and Combating of THB will contribute towards capacity building of the national institutions responsible for combating THB and smuggling of migrants and will lead towards better security governance against human trafficking.**

- ✓ **Development/improvement of permanent training systems for all stakeholders responsible for combating THB and smuggling of migrants.**

Mavrovo, 30 October 2008