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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans Region (PaCT)

Approach: Referral Mechanisms
(NRMs)



PROJECT OVERVIEW

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** is implementing the regional project "Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans (PaCT)". The project advises public authorities and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Western Balkans on how to establish the underlying conditions to improve the situation for (potential) victims of human trafficking.

The strategic partner of the project is the **Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI)** – the regional intergovernmental organisation on migration – with its Regional Centre in Skopje, North Macedonia.

The two main target groups of the project are migrants and refugees in the Western Balkan region and vulnerable groups from the Western Balkans who are particularly at risk of being trafficked such as, for example, members of the Roma minority.

PaCT four fields of action:



Prevention:

Making vulnerable groups more resilient to the risks of human trafficking



Protection:

Better identifying (potential) victims of human trafficking



Partnership:

Improving coordination and cooperation between different institutions and referral mechanisms

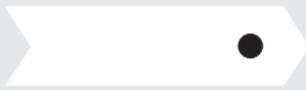


Support services:

Offering education and training as well as advisory services in the area of mental health and psychosocial support tailored to the requirements of the target groups

APPROACH: REFERRAL MECHANISMS (NRMs)

In the course of the past two decades each MARRI Participant has:



developed wide-ranging and comprehensive anti-trafficking legislative and operational tools,

ratified the relevant international and regional anti-trafficking instruments,



developed anti-trafficking strategies and action plans, and

enacted Referral Mechanisms (NRMs) and Transnational Referral Mechanisms (TRMs) for identification, assistance and referral of trafficked persons.



An NRM is a co-operative framework through which governments fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of victims of trafficking in human beings (THB). It enables the coordination of their efforts in a strategic partnership with civil society organizations, the private sector, THB survivors and other actors working in the field. Recognizing its importance, GIZ PaCT has, in collaboration with all relevant actors, looked into possible ways to enhance the functionality of NRMs for trafficked persons in the MARRI Participants. Practically, this is translated in a number of approaches that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of NRMs.

NRM APPROACHES – PURPOSE AND BENEFITS

01

Approach 1: Inclusion of Trafficking Survivors in the Policy Development Process and the Operational Response

It aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the anti-trafficking responses and NRM implementation in the MARRI Participants by ensuring the advisory participation of survivors of THB in the policy development process and the operational response. The approach presents concrete actions and steps to include survivors in anti-trafficking response programmes, based on existing practices in the MARRI Participants and in countries outside the region.

02

Approach 2: Improving the Communication and Coordination Channels among the Relevant NRM Actors on MARRI Participant and International Levels

It aims to provide the MARRI participants with streamlined methods, instructions, tools and good practices for improving the existing communication and coordination channels among the NRM professionals, both internally and at transnational level. It is a practical document that offers instructions, tools, tips, guidance, self-study exercises and good practices for improving the existing communication and coordination channels among the NRM practitioners dealing with trafficking cases and professionals involved in combating the trafficking phenomenon.

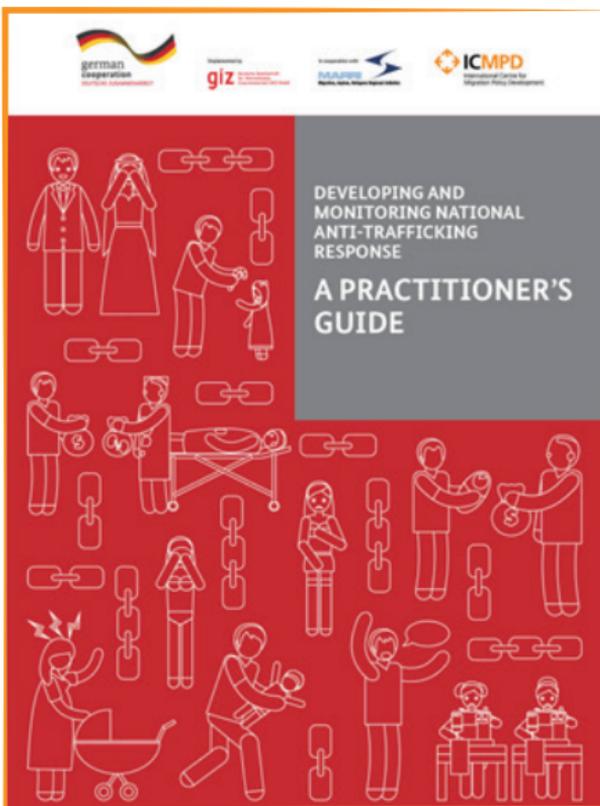
03

Approach 3: Improving Participation of Civil Society Organisations in the MARRI Participants' Referral Mechanisms

It aims to strengthen the participation of CSOs in NRMs by better matching of organisational capabilities, increasing coordination effectiveness, and optimizing distribution of resources. The approach is three-pronged:

- **Pillar 1:** equips participants with realistic methods for increasing CSO engagement in NRMs and using their existing infrastructure and knowledge, as well as for improving CSO monitoring and compliance with standards.
- **Pillar 2:** gives support to CSOs to promote equitable public financing and involvement in policymaking.
- **Pillar 3:** fosters cooperation between CSOs and governments by strengthening their coordination actions and boosting mutual complementarity.

The project has also supported the development of the Practitioner's Guide for Developing and Monitoring National Anti-Trafficking Response, developed and published by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). It is a tool that provides a step-by-step guidance on what the anti-trafficking response is, how it should be designed or revised, and by whom it should be implemented. It outlines the key steps and issues to be considered in setting up effective structures and procedures for results-based monitoring, review, and evaluation of action plans to combat trafficking in human beings. You can find it here: https://marri-rc.org.mk/press_clipping.



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Project:

Preventing and Combating
Trafficking in Human Beings in
the Western Balkans Region
(PaCT)

Address:

Antonie Grubishikj No. 5
1000 Skopje, North Macedonia

 +389 2 31 03 570

 Michael.Samec@giz.de

 www.giz.de

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On behalf of BMZ

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