



Good Practices in Identifying Children at Risk of Exploitation and Trafficking

Oslo, 29 and 30 May 2018

Comment on: Multi-Disciplinary cooperation models for the identification and referral of child victims and children at risk at the national and local level

1. Country situation in German

- No action plan against THB neither an integrated strategy exist
- Most current action plan against sexual violence against children dates back to the year 2011
- However: This moment is a huge opportunity for Germany as the Government follows GRETA's recommendations on implementing a National Referral mechanism for (presumed) child victims of trafficking and has taken enhanced action since 2017

2. Germany's first 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 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.
- It 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.
- It aims at complementing already existing child services and procedures (mainly regarding *Kindeswohlgefährdung* – endangerment of the wellbeing of the child) instead of creating a parallel system of a National Referral Mechanism

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, 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. Participation of 15 Bundesländer (Ministries and/or State Criminal Police).

→ 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.

Challenges:

- No 1 to 1 blueprint but need to be adopted according to the existing regional structure
- State actors/practitioners have little to no knowledge on THB → Don't see cases → no statistics → no need for training staff → no cases identified
- A lot of work for a not very relevant topic
- Don't feel sufficiently involved

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).
- ECPAT provides 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 specialised 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/workshops will be held in four Länder to discuss planning for the implementation of the cooperation strategy in the regions. Probably 2020 a Federal-Länder conference will be held to enable exchange of initial views and experience.