***Cooperation in the best interests of the child:***

**Good Practices in Identification and Referral of Children   
at Risk of Exploitation and Trafficking**

**St. Petersburg, 26 and 27 September 2017**

**Venue:**26th September 2017 – St. Petersburg State Institute of Psychology and Social Work

27th September 2017 – St. Petersburg State Budget Institution Social Shelter for Children „Transit” (Kurlyandskaya Street, b. 20)

**Objectives:**

* Exchange expertise and knowledge with regard to the identification, referral and protection of child victims of trafficking and exploitation and children at risk and develop a common understanding of approaches
* Raise awareness of national tools and methods for the identification and referral of child victims
* Identify opportunities for the prevention of exploitation and trafficking and appropriate responses
* Train in techniques for communicating with children and listening to their stories
* Raise awareness of children’s views and perspectives in relation to the case assessment
* Provide methods and practical approaches for best interests’ determinations
* Develop an understanding of the opportunities and challenges in national and transnational cooperation

**Anticipated additional effects:**

* Fostering contacts, networking, cooperation and trust among officials and professionals
* Understanding opportunities of working across agencies and disciplines and cross-border cooperation and confronting the challenges
* Inspiration for enhancing the identification and referral of child victims of trafficking and exploitation and children at risk

**Target group:**

* Representatives from ministries and agencies from the Nordic and Baltic countries and Northwest Russia
* Caseworkers and officials such as social workers and child protection workers or officials, police, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, immigration officers, border guards, health care professionals

**Methods:**

* Plenary presentations and briefings
* Case studies, group work and inter-active group discussion
* Written briefing and information material distributed prior to the event

**Agenda**

**Tuesday, 26September 2017**

**9.00 Welcome and Introduction**

Welcome by the hosting institution, national and local partners

Welcome and introduction by the Council of the Baltic Sea States

Introduction of participants

**10.30 Child trafficking and exploitation: Definitions and the evolving concept**

Discussion

***11.00 Coffee break***

**11.30 National methods and tools for the identification of child victims of trafficking and exploitation**

National briefings and presentations

***12.30 Lunch break***

**13.30 Identification and referral of children: Challenges and opportunities**

Group work with discussion of cases and experience from practice

**15.00 Children’s perspectives on identification**

Discussion of case examples

***15.45 Coffee break***

**16.15 Communicating with children and listening to their stories**

Child-sensitive interviewing

**17.30 Closure**

**Wednesday, 27 September 2017**

**9.00 Identification and the best interests of the child**

**10.00 Case assessment and follow-up: Risk and resiliency of children**

Group discussion of risk factors and resiliency

***11.00 Coffee break***

***11.00* Multi-disciplinary cooperation for the identification and referral of child victims of trafficking and exploitation**

Mapping of actors and partners

**12.00 International cooperation around the identification and referral of child victims**

**12.30 Concluding reflections**

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