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

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

**Vilnius, 12 and 13 December 2017**

**Venues:**

Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Vivulskio str 11, Vilnius

Vilnius Children Socialization Center, A. Jaroševičiaus street 10B, Vilnius

**Workshop objectives:**

* Exchange expertise and knowledge about 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

**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

**Workshop methods:**

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

**Tuesday, 12 December 2017**

**8.45 Registration of participants**

**9.00 Opening Speech: Children at the Centre**

*Minister Linas Kukuraitis*, Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

**9.15 Welcome and introduction of participants**

*Ms Turid Heiberg,* Head of Children’s Unit, Council of the Baltic Sea States

*Ms Helen Nilsson*, Director, Nordic Council of Ministers office in Lithuania

**10.15 The experience of Lithuania in identifying and referring children at risk of exploitation and trafficking**

*Ms* *Kristina Misiniene,* Head of the Centre Against Human Trafficking and Exploitation

*Mr Karolis Zibas*, Senior Researcher, Lithuanian Social Research Centre

*Ms Dovilė Šakalienė*, Vice-Chair**,** Child Welfare Parliamentary Group / Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with North European Countries

**11.00 *Coffee break***

**11.15 The experience of Lithuania in identifying and referring children at risk of exploitation and trafficking Experiences (continues)**

*Dr Reda Sirgedienė*, National Rapporteur for THB, Ministry of the Interior

*Additional speaker, tbd*

Discussion

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

Presentation and group work

**12.30Lunch break: *Corner Hotel restaurant* ELEMENT, T.Sevcenkos 16**

**13.30 Child trafficking and exploitation: Definitions and the evolving concept (*continued*)**

Presentation of group work and discussion

**14.00 National methods and tools for the identification of children who have been exploited, trafficked or are at risk**

National briefings and group discussion

**15.00 Getting to know the child’s story as a key to identification**

Discussion of the centrality of the child and his/her story;   
Child-sensitive interviewing and communication with children

**15.30 *Coffee break***

**16.00 Referral mechanisms for child victims of trafficking and exploitation**

Group work and discussion

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

Presentation and discussion

**17.30 Closure**

**19.00 Dinner: Restaurant PRANCUZAI, Algirdo g. 24**

**Wednesday, 13 December 2017**

**9.00****Communication with children and child-sensitive interviewing**

*Ms**Dainora Bernackiene*, Head of Children Division, Ministry of Social Security and Labour

*Ms Gytė Bėkštienė*, Director, Children‘s House Užuovėja

**10.15Children’s recommendations**

*Ms Kristina Stepanova*, the Lighthouse Foundation, presents the outcomes from consultations with children in the Center against Human Trafficking and Exploitation.

Group discussion and coffee

**11.15 Travel to the** **Vilnius children socialization center**

Ms *Vida Riaubaite Jukneviciene*, Director of the Centre, informing about approaches to safeguard and refer girl’s victims of different forms of violence, exploitation and trafficking

Presentation of case examples and group discussion

**13.00 Concluding reflections**

**13.15Closing and lunch in hotel "Panorama"**

**Facilitators:**

Ms Turid Heiberg, Ms Maia Rusakova, Ms Daja Wenke and Ms Kristina Misiniene