



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: Presidency, Poland and the Netherlands
to: Working Party on General Matters, including Evaluations (GENVAL)
Subject: Call for input for the conference "Putting Rantsev into Practice
- Strengthening multidisciplinary operational cooperation to fight trafficking in
human beings"
to be held on 16-18 April 2013 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands

CALL FOR INPUT

Putting Rantsev into Practice

- Strengthening multidisciplinary operational cooperation to fight trafficking in human beings

16-18 April 2013, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

On 16-18 April 2013, the Netherlands, in close cooperation with Poland and Cyprus, will host a working conference to develop and strengthen cross-border multidisciplinary (operational) cooperation against trafficking in human beings (THB). In order to be successful in the fight against THB, many organisations need to cooperate. For this reason, the conference aims to bring together employees from 6 different organisations: public prosecution services, the police, border agencies, immigration services, labour inspectorates / investigation services and local governments.

From each of these organisations in the member states, one person will be invited to attend the conference. This creates the possibility of exchanging knowledge, experience, best practices and innovative approaches between professionals of very different backgrounds.

Policy advisors or national coordinators are welcome too (though unfortunately we are unable to reimburse their costs), making a total of 7 representatives per member state. The (potential) candidate countries, Croatia, Norway and Switzerland will be able to send two representatives each. Europol, Eurojust, Frontex, CEPOL and the Commission will also be invited.

In order to make this conference a success, it needs to address issues that are relevant to all member states. We would therefore like to ask you to help us determine what is relevant by telling us

which three subjects should be discussed during the conference?

You may also send us ideas for presentations you would like to give or suggestions for workshops you would like to lead. Based on your replies, we will decide which topics will be discussed and which presentations and workshops can be fitted into the programme.

The **workshops** will be approximately 2 hours long and could include 2 or 3 short (max. 10 minutes) presentations by representatives from different member states.

The **presentations** could be 15-20-minute plenary presentations or shorter (5-10 minutes) presentations during one of the workshops.

The subjects you suggest should aim to be:

- related to (the fight against) trafficking in human beings and relevant to the organisations invited and
- examples of issues / dilemmas that could lend themselves for multidisciplinary cooperation or
- examples of methods to achieve multidisciplinary cooperation (for example, the Netherlands will be presenting its barrier model) or
- examples of existing cases that were handled using multidisciplinary cooperation or
- examples of existing cases that could lend / have lent themselves for applying multidisciplinary cooperation.

The workshops and presentations making up the conference can be either multidisciplinary or “monodisciplinary”, i.e. targeted at one of the 6 professional groups represented. For the purpose of the conference, multidisciplinary means: involving at least 3 of the 6 organisations mentioned (i.e. public prosecutors, police officers, border guards, immigration officers, labour inspectors / investigators and local government officials).

Could you please ask your

- public prosecution service,
- police,
- border guards,
- immigration service,
- labour inspectorate / investigation service,
- one or more local governments, and
- coordinating ministry

to send us their ideas through the website <http://formulieren.justitie.nl/THBconference2013?>

The deadline for filling out the web form is **1 November 2012**.

Background information on the conference “Putting Rantsev into Practice”

All EU Member States are faced with trafficking in human beings (THB), which is why it was made an EU crime priority based on the 2011 OCTA (Organised Crime Threat Assessment), why a new anti-trafficking directive was negotiated, and why an EU anti-trafficking strategy has been published. In the case *Rantsev v. Cyprus and Russia*, the European Court of Human Rights determined that Member States have an obligation to put in place a comprehensive approach to trafficking, including prevention, protection, investigation, punishment and international cooperation. Experience shows that a traditional law enforcement response to THB is not enough. In order to effectively tackle the problem, other government officials such as border guards, immigration officials and local government officials need to play their part in the fight against THB.

The barrier model is a method which has been used in the Netherlands for several years and which has been quite helpful in establishing such a comprehensive approach. The barrier model looks at trafficking as a business model, with different barriers that need to be overcome for a trafficker to start making money. These barriers are: entry, identity, housing, work and financial situation. The barrier model helps to identify the government service that is best placed to raise a certain barrier in order to prevent or suppress criminal activity. It also signals moments at which public officials might be able to identify signs of trafficking. So, for example, municipalities could detect THB through their housing inspectors. When they notice many more people living at a certain address than are registered there, they should recognize this as a possible sign of THB. Increasing housing inspections makes it more difficult for traffickers to do business: it raises the barrier.

In order to make cross-border partnerships against THB more effective, they should also follow a comprehensive approach. The barrier model could be used to find the organisations that can raise the barriers to THB in other countries or in transnational investigations. Other Member States will also have developed methods to create multidisciplinary cooperation. The hope is that a conference exploring multidisciplinary ways to work will inspire different disciplines to increase cooperation and to try out innovative approaches. After the conference, a booklet will be compiled containing best practices presented.

Distribution of the questionnaire

Since we want to make sure we reach all the organisations the conference is aimed at, this call for input will be distributed through the following channels:

- GENVAL
- EMPACT-project on THB
- Informal Network of National Contact Points on the Administrative Approach to Fight against Crimes
- Informal EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms on THB
- Frontex Management Board
- European Migration Network
- Eurojust

- (EU Member States that are part of the) International Association of Labour Inspection
- EU-funded project “Development of common guidelines and procedures on identification of victims of trafficking” (initiated by France)

It could therefore be that it reaches your organisation more than once. Please return only one questionnaire per organisation per country.

We are aware of the large numbers of questionnaires distributed on the issue of THB. Therefore, we would like to stress that responding to the questionnaire is not a necessity but, would indeed be highly appreciated!

Should you have any questions, please contact Ms Evelien Pennings or Ms Sanne van Baaren-Kruidenier of the Ministry of Security and Justice in the Netherlands through THBconference2013@minvenj.nl.



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