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Nordic Council of Ministers

# Exchange of Information in Cases of Trafficking in Human Beings

– Good practices in the exchange of information between public authorities  
and the police in cases of trafficking in human beings



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# Exchange of Information in Cases of Trafficking in Human Beings

– An Inter-Nordic Analysis

## Introduction

### The Project Behind the Short Paper

This short paper is based on a report covering the findings of a project financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers and executed by the Danish Police Directorate, National Centre of Investigation between 2015 and 2016.

The project uncovers which potentially human trafficking-related information is processed by a number of public authorities across five Nordic countries in their daily case processing and how this information is exchanged between the participating public authorities and the police. Based on this, a short good practice is developed and distributed to relevant public authorities. The project is based on empirical data ranging from academic articles to 25 expert interviews.

This short paper presents the good practice and the main findings from the report.

### The Good Practice

The main purpose of the good practice is to assure that public authorities are provided with a default point of contact at the police in each country, if they come across information potentially related to trafficking in human beings (THB).

The National Police has a legal mandate to contact and include any relevant authority in an investigation, to gather and collect all information relevant and to exchange information across borders. The police as such have appeared to be an important epicentre of information.

Aside from distributing the contact details of police THB coordinators, the good practice summarizes a few selected examples of processes concerning exchange of potentially THB-related information. The examples presented in this paper were all mentioned as contributing to a smooth exchange of information and mainly focus on training in identifying THB indicators, the appointment of THB coordinators and participation in THB forums.

Due to the contact details included, the good practice could be shared by any relevant employee at any level in any relevant public authority. It is, however, estimated that the examples of processes are aimed primarily at supervisors of caseworkers who would have the possibility of adjusting procedures inspired by the listed examples.

## Main Findings

### Exchange of Information

The public authorities participating in the project all process information potentially related to THB. However, this does not imply that the different authorities conceive a suspicion regarding THB on a daily basis. The overwhelming majority of the representatives participating in the expert interviews explain that the authority they represent only seldom experiences a need for contacting the police with THB-related information.

Close to none of the participants have found it necessary to contact other Nordic public authorities concerning THB. However, if the participating public authorities processed information relevant to other Nordic public authorities, the majority of them would contact the national police. The participating police authorities confirm that they are mandated to exchange information to other Nordic police authorities mandated to exchange information with relevant national public authorities.

In general, the channels of information do exist, but are unknown to most as they are only needed very seldom. Some of the representatives participating in the expert interviews explain that they experience challenges when they need to contact the police concerning THB. Therefore, when the public authorities do file a report to the police, the majority request a main point of contact in order for them to make sure that the information reaches the right department within the police.

## Concluding Remarks

The need for contacting the police or other Nordic authorities with THB-related information may be limited simply because the public authorities very seldom come across THB-related information. However, quite a few of the representatives participating in the expert interviews raised a general concern as to whether the employees of the participating authorities know enough about THB.

The majority of the representatives estimated that there is a general need for information about THB indicators and knowledge about what type of information is relevant for the police in order to carry out investigations. Therefore, it seems to be in place to set forth a recommendation for training in identifying THB indicators across relevant public authorities.

In general, the majority of the representatives participating in the expert interviews requested forums, cooperation, working groups, and similar with an explicit focus on THB. Where such forums exist they are very much appreciated, as they create contact points and inter-official awareness among the participants. Therefore, it further seems to be in place to set forth a recommendation for establishing more forums with an explicit focus on THB and, where they exist, to consider including more public authorities.

The report concludes that three cornerstones are essential in order to exchange information concerning THB: training and education in the indicators of THB, clear channels of communication between the public authorities and the police, and organizational priority towards trafficking within each public authority and police authority.

The intention of the National Centre of Investigation is – through the project and the distribution of the report and its good practice – to contribute to the ongoing knowledge sharing and awareness on trafficking in human beings.

Link to the main report

<http://dx.doi.org/10.6027/TN2016-542>

## Good Practice

The national police THB coordinators can be contacted when other public authorities do not know to whom in the police THB-related information should be sent, or if they experience any difficulties in the matter. The coordinators will then assure that the information is handled and brought to the right police department. If information has connections to other Nordic countries, the national police coordinators can facilitate the exchange of information across borders through the international police cooperation.

Contact details of the national THB coordinators (police):

### Finland:

- National Bureau of Investigation 24/7 Communications Centre.  
E-mail: [vlk.krp@poliisi.fi](mailto:vlk.krp@poliisi.fi)  
Phone: +358 295418612
- National Bureau of Investigation THB Intelligence.  
E-mail: [lama.krp@poliisi.fi](mailto:lama.krp@poliisi.fi)  
Phone: +358 295486853 (Petri Koskinen)

### Denmark:

- National Centre of Investigation THB.  
E-mail: [pol-nec-menneskehandel@politi.dk](mailto:pol-nec-menneskehandel@politi.dk)  
Phone: +45 41373757 (Kit Andersen)

### Iceland:

- National Expert THB.  
E-mail: [snorri@logreglan.is](mailto:snorri@logreglan.is)  
Phone: + 354 6115001 / +354 4441277 (Snorri Birgisson)

### Sweden:

- National Expert THB.  
E-mail: [per.englund@polisen.se](mailto:per.englund@polisen.se)  
[therese.kullman@polisen.se](mailto:therese.kullman@polisen.se)  
Phone: +46 105639734 (Per Englund)  
Phone: +46 10534043 / +46 767753610 (Therese Kullman)
- National Expert and National Rapporteur THB.  
E-mail: [kajsa.wahlberg@polisen.se](mailto:kajsa.wahlberg@polisen.se)  
Phone: +46 105639190 / +46 708414029 (Kajsa Wahlberg)

### Norway:

- National Criminal Investigation Service THB.  
E-mail: [knut.brattvik@politiet.no](mailto:knut.brattvik@politiet.no)  
Phone: +4723208258 / +4748112435 (Knut Bråttvik)

A number of initiatives were mentioned during the expert interviews as being crucial, when public authorities (including the police) wish to enhance their internal organizational focus on THB and better contribute to the exchange of information to potential investigations to the police. The following three types of initiatives are highlighted and some examples set forth for inspirational use:

### Training

- The Finnish Immigration Service, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration and the Swedish Migration Agency train employees in the indicators of THB, as any employee could come across THB in their case processing and therefore need to know which indicators to be alert to (see sections 8.2.1, 8.4.1, 8.5.1, 8.3.1 in the main report, - link on page 4).
- The Danish Tax Administration has trained all relevant employees participating in workplace inspections in THB indicators (see section 8.3.1).
- The Reykjavik Metropolitan Police has trained all relevant public authorities in the indicators of THB and information that could be relevant for THB investigations. Therefore, all relevant public authorities know who to contact in the police concerning THB (see section 7.1.4).

### Procedures

- The Finnish Immigration Service, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration and the Swedish Migration Agency have online THB guidelines, accessible to all employees, describing indicators of THB and procedures for the caseworkers when detecting THB and contacting the police (see sections 8.2.1, 8.4.1, 8.5.1).
- The Danish Working Environment Authority has a Quality Procedure listing the THB indicators specifically relevant to workplace inspections and describing what to do during and after an inspection where THB information is detected and how to contact the police (see section 7.3.1).
- The Danish Tax Administration has distributed a pamphlet about THB indicators relevant to tax inspections, including guidelines for who to contact in case of indicators, and made a questionnaire to use for potential THB cases during inspections (see section 8.3.1).

### Coordinators

- The Icelandic Directorate of Immigration has a THB coordinator in charge of collecting all THB-related information and for exchanging relevant THB information to the police (see section 8.1.1).
- The Finnish Immigration Service has a THB expert whom other employees contact if they detect THB (see section 8.2.1).
- The Swedish Migration Agency and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration have national anti-trafficking coordinators, several regional coordinators and unit-level coordinators, creating an efficient channel of information and assuring THB focus during case processing (see sections 7.4.4, 7.5.1).
- The Reykjavik Metropolitan Police has established a communication network with a contact person from each public authority responsible for sharing THB information with the police. The appointment of key persons has resulted in more information being shared with the police (see section 7.1.4).



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