

It is an honour and pleasure to present the publication *Exploitation of migrant workers in Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Lithuania: Uncovering the links between recruitment, irregular employment practices and labour trafficking*.

This publication is a compilation of four independent research reports commissioned under the umbrella concept of ADSTRINGO - Addressing trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation through improved partnerships, enhanced diagnostics and intensified organisational approaches. ADSTRINGO is a flagship project of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) under the Priority Area – Crime.

The partners of the ADSTRINGO project are *the Council of the Baltic Sea States Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (CBSS TF-THB), The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania and the University of Tartu in Estonia*.

The publication will serve as one of the key ADSTRINGO project components alongside national workshops with relevant actors. In a parallel project implemented in Poland and Russia two additional independent research reports will be produced.

This publication edited by the *European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI)* is also part of their publication series.

*This research compendium on recruitment practices in both countries of origin and destination provide new information on the vulnerabilities, factors, methods and channels that facilitate exploitation.*

*Ultimately guidelines for employers and recruitment agencies will be developed in group settings which it is hoped will further contribute to the prevention of THB by aiding the identification of exploitative situations and enabling the reduction of such situations occurring.*

These findings combined with the national workshops as well as the previous CBSS TF-THB project *Data and Education on Forced Labour Exploitation and Counter Trafficking (DEFLECT)*, in partnership with HEUNI as well as the previous HEUNI project *Trafficking for Forced Labour and Labour Exploitation (FLEX)* amongst others, will jointly enhance the final results of *ADSTRINGO*.

*In summary* jointly the research component of ADSTRINGO aim at improving the current level of knowledge in the Baltic Sea region regarding exploitative recruitment practices that may lead to trafficking as well as the roles and responsibilities of employers in preventing such exploitation.

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