

Malta Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Persons

January 2013- December 2014

Introduction

Malta's first Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Persons, which covered the period 4th quarter 2011 to 4th quarter 2012, had the following objectives:

1. Consolidation of current procedures and initiatives relating to trafficking in persons;
2. Identification of areas of concern requiring action;
3. Enhancement of accountability in relation to the delivery of actions within the National Action Plan;
4. Provision of the necessary tools and resources for the development of a holistic strategy in the fight against trafficking in persons;
5. Raising awareness among Public Authorities in relation to the importance of trafficking cases with a view to register greater effectiveness in relation to the prosecution of cases and the identification of victims; and,
6. Where necessary, enhancing the Administrative Capacity of Maltese authorities to deal with Human Trafficking cases.

The implementation of the first Action Plan was overseen by the **Anti-Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee**, a committee appointed by the Prime Minister and chaired by **Malta's Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator**.

The monitoring structure and objectives of the first Action Plan are being retained for the present Action Plan.

The first Action Plan comprised a total of **14 actions**, with their status of implementation as at end 2012 being as follows:

- 9 implemented;
- 4 partially implemented; and
- 1 not implemented.

This means that the present Action Plan must address some key issues brought forward from the first Action Plan, particularly:

- The fostering of awareness among persons vulnerable to human trafficking;
- The conducting of an awareness raising campaign;
- The finalisation of guidelines for the identification of victims of human trafficking;
- The formalisation of arrangements for the identification and referral of victims of human trafficking; and,
- The completion of a study on the human trafficking scenario in Malta.

These measures have therefore been incorporated into the present Action Plan, either as ongoing measures, or measures to be implemented during or by a specific timeframe.

Ongoing Actions

Seven of the Actions contemplated by the present Action Plan are to be implemented on an ongoing basis during the course of 2013 and 2014. These Actions are:

- The regular convening of the **Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee** and the **Stakeholder Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings**;
- The submission of a progress report to the Prime Minister, once every 6 months;
- Enhancement of the Administrative Capacity of the authorities involved in victim identification, victim support or the apprehension/prosecution of offenders;
- The fostering of awareness among persons vulnerable to human trafficking;
- Liaison with EU and international bodies addressing human trafficking issues, including the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA);
- Participation in international conferences and events, including meetings hosted by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator; and,
- Upholding and strengthening ongoing Police efforts towards the identification of new crime trends and risks. Reviewing Police *modus operandi* as necessary in order to better address changing situations.

The implementation of these measures, as well as the other measures contemplated by this Action Plan, would also contribute towards the implementation by Malta of the objectives of *The EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016* and *Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/EC*.

The remaining actions are subject to specific timeframes and are featured in the table hereunder.

ACTIONS	TARGET DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
2013			
Mentoring of service providers in relation to the identification and the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking.	1 st quarter 2013	Ministry for Home Affairs	
Issuing of National Indicators for the Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking and conclusion of agreement on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).	1 st quarter 2013	Monitoring Committee and Stakeholder Task Force	<p>The National Indicators have been drafted and submitted to the Monitoring Committee for approval.</p> <p>The SOPs have also been formulated and discussions held within the Stakeholder Task Force during the course of 2012.</p>
Conducting an awareness raising campaign	Awareness campaign conducted over the period 1 st quarter 2013- 4 th quarter 2013	Ministry for Home Affairs Ministry for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Awareness raising initiatives have been undertaken during 2012, including through participation in local TV programmes and the publication of information relating to human trafficking on the websites of the Ministry for Home Affairs and <i>Aġenzija Appoġġ</i> .
Review and compilation of statistical data relating to recognised human trafficking cases as well as potential cases with a view to better disaggregate such data in accordance with established best practices.	1 st quarter 2013	Ministry for Home Affairs, with the cooperation of Police Force, <i>Aġenzija Appoġġ</i> and ETC.	

ACTIONS	TARGET DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<p>Transposition of <i>Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/EC.</i></p>	<p>2nd quarter 2013</p>	<p>Ministry for Justice, Dialogue and the Family</p>	<p>Work on the transposition of the Directive and other amendments relating to the human trafficking provisions in the Criminal Code has been undertaken in 2011, with the publication of relevant amendments as part of Bill No. 97 of 2011.</p>
<p>Research on potential victims of human trafficking and/or categories of persons at risk.</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2013</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs Other entities, including NGOs</p>	
<p>Follow-up on past training initiatives and delivery of information and updates, as well as discussions, with the entities concerned, including, as necessary, the Judiciary, Assistants to the Judiciary, law enforcement officers, the legal profession and the Police Force, as well as to officials of <i>Aġenzija Appoġġ</i>, the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS), the Office of the Refugee Commissioner and other Public Authorities, as well as NGO's involved in the sector.</p>	<p>4th quarter 2013</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and pertinent stakeholders.</p>	

ACTIONS	TARGET DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
2014			
Organisation of a Conference for stakeholders to discuss activities and the results obtained during 2013	1 st quarter 2014	Ministry for Home Affairs in collaboration with stakeholders.	
Publication of material discussed during the conference and other relevant documentation, including guidelines for the treatment of victims of human trafficking.	2 nd quarter 2014	Ministry for Home Affairs in collaboration with stakeholders.	
Ensuring protection of potential child victims of trafficking, including by way of the adoption of guidelines specific to children.	2 nd quarter 2014	Monitoring Committee Stakeholders' Taskforce In collaboration with other stakeholders as necessary.	
Final report on the implementation of the Action Plan.	4 th quarter 2014	Monitoring Committee in collaboration with all stakeholders.	

