

# Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes

## Project Update

*“The project is truly unique and the results are genuinely extraordinary. In the end, one thing is certain: the border between reality and simulation becomes increasingly blurred for all candidates, and their learning is all the better for it.” (David Mancini, public prosecutor)*

February 11, 2018, a Moldovan anti-trafficking hotline contacts an Italian counterpart to report that a family in Moldova believes a girl is imprisoned in an apartment in Vicenza, Italy. She is being trafficked and her life is in danger.

A Russian speaking mediator helps the Italian hotline discover the captive girl’s location, which allows Italian investigators to swiftly carry out a raid to rescue the girl and arrest her captor. At the scene of the operation, an NGO, cultural-mediators and psychologists assist the girl in being relocated to a shelter where she remains until being granted her wish of an assisted return to her country of origin a week later.

From the girl’s initial phone call to Moldova, to the arrest of her alleged trafficker, only seven hours elapsed.

This was precisely the effective multi-stakeholder approach envisaged by the OSCE when launching its training project “Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes” in 2016. Through its innovative live-simulation exercises, the project provides participants with improved knowledge of indicators for identifying trafficked persons as well as concrete proposals on how to apply a multi-agency and human rights-based approach to trafficking investigations.

In the Moldovan case, almost all responders integral to the successful operation had previously participated in the OSCE’s simulation exercise, highlighting its impact in bringing new energy and capacity to the fight against human trafficking.

### Live action simulation: a unique methodology to combat human trafficking



One day focus on **theoretical, methodological and technical issues** related to anti-trafficking actions in a mixed migration context.



Four days devoted to a **live simulation exercise of sexual and labour exploitation cases among migrants and refugees**, including child victims.



Strong focus on **investigation and prosecution effectiveness** while adopting a **victim-centred approach**.



Vigorously promote the **use of financial investigation mechanisms**.

*“I think it is one of the most effective methods not only to make training really effective and action/achievement oriented, but also to have long-lasting impact on the work in the field in a right-based and multi-agency perspective.” (Marco Bufo, civil society expert)*



*“The simulation revealed a very impressive approach. Thanks to that, in the future I will handle a case of human trafficking with a different perspective”. (Participant to the third International simulation)*

## The Project in numbers

**4** Live simulation exercises

**251**

Participants



**155**

Female



**96**

Male

### Professional Background of Trainees

- Financial investigators
- Criminal investigators
- Labour inspectors
- Prosecutors
- NGOs
- Public/Municipal Social Service Providers
- Lawyers
- Cultural Mediators
- Journalists



**51** Countries represented



 OSCE/Carabinieri

# Latest Updates



**3** live-simulation exercises held in the last 14 months.

The exercises held in June 2017, September 2017 and January 2018 trained 196 practitioners to better identify victims of trafficking in mixed migration flows, as well as to aid in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers.

## Next Steps:

**2** further live-simulation exercises will be held in 2018

In September the first Russian-language exercise will be held in Kazakhstan. It will include participants from Europe & Asia and mark an expansion of the project's geographical scope, with 57 participants coming from 13 countries.



In December an international English-language live-simulation exercise will be held in Vicenza, Italy, to train about 70 practitioners to better identify victims of trafficking among mixed migration flows.



In 2018 the project handbook will be finalized. It will provide a step-by-step guide on how to design and conduct simulation-based training exercises, and thus consolidate the gains made over the course of the project.



In 2018—2021 the new Mediterranean project will engage OSCE Mediterranean partners for cooperation to combat trafficking in persons through live-simulation exercises. This project will build synergies among experts from both sides of the Mediterranean in order to enhance the overall migration governance in the region.

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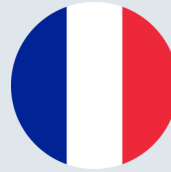
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## What is the OSR/CTHB?

- The Office was established in 2003 to help OSCE participating States develop and implement effective policies for combating human trafficking.
- The Office promotes a victim-centred and human rights-based approach through its focus on prevention, prosecution, protection and partnerships.