

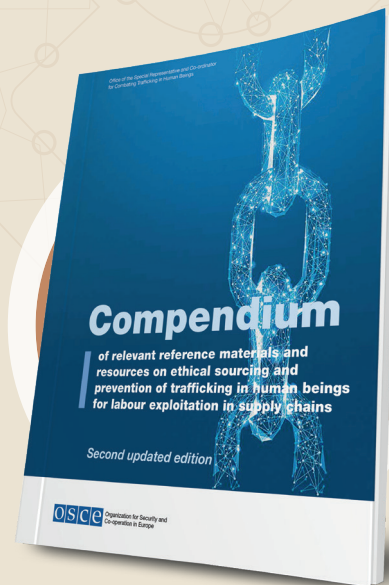
# Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Supply Chains



## The Issue

Trafficking in human beings (THB) is a human rights abuse and a lucrative crime that can be found in the production of goods and in the delivery of services we consume. Today's globalized economy is characterized by complex supply chains with goods, materials and labour sourced from all around the world. Vulnerabilities in supply chains create reputational, economic, legal, and other risks for procuring goods from entities engaged in human rights abuses.

One of most effective ways to disrupt and prevent THB for labour exploitation is to eliminate the market for goods or services produced by trafficked people through informed and ethical purchasing. Public institutions and businesses can adopt measures that remove such goods and services from their supply chains and thereby undermine the financial incentive of human trafficking.



## The OSCE's approach

Over the past decade, the OSCE and the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR CTHB) have undertaken efforts to improve the understanding of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation and the measures required to address and prevent it.

The OSR CHTB supports participating States in the development and implementation of relevant legislation and measures. The Office also engages with international partners (Alliance 8.7, ICAT, ILO, OECD, IOM, etc.) to promote this approach in international organizations. And the OSCE implements policies and practices internally to ensure that the OSCE's own supply chains and procurement practices do not contribute to human trafficking, thus serving as an example for other public entities.

These initiatives promote and advance numerous international commitments related to combating trafficking in human beings and forced labour. [The 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan](#) to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings as well OSCE [Ministerial Council Decision 6/17](#) called on participating States, OSCE executive structures and the private sector to adopt and implement measures to prevent trafficking in their supply chains.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8.7, 12.7, and 16.3 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development express similar obligations. And, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights (UNGPs) have emphasized this duty and specified that when States conduct commercial transactions with businesses, they must promote awareness of and respect for human rights by those enterprises (UNGP no.6).

*The Ministerial Council (...) calls on participating States to:*

*Promote policies (...) that take into account whether businesses are taking appropriate and effective steps to address the risks of human trafficking (...) when considering the awarding of government contracts for goods and services; (MC Decision/6/17, para 11)*

### Project Information

1st phase: 2016 – 2019  
2nd phase: 2020 – 2023  
OSCE Extra Budgetary Project  
Project No.: 1102249



## What have we done?

The OSR/CTHB has advanced the adoption and implementation of legislation and measures in the OSCE region by developing resources for participating States, raising awareness and providing technical assistance, and testing provisions in its own and other International Organizations' procurement practices.



### Participating States

[Model Guidelines for governments on preventing trafficking in supply chains](#), including a **Model Law**, published and translated into all 6 official OSCE languages. This publication also highlights how States can implement legislation and policies that promote transparency to ensure that public supply chains are free from trafficked labour.

[Compendium of relevant reference materials - updated in 2020](#). The Compendium takes stock of the existing legislation, policies, guidelines, recommendations, reports, studies, and other initiatives developed to better understand and respond to the global problem of trafficking in human beings through its prevention in supply chains.

Capacity strengthening of 245 representatives from 52 OSCE pS and Partners for Co-operation through the organization of **workshops** in Central Asia, the Western Balkans and Europe on implementation of Model Guidelines.

#### Goal

- Put the topic of THB on the agenda of public procurement experts and vice versa
- Support OSCE pS with policy development and capacity building



### International Organizations

- In cooperation with UN agencies, developed a task force within the UN's high level procurement network to develop a joint framework for UN agencies and other international organisations on preventing THB in procurement.
- Introduced topic of preventing THB in procurement of international organizations into UN's Inter-agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking (ICAT) and developed ICAT Issue Brief on public procurement to raise awareness among IOs and States.

#### Goal

- All Task Force and ICAT members have adopted measures to prevent THB in their procurement
- To harmonize procurement practices in co-operation with IOs and to exchange best practices



### OSCE's Supply Chains

- Developed and adopted contract and tender provisions for OSCE procurement
- Conducted pilot assessment of THB risk in procurement of OSCE field operation; results are published in an [analysis report](#)
- Developed Guidance for OSCE Procurement to prevent THB
- Developed Training for OSCE procurement and program staff and launched implementation

#### Goal

- All OSCE procurement is subject to protections and all OSCE relevant staff gained awareness about their possibilities and duties to prevent THB

