



ICMPD

**International Centre for
Migration Policy Development**

**TRM – A Model for Transnational Cooperation in
the Referral and Assistance of Trafficked
Persons**

Outline

What is ICMPD?

The ICMPD TRM Programme (2006-2012)

What is a TRM?

Process to develop a TRM

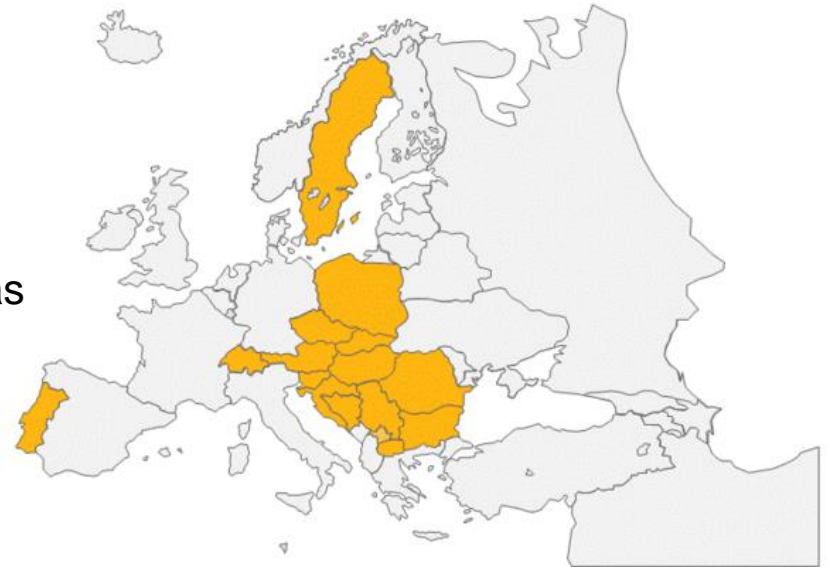
Challenges along the way

Good Practices and Recommendations

Next steps

ICMPD Overview

- Established in 1993 in Vienna as a forum to address current migration issues
- International, intergovernmental organisation
- European in principles and values, working at a global level
- 6 Thematic competence centres in different areas of migration
- 16 Member States, seat agreements with 5 countries
- 80 running projects (using external expertise in implementation)
- 150 staff members in 19 locations



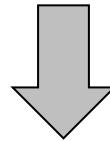
www.icmpd.org

ICMPD Anti-trafficking work

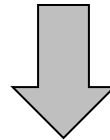
- **Supporting national administrations in the:**
 - Design, review and evaluation of THB national action plans and strategies
 - Collection and analysis of relevant THB data
- **Conducting multi-agency training:**
 - Law enforcement officers, judges and prosecutors, labour inspectors, border guards, NGO representatives, relevant ministry officials, etc.
- **Creating platforms for transnational cooperation and development of a transnational referral mechanism (TRM)**
- **Conducting research:**
 - Comparative studies on THB policies
 - Gaps and needs assessment for THB actions

ICMPD's TRM Programme (2006 – 2012)

Participants: multidisciplinary teams (NITs) from **SEE and EU**
14 countries



Objective: to develop **harmonised** mechanisms for comprehensive transnational assistance of VOTs



Ensure **sustainable partnerships** and facilitate **cross-border cooperation**

Why is NRM/TRM are needed?

“the ratio of victims identified compared to the estimated victims is only 0.4 per cent!”

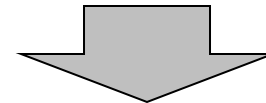
US TIP Report

The EU Context:

Eurostat report from 2013:
most trafficked persons from BG
and RO

EU THB Strategy from 2012: by
2015, the Commission will develop
a model for an EU TRM

- Internal and Cross-border co-operation informal and ad hoc
- No harmonised standards applied to referral of VoTs
- Lack of contacts

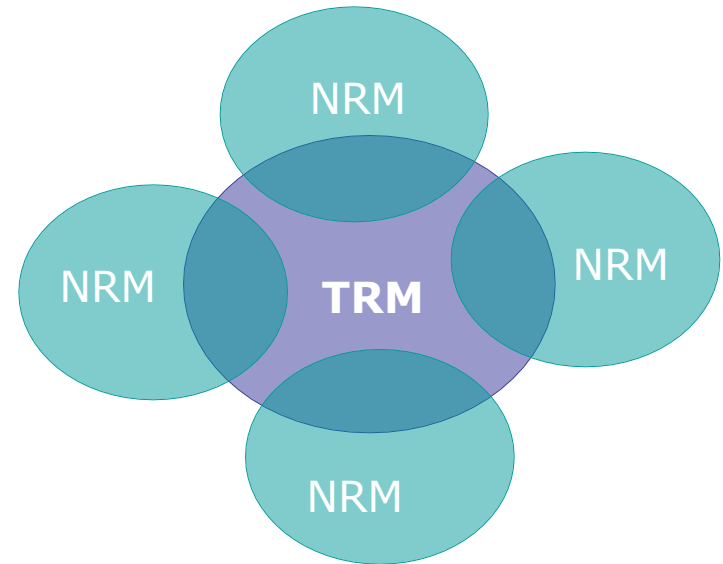


Low level of system sustainability

Serious protection and assistance gaps

Bring it up to the transnational level!

- ◆ A TRM links the full process of referral from initial identification, through return/resettlement/stay and assistance – **harmonised SOPs**
- ◆ **Between countries** of transit, destination and origin
- ◆ Involves **cooperation** between different government institutions and non-governmental actors –
PARTNERSHIPS!

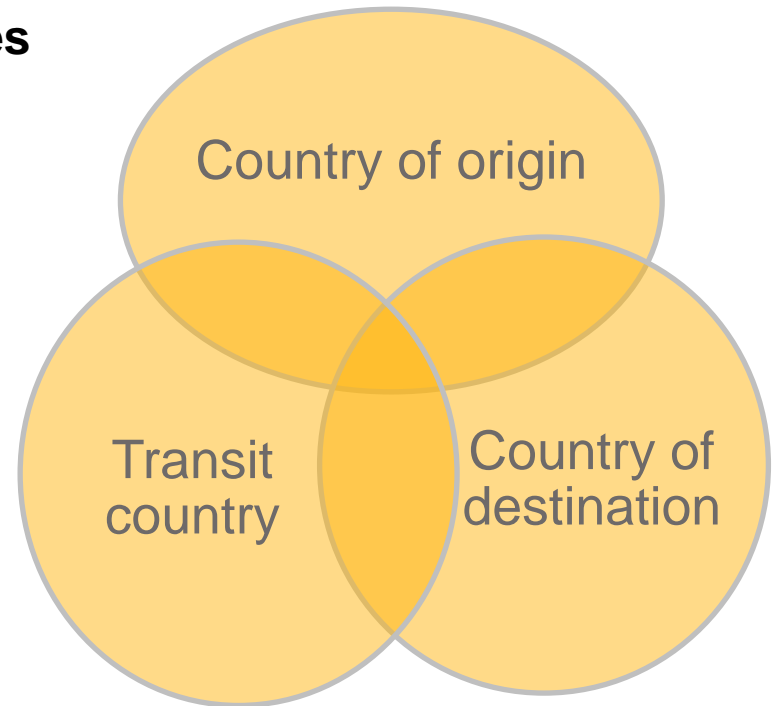


TRM builds upon NRM, takes it a step further....

TRM: One possible model for transnational cooperation

Harmonised Standard Operating Procedures

- SOP 1** Identification
- SOP 2** First assistance and protection
- SOP 3** Long-term assistance and social inclusion
- SOP 4** Return and social inclusion
- SOP 5** Criminal and civil proceedings



How does a TRM function?

Each SOP = set of MEASURES

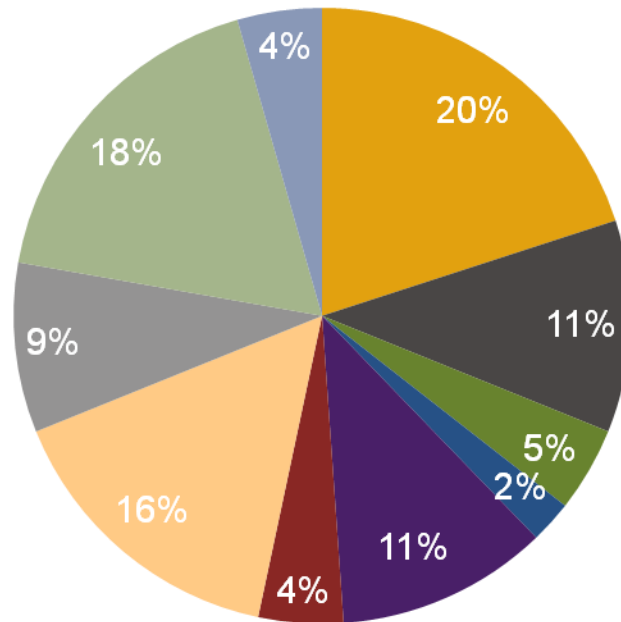
- **WHAT** they are
- **WHEN** they should be put in place
- **WHO** should be responsible for them
- **HOW** they should be carried out

TRM Content: Example

- Set of recommendations
- Practical measures
- Specific measures for children
- Example of good practices
- Flowcharts for easy reference
- Contacts of relevant officials

IDENTIFICATION	Preliminary	Measure 1 INITIAL REFERRAL Step 1. Referring the presumed trafficked person to the first point of notification Step 2. Assessing if the presumed trafficked person is a minor Step 3. Appointing the guardian if presumed victim is/assumed to be a minor
	↓	Measure 2 ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS AND INFORMATION Step 1. Explaining to the presumed trafficked person his/her rights/responsibilities & available assistance Step 2. Assessing imminent threat Step 3. Assessing urgent needs Step 4. Determining safety measures
	↓	Measure 3 EARLY RISK ASSESSMENT Step 1. Assessing imminent risks and determining safety and well-being measures Step 2. Inquiring on urgent needs Step 3. Addressing urgent needs/requests of the presumed trafficked person
	↓	Measure 4 LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AND CULTURAL MEDIATION Step 1. Providing translation/interpretation between assistance providers/police and the presumed trafficked person Step 2. Informing interpreters/cultural mediators regarding their roles Step 3. Informing the presumed trafficked persons regarding their rights and the role of the interpreter/cultural mediator

Who has been involved / Whom is the programme for?



- NGOs
- Border Police
- Frontline Police
- Others

- Ministry of Interior
- Prosecutors
- Ministry of Labour

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Judiciary
- NGC

TRM Assessment Report 2012 - Evaluation

Anti-trafficking agencies	No. of professionals interviewed
Ministries	22
NGOs	15
Law enforcement agencies	11
IOs	11
Others	10
Judiciary	11
Labour inspectorates	3
Total	83



Asked questions about:

- Whether, how and by whom the TRM SOPs are implemented
- Obstacles and gaps encountered
- Suggestions for improvements
- Description of transnational cooperation practices in place in cases of trafficking in persons involving two or more countries.

Positive feedback from practitioners

- *“They (TRM GLs) provide for a **quicker information channeling** and sharing between related agencies inside and outside the country.” (Police officer)*
- *“The TRM GLs helped us a lot, we **developed our NRM** based on the measures in the GLs.” (National TIP coordinator)*
- *“The TRM contact list provides for fast communication with relevant authorities in **other countries** in the region” (Former police officer)*
- *“The TRM has really helped us because now we have some contacts that previously were formal and we didn’t know how to get. Now, we just open the TRM Guidelines **and find the right contacts and measures to apply**. It really proved to be very useful.” (Governmental officer)*

Challenges along the way

- Lacking political and/or institutional support
- Different level of implementation across different “TRM” countries: binding vs. non-binding guidelines
- Selected group of project participants – risk of not passing on the knowledge/train additional actors on using the tools
- Keeping the TRM guidelines and contact lists up to date
- Stronger focus on countries of origin – difficulty in drawing destination countries on board
- Providing for case follow-up and feedback: template for transnational referral

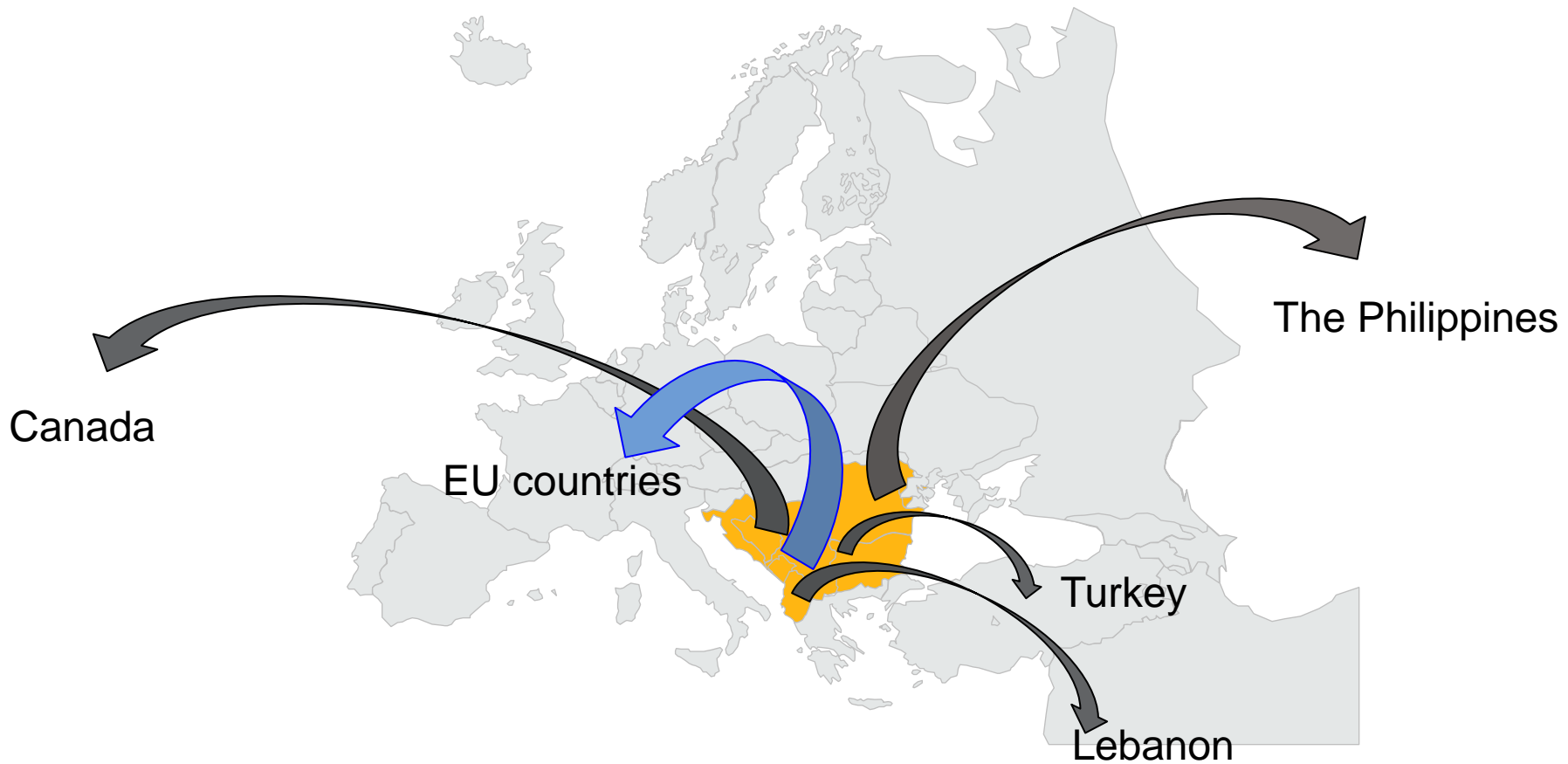
Good practices and recommendations

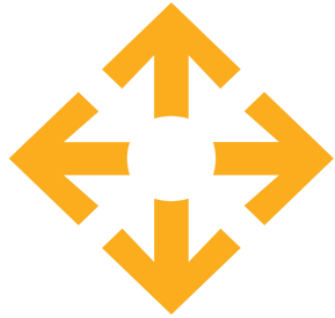
- Use TRM as the **link** between international instruments and practices
- Ensure compliance with human rights standards
- Use **existing channels/networks** for cooperation at different levels
- Promote shared responsibility – need of integrated approach – **trust** - Confidence that many of your counterparts are using the same tool
- List of **contacts** – direct cooperation/communication
- **Ready to use yet flexible tool** – Guidance – flexible, pick-and-choose menu according to national legislation - constant M&E and review

Next steps: ensuring sustainability of the TRM model

- Revision and update of the TRM guidelines
- Encouraging spin-off initiatives (esp. at bilateral level)
- Inclusion of larger number of destination countries
- Adaptation of the SOPs for specific forms of exploitation, such as labour exploitation and child trafficking
- Expansion of the circle of stakeholders involved in the process („unusual suspects”)

TRM beyond SEE borders...





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Thank you very much for your attention!

Mariyana Radeva Berket
Project Manager
Anti-trafficking Programme

Phone: +43 1 504 46 77 2353
Fax: +43 1 504 46 77 2375
E-mail: mariyana.radeva@icmpd.org

Gonzagagasse 1
1010 Vienna
Austria
www.icmpd.org