



Chapter 6. Inter-agency cooperation

Unit-responsible partner: KWPG



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6. Inter-agency cooperation

6.1 Introduction

Inter-agency cooperation, especially in the context of preventing human trafficking, is essential for tackling this complex and transnational issue. Effective collaboration among various agencies at national, regional, and international levels enhances the ability to identify, prevent, and respond to human trafficking in a more coordinated way.

6.2 Learning objectives

Training on international cooperation in terms of human trafficking can have different objectives, depending on the audience and context. Here are examples of the objectives of such training:

- **Enhance international cooperation:** Develop skills for effective cooperation between law enforcement agencies, government agencies, NGOs and international institutions such as Europol, Interpol, the UN or regional organisations.
- **Understanding of international legislation and policy:** Providing knowledge of applicable legal standards, international conventions (e.g. UN Protocols, Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings) and national regulations on trafficking.





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- **Improving skills in victim identification:** Learning methods for detecting victims of trafficking, recognising signals indicating the exploitation of persons in different sectors (e.g. labour, prostitution, forced labour).
- **Training in the management of international investigations:** Imparting skills on how to conduct international investigations, such as sharing information between law enforcement agencies, coordinating rescues and arrests in different countries.
- **Increasing capacity to offer support to victims:** Developing competencies to assist victims of trafficking, including securing their rights, legal, medical, psychological and social assistance.
- **Tackling the causes of trafficking:** Teaching participants about the main causes of this crime, such as poverty, social inequality, lack of education, and how to counter these problems at an international level.

The aim of the training is not only to provide theoretical knowledge, but also to develop practical skills that will help to more effectively prevent and prosecute human trafficking crimes at the international level.

6.3 Definitions

Law enforcement agencies (police, border guards)

These agencies are key in identifying and apprehending perpetrators of trafficking and in carrying out international prosecutions, including coordinating with Interpol or Europol.





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Social and welfare services

They need to work with other institutions to provide protection and support to victims of trafficking. This includes psychological assistance, housing, as well as social integration.

Immigration services

They cooperate in the monitoring and prevention of irregular migration that may lead to trafficking and also help to identify victims during border controls.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

Offer support to victims of trafficking, both physically and psychologically, and are often a key element in informing the public about the risk and in providing support in legal processes.

Local and administrative authorities

Can help coordinate activities within local communities and implement educational programmes to prevent trafficking.

6.4 Theoretical / informative part

Cooperation between police, border guards and labour control authorities in the fight against trafficking in human beings is a key element in the fight against this serious crime that takes place at national and international level. Such cooperation is based on the exchange of information, joint operations, and the coordination of activities aimed at both preventing and prosecuting perpetrators of trafficking in human beings, as well as assisting victims. The main aspects of this cooperation are as follows:





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- **Information exchange and joint analysis:**

Police, border guards and labour control authorities (e.g. the State Labour Inspectorate) cooperate in collecting and exchanging information on cases of human trafficking. Through appropriate communication channels, the services can quickly share data on potential victims, suspected criminal organisations, as well as information on trafficking within borders, the labour market or sectors vulnerable to forced labour exploitation.

- **Joint operations and interventions:**

Within the framework of cooperation, the services carry out joint operational actions to combat trafficking in human beings. Joint patrols at the borders, control of border crossings, as well as operations in areas vulnerable to exploitation of illegal labour, make it possible to catch people who may be victims of crime. Border guards play a key role in detecting people who cross borders illegally or are forced to work under illegal conditions.

- **Apprehension and prosecution of offenders:**

The police, acting within anti-trafficking teams, take measures to apprehend offenders and organise prosecutions. Border guards support these activities, especially at the borders, by checking documents, identifying persons who may be victims of cross-border crime and preventing trafficking victims from crossing the border illegally.

- **Controls on working conditions:**

Labour control authorities, such as the State Labour Inspectorate, have a role in monitoring working conditions in various sectors, especially those that may be used by criminal groups to employ people illegally, often against their will. Through





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cooperation with the police and border guards, labour inspectors are able to carry out inspections in companies where there is suspicion of employing victims of human trafficking. Their role is also related to providing appropriate conditions and employment assistance to victims and preventing further exploitation.

- **Training and exchange of experience:**

Joint training and seminars organised by different services help to raise awareness of new methods and techniques for detecting trafficking. Police, border guards and labour inspectors exchange experiences and best practices in order to better understand the mechanisms of criminal organisations involved in human trafficking and to skilfully intervene in difficult situations.

- **Helping victims of trafficking:**

Services cooperate not only in prosecuting perpetrators, but also in assisting victims. Victims of trafficking often require medical and psychological support as well as legal assistance. Police and border guards cooperate with non-governmental organisations that offer shelter, legal assistance and support in the process of integrating victims into society. Labour control authorities help to ensure that victims are able to obtain legal employment or other forms of support based on current legislation.

- **International cooperation:**

Due to the cross-border nature of human trafficking, cooperation between countries in the exchange of information and operational activities is crucial. Poland cooperates with other countries, especially within the framework of the European Union and international organisations such as INTERPOL or Europol,





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which allows for more effective combating of international criminal networks involved in human trafficking.

All these activities make up a comprehensive and coordinated fight against human trafficking, in which the police, border guards and labour control authorities play an important role, cooperating with each other at different operational and organisational levels.

Cooperation between border guards, police, prosecutors and labour inspection authorities in the field of anti-trafficking is a complex web of interaction between different services and institutions whose task is to combat the crime of trafficking in human beings, as well as to provide adequate protection and support to victims. Each of these authorities has a unique role, but their joint action allows for more effective detection, prosecution of perpetrators, as well as assistance to victims. A detailed description of this cooperation is provided below:

- **Border Guard:**

The Border Guard plays a key role in the prevention and detection of human trafficking, particularly in the context of irregular migration and cross-border crimes. Their tasks in this cooperation include: Border control - the Border Guard monitors border crossings, both at state and internal borders, in order to detect illegal attempts to cross the border. Victims of human trafficking often attempt to cross the border illegally or falsify documents. The Border Guard conducts identity and document checks to prevent illegal border crossings and to detect victims of trafficking.





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Patrols in border and international zones: The Border Guard undertakes patrols in vulnerable areas, such as near railway stations, ports or airports, where victims of trafficking may be present.

Coordination with other services: The Border Guard cooperates with the police, in particular in countering illegal employment and the exploitation of forced labour. Often their activities include joint interventions in employer inspections and in areas vulnerable to trafficking crime.

- **Police:**

The police, especially within specialised anti-trafficking units (e.g. CBŚP in Poland), play a key role in detecting and prosecuting perpetrators of human trafficking. Cooperation with other services consists of: Gathering information and conducting prosecutions: The police, using a variety of operational tools, collect information on criminal organisations involved in human trafficking. This may include internet monitoring, eavesdropping on conversations or other intelligence methods. It then collects evidence in order to apprehend the perpetrators. Conducting joint operations: The police often cooperate with the Border Guard to control borders and areas prone to trafficking in persons. Joint operations may include apprehending trafficking offenders and conducting searches in areas where victims may be present.

Assist in the prosecution of perpetrators: Once suspects have been apprehended, the police work with the prosecution to prepare the evidence necessary for charges and investigations.





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- **Prosecutor office**

The public prosecutor's office plays an extremely important role in the prosecution of offenders and in ensuring the proper conduct of court proceedings. In the context of cooperation with other services:

- Coordination of prosecution activities: Prosecutors cooperate with the police in overseeing the prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking in human beings, including in collecting evidence, interrogations, securing evidence, and organising arrests.
- Representing the case before the court: The prosecutor's office prepares the case file and presents it before the court, ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable. It works with officers to present the best evidence to prove the offenders' guilt.
- Protecting victims: The Public Prosecutor's Office can also play a role in victim protection, working with NGOs and social welfare units to ensure that victims are safe and supported.

- **Labour inspection bodies (State Labour Inspectorate).**

Labour inspection bodies, such as the State Labour Inspectorate (PIP), have a key role in monitoring employment and working conditions in companies that may engage in illegal trafficking activities. Their tasks include:

- Inspections of working conditions: labour inspectors carry out inspections at places of employment where the use of forced labour may be present. These often take place in industries vulnerable to abuse, such as construction, agriculture, catering or domestic work.





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- Cooperation with the police and border guards: When trafficking situations are detected (e.g. victims of forced labour), labour inspectors inform the police and border guards so that these services can take appropriate action to prosecute the perpetrators and provide protection to the victims.
 - Combating illegal employment: The Labour Inspectorate has an important role in detecting illegal employment and cooperates with the police in monitoring the labour market, especially in industries that may be vulnerable to exploitation of victims of trafficking.
- **Coordination and exchange of information**

Cooperation between the services is based on close coordination and exchange of information. In the event of suspected human trafficking or illegal employment, all services must act quickly and efficiently. Data exchange takes place at various levels:

- Sharing information on suspected criminal groups and procedures - services share information about suspected trafficking organisations, modus operandi and potential victims.
- Information exchange systems - national as well as international cooperation uses integrated information systems that enable rapid data transfer between services and within international structures such as Europol or INTERPOL.
- Joint training and exercises - services regularly participate in training and exercises to develop common procedures and improve their response to cases of trafficking. Training includes both techniques for prosecuting offenders and protecting victims.





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- **International cooperation:**

Due to the international nature of human trafficking, cooperation with international bodies (e.g. Interpol, Europol, UNODC) and with other countries is essential. Within the framework of international procedures, services cooperate to exchange data, conduct joint prosecutions and organise cross-border operations.

Cooperation between these services is essential to effectively combat human trafficking, which is complex and requires close coordination in many areas, from prevention to prosecuting perpetrators and assisting victims.

6.5 Suggested activity for the chapter

Table 11. Exercise: Recognising victims of trafficking - 'Interviewing suspects'

Activity Name	Exercise 2: Recognising victims of trafficking - 'Interviewing suspects'.
Type of Activity	Simulation
Duration	90 minutes
Learning Objectives	The aim of the exercise is to develop the skills of cooperation between services and institutions responsible for countering trafficking in human beings at national level. Participants in the exercise will have the opportunity to practice information exchange,



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	<p>coordination of activities and decision-making in a crisis situation, taking into account different roles and responsibilities.</p>
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol for operational activities of the services. • List of inter-agency contact and cooperation procedures. • Scenarios for analysis by teams. border guard functionary, prosecutor, etc
Guidelines for the facilitator	<p>Preparation (15 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory instructions for participants: Divide participants into teams representing different agencies and institutions involved in anti-trafficking. Each team has a specific role and tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Team 1: Police / Law enforcement ○ Team 2: Border guards / Immigration services ○ Team 3: Social services / Victim protection ○ Team 4: Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) ○ Team 5: Government administration / Ministries responsible for migration and anti-trafficking policy • Scenario preparation: Each team gets a set of information about an emergency situation related to a trafficking case. The scenario will be based on a fictional but realistic situation where victims of trafficking have been identified during a

border operation and information has reached law enforcement, border guards, and victim support organisations.

Simulation (60 minutes)

- Scenario:

Team 1 (police) receives information about a group of people who may be victims of human trafficking from Team 2 (border guards), who have identified irregularities in the documents of several people during border control. The border guards suspect that these persons may be victims of human trafficking, forced to work under illegal conditions.

- Tasks:

- Team 1 (police): Immediate response - verify the information and organise the investigative action in coordination with other services.
- Team 2 (border guards): Provision of detailed information, close cooperation with the police, securing the site and persons.
- Team 3 (social services): Provide medical and psychological care to victims, assist in finding safe shelter and organise further support.
- Team 4 (NGOs): Assistance in identifying victims, monitoring human rights procedures, support in contacting victims.

- Team 5 (government administration): Coordinate activities at national level, organize communication and cooperation between agencies, provide resources and legislative support.
- Course of the exercise:
 - Preliminary phase (15 minutes): Each team analyses the information received and makes initial decisions. Team 1 and Team 2 coordinate at the operational level (apprehending persons, securing evidence). Team 3 and Team 4 plan victim support, identifying needs, providing them with information on their rights. Team 5 monitors the whole process, coordinating communication between agencies and being responsible for formal and administrative issues.
 - Crisis phase (30 minutes): Participants in the simulation have to react quickly to a changing situation. Difficulties may arise, e.g. the need to evacuate victims quickly to a safe location, difficulties in communication between agencies, the emergence of new information. Team 1 and Team 2 must work together to ensure the safe apprehension of suspected human traffickers while ensuring the protection of victims. Team 3 and Team 4 work together to assist victims, organising psychological and legal support. Team 5



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	coordinates communication, provides resources and administrative support.
Debriefing	<p>Debriefing phase (15 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of activities, discussion of difficulties and challenges encountered by agencies during the simulation. • Joint discussion on the strengths of the collaboration and areas for improvement. • Identify best practice and areas where collaboration could be improved.
Tips for facilitator	<p>Leading the exercise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the scenario: Start the exercise by introducing the scenario and assigning tasks to each team. Explain that each group has a role and responsibility, but that their success depends on working together with the other groups. • Monitor progress: Go from team to team during the simulation, observing how the collaboration is going and how the participants are coping with the tasks. Make sure each group knows what to do and has access to the information they need. • Maintain momentum: Give participants time to analyse the situation and make decisions, but stimulate them to act faster if necessary, by introducing sudden changes in the scenario,

e.g. new information, unexpected difficulties, additional challenges.

- Fostering communication: Encourage participants to communicate regularly between teams. Pay attention to whether they are effectively exchanging information and effectively managing resources and activities.

Interventions during the exercise:

- Resolving difficulties: If you notice that any team is experiencing difficulties, intervene by offering tips or questions to help solve the problem. However, instead of giving ready-made answers, try to get participants to find solutions themselves.
- Conflict management: If misunderstandings or conflicts arise in groups, remind participants of the purpose of the exercise - to work together. You can conduct a brief intervention, reminding them of the need to listen to different points of view and make compromises.
- Introduce variables: Introduce elements that change the crisis. For example:
- New information: As a result of cooperation with another country, we learned that the perpetrators of trafficking have moved some of the victims to a neighbouring region.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistical problems: Due to transport difficulties, some victims may not reach their place of care in time. Confusion: During the evacuation, one of the suspects tried to escape, which requires the intervention of all services. With such changes, participants will have to adapt their plans to the dynamic situation. <p>Coordinate the debriefing phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concluding the exercise: After the simulation, invite participants to share their impressions. Encourage reflection on what has been achieved and what needs to be improved in terms of cooperation.
Variations for online implementation	<p>An online exercise on service cooperation in counter-trafficking can be carried out on a video platform (e.g. Zoom), dividing participants into working groups (police, NGO, prosecution). The groups discuss a trafficking case, developing actions within their role. After the group work, they present the results, and a discussion follows on the challenges and how to improve cooperation. The whole exercise can be enriched with variables in the scenario that test the flexibility of cooperation.</p>
Handouts	<p>Material 1: 'Procedures for inter-agency cooperation when trafficking is detected'</p> <p>Material 2: 'Key institutions and agencies in Poland fighting against trafficking in human beings'</p>



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6.6 Reflections

- Collective reflection: At the end of the exercise in this chapter, participants should share their own most relevant conclusions. This will help to draw good practices from the exercise and apply them to future activities.
- Preparation for the real issue: Participants should remember that they the principles of cooperation that were developed during the exercise can be applied in real emergency situations.
- Which questions were most effective in obtaining information?
- What techniques helped to build trust and obtain comprehensive answers?
- What difficulties did the officer encounter in identifying the victim?

