



Report of the Panel Meeting on Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Human Beings

14-15 April 2016

Chisinau, Moldova



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first Panel meeting of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Migration and Asylum Panel in 2016 took place in Chisinau on 14-15 April and was devoted to the pressing topic of irregular migration and trafficking in human beings in the context of the current migration crisis in Europe. The event co-hosted by Moldova and Poland provided an opportunity for the representatives of the European Union (EU) Member States (MS) and institutions, EaP countries, international organizations and civil society to harmonize their knowledge and share the most recent information regarding the dimension and dynamics of irregular migration as well as the impact of the migration crisis on human trafficking.

Presentations delivered by the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) and the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), as well as the written contributions submitted by the countries participating to the Panel meeting¹, showed that individual EU MS are affected by the crisis to different extent, depending on the number of irregular migrants and asylum seekers approaching their borders, while none of the EaP countries was significantly affected by the crisis. At the same time, as Frontex's analysis shows, migratory routes may change due to policies and counter-measures adopted by concerned states. This implies that the countries in the region need to be ready to react to the changing migratory tendencies.

In light of the above, representatives of the migration agencies of the Czech Republic, Sweden, Ukraine and Moldova offered an overview of their governments' preparatory and response measures. IOM Ukraine presented a summary of the relevant policies and measures adopted and applied to respond to the migration crisis by the governments of the countries participating to the Panel. These measures include restrictive border control, enhancement of border infrastructure, revision of the migration and border management related legislation, increased emphasis on the need to adopt appropriate operation, human resources and training schemes, close monitoring and analysis of the migration situation, cooperation with the neighboring countries, assistance to the countries of origin, strengthened provisions to fight criminal networks of smugglers of migrants and traffickers in human beings.

From the presentation of a recent study conducted by ICMPD in the countries bordering Syria it was evident that a protracted migration crisis can be accompanied by an increase in trafficking in human beings.

The staff of the Moldovan anti-trafficking agency familiarized the audience with a case study focusing on the risks for irregular migrants to become victims of trafficking. The case study featured some atypical cases (e.g. German minors victimized in Moldova).

Human trafficking was further discussed by the representative of the European Commission outlining the EU policy and legal framework to address this phenomenon. National policies, legal norms and practices of Finland, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine were presented to the attention of the participants and predominantly related to protection of and support to victims, prevention of their potential re-trafficking, assistance in their dignified repatriation. The results of a study concentrating on male victims of trafficking, conducted in three EaP countries – Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, – were presented by the Ukrainian researcher. The study showed that male victims tend not to consider themselves as such, hence do not always apply for assistance and are not deterred from undertaking another job abroad.

As the meeting concluded, the organizers invited the participating countries to the next meeting related to the current migration crisis and in particular on resettlement and other forms of humanitarian protection. The meeting will be held on 2-3 June.

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Sweden, Ukraine.



14 April 2016 – Day 1

Welcome and opening

Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) of the European Commission, welcomed the participants representing many different agencies and invited everyone to actively take part in the work of the meeting and share knowledge. He noted that even though the migration crisis did not affect all the EU and EaP countries, the situation can change any time. Presently, the migration crisis is a key element in the DG HOME work, but many other directorates general and agencies are also dealing with this phenomenon: DG for International Cooperation and Development, European External Action Service, Europol and others. Mr. Rybicki explained the rationale of the meeting and made some suggestions on how to make it most fruitful and rewarding.

Mr. Oleg Babin, Deputy Minister of the Interior of Moldova, expressed his gratitude to the European Commission for holding the meeting in Moldova and to Poland for co-organizing this event. The Deputy Minister stressed the importance of having discussions on the key topics in the field of migration. One of the compelling topics nowadays is the migration crisis that involves mixed migration flows and leads to trafficking in human beings (THB) which, according to the International Organization for Migration, is the second most profitable criminal activity after trade in arms. Mr. Babin noted that in such deteriorated situation EaP can play an important role in international cooperation to withstand the migration crisis and THB and ensure safety of individuals at the international level.

Mr. Bogumił Rybak, Ministry of the Interior and Administration of Poland, thanked the Moldovan side for efficient cooperation in preparing the Panel meeting and greeted the participants. He elaborated on the background of the meeting by mentioning unprecedented migratory flows in the region. He also highlighted that people on the move are more vulnerable to organized criminal groups involved in smuggling and THB (the difference between the two was briefly explained). Mr. Rybak wished everyone beneficial and interesting meeting.

Session I. Overview of the migratory situation, particularly in the EaP countries and wider, in the context of the current migration crisis

Moderator: Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG HOME of the European Commission

Ms. Katarzyna Markowska, Frontex, presented an overview of the migratory situation including routes and modus operandi in the EaP and EU states in light of the current migration crisis. In 2015, MS reported more than 1,820,000 detections of illegal border-crossing along the external borders. This never-before-seen figure was more than six times the number of detections reported in 2014 which was itself an unprecedented year. Characteristics of the Eastern, Central and Western Mediterranean routes and of the Eastern land border were provided. A new route – the so-called Northern route – emerged in 2015 at the land borders of Norway and Finland with the Russian Federation. The main challenges for the MS include: the widening of the surveillance areas, the growing need for and the extension of search and rescue operations, lack of facilities to receive and accommodate thousands of persons over a short time, lack of expertise to detect non-typical travel documents, difficulties in addressing fraudulent declarations of nationality or age, and non-systematic entry of fingerprints to the Eurodac. Apart from that in 2015, MS reported 701,625 detections of illegal stay which was an increasing trend compared to the previous year. [*Please see the presentation “Overview, Routes and Modus Operandi in the EaP and EU States in Light of the Migration Crisis”*](#)

Mr. Piotr Sadowski, Ministry of the Interior and Administration of Poland, raised the question of vital role of reliable statistical data in policy making including in the sphere of countering irregular migration



and THB. Policymakers are required to provide evidence that measures they have taken were effective and to assess potential impact of measures they intend to implement. And this is where the statistics is unquestionably important. This applies at the national as well as European level. In times of crisis adequate and verifiable statistics is especially important. Point 10 of the introductory part of the [Council Decision \(EU\) 2015/1523 of 14 September 2015 establishing provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and of Greece](#) corroborates this evidence, since it contains statistical information collected by Frontex and Eurostat on irregular border crossings into the Union through the Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes. This data was used by the EC to justify submission of the legislative proposal of the said Council Decision. [Please see the presentation “Current Migration Crisis – an Impact of Statistics on the EU Policy Making”](#)

Mr. Florin Dumitrescu, EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), described the situation with irregular migration at the Moldova-Ukraine Border in 2015. The following operational data was provided: the number of detected irregular migrants (177 persons), the leading nationalities crossing through BCPs and beyond BCPs (Armenia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan), and the prevailing modus operandi (document fraud and abuse of asylum application). Border enhancement, including with support of EUBAM, is implemented through strengthening institutional capacity, border demarcation, functioning of joint border crossing points, joint patrolling, automated exchange of border crossing data, risk analysis system, migration control measures and fight against corruption. Threats are countered by means of border control operations, second line checks, Common Border Security Assessment Report (CBSAR), Joint Inter-Agency Analysis of Irregular Migration and THB, working groups and joint investigations. [Please see the presentation “Situation with Irregular Migration at the Moldova-Ukraine Border”](#)

Ms. Melita Gruevska-Graham, International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), presented the study conducted by ICMPD assessing the impact of the Syrian war and refugee crisis on trafficking in persons. The countries under the study – Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq – were chosen on the basis of the magnitude of displacement. Various different factors contribute to people’s general vulnerabilities to THB as a result of the war: general humanitarian context, issues with legal status in host countries, problems with access to humanitarian aid and public services, child protection issues, lack of migration alternatives. When exploitation takes place it is mostly low-level trafficking by family members and acquaintances, which differs from the classic organized crime paradigm. Low-level exploitation generally happens because both exploiters and those being exploited have no viable alternatives for survival. This means that anti-trafficking efforts should focus on providing for people’s basic needs and building their resilience, rather than classical anti-trafficking actions that focus on protection and prosecution. [Please see the presentation “Targeting Vulnerabilities: The Impact of the Syrian War and Refugee Situation on Trafficking in Persons”](#)

Ms. Laura Scorretti, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission in Ukraine, presented [the discussion paper](#) summarizing countries’ experiences and practices related to the migration crisis and countering THB. The document was developed by IOM based on the answers of 15 countries to a questionnaire disseminated prior to the meeting. The document covered such aspects as changes in migratory situation, measures adopted and applied by the national governments, detection and countering of criminal networks, interconnection between the migration crisis and THB, identification of victims of THB among asylum seekers and irregular migrants, links between status of victim of trafficking (VoT) and international protection, assistance available to victims of THB, including compensation, features of the national referral mechanisms in different countries, preventive and mitigating measures related to irregular migration and THB, particularly information campaigns and partnerships. [Please see the presentation “Irregular Migration and THB in the Context of the Migration Crisis: Overview of National Experiences and Practices in the EU and EaP States”](#)



Discussion

Sweden added a comment that limitations regarding issuance of passports were introduced in March 2016 which was difficult due to constitutional barriers and also asked Frontex about the definition of “illegal stayer”. Frontex responded that this is a standard definition accepted by all MS, it does not include applicants for asylum. **Azerbaijan** asked the EU representatives whether reintroduction of internal border control and the concomitant measures, as for example in Germany, are sufficient for identification of irregular migrants and whether they are consistent with the freedom of movement. **The EC** explained that such measures are temporary and have to be justified by risk analysis; their effectiveness varies and even though they do not provide a comprehensive solution to managing the mixed migration flows, they do have their effect. **Moldova** addressed their question to Frontex, it related to the available data on THB among the migrants arriving to the EU, the traffickers’ profile and modus operandi. **Frontex** responded that it is difficult to identify VoTs at the border and Europol would be the most relevant agency to address this question to.

Session II. Irregular Migration – National responses in the context of the current migration crisis

Moderator: Ms. Olga Poalelungi, Director of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of the Interior of Moldova

Ms. Běla Hejná, Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, spoke about the migratory situation in the Czech Republic including changing trends and statistics on asylum and irregular migration and subsequently about the measures adopted by the Government at national and international levels. The panelist listed some new tendencies observed in 2015: low number of asylum seekers; migrants in irregular transit refused to apply for asylum in the Czech Republic; low numbers of VoTs and smuggled persons who applied for assistance; changed composition of incoming groups, namely with a significant increase of families with minor children. Measures taken at the national level to respond to the changing migratory situation: regular monitoring of the situation and reporting, extension of cooperation between police and army, police conducting residence checks, increased accommodation capacities, assigning additional staff to detention centers, adjusting indoor/outdoor equipment of detention centers to the needs of families with minor children. Measures taken at the international level: extension of cooperation with third countries including on return issues, preparation to resettlement and relocation operations, financial assistance to the countries of origin of asylum seekers and irregular migrants, the humanitarian evacuation program for disabled third country nationals, secondment of police officers and soldiers to the neighboring countries, cooperation with the EASO and Frontex. [Please see the presentation “National Responses in the Context of the Current Migration Crisis: Experience of the Czech Republic”](#)

Mr. Erik Rehó, Swedish Migration Agency, delivered a presentation on the Swedish response to the migration crisis. Among the main measures implemented by the Government, there was the introduction of ID-control and border control at the internal borders, the downgrade of the asylum legislation to the EU minimum level (with the view to make the country less attractive for asylum seekers and finally international cooperation (support to Greece and increased EU relocation). Changes in the asylum system included submission by the Government of the draft law that would restrict possibilities to gain permanent residence permit in Sweden. The law is temporary and limited to a three-year period. It moves from granting permanent residency to those found in need of international protection to issuing temporary permits to them. No family reunification is envisaged for persons with subsidiary protection status with temporary permits. Family reunification is possible only if a person in Sweden can support his/her family and has housing of a size and standards suitable for a family. [Please see the presentation “Responses to the Migration Crisis – Example of Sweden”](#)



Mr. Vitaliy Fesiuk, State Migration Service of Ukraine, described the migratory situation in Ukraine including by providing statistical data on a wide range of parameters. The Government is increasing preparedness to face the risk of a possible change of the migratory routes in the region and is working on the following initiatives at the legislative, information and operational levels: amending the legislation on detention of irregular migrants, preventing sham marriages and adoptions, tightening control over foreign students to avoid abuse of the student status, increasing preparedness for a possible influx of migrants, digitizing all the procedures related to foreigners' status, regularly monitoring and analyzing the situation in the countries of origin, monitoring amendments in the legislation of the EU MS and other neighboring states, conducting joint operations and other forms of cooperation. [Please see the presentation "Irregular Migration: National Response Measures in the Context of the Current Migration Crisis"](#)

Ms. Ecaterina Mihailas, Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of the Interior of Moldova, shared the Moldovan experience in preparing for possible changes in the migratory situation. Particularly the common procedure in the field of combating illegal stay of foreigners was developed and approved by an order of the Ministry of the Interior in 2015. **Ms. Olga Poalelungi**, Director of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of the Interior of Moldova, added that a database on movements of foreigners was created and it is used to detect irregular migrants. 15 countries of high migration risk were identified, the numbers of migrants from those countries were analyzed and the volume of tourist visas to those nationalities was subsequently decreased. A contingency plan was developed to be applied in case of increase of migration flows towards the EU and Ukraine. Attention is paid to integration measures for refugees and immigrants, particularly language courses and employment assistance. [Please see the presentation "Irregular Migration – National Responses in the Context of the Current Migration Crisis"](#)

Discussion

Sweden informed that the Swedish Migration Agency hosts several study visits on contingency planning and response measures for foreign counterparts; the meeting participants were encouraged to attend study visits to be able to learn from the Swedish experience. A number of questions were addressed to Sweden. From Azerbaijan: how does Sweden help Greece and how will such assistance change the situation? Sweden supports work of the EASO on the Greek islands, as well as relocation mechanisms according to the achieved agreements. The question of Armenia concerned unaccompanied minors: what is their further fate and do their parents appear later? In Sweden requirements to support and assistance to minors are higher than to adults. Age assessment shall be conducted, but it is not a mandatory procedure. Unaccompanied minors are placed in separate housing adjusted to the specific needs of minors or reunited with their own families later. ICMPD asked whether identification of unaccompanied minors is done proactively or retroactively to what Sweden responded that since the Swedish Migration Agency's capacities for identification are limited a method of self-declaration is applied. Cases when a minor applying for asylum declares that s/he is an adult hardly occur.

Session III. Trafficking in human beings as part of the migration crisis

Moderator: Mr. Bogumił Rybak, Ministry of the Interior and Administration of Poland

Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG HOME of the European Commission, explained the EU's approaches to THB. The problem of trafficking is presently placed high in the EU political agenda being part of European Agenda on Migration and European Agenda on Security. EaP countries are the priority region for cooperation on countering THB. The EU Strategy towards the eradication of THB is addressing the issues of identification, protection and assistance to victims of trafficking; stepping up the prevention of THB; toughening prosecution of traffickers; enhancing coordination and cooperation among key actors;



increasing knowledge of and effective response to emerging concerns related to all forms of THB. The main legal documents in the sphere of THB are Directive 2011/36/EU on prevention and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims and Directive 2004/81/EC on temporary residence permits for victims of THB that enhances security of victims and incentives to cooperate with the investigating agencies. The relevant EU documents can be found under the following link <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking>. *Please see the presentation “EU Legal and Policy Framework to Address Trafficking in Human Beings”*

Mr. Veli-Pekka Johannes Rautava, National Anti-trafficking Coordinator, Finland, familiarized the audience with the work conducted by the Finish anti-trafficking actors including measures focused specifically on asylum seekers. The risks for asylum seekers of being victimized by traffickers and the ways the authorities can identify possible victims among them are the issues of high importance. The protection measures being implemented by the government agencies are the following: approval of the National Anti-trafficking Action Plan for the years of 2016-2017 which is applied by the Anti-trafficking Secretariat in its work; introduction of special residence permits for THB victims; institutionalization of the national referral mechanism that is putting the current NRM on paper and implementation of a subsequent development project with a budget of approximately EUR 260,000; creation of a special financial mechanism within the Ministry of Labor, responsible for administering the reception of asylum seekers, in order to finance the reception of and assistance to VoTs; close cooperation with NGOs; international cooperation; ratification of the ILO forced labor protocol of 2014 and others. *Please see the presentation “Migration Crisis and Trafficking”*

Ms. Aneta Suda, Ministry of the Interior and Administration of Poland, made a presentation on the Polish experience in protecting irregular migrants who were identified as VoTs. The main elements of their support and protection are the legal norms, anti-trafficking structures within the public institutions, as well as programmes and institutions providing direct help to victims. The Polish legislation contains an all-encompassing definition of THB that can be equally applied to newly emerging forms of trafficking. There are separate counter-trafficking divisions established within the Police, the Border Guard Service, the General Public Prosecutor’s Office, as well as the expert group for supporting and protecting victims of trafficking. Other actors are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office for Foreigners and the regional authorities (voivodship offices). The programmes and institutions providing assistance to victims are the National Consulting and Intervention Center for the Victims of Trafficking (KCIK), the Programme for Support and Protection of a Victim/Witness of Human Trafficking and Voluntary Returns for foreigners who want to leave Poland implemented by IOM. *Please see the presentation “System of Protection of Irregular Migrants Identified as Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings – Polish Experience”*

Mr. Anatolii Ivanov, Center for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of the Interior of Moldova, in his presentation described the Moldovan national counter-trafficking system and emphasized that migrants in irregular situation are particularly vulnerable to trafficking. Two separate cases of exploitation of irregular migrants were reviewed. The both cases involved Syrian citizens recruited in Syria by fellow citizens (a citizen of Lebanon residing in Moldova was also involved in one of the cases). The victims were given prospects of being smuggled to the EU but instead they were exploited in food service and agricultural sector in Moldova. *Please see the presentation “Risks for Irregular Migrants to Become Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings”*

Discussion

Georgia asked **Finland** to elaborate on the anti-trafficking NGO network. According to the explanation provided by Finland, the network includes NGOs dealing with THB at the operational level and by conducting advocacy and supporting crime victims. The Government allocates funds for the network. **Moldova** mentioned new forms of exploitation namely when their citizens are trafficked to the UK and Germany for the purpose of receiving social benefits. Presently such cases are qualified by law



enforcement agencies as “exploitation for other malign purposes”. The Government is considering whether there is a need to amend the legislation and insert this new type of trafficking or to keep applying the broader term. In this regard **Poland** expressed their opinion that the broader term is sufficient in so far as the law enforcement and judicial authorities interpret it in the appropriate manner. **Georgia** asked **IOM Ukraine** to clarify the example used in the IOM’s presentation where Georgia is mentioned in the context of the changing migratory trends. **IOM** commented that such assumption is based on the risk analysis and since migratory routes tend to change due to numerous factors the same risks equally apply to other countries: Ukraine, Moldova, Romania etc.

15 April 2016 – Day 2

Session III. Trafficking in human beings as part of the migration crisis

Moderator: Mr. Bogumił Rybak, Ministry of the Interior and Administration of Poland

Ms. Tetyana Semykop, NGO “Vera, Nadezhda, Lubov”, Ukraine, did a review of the outcomes of the project aimed at establishing the national referral mechanism in the Odesa region of Ukraine implemented by the NGO she represented together with IOM. Ms. Semykop particularly mentioned the importance of identification of children VoTs. While during 2000-2014 IOM identified and assisted to 612 minors VoTs in Ukraine, no minors were identified as VoTs in the Odesa region by the state authorities in the past four years. At the same time many children can be seen begging at the streets especially during the tourist season. Even though about 300 minor beggars were detected by the law enforcement authorities in 2012-2014, only four trafficking-related criminal cases were initiated. Further on, the role of NGOs in implementation of counter-trafficking policy was described and recommendations for the state authorities were listed. [Please see the presentation “Establishing the National Referral Mechanism in the Odesa Region”](#)

Ms. Eszter Gál, Ministry of the Interior of Hungary, focused on protection of and assistance to victims of THB based on the Hungary’s experience. The system of protection and assistance shall be built based on the comprehensive approach which implies that it is human rights-based (widespread ratification of international human rights instruments and effective national legal basis), victim-centered (special needs of victims are taken into account as well as best interests of children) and multidisciplinary (smooth coordination of actions between different actors and cooperation are ensured). Victims’ rights enshrined at the EU level are: the right to assistance and support, protection (prior, during and after criminal proceedings, including prevention of secondary victimization), access to compensation schemes, reintegration; additionally for third country nationals – the right for integration, including free movement, residence, employment and reflection period. Special attention was paid to the transnational referral mechanism developed by Hungary, Belgium and the Netherlands and its website www.ravot-eur.eu. [Please see the presentation “System of Protection and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings”](#)

Discussion

Georgia voiced the challenge of monitoring of VoTs who leave the accommodation centers and **Hungary** agreed that a relevant monitoring system is yet to be developed. **Moldova** asked Hungary whether the latter faced the problem of VoTs absconded from the assistance centers. **Hungary** confirmed that such challenge does exist and the way to alleviate it is convincing the VoTs that staying is their best option. Also **Finland** asked whether Hungary involved ICMPD or IOM during the establishing of the transnational referral mechanism mentioned in the presentation and what the profile of Hungarian VoTs is (gender, form of exploitation etc). With regard to the first question, **Hungary** noted that IOM was part of the steering group of the project. As for the VoTs, most of them are females; sexual exploitation surpasses labor exploitation; the latter is taking place at farms in rural areas and hence it is more difficult to detect.



Session IV. Mitigation measures, including information and awareness raising campaigns, assistance to returnees

Moderator: Mr. Erik Rehá, Swedish Migration Agency

Ms. Irina Arap-Belibov, IOM Moldova, delivered a presentation on assistance provided by IOM to VoTs and other categories of stranded migrants who wish to return to their countries of origin. One of the main principles of IOM's activities is voluntary participation in the repatriation programme. Before returning a migrant, a risk assessment in the country of origin is carried out. Rights, safety and dignity of a repatriated person shall be observed at all stages of the returning process, confidentiality and data protection guaranteed. IOM covers certain expenses related to repatriation, including escort to the airport of departure and reception at the airport of destination, moderate allowance, air/bus/train ticket. There is a number of challenges encountered in the process: low level of identification in the destination countries or lack of partner organizations; victims are not aware of their rights and afraid to ask for assistance or do not identify themselves as victims, especially male victims; often victims are mistakenly perceived by authorities as prostitutes and irregular migrants and therefore deported; victims with physical disabilities or mental disorders require special treatment. [Please see the presentation "Assistance in Return within the Prevention and Protection Programme of IOM in Moldova – Procedures, Challenges and Best Practices"](#)

Ms. Natalia Gusak, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine, presented the results of the study devoted specifically to male victims of trafficking in three EaP countries – Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The presentation covered the profile of VoTs (age, place of residence, civil status, educational level); circumstances under which respondents accepted an offer to work in another city/country; sources of information about work opportunities; details available to them (nature of work, remuneration, official or irregular status, documents required for employment); transportation including its financing; destination countries; industries and duration of exploitation; how exploitation ended; return to the country of origin; whether the respondents shared their experience with third persons and whether they approached NGOs and/or state authorities for assistance; needs indicated by the VoTs themselves; services provided to the VoTs by IOM; employment status of the respondents at the time of the study and a possibility of a repeated search of work abroad. As for the latter, the respondents who suffered from physical violence unequivocally rejected such possibility, other respondents either already went abroad repeatedly or intended to do so while considering the associated risks. [Please see the presentation "Support and Re-trafficking Prevention for Male Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings: Evidence Based Report"](#)

Discussion

La Strada Moldova asked **IOM Moldova** about their experience with repatriation of foreign VoTs and whether there were any difficulties observed since all the SOPs developed by the Government concerned Moldovan citizens and not foreigners. This is due to the fact that Moldova traditionally used to be the country of origin of VoTs but presently the number of migrants is increasing. **IOM Moldova** mentioned a successful case of repatriation to Moldova of a stranded Syrian family and their subsequent integration. Ahead of signing an agreement on AVR with IOM, **Azerbaijan** asked **IOM Moldova** whether there is such programme being implemented in Moldova. **IOM Moldova** confirmed that the AVRR programme has been implemented by them in cooperation with the government counterparts. **Finland's** questions related to the cases of repeated repatriation of the same person and the follow-up measures. **IOM Moldova** admitted that not all the cases are successful and indeed the existing push factors lead to repeated migration and hence to repeated repatriation. As for follow-up measures, there is an assistance programme in place, reintegration measures and their monitoring by social services, job training. **The National Anti-trafficking Coordinator of Moldova** made an additional comment that in case of possible



influx of migrants Moldova will not differentiate between own and foreign VoTs in terms of assistance and protection. Potentially challenges can arise at the point of financing relevant measures and accommodating victims. Institutionally the country is ready since it has well-trained multidisciplinary teams even down at the village level.

Summary and closure

Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG HOME of the European Commission, thanked the organizing countries – Moldova and Poland – and the participants who traditionally ensure success of the EaPPMA meetings. He also reminded that all the materials of the meeting will be available on the website <http://eapmigrationpanel.org/en>.

Ms. Olga Poalelungi, Director of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of the Interior of Moldova, noted that the agenda of the meeting was very informative and that this was an excellent opportunity for the attending Moldovan experts to familiarize themselves with information which is important in the context of the country's obligations before the EU including the obligations on effective regulation of migration. The Director also reiterated that for the purpose of efficient migration regulation Moldova is open to cooperation with the EU and EaP states.

Mr. Bogumił Rybak, Ministry of the Interior and Administration of Poland, noted that the EaPPMA meetings are always of interest and relevance to the countries' work and needs. He also seized the opportunity to demonstrate a short video made by the Polish authorities within an information campaign regarding THB.

Mr. Erik Rehó, Swedish Migration Agency, invited the participating countries to the next meeting on resettlement and other forms of humanitarian admission to be held in Stockholm on 2-3 June 2016.

All the presentations mentioned in this report as well as all the materials related to the meeting can be found on the Panel website.

