

“Berlin Alliance against Human Trafficking into Labour Exploitation“

Project Partners:

International Organization for Migration (IOM) (lead)

Confederation of German Trade Unions (German acronym: DGB)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Berlin Senate Department for Integration, Work and Social Issues (German acronym: SenIAS)

Project Duration:

July 2009 until June 2012

Project Description:

Only in 2005 has Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation (T/LE) become an offence in the German Penal Code. But even before that date, counselling agencies, trade unions and police have identified several such cases, mainly in the fields of domestic services, agriculture, hotel and catering industry and the construction sector. However, so far hardly any of the perpetrators have ever been charged or sentenced for the offences committed.

Until now, persons (potentially) affected by T/LE have received insufficient support in Germany due to the lacking public awareness of the phenomenon. T/LE is usually not identified as such in the social environment of those (potentially) affected.

Hence the present project strives to contribute to an improved and thorough understanding of T/LE as a violation of human rights and a discriminatory practice at work. At the same time, the project will exemplify a comprehensive approach toward fighting T/LE, and supporting those affected in the Berlin area.

The target group of the project are organizations, institutions and occupational groups which usually are in contact with those affected by T/LE, such as counselling agencies specialized on migrants, labour and health counselling agencies, diaspora organizations, trade unions, the police, customs, public prosecution services or other agencies. Ultimately, the project will help these bodies to:

- a) Support those affected by T/LE in finding a way out of the trafficking state;
- b) Support those affected in pointing out their human and labour rights;
- c) Improve the prosecution of T/LE;
- d) Develop a cooperative approach with all relevant actors regarding these activities.

Since there are currently only little reliable figures and knowledge available on how to support those affected by T/LE, the project is based on an inclusive and explorative approach, i.e. it will initiate an alliance for the identification, protection and support of those affected by T/LE, fostering the tackling of the phenomenon from different angles (uniting aspects of labour and penal law, human rights, social and psychological issues, etc.). Regular round tables will bring all relevant actors together and provide a forum for planning and discussing the entire project activities (e.g. studies, conferences, trainings, awareness raising campaigns, research missions, didactical material, etc.).