

Tetiana Rudenko:

Abstract

While not being a monitoring body, the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) is tasked to assist participating States in the implementation of the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments in a number of formats. Being one of them, country visits stand at the core of Office's mandate. Since 2009, the OSR/CTHB has conducted over 40 visits to the OSCE participating States, which allows highlighting several important considerations and lessons learned:

- Direct and constructive dialogue with States on anti-trafficking policy and action is crucial to identify promising practices and areas that require further enhancement;
- Such exchange is beneficial to boost national efforts while raising the profile and increasing the coherence of anti-trafficking efforts in the region, thus leaving less loopholes for traffickers to exploit due to different approaches implemented in different jurisdictions;
- Transparency of the process based on a subject-matter expertise helps to establish credibility and integrity of the dialogue with the States both at policy and practice levels;
- Regular co-ordination and exchange between international organizations and other monitoring mechanisms helps to avoid duplication and leverage the implementation of the international obligations and commitments by States;
- Such co-ordination also enables the organisations to speak with one voice, thus increasing the likelihood for their recommendations to be implemented, as well as to identify areas for joint initiatives and collaboration;
- Concrete and targeted recommendations work better, but also require follow up support to help the States to "turn the words into actions".