

Conclusions from the Working Group
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Based on the results from the questionnaire, most Member States (MS) welcome (or agreed with) the idea of establishing a network of EU national rapporteurs/equivalent mechanisms (NR/EM).

Based on preliminary analysis of the responses, there are at least three emerging issues, which were shared with the participants:

1. The need for an exchange of information and experiences with the aim to achieve common standards to address THB

Examples of challenges were mentioned, among them the need for comparable data, information on trends, best practices, as well as what issues the network could focus on/or work with.

2. Who would be the facilitator in this process in terms of calling and organizing the meetings and follow-up?
3. Relations to other similar networks/mechanisms and possible co-operation with a view to sharing experiences and practices.

As examples of good practice of similar networks, and co-operation, the EMN and the work of Eurostat were presented.

Based on the model of the EMN and others, one could envisage the EC as the natural facilitator in this process.

Reflection in terms of representation, mandate or the possible function of the network dominated the discussion. In this regard, questions concerning which services or officials should represent the government in such a network (for instance - those having more operations/co-ordination functions versus those in charge of reporting), reflect in a way the composition of the existing NRs/EMs. As such, Member States may be represented in such a network by a national monitoring mechanism that carries out both co-ordination, as well as reporting functions.

Answers to the questionnaire can provide some elements for future discussion, in terms of common areas of work.

A number of MS commented on the value of having a forum for the exchange of information, which allows for the discussion of practical issues, lessons learned, challenges, as well as the identification of areas of future co-operation, etc.

In addition, the possibility of bringing together a number of interested States to consider the modalities of the network was mentioned: what issues should be discussed, minimum tasks in relation to the monitoring function, etc.

The proposed idea of an EU Network on NR/EM is clearly an important issue that needs further dialogue, an exchange of views and reflection among Member States, in particular by those in favour of such a network.