Use of the Delphi methodology to identify indicators
of trafficking in human beings
Process and results

Michaëlle De Cock, ILO Consultant

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michaelle.decock@bluewin.ch

The background

European Commission : Expert group on the policy needs for data on crime and criminal justice
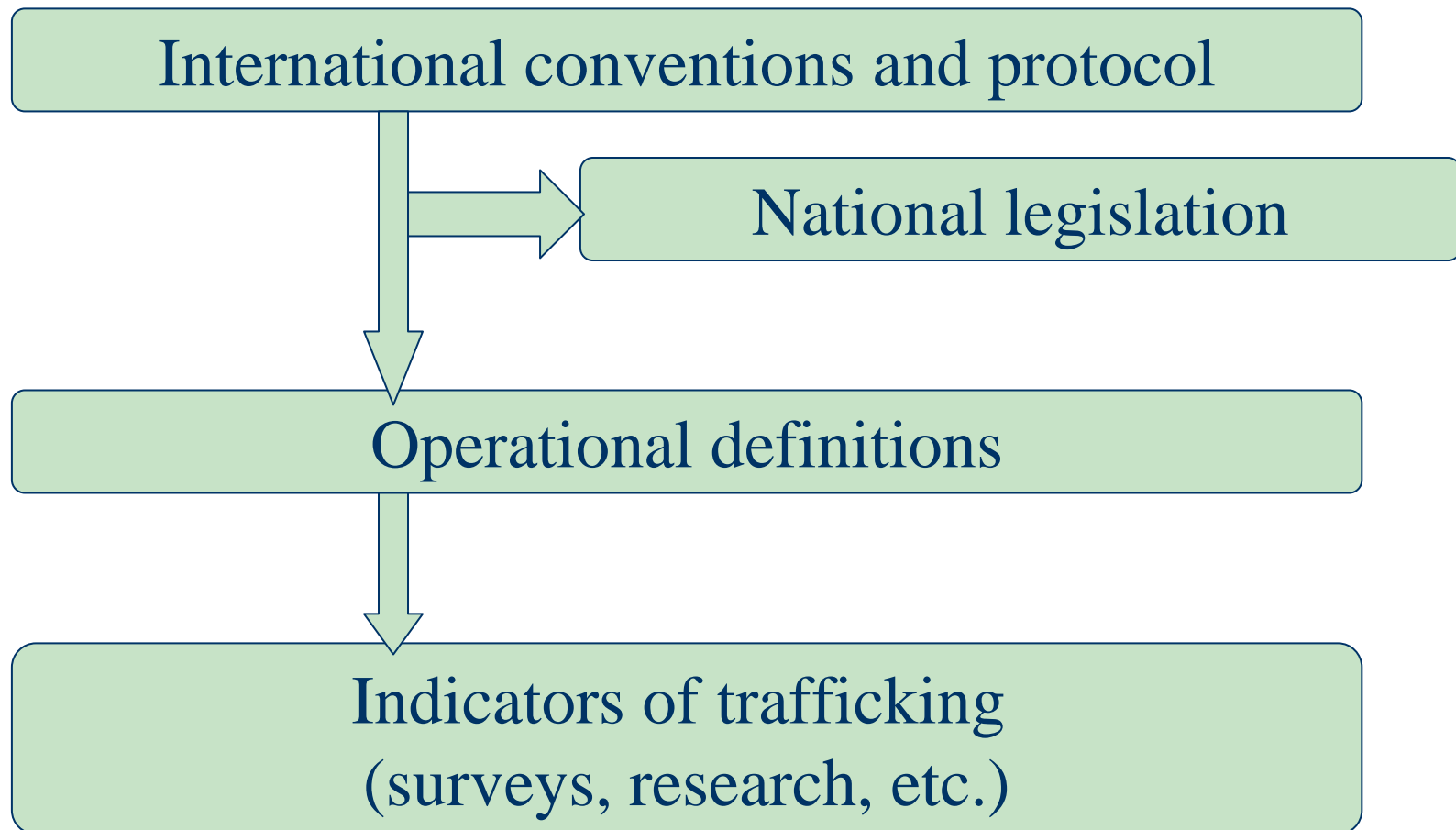
Expert sub-group on "Trafficking in Human Beings" with the objective to "**develop harmonised definitions and associated indicators that will facilitate greater comparability of data across EU member states on the crime area under consideration**".

The objective

To design
   and agree on
      a set of indicators
         to characterize
            trafficking in human beings
For children and adults victims of trafficking
for labour and sexual exploitation

Why indicators?

International conventions and protocol

National legislation

Operational definitions

Indicators of trafficking
(surveys, research, etc.)

Palermo Protocol definition of trafficking

- (a) "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs".

The process

- December 2007 : steering committee meeting to validate the choice of the Delphi methodology
  (EC, ILO, UNODC, FRA, IOM, Univ.Tilburg)

- Jan-Mar 2008 : list of experts and design of the first questionnaire (one for adults, one for children)
  - During recruitment, transportation, transfer
    - Indicators of means of coercion, force and threats
    - Indicators of deception and fraud
    - Indicators of situation of vulnerability
  - At destination
    - Means of coercion used to prevent the victim from leaving
    - Specific tasks of activities victims are forced to do
    - List of abusive working and living conditions
    - Indicators of a situation of vulnerability

Process (2)

- April: the questionnaire is sent to 170 experts from the 27 Member States

- May: we received 68 answers providing 6'110 indicators.

- June: the answers are analysed and processed:
  - 67 main indicators in seven lists
  - A description for each indicator

    Forced to lie to authorities, family, etc.

    Individuals are also forced to lie to the authorities, their family and others at destination. This includes being forced to change one's identity through a change in name and/or appearance. It also includes being forced to open fraudulent bank accounts in someone else's name.

  - A rating for each indicator (frequency x order)

Process (3)

- July 2008 : second survey

  For each dimension, indicators are presented in decreasing order of rating

  Experts are invited to qualify the relevance as:

  - Highly significant (sufficient)
  - Significant (must be combined with others)
  - Irrelevant

Second survey

Deceptive Recruitment   *Adults*

Labour exploitation

	Highly Signif	Signif	irrelevant
• Deceived about the nature of the job, location or employer	76 68.8 x		
Deceived about travel and recruitment conditions	43 31.3		x
• Deceived about wages/earnings	33 31.1		x
• Deceived about conditions of work	29 28.0		
• Deceived about housing and living conditions	25 23.1		
• Deceived about legal documentation or legal migration status	21 17.6		
• Deceived about access to education opportunities	4 4.0		
• Deceived about content or legality of work contract	3 2.3		
• Deceived through promises of marriage or adoption	1 1.0		

Second analysis: strength and consensus

- The **strength** of each indicator is measured by the average of its ratings
  - Highly significant
  - Significant
  - Irrelevant

- The **consensus** is measured by the frequency of its ratings (% of experts giving a similar rating)

The results

- Four lists of indicators (AL,AS,CL,CS)
- With six lists of strong, medium and weak indicators
  - Deceptive recruitment (Incl. transport and transfer)
  - Coercive recruitment (Incl. transport and transfer)
  - Recruitment by abuse of vulnerability
  - Exploitation
  - Coercion at destination
  - Abuse of vulnerability at destination

Indicators of coercion at destination

Strong Indicators (4)

Confiscation of documents

Debt bondage

Isolation, confinement or surveillance

Violence on victims

Medium Indicators (2)

Forced into illicit/criminal activities

Forced tasks or clients

Forced to act against peers

Forced to lie to authorities, family, etc.

Threat of denunciation to authorities

Threat to impose even worse working conditions

Threats of violence against victim

Under strong influence

Violence on family (threats or effective)

Withholding of wages

Weak Indicators (1)

Threats to inform family, community or public

Test in Moldova

- Labour force survey in 2008 with a specif sampling to over sample returned migrants (12'000 households + 2'652)
- A module on labour migration with questions designed to capture information on the 6 dimensions

Results (Non real figures)

DR OR CR	Exploitation	Coercion at destination			
1	1	1	111	6.7%	Trafficked for FL
1	1	0	222	13.3%	Deceived and exploited
0	1	1	333	20.0%	Forced labour
0	1	0	444	26.7%	Exploited
0	0	0	555	33.3%	OK
			1665	100.0%	

Standardised tool, adaptable to local context

- Standardised list of indicators, with a common definition
- Standardised operational definitions for deception, coercion, exploitation, abuse of vulnerability
- Each indicator can be customised to the local context
- The means used for data collection are totally independent from the indicators
- The combination of dimensions is left to the responsible agency.

What's next?

Use the tool

- in a wide range of countries
- in source and destination areas
- for sex and labour trafficking
- for adults and children
- on administrative datasets
- in research projects

Thank you

Questions?