



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Caribbean



Strengthening Specialized Prosecutor's Office Investigation, Prosecution and Management of Counter-Trafficking Cases

July 2016

January 2017

Requesting entity

Procuraduría Especializada contra el Trafico Ilícito de Migrantes y la Trata de personas (PETT) - Office of the Specialized Prosecutor against the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons



This Action is funded by the European Union

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Caribbean

Background

Trafficking in persons and Smuggling of migrants is a crucial national priority for the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic ranks 79th position in the Global Index on Slavery, 11th among Latin-American countries. It is estimated that 22 to 24 thousand persons are victims of trafficking in the Dominican Republic (source: *Walk Free Foundation 2013*). In 2014, the US Coast Guard noted a

67% increase in interceptions at sea; over 300 Dominicans were detected being smuggled to Puerto Rico. In this regard, the Dominican Republic has signed and ratified the Palermo Convention and its Protocols and has prohibited trafficking and smuggling at constitutional level. Due to the increase of trafficking and smuggling cases along with the lack of information among the relevant

agencies, the Office of the Specialized Prosecutor against the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons is determined to step up its efforts in fighting against trafficking and smuggling. Specifically they have requested technical assistance so as to create a secure case management/information system and further train its officials.

Objective

The objective of the technical assistance is to strengthen the Dominican Republic's Office of the Specialized Prosecutor against the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons (PETT by its Spanish acronym) ability to investigate, prosecute and manage counter-trafficking cases, while promoting victim's protection.

Activities

Design *Standard Operating Procedures* for investigation of smuggling of migrants and human trafficking cases; train stakeholders on its use;

Develop a secure case management/information management system and provide training for future users to improve coordination among the relevant agencies, ease the production of statistics and impact counter-trafficking prevention.

Expected results

A training manual for criminal investigators on intelligence and investigation techniques to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, including design and implementation of investigation and intelligence plans;

Training to criminal investigators, police, armed forces, migration officials and forensic experts on intelligence and investigation techniques to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, including design and implementation of investigation and intelligence plans;

Establishing of a secure case management/information management system.