

**Ms Rita Penedo** is a Portuguese national. She studied Sociology at the Instituto Superior das Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa (Lisbon).

Since 2013, she has been the Director of the Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Portugal. She represents the Observatory in several national working groups and, jointly with the National Rapporteur, participates in the European Commission's network of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanism.

Working in close cooperation with governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations, Ms Penedo has 15 years of working experience in the field of trafficking in human beings, with a special emphasis on monitoring systems (data collection/production of the statistical national reports) and National Referral Mechanisms, in particular for child victims of human trafficking.

Additionally, she has experience in coordinating European projects (such as on data collection systems), as well as on training of front-line professionals, in particular from law enforcement agencies.

Ms Penedo previously acted as an Advisor at the Directorate-General of Internal Affairs and was a member of the Working Group on the project "Building a Gender Violence Database" (coordinated by the National Statistics Institute) as well as of the group responsible for the translation and adaptation into Portuguese of the "Anti-human trafficking manual for criminal justice practitioners" by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. During this period, she held the position of National Contact Point to the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN).

Ms Penedo is the author and co-author of several national and international articles.

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