



Minutes of the Second Steering Committee Meeting of the project on

Joint Efforts of Police and Health Authorities in the EU Member States and Third Countries to Combat and Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings and Protect and Assist Victims of Trafficking

Payoke, Antwerp 24 September 2012

Overall goals of the project:

- to develop skills and best practices for the better medical protection of trafficked victims through closer cooperation between law enforcement, health authorities and NGOs.
- to protect and support victims of trafficking by re-establishing their mental and physical health, thus enabling their active participation before, during and after criminal proceedings as witnesses, and consequently improving chances of successful prosecution and conviction of traffickers.
- to improve chances of successful integration/ reintegration of victims
- as part of a comprehensive and all-encompassing anti-trafficking strategy to strengthen member states' and third countries' health service provisions for victims of trafficking, in particular if their cases represent health risks for the general public

The meeting was the second one after the first Steering committee held in December 2011, as stipulated by the Payoke/ISEC project. It was attended by 16 experts including project partners from the University of Krems, Dutch National Rapporteur on THB, Swedish and Belgian Ministry of Justice representatives, FRONTEX, Romania National Agency against trafficking, Albania Mediterranean University, Utrecht University, along with prominent Payoke experts in human trafficking. The main objective of the Steering committee was to review the draft version of the training curricula which is going to be tried out in Portugal, Austria, Moldova and Albania in the next stage of this project. The distinguished participants provided valuable feedback, opinions, comments and recommendations on various aspects of training curricula implementation in order to make it ready for testing.

The main conclusions of this meeting could be sum up as follows:

According to the project document the training curricula pilot/test phase will be carried out in two days. The first day will be attended by a mix audience of policy makers representing various ministries, medical associations and health professionals, border guards,

researchers, prosecutors and NGO representatives. A group of 15 experts will concentrate on three main issues of the project, namely victims' identification (main indicators, health issues, priority setting), prosecution (interface between health and security issues) and integration/reintegration (social assistance and guidance, return, residence permit). Focus will be put on provisions of the EU Directive against trafficking which is due to be implemented by EU Member States' authorities by April 2013. The training moderator/evaluator will explain the evaluation procedure with evaluation forms being distributed at the beginning of the training to each participant. These should be duly filled in and returned at the end of the first day. The first day session will be held in English.

The second day of the pilot training will be attended by 40 participants from law enforcement, health care, social services, faith organisations and other NGO's dealing with victims of human trafficking. The aim is to raise awareness of trafficking, learn about its motives and consequences, examine procedures to follow and analyse the role of the institutions involved in victims' assistance. It is also the opportunity to dispel misunderstandings between social services, law enforcement and health practitioners and set a basis for building mutual trust and future cooperation. Social dimension of trafficking is to be particularly looked at, especially in view of victims' reintegration and the role of the host society which should be involved in this process.

Evaluation of the second day of the pilot training course will be carried out in two steps procedure, with participants providing an ex ante evaluation of their own perception of trafficking before the course and then evaluating the results and benefits of the training at the end of the session.

Training session will be organised around a trafficking case which will serve as a concrete example based on which the participants will analyse victims identification, prosecution and victims integration/reintegration from the law enforcement and health services perspective. The "world café" method will be applied with participants sitting around 4 tables of 10 persons and working on a trafficking case. This case will be presented as a film, touching upon all issues of human trafficking while dispelling common misperceptions about trafficking as being only poverty driven or about victims being illegal migrants. The film will provide information on factors which bring people to be trafficked, explaining three stages trafficking (prevention, prosecution and protection). The victims identification, the vulnerability of the victims and the institutions involved in the referral mechanisms will be addressed based on the case in the film. Awareness will be raised about different signs and indicators that point to the case of trafficking, be it for sexual, labour exploitation, for the purpose of begging or harvesting of organs. This will be followed by a thorough analyses and discussion among participants at each table. This session will be entirely carried out in a local language of the country.

The chairman of each table will at the end sum up the results of the discussion providing information to be used for the way forward on how to bridge the existing gaps and reinforce cooperation between law enforcement and health authorities. The collected information will also be used to device the pocket cards for medical doctors. Each table will work on the same case but from a different approach. During the plenary the rapporteur who will be appointed among experts will take stock of the results of the sessions and formulate policy options for the future.

The participants will be given the pre-course evaluation form to be filled in at the beginning of the session. Questions asked will not be aimed at assessing the knowledge of the person but will be designed to evaluate the level of his/her experience in the field of human trafficking. At the end of the day the post evaluation form will be distributed to each participant in order to assess the impact and benefits that the acquired knowledge will generate in their future work. Issues such as illegal migration and trafficking, asylum rights and the victims of trafficking, forced labour and national referral mechanism will be given priority during the course. It will

be necessary to try to cover all the relevant aspects of trafficking while avoiding burdening the participants with too many information. The aim is to make the participants understand and acknowledge the need for building networks and establishing cooperation between law enforcement and health authorities. Active participants' involvement will be sought in order to address each aspect of trafficking, while hammering home the importance of victims' health and its impact on the criminal justice procedure.

The success of the pilot training sessions will greatly depend on the choice of the rapporteur who will not only need to have a thorough knowledge of trafficking but should be able to formulate good recommendations for the way forward.

The Steering committee meeting was concluded with the idea to set up, following the end of this project, an interactive training on the internet. Another proposal put forward for the future was the establishment of a multidisciplinary help desk for trafficking in human beings.

The first pilot training session will be held in Portugal on 12-14 November 2012. This will be followed by an in depth report that will also identify possible gaps and propose practical solutions for the training sessions to be held in Austria, Moldova in Albania in course of 2013.