



“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.”

EC/ISEC/PAYOKE-Project
HOME/2010/ISEC/AG/062
30-CE-0447231/00-04

Report First Steering Committee 15/12/11

1) Introduction of participants present

Present

Austria:	Prof Gudrun Biffl	Dean of Faculty for Social Science and Migration, Danube University of Krems
Belgium:	Mr Jan Broers	President of Payoke
	Ms Eglantina Bodurri	Criminologist
	Mr Ward Gabriels	Social worker and psychologist, Payoke
	Ms Anja Hicketick	Project Manager
	Ms Martine Messiaen	Financial Officer
	Mr Jean-François Minet	Advisor, Ministry of Justice
	Ms Patsy Sörensen	Project Operating Coordinator and Expert Training Police & NGO
	Mr Peter von Bethlenfalvy	Project Coordinator
	Ms Jelena von Helldorff	Project Quality Control Evaluator
EU:	Dr Alexandre Berlin	Honorary Director
Hungary:	Dr Szabolcs Fekete	Coordinator, University of Pécs
	Prof István Szilárd	Chief Scientific Adviser, Manager, University of Pécs
The Netherlands:	Ms Corinne Dettmeijer	National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings
Portugal:	Ms Luísa Goncalves	Director, Ministry of Immigration
Sweden:	Mr Henrik Sjölander	Deputy Director, Ministry of Justice, Sweden, Police Division

Excused

Albania:	Ms Silvana Banushi	Director Department of Migration, Return and Reintegration Policies, Ministry of
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		Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Albania:	Prof Kosta Barjaba Mr Erion Likaj	Expert and Networker Executive Director, Institute for Social Policies Innovation (IRPS)
	Ms Elisa Tsakiri	Director International Organisation on Migration (IOM)
Belgium:	Ms Sabine Capart	Attaché - South-Eastern Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, External Trade and Development Cooperation
	Ms Karin Carlens Ms Denise De Hauwere	Deputy Public Prosecutor, Brussels Ambassador, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Brussels
Luxembourg:	Mr David Reizenzein Mr Duco Van Heel	External Relation Officer, Frontex External Relation Officer, Frontex
Moldavia:	Mr Olivier Frank Ms Diana Donoaga	Director of Institut Pierre Werner Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Protection and Family
Norway:	Ms Arild Aambø	Acting Director National Health Board
Romania:	Ms Alexandra Mihalcea	Director of the Schengen Directorate, Ministry of Organisation and Interior
UK:	Mr Florin Saghi Mr Peter Allan	Ministry of Organisation and Interior Former Investigator , Alan Consultancy

The Steering Committee meeting was the first to be held during the life of the project. It was convened with the aim to define the main strategic plan of the project and to discuss steps/activities to be undertaken in the next phase of development.

2) Content of the Project

Specific issues of relevance

The overall aim of the project is to address the issue of the inadequate health assessment and care of victims of human trafficking and the resulting victims' inability to actively participate in criminal proceedings as well as their successful reintegration into society. From this perspective the project will seek to reinforce cooperation between health authorities and/law enforcement/frontline/ border guard officers and NGOs who will be trained and enabled to provide adequate and timely health care to victims of trafficking. While addressing the physical and psychological situation of victims the project will help strengthen criminal



ISEC/ISEC/PAYOKE PROJECT

HOME/2010/ISEC/AG/062

30-CE-0447231/00-04



justice response in criminal proceedings and trials. At the same time it will greatly reinforce the human rights approach towards victims and improve their well-being, thus increasing chances of their permanent reintegration into society, both from the psychological and socio-economic perspective.

Objectives of the project

The first objective of the project is to develop skills and best practices for the better medical protection of trafficked victims through closer cooperation between law enforcement, health authorities and NGOs. The second objective is to protect and rehabilitate victims of trafficking thus enabling their active participation before, during and after criminal proceedings, and consequently improving chances of successful prosecution of perpetrators. The third objective is to improve chances of victims successfully reintegrating into society. The fourth objective is to harmonize Member State (MS) and third countries' health practices related to the risks and consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) as part of a comprehensive and all-encompassing Anti-Trafficking EU strategy.

Expected results and measures of the project

The development of training programmes for law enforcement, health authorities, judges, frontline officers, border guards and NGOs aimed at raising the level of protection and support to victims of trafficking (with a special attention paid to unaccompanied minors) before, during and after criminal proceeding. The expected result is the improved medical condition of the victims and therefore their capacity to witness during criminal proceedings as well as their ability to either obtain TRP (Temporary Residence Permit) in the receiving country or to reintegrate into the country or origin upon return. In this sense the project perfectly corresponds to the selected measure. The expected results of the project are:

- A training Curriculum for law enforcement, border security, NGO's and health practitioners (doctors, medical staff);
- Information pocket cards for practitioners on indicators;
- A manual for practitioners and policy makers on improving assistance to victims of VOT in EU Member states and third countries;
- Project Background papers, reports, strategies and conference proceedings on the Payoke website;
- A handbook for project developers and project implementers on best practices for implementation of training programme in MS countries;
- Directory of hot lines of law enforcement and health practitioners for victims and NGO's;
- A raised level of awareness among decision makers and the general public regarding trafficking as a threat to society and the rule of law, in particular in the form of a



ISEC/ISEC/PAYOKE PROJECT

HOME/2010/ISEC/AG/062

30-CE-0447231/00-04



higher level of awareness of the link between trafficking, organised crime and corruption;

- Development of training programmes for law enforcement, prosecutors and judges, aimed at raising the level of protection of and support to victims before, during and after criminal proceedings

3) Aims of the First Steering Committee Meeting

- Clarification and definition of the role of partners
- Development of the work plan
- Setting Interim goals
- Development of Matrixes for evaluating and monitoring
- Preparation of the Kick off Conference in Budapest
- Development of Strategic Plan for future activities
- Gathering Experts for the Expert group

4) Outcomes

The participants involved themselves in a thorough and lengthy discussion on the tasks and steps they will and can undertake to assist the successful implementation of this project.

The participants have noted that this project is an innovative undertaking tackling new policies, scaling up implementation and prevention strategies, practises and approaches on the European level aiming at law enforcement and health/medical care. Subsequently, all distinguished members of the steering committee have made comments on their mandates and tasks within the entities they are representing and postulated support action for the project implementation.

It has been agreed to go along with the implementation plan drafted and presented by the project management. The following tasks and steps have been decided to be undertaken by the individual members of the steering committee:

The Budapest Kick off conference will be organised by PAYOKE in close cooperation with the members of the steering committee and the concerned governments and institutions. The preliminary date set for this event in Budapest 27 & 28 of February 2012. The number of participants is estimated around 150, well representing the authorities and entities from the countries the steering committee members are representing. Concretely, it is expected that each member of the steering committee helps to make certain a representation of at least 10 persons from their country (policy makers, researchers, NGOs, regional networks etc.) in order to ensure that the governments, civil society, academic community and health



ISEC/ISEC/PAYOKE PROJECT

HOME/2010/ISEC/AG/062

30-CE-0447231/00-04



organisations are involved in every aspect of project implementation. In this way the project will be able to fulfil the criteria set by the European Commission that include the participation of all relevant stakeholders ensuring that the respect for the principles of human rights are met.

As discussed during the meeting, individual members of the steering committee will assist the University of Pécs when compiling the questionnaires, distributing them to the relevant stakeholders, evaluating the results and presenting them during the kick off conference jointly with PAYOKE . The University of Pécs will be responsible for the logistic and administrative tasks related to the Conference and it will also undertake a study of the already existing material relevant to this project and disseminate it to the members of the steering committee by the end of January 2012.

In order to start this project on the appropriate level, the members of the steering committee have agreed to provide the project management with a list of networks and institutions which should be contacted in matters of expertise, events and policy issues. As regarding the kick off conference 27 and 28 February 2012, it was agreed that list of potential invitees from each steering committee members will be provided to the project management as soon as possible.

5) The main highlights of the debate

a) Interventions

1. Ms Corinne Dettmeijer:

- Project should specify a differentiation between VOT; sexual, labour etc.
- Specializing recommended – select one group of victims (sexual exploitation, labour, foreign, domestic)
- Need for unbiased interpreters which cannot be provided by the health services
- Core problem= lack of health care
- Problems concerning VOT and potential gaps are dependent of the specific countries
- Essential to create an environment of confidence to enhance the knowledge
- Training doctors so they know more about HT

2. Ms Luísa Goncalves:

- Common standards concerning health
- Collaboration between health services, interpreters and NGO's, maybe own interpreters can cooperate with the health service
- Language and cultural knowledge is essential for police training
- Attention to gender (no room for men!?) and human rights
- In VOT the same 'click' is needed with the health personnel as to the issue of child abuse



ISEC/ISEC/PAYOKE PROJECT

HOME/2010/ISEC/AG/062

30-CE-0447231/00-04



3. Mr Henrik Sjölander:

- The role of health – important not only for the well-being of victims but also for the success of criminal proceeding
- Listing of national and local action plans
- Input of national migration officials and health service to the Project
- What is the role of health as such in the identification process? Experience in Norway, health is a major concern
- Identifying the victims and contact with the victims for early identification
- National boards of health involved in national action plans + Doctors association; Is a professional discussing going on?

4. Mr Jean-François Minet:

- Raising the issue of professional secret
- Optimisation of information through the exchange between hospitals and NGO's
- departure point can be to submit a specific situation to the police and considering all steps of action

5. Dr Alexandre Berlin:

- Issue of health is now more central; a balanced approach is necessary (several European states are provide healthcare for victims)
- A link between the ISEC Project and the *South East Europe Health Network* would be an asset, involving Romania, Moldova, Albania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia
- Provide the Kick off Conference with information from a survey / questionnaire
- To bypass the professional secrecy send the survey to health authorities (&Medical chambers) and organisation of doctors (survey with simple questions)
- If it is agreed to focus first on health, the questionnaire should be obviously health based, focused and aimed at gaining a general understanding of the approaches of "health authorities" and "medical associations" towards "health issues in relation to human trafficking". Important is to seek participation and commitment of the health authorities from the very beginning
- Health focused questionnaire should be short and one could consider including the following questions :
 1. What is the policy of the health authorities vis à vis the victims of human trafficking?





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2. How does the medical profession handle the cases of patients indicating (or whom they suspect) of being victims of human trafficking, beyond providing medical attention?
 3. Is the medical profession (or can the medical profession) provide guidance to the other players to help the human trafficking victims as a group? What mechanisms would be appropriate?
 4. Is there special training for the medical profession to recognize victims of human trafficking? How is it provided? Does the medical profession, in general consider that there is a need for such training? (In each of the questions above one could consider the following types of victims: children, sexually exploited persons, labour exploitation, other types of trafficking.):

6. Prof Gudrun Biffl:

- Experience of Kick off phase of other project related to HT; interesting to bring together different research methodologies and a network of researchers (law, health, institutional, gender specialists, political science, social science) to generate a new dynamism
- Possibility to work with the Austrian Researchers at the University of Danube Krems
- Working together with specialists on gender sensitivity
- Using existing data, analysis such as Greta are good + other to get a better view
- How to deal with victims? Into curriculum of medical education and police school
- Cooperation between health and police: awareness is necessary, difficult relation because of the lack of trust (victims who are illegal are afraid of the police)

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7. Prof István Szilárd:

- Awareness raising for health aspects starts with identification
- Defining the gap: what is missing? Aim is training
- Doctors should contact the police
- In European medical schools no word about HT = deficit
- Fundamental that doctors recognize the signs to arise suspicion

8. Mr Ward Gabriels:

- Communication problems are related to culture

9. Ms Patsy Sörensen:

- Pressure on the victims: tattoos, HIV, aids, hepatitis



ISEC/ISEC/PAYOKE PROJECT

HOME/2010/ISEC/AG/062

30-CE-0447231/00-04



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- Essential to improve the communication between victims, hospitals, health service and police to optimize the story of the victims and to create the possibility to make the switch to prevention
 - Creation of a better declaration of VOT to the police which will lead to a better prevention in order to speed up capture of perpetrators

10. Ms Jelena von Helldorff

- What do we want from doctors?
- Whom do we wish to train- the health authorities, the doctors, the medical associations?
- Keep focus on the urgency services where the victims are most likely to be referred to
- Ensure that the project complements the 2012 EC Strategy on THB

b) Conclusions

The great majority of members agreed to the following steps and points:

1. Definition of VOT
2. Writing a general training manual focusing on actual needs or gaps, i.e. . between health and police sector, existing in each country.
3. Defining the existing gaps and clarifying the situation of the VOT (psychological & physical problems)
4. Locating actual problems through questionnaire to identify gaps
5. Survey must consist of simple questions to facilitate the analysis afterwards (statistics / SPSS statistical computer programme)
6. Target group of questionnaire: emergency and health personnel, trauma specialists, health authorities, South East Europe Health Network could be of help
7. Essential is to start from literature study and to add survey, questionnaire and cases studies.
8. Start from existing data (i.e. . University of Freiburg)
9. Fundamental is on one side to reinforce the interaction between the general and specific approach and not losing any of both perspectives, on the other side to work with health and justice and to integrate both point of views, closing the different networks
10. Collecting and suggesting names from experts by partners
11. Essential is to improve the communication between victims, hospitals, health service and police to optimize the story of the victims and to create the possibility to make the switch to prevention *but* see to it that this bridge can't be misused (importance of NGO's) and to create a environment of confidence
12. Contributions through national authorities and medical labs, Pharmaceutical labs



ISEC/ISEC/PAYOKE PROJECT

HOME/2010/ISEC/AG/062

30-CE-0447231/00-04



c) Further actions to be undertaken

1. Elaborate the questionnaire for the health authorities and health associations
2. Make stock of the existing instruments, tools and evaluate the available training material
3. Identify gaps between the law enforcement and health professionals in order to build bridges between police and health practitioners
4. Keep focus on the human rights aspect in all dimensions of the project

d) Distribution of key tasks

- Ms Dettmeijer will assist regarding the Budapest Kick off Conference, planned for 27 & 28 of February 2012. She will be in contact with Ms Christina Berta for the conference room (app 100 PAX)
- Dr Alexandre Berlin will provide the link with the *South East Europe Health Network*
- Prof Biffel will provide assistance in research.
- Prof Szilárd will forward the draft questionnaire, the plan of distribution and the first results in form of report and analysis before our conference on the 27th and 28th of February. The University of Pécs will be responsible for methodology, evaluation, reporting and compilation of the manual.
- Ms Goncalves will assist collecting data
- Payoke will increase the visibility and policy action on the highest EU government and institution levels. Meetings will be organised with the involvement of the EU institutions, high and respected level of governments in order to maintain the broad interdisciplinary dimension. Payoke will lead in organising the Kick off Conference in Budapest.
- All partners will collect names of experts, who will be vital to the project.



ISEC/ISEC/PAYOKE PROJECT

HOME/2010/ISEC/AG/062

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