



Towards a survivor engagement model

Tool on Good Practices

Carlotta Giordani

Towards a survivor engagement model

Tool on Good Practices

Carlotta Giordani



Co-funded by the
AMIF Programme
of the European Union

Report produced as part of the project "VoiceOver: Victims of trafficking in human beings support and Empowerment by means of a survivor leaders Engagement model", co-funded by the European Union, Call AMIF-2022-TF1-AG-THB (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021-2027)

The research work and writing of the present document was carried out by Carlotta Giordani under the supervision of Prof. Giovanna Marconi.

Suggested Citation: Giordani C. (2024) "Towards a survivor engagement model - Tool on Good Practices", SSIIM UNESCO Chair, University Iuav of Venice.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission of the copyright owners.

© SSIIM UNESCO Chair, University Iuav of Venice
Palazzo Tron, Santa Croce 197, Venice (Italy)
www.unescochair-iuav.it/en
February 2024
Isbn: 9788831241717

Cover image by Sasin Tipchai from Pixabay

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>5</u>
METHODOLOGY	5
GOOD PRACTICES RECOLLECTION	8
<u>GOOD PRACTICES FACTSHEETS</u>	<u>9</u>
(BE) PAYOKE	10
(BIH) NEW ROAD BIH, NOVI PUTIA	14
(DE) FIZ - FRAUEN INFORMATION ZENTRUM	17
(DK) HOPENOW	20
(ES) FCB - FUNDACIÓN CRUZ BLANCA	23
(FR) AUTRES REGARDS	26
(FR) CCEM - COMITÉ CONTRE L'ESCLAVAGE MODERNE	30
(FR) MIST	33
(IT) CIAC	40
(IT) DEDALUS	43
(IT) EQUALITY	47
(RO) ADPARE	54
(RO) FREE	58

INTRODUCTION

VoiceOver is a two-year project started in April 2023 and funded by AMIF. SSIIM UNESCO Chair– a research center established at the University IUAV of Venice in 2008 and focusing its action-research activities on the socio and spatial inclusion of international migrants at the urban level - is the only research institute in the partnership. Lead partner is Equality, an NGO based in Padua (Italy), directly engaged in the protection of trafficked people. Also, the other 4 partners are NGOs working with/for trafficked people in their countries (Adpare in Romania, Fundación Cruz Blanca in Spain, Payoke in Belgium, and MIST in France).

VoiceOver stems from a self-critical analysis that sees the anti-trafficking system as self-referential. The measures in place do not necessarily respond to the experiences of trafficked persons themselves. Or else, often those practices relate to survivors in a selective manner, where experiences are distilled and reproduced to validate certain stereotypical trafficking narratives and labels. Victim-support organizations run the risk of making assumptions about what survivors need and want from programs, policies, and interventions.

The project roots on the observation that trafficked people normally do not speak with their own voice. The VoiceOver partners believe that such dynamics can be flipped by directly involving survivors as true partners and elevating their voice as primary stakeholders in the anti-trafficking field. VoiceOver's general objective is to build organizational capacity to collaborate with and support those who identify as survivor leaders to better serve their beneficiaries, craft programs, identify challenges and opportunities, and achieve positive anti-trafficking and victim-support outcomes.

As Research Centre, one of luav's tasks within the project was to identify, describe, and disseminate good practices in the field of anti-trafficking and migrants' inclusion, with particular attention to those adopting peer-to-peer approach and/or direct engagement/involvement of former beneficiaries as strategies to better reach out and to provide tailored assistance to their target population(s).

Methodology

To identify Good Practices (GP), at the first stages of this research, *criteria* for defining what to consider as a GP have been outlined among project partners following a proposal elaborated by luav.

Two levels of criteria were determined: *i) Mandatory*, i.e. 3 criteria that selected practices must necessarily comply with; *ii) Preferential*, i.e. a longer list of criteria of which, in order to be selected, practices must meet at least 2 (see box 1)

Box 1: criteria for the selection of useful practices

i) FIRST LEVEL: mandatory (selected practices must comply with all these 3 criteria)

> Effectiveness and Impact

It is acknowledged by experts (including ourselves) and (local) practitioners as a good practice, having relevant/concrete impacts in its field of action.

> Target population

Must have VoT, Victims of GBV, people at risk of any form of exploitation, migrants or people with migration background among the direct beneficiaries.

> Active participation of beneficiaries

VoT, Victims of GBV, people at risk of any form of exploitation, migrants or people with migration backgrounds are considered not only 'object' of the service but active subjects:

- The service focuses on THB
- The service focuses on GBV
- The service adopts a Peer-to-Peer method in other fields of activities and expertise.

ii) SECOND LEVEL: preferential (to be selected, the practice must meet at least 2 of the following criteria)

> Local/Regional/National empowerment

The capacity of: activating/maintaining networks (trans-institutional/partnership = a subject/practice that is not isolated but works in connection with other key local stakeholders/institutions) and/or creating a space that acts as a reference point at Local/Regional/National level

> Capacity to attract/grasp funds and other resources (not only economic ones)

> Capacity to operate in line with EU and national and legal frame on THB

E.g.: activities are driven by Istanbul Convention

> Capacity to interact with social services and local anti-trafficking system

> Real empowerment

recognition and inclusion of previous beneficiaries into the staff/board/managing position (paid positions)

> Potential to be or become a reference initiative for dissemination or replicability in other territories and/or scalability to other institutional levels

Apart from the territorial or economic characteristics that have favoured the creation/introduction and success of the practice, it contains some promising elements for dissemination in other contexts. E.g.: an organizational reform, the working methodology, the implementation of a specific action, etc.

> Reactivity/Adjustment

Capacity to monitor, analyze and understand users' needs/questions/resources to adapt its services to changing circumstances.

> Capacity to develop advocacy practices, and activities and to recommend strategies and interventions on different levels

The criteria set a number of key elements to be considered in describing each practice, i.e. a brief overview of the service and relevant action(s) carried out by its promoter, the approach in engaging with vulnerabilities, the engagement and training of survivors/migrants' leaders, the description of Peer-to-Peer method adopted, the significant collaborations with public, non-

profit and/or private entities, the social/territorial impact of the organization and elements transferable to other contexts in view of a possible scaling up.

In parallel, an interview according to qualitative research methods was elaborated to be submitted to potential stakeholders, identified through a mapping activity of the organizations responding to the set criteria and working in Europe on Trafficking of Human Being and Migration.

The interview was structured focusing on three main areas:

- *Mission and activities* (e.g. what are the main objectives of your organization? What is/are the main target population(s) of your organization? What are the main activities carried out by the organization?);
- *Insight on peer-to-peer experience* (e.g. Does the organization adopt a Peer -to – Peer method for one or more of these activities? How does the process work in detail? Have adjustments been made over time to this practice? Have you defined methodological guide/guidelines for peers' involvement, supervision, and accompaniment?);
- *Focus on the Organization structure* (e.g. With which key local stakeholders/institutions does the organization collaborates? Does the organization interact with social services and local anti-trafficking system? Does your organization take part in anti-trafficking/human rights networks of NGOs, associations, or Institution at Regional/National/European level? Does the organization directly participate in policy making platforms?).

Based on the mapping and results of the first phase of the project and of the already existing networks (e.g. La Strada International), also thanks to the collaboration of the project partners which acted as gatekeepers¹ individual interviews were carried out with each identified stakeholder. Each individual interview took place online and lasted from one to two hours.

An attempt was also made to empirically expand the network of stakeholders, thanks to desk research activities and on the basis of what was suggested by the interviewees, through the so-called "snowball sampling"²

¹ Gatekeeper sampling is a sampling method through which a participant in the research survey facilitates contact between the researcher and another possible participant.

² According to snowball sampling, an initial group of people to be interviewed who possess the characteristics sought is identified; once the information on these units has been collected, each of them is asked to cooperate in order to intercept other individuals belonging to the same population and so on, so as to create a 'snowball effect'

Good Practices recollection

The interviews ran from July to December 2023. Besides for the present document, the information collected during this period will be used also for the final research and the definition of the Survivors' engagement model. As result of the mapping process, 24 organizations have been contacted, 18 reached the interview stage and 15 responded to the GP criteria the project partners agreed upon consistently.

Before starting the research, luav foreseen to find 10 to 15 GP as a successful goal, so the result is in line with the predicted expectations.

Table 1: list of interviews and criteria fulfillment

Name of the Organization	State	Date of the interview	THB	P2P
MIST	FR	13/07/2023 and 17/07/23	YES	YES
FCB	ES	18/07/23	YES	NO with THB
EQUALITY	IT	20/07/23	YES	YES
ADPARE	RO	21/07/23	YES	YES
PAYOKE	BE	24/07/2023 and 31/08/23	YES	NO with THB
DEDALUS	IT	09/08/23	YES	YES
CIAC	IT	16/08/23	YES	YES
FREE	RO	07/09/23	YES	YES
FRAUEN INFORMATION ZENTRUM	DE	18/09/23	YES	YES
Autre Regards - Roberta De Rosas	FR	01/09/2023 and 19/09/23	YES	YES
ON THE ROAD	IT	04/10/23	YES	YES
BE FREE	IT	09/10/23	YES	YES
CCEM	FR	07/12/23	YES	
ALC	FR	19/10/23	YES	NO with THB
Hopenow	DK	24/10/23	YES	YES
NGO "Novi put"	BiH	05/10/23	YES	YES
La strada Moldova	MD	12/10/23	YES	NO with THB
APAV	PT	15/11/23	YES	NO with THB

GOOD PRACTICES FACTSHEETS

(BE) Payoke

Name and type of service-provider

Payoke, NGO

Location and territory of action

Antwerp (Belgium) and the reception centers for the entire Flemish area.

Origins

Established in Antwerp in 1987, Payoke was the first anti-trafficking NGO in Europe.

Initially the assistance it offered to prostitutes took the form of a room in its private home, where they could have a cup of coffee in a cozy, homey environment. It was a place to relax, talk openly and be listened to.

Based on the conclusions of a parliamentary commission, in 1994 Belgium adopted a national policy to fight trafficking in human beings. It featured a coordinated inter-agency approach involving the judiciary, law enforcement, social services, and rehabilitation centers. Payoke also highlighted the importance for victims to be granted a residence permit to legally stay in the country when their traffickers are under investigation and trial, and, whenever possible, even after. The so-called "Payoke's scheme", reflected in the Belgian 1994 Law Decree, has inspired other countries, and it is now considered best practice in counter-trafficking legislation throughout Europe. Belgium had developed a multi-disciplinary support system for victims of human trafficking 10 years before Europe reacted to the phenomenon.

In 1994 and 1995, Payoke's mandate was officially extended, allowing the organizations to act as plaintiff against traffickers in court proceedings.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out.

Payoke's main mission is to end trafficking and any other form of exploitation in Belgium.

Additionally, the main objectives of the organization are:

1. To reintegrate victims as full-fledged individuals in the host society or in the society of origin;
2. To help bringing the perpetrators to justice, nationally and internationally, in cooperation with victims, law enforcement and justice;
3. To raise awareness about human trafficking in all its manifestations across all sectors of the society, nationally and internationally.

Payoke coordinates the Flemish governmental center for Victims of Trafficking (VoT).

Payoke employs 20 people full time.

Beneficiaries of the service

Payoke normally reach 150 beneficiaries per year, since summer 2022 the number has increased. The beneficiaries (which Payoke calls clients) of the organization are: Victims of Trafficking, adult and minors formally recognized as such (only to Victims of Trafficking as identify as such), victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

Payoke coordinates the Flemish governmental center for Victims of Trafficking. The center offers 45 days of safe housing if there are serious suspicions of human trafficking or smuggling with aggravating circumstances. During these first 45 days, victims can just take a breath and are invited to thoroughly evaluate next steps proposed by Payoke. If a victim decides to join the program, the organization offers support until all juridical procedures have been concluded and they are ready for full autonomy and to take their life in their own hands. This process takes generally up to 2-3 years.

Once a VoT has been taken in charge by the organization, the following steps are provided:

1. Psycho-social counselling towards an individual life plan. Payoke works with each victim to develop an individual life plan that helps them protecting their rights and rebuilding their future. Payoke helps victims considering options for continuing education, vocational training and job placement.
2. Legal and administrative support. Legal advice and counselling, through the help of lawyers and interpreters, are offered to inform victims about their legal rights and obligations and to pursue cases against the perpetrators. Payoke may act as plaintiff in court on its own behalf or on behalf of the victim.
3. Outpatient care. Outpatient care is offered to clients who live on their own. The centers work closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Caritas and recognized NGO referral networks to facilitate the repatriation of clients who wish to return to their country of origin, whenever it is safe to do so.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants' leaders

Payoke recruits' participants for informal cooperation through social teams and shelter teams asking directly to VoT whether they want to take part to the activities of the organization; however, the organization does not include previous beneficiaries into its staff/board or in managing position (paid or unpaid positions).

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

Payoke never adopted a structured peer-to-peer method applied to Victims of Trafficking before joining the VoiceOver project. However, a first attempt consisted in a project running for 11 weeks on sports and empowerment of beneficiaries.

In line with the to principles of peer-to-peer methods, Payoke developed methodological guidelines on training for workers on facilities, and a protocol for psycho-social support to increase women's resilience.

Moreover, Payoke joined the project LIBES on mentoring VoT, using local mentors to work on empowerment (www.payoke.be/en/project/life-beyond-the-shelter).

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

Payoke is part of national and European networks with public and private entities. In particular, a major milestone in Payoke's work - in cooperation with IOM - was the adoption of the Brussels Declaration on human trafficking in 2002 and the subsequent May 2003 Council conclusions on the declaration which effectively introduced a new policy framework for the EU's efforts to curb human trafficking on many fronts. This also led to the establishment of a

Commission expert group on people trafficking. By the end of 2006, EU Member States were required to transpose the 2004 directive on trafficking into their legislations.

Payoke is also part of the National coordination mechanism, an interdepartmental cell of the government together with the Belgian Ministry of Justice. By royal decree of 16.05.2004 the Belgian government has set up an Interdepartmental Coordination Cell and an Informatieen Analysecentrum Mensensmokkel en Mensenhandel / Centre d'information et d'analyse en matière de trafic et de traite des êtres humains [Centre for Information and Analysis on Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling]. This is supposed to become an information network where members of the Cell cooperate to share information which their specific departments have gathered on human trafficking. The data should be analyzed to create prevention strategies.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

For the last few years Payoke has been active in fighting the phenomenon labeled “loverboys”. Loverboys are pimps who use charm, gifts and drugs to prey on vulnerable girls, often minors, pretending to be in love and luring them into the prostitution business. Loverboys establish a romantic relationship with their victims that quickly turns into emotional, psychological, and physical abuse. The victims’ situation is especially precarious, as the abuse takes place in their close or intimate relationship and in a state of complete emotional, psychological, and financial dependency. There is a common pattern in the way loverboys operate: gifts, love, drugs and, as a final step, initiation to prostitution. The exploiter knows that once a girl is emotionally involved, she will be ready to do anything to keep his affection. However, during the past few years Payoke registered a significant change in the ‘grooming’ phase. The impact of social media on this issue is not to be underestimated. This caused the overall process of luring the girl to be significantly shorter than in the past, which makes the loverboy-method even more worrying. In 2019 Payoke has become the referral center for all victims of loverboys in Flanders, following the conferral of exclusive competences from the Flemish government and the allocation of dedicated funds. Payoke advocates for the establishment of a specialized reception center for victims of loverboys.

Adjustments and challenges over time

About the peer-to-peer method, the challenges faced during the realization of VoiceOver project will be addressed according to the projects’ outcomes and developed methodology. However, thanks to the long experience of the organization, risk factors to be considered over time have been pinpointed, such as: the often paternalistic approach of social work(ers); the individual process of overcoming the victim’s status; the risk for people to reconnect with exploitative networks; the risk of re-traumatization.

Social/territorial impact

Payoke, is directly impacting the national level and - thanks to its advocacy work and favorable geographical position - it is also directly creating an impact at EU level. The organization is also bringing ahead the idea that through its projects and activities it would succeed in bringing survivors leader within the policy making mechanisms at the national level.

Organizational and economic sustainability

Payoke sustainability is guaranteed by EU funds, National funds, private donors, and regional support. As far as victims’ assistance is concerned, Payoke is funded by the government to guarantee direct assistance.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

Communication and EU advocacy: as mentioned Payoke took active part in many Eu projects and campaigns, in addition to having had a role in the adoption of the Brussels Declaration on human trafficking in 2002 and subsequent May 2003 Council conclusions on the declaration, which effectively introduced a new policy framework for the EU's efforts to curb human trafficking.

Loverboys: Payoke has developed a solid experience in this peculiar field of intervention. Since 2019 it acts as referral center for all victims of loverboys in Flanders, following the conferral of exclusive competences from the Flemish government and the allocation of dedicated funds. Payoke advocates for the establishment of a specialized reception center for victims of loverboys.

Web-site/contacts

www.payoke.be/en/

info@payoke.be

Italiëlei 98A
2000 Antwerpen (Belgium)
Tel: +32 (0)3 201 16 90
Fax: +32 (0)3 233 23 24

(BiH) New Road BiH, Novi putia

Name and type of service-provider

New Road BiH, NGO

Location and territory of action

Bosnia I Herzegovina

Start date

The Organization *Novi Put* was established in 2010 and it is registered at the State level. The Association is currently one of the few CSOs in B&H focused on the prevention of human trafficking. Its staff is composed of experts with excellent knowledge of the relevant B&H legislative and regulatory framework whose anti-trafficking experience ranges from 10-16 years.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

Novi Put's action is focused on the prevention of trafficking in human beings and in actively fighting against gender-based violence, violence against children, (including child pornography, and pedophilia); and it recognizes a strong interconnection between these problems. The organization has a four-pillars structure:

1. Service Centre for Women and Children: psychological and social counselling for women and children's victims of all forms of violence; continuous development of cooperation with Institutions at all levels; advocacy for policy changes, for the improvement of the institutional framework for vulnerable groups. Novi Put empowers women and children at risk at all levels.
2. Support to the victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence: first responders to provide support, protect and advise the victims, support, and facilitate their accommodation in the available facilities, offer them legal counselling, SOS phone and facilitation of communication and cooperation with subjects of protection/Institutions mandated to provide protection and attention to the victims;
3. Advocacy, awareness-raising, and prevention: Novi Put actively participates in the design and development of the national, regional, and local policies addressing the prevention of human trafficking, gender-based violence and all forms of abuse affecting children. The organization actively cooperates with the academia, judiciary, and media in communicating the messages of non-discrimination and the necessity to ensure the protection of social categories at risk, children in particular. Novi Put designs and carries out grass-root awareness-raising campaigns aimed at the prevention of human trafficking and all forms of child abuse;
4. Economic empowerment of women victims of all forms of gender-based violence;
5. Online and Phone Help Line: for reporting cases of human trafficking and child abuse, including provision of immediate assistance and further referral when necessary.

At the moment the organization hires 13 people including previous beneficiaries, as volunteers.

Beneficiaries of the service

The main beneficiaries of the service are VoT and Victims of GBV. The Association addresses also specific forms of multiple discrimination and vulnerability of Roma women and children. It works in Roma communities, both providing direct support and promoting activities for the prevention of human trafficking, violence, and discrimination.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

The organization approaches vulnerable people recognizing multiple vulnerabilities affecting their target group and beneficiaries; it aims to outline the mutual connection between the topics and necessity to provide holistic response and support to the victims, and women and children at risk.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

The organization is running a national helpline and an internet helpline; though first contacts made through the helplines, beneficiaries are addressed to counselling center, where then they can be selected to become peers (volunteering based).

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

The organization started adopting peer-to-peer method 10 years ago, recruiting and training previous beneficiaries to be peers in different areas of intervention, mainly as peer educators (minors, survivors of domestic gender violence, VoT).

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

Novi Put is a member of the La Strada International NGO Platform and European NGOs Platform Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Slavery (ENPATES). It has been selected as the partner NGO by the B&H Ministry of Security and is member of the core State Anti-trafficking Team. The anti-trafficking endeavors of Novi Put resulted in a signed Memorandum on Joint Cooperation with the B&H Ministry of Security. Novi Put participates in drafting and reviewing all the relevant State Action Plans and Strategies aimed at the prevention of human trafficking, child pornography and pedophilia.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

Internet community Program - Internet HOTLine: Novi Put focuses on internet users, social media account owners and children online, to make them aware of the risks and help them to avoid/overcome online abuse and inappropriate exposure. The HOTLine is the place to report any inappropriate content, such as child pornography or any other form of abuse that beneficiaries have witnessed or been exposed to through the Internet, mobile telephone or other information and communication technology.

Adjustments and challenges over time

The organization has not made any formal adjustments, but always tries to adapt its strategies to facilitate the emergence of victims, who normally still feel ashamed and seek help only when they fear for their lives or those of their children; moreover, they are often blackmailed so they hardly admit that they have been victims of abuse/violence.

Social/territorial impact

B&H has been a country of origin, destination, and transit for men, women, children, and people with disabilities trafficked for sex exploitation and forced labor both in B&H and in Europe. Continuous lack of adequate anti-trafficking actions by the B&H Government has resulted in B&H being downgraded in the 2014 TiP Report to the Tier 2 Watch List of “Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA’s minimum standards”.

B&H population is becoming increasingly vulnerable to various forms of exploitation and the lack of awareness raising among groups particularly vulnerable to THB - such as underage girls - has led to an increase in underage victims of sexual exploitation. Due to the country ‘s’ poor economic situation, increasing poverty and corruption, the number of victims of labor exploitation has also increased significantly. From 2014 to December 2015 more than 150,000 young people left the country in search of job opportunities abroad and, unfortunately, many of them ended up as victims of sexual and/or labor exploitation.

Organizational and economic sustainability

The organization supports itself through funds from Local authorities, fundings from religious or ethnic organizations, international donors such as other NGOs, the UN or the US Embassy.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

The long experience in the Balkan area is surely a valuable and uncommon element for scaling up. Instead peer-to-peer, according to the organization, could be an opportunity only for very specialized and structured organizations.

Web-site/contacts

<https://newroadbih.org/index.php/en/about-us/new-road.html>

info@newroadbih.org

Adema Buća 10, 88000 Mostar, B&H

Tel: +387 36988022

(DE) FIZ - FRAUEN INFORMATION ZENTRUM

Name and type of service-provider

FIZ – Frauen Information Zentrum, NGO

Location and territory of action

Stuttgart (Germany)

Start date

The organization has been active for more than 35 years

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

FIZ offers individual consultation and support to migrant women in a crisis or in need of help due to their situation of migration, human trafficking, or labour exploitation.

Main area of activities include:

1. Consultation for refugee women;
2. Consultation for migrant women;
3. Consultation for victims of human trafficking;
4. INFO-CAFÉ for refugee women at FIZ in Stuttgart.

FIZ has 10 employees, working mainly as social workers, psychologists, lawyers; 1 person is dedicated to the coordination of the peer-to-peer project.

Beneficiaries of the service

The main beneficiaries of the organization are VoT, Victims of GBV, people at risk of any form of exploitation, migrants, and people with migration background.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

The organization addresses vulnerabilities through counselling, advocacy, communication and training, and direct political actions.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

FIZ experienced peer to peer through the “Multiplikatorinnen-Peer Support (Multiplier Peer Support - MPS)” project, targeting refugee women coming from western African countries who experienced trafficking in Human Beings. The project coordinator was a previous beneficiary, VoT. Before starting the project FIZ conducted research in cooperation with scholars, but many difficulties emerged in finding a solid methodology considering only the social work prospective. The MPS project was developed in 2017 by Nele Diether as part of her bachelor's thesis at the Evangelische Hochschule Ludwigsburg. The main reason for the development of the MPS project was the increasing demand for assistance and counseling by refugee women victims of human trafficking. The aim is to be able to meet this increased need for counselling in the future, despite the limited resources of the specialised advice center, and to avoid admission stops. In addition, FIZ also intends to strengthen trafficked women' sense of self-efficacy and bring out their potential

and resources. In this way, the entire peer group of West and Central African and former victims of trafficking in the region can expand their self-help options and autonomy and benefit from the mutual exchange of information, values, experiences, skills, strategies and contact.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

FIZ's approach includes: imparting knowledge from the research, demonstrating alternatives and various possible courses of action as well as providing information about the German assistance and asylum system. In this way, not only do individuals regain their ability to act, but also the entire peer group is strengthened and experiences new forms of solidarity. Peers resulted better prepared to understand new clients, grasp their reflection processes and strategies for thinking and acting, hence in the best position to offer targeted support to women who are currently affected by THB.

Because of the controversies that arose over finding clearly understandable common terms, opinions were sought directly from the participants, who decided to call themselves "activists", because the term "peer" was not suiting them.

In line with the preparatory activities, recruitment of peers began by identifying some former victims through counselling services whose staff was already asking support to previous beneficiaries although not in a structured way. Those people were thus asked if they would like to start a group project.

After one year from the beginning of the project FIZ organized an evaluation by interviewing each peer in a trustful situation. The issue of trust was relevant since the beginning.

After the interviews, built on an overview of interests, fears and needs, a group of 6 people was finally created in early 2018.

Three workshops were organized (providing baby-sitting to the participants' children) for group members to get to know each other. The workshops focused on asylum procedures, trauma and its management, women rights, peer work and the resources a peer can share, and what the common goal of the project was. Group meetings were scheduled every two months to share the experience as peers and to provide mutual advice and tips.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

FIZ cooperates with the local refugees and migration office, housing services, other NGOs working on GBV, women's shelters and local police offices.

FIZ also cooperates with KOK, which is the responsible for advocacy and policy on THB in Germany.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

The Methodological approach adopted by FIZ is strongly backed by scientific research: the scientific monitoring of the MPS project is divided into three different modules, which form the basis for the design and implementation of the MPS project, creating an interconnected process.

Module 1: Qualitative guided interviews for the design of the peers workshops;

Module 2: Implementation and evaluation of the peers workshops;

Module 3: Reflection meeting to evaluate the MPS project.

Data and figures from quantitative empirical surveys were deemed important for a general understanding of structures, processes and scope of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and for the development of appropriate measures. However, these were not considered sufficient, as

the detection of criminal offenses in this area is usually difficult and, as a result, a large grey area can be assumed. For this reason, reports and testimonies from (former) victims were considered extremely important in order to obtain a more in-depth picture of the problem and the women's life situation.

Adjustments and challenges over time

During the first year of the project an external research center was contracted to conduct an evaluation of the project; this helped identify strengths during the activities, such as the way in which the peer-to-peer approach helped peers transforming themselves: they were empowered by acting, and some peers also participated in some of the organization's political events. The process also helped identify weaknesses, such as the risk to put them in danger with the traffickers as they were publicly engaged.

Social/territorial impact

The organization has mainly a local impact.

Organizational and economic sustainability

Peer-to-peer was funded by the Catholic church, the project depends on the fundings (now it has been running for 5 years).

More in general, FIZ is funded by private donors, National funds, Local Institutions, "Loterie" German system, and EU funds.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

The MPS project adopts several methods and theoretical principles of professional social work for this purpose. Empowerment and lifeworld orientation are at the forefront. This approach could be transferred to other contexts, as it was based on academic research developed through action-research methodology and fostered the results along with direct implementation of peer-to-peer activities.

Web-site/contacts

www.vij-wuerttemberg.de/en/node/33

fiz@vij-wuerttemberg.de

Moserstraße 10
70182 Stuttgart (Germany)
Tel. +49 0711 23941-24

(DK) HOPENOW

Name and type of service-provider

HOPENOW, NGO

Location and territory of action

Denmark

Start date

Since 2011, HopeNow has been an influential partner of the Danish Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. The mandate spanning 3-4 years each time, the close collaboration with the Center Against Human Trafficking (CMM) and the Department of Gender Equality ensure that it fulfils its responsibilities under the Danish National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2022-2025.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

Hope Now's mission is to proactively identify potential victims of human trafficking by engaging affected communities, prisons, and asylum shelters to reach people who may be trapped or vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. It ensures to provide public services orientation support..

The organization's main areas of action are:

1. Human trafficking in Denmark;
2. Rebuilding Lives, Transforming Communities;
3. Trust-based Outreach Work;
4. Counselling and 24/7 hotline support for victims and potential victims;
5. Prison visits, online and telephone counselling;
6. Support for health needs;
7. National and International Cooperation.

Hope Now employs 10 people on its staff/board, including some beneficiaries. 3 people are on the board (1 is a survivor), 1 victim of labor exploitation, and a large number of volunteers.

Beneficiaries of the service

The main beneficiaries of the service are VoT, Victims of GBV, people at risk of any form of exploitation, and migrants.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

Hope Now has a victim-centered approach. They actively listen and provide tailored services without judgment. One of the main aspects to which they pay close attention is to meet the needs and choices expressed by their clients, while ensuring their safety and rights. Adopting this approach improves their access to justice and prevents re-traumatization. The team helps them navigate complex legal pathways, empowering them and restoring lost control. Above all, the

organization aims to make trafficked persons feel safe, freely reach out and seek advice and help through a 24/7 hotline.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

The engagement process is based on a culturally and trauma-informed Approach. The focus is on placing the victims and survivors at the heart of any effort. To this end, the organization prioritizes understanding the multifaceted impact of trauma on the trafficked person, which encompasses cultural, physical, social, and emotional aspects. The staff acknowledges the importance of considering the well-being of professionals who aid in this process.

Through this work, the organization contributes to a deeper understanding of the repercussions of trauma. Through the adoption of a trauma-informed approach to the cultural context of trafficked individuals, Hope Now experiences better outcomes in their cases.

Hope Now proactively connects with individuals in various settings, such as streets, parks, churches, social events, and private parties. By actively participating in national communities more at risk of exploitation activities and understanding their dynamics, the staff can better identify vulnerable people. It is on this targeted group that staff channels efforts to provide direct help and support, to uncover their stories, detect signs of exploitation, and provide them with support they need.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

Hope Now uses a mixed group (community) and individual approach to peer-to-peer.

On the one hand, depending on the individual, the process unfolds differently on a case-by-case basis: for example, women involved in activities helped interviewing people in prisons and to bring out the trafficking story.

On the other hand, informal groups participating to social activities (e.g., hairstyling and makeup sessions), by bringing together several women become community sessions.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

To better combat trafficking, HopeNow actively engages with partner organizations such as CMM, Reden International, AmiAmi, and the Danish Red Cross Health Clinic, as well as international NGO platforms. Through national and international partnerships, it shares knowledge, brainstorm strategies, and stay informed about current trends in human trafficking. These collaborations improve the understanding of the challenges victims face and allow the organization to constantly improve its assistance and support efforts.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

Prison Visits, Online and Telephone Counselling: The organization offers continuous support and therapeutic counseling to trafficked individuals and vulnerable persons who are incarcerated, including those facing long-term imprisonment.

Adjustments and challenges over time

Hope Now uses an informal approach that has been developed over many years and through different activities (e.g. gospel singing, African dancing); it also promotes informal meetings and social activities to maintain contact with the diaspora and help build trust: the chain of trust is also crucial to be vigilant and avoid the risk of infiltration by traffickers.

Social/territorial impact

The organization activities have an impact at the national level.

Organizational and economic sustainability

To sustain its activities, Hope Now is only granted and relies on a vital 1.6% of the national yearly budget for the Action Plan 2022-2025. As a non-profit organization, its existence depends on contributions of individuals, volunteers, donors, and grant givers who understand the significance of Hope Now mission. Their support enables it to equip trafficked individuals with accurate information and assistance, empowering them to reclaim their lives again.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

According to the Hope Now Experience, the main challenges faced in involving former beneficiaries in its activities is that they are still traumatized; peer group workers should be paid and paid enough; they should be paid and trained as staff more than as volunteers, as remuneration set boundaries.

Web-site/contacts

www.hopenow.dk

michelle@hopenow.dk

Peter Bangs Vej 18, 4 sal, 2000 Frederiksberg, Danmark

Tel. + 45 2616 1012

(ES) FCB - FUNDACIÓN CRUZ BLANCA

Name and type of service-provider

Fundación Cruz Blanca, Foundation, religious organization.

Location and territory of action

All Spain, 10 out of 17 regions including islands.

Start date

The organization has been active from 2004 as the religious organization of the Franciscan order, it started working with people in need of protection, sex workers (in line with the definition enshrined in the Protocol of Palermo), and then it broadened its activities to Victims of Trafficking, humanitarian aid, homeless, and additions.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

Fundación Cruz Blanca mission, based on Christian humanist thought, is to collaborate to the construction of a more just and fraternal society by offering spaces in which people's life is promoted, defended, cared for and celebrated, facilitating the integral development of the most vulnerable individuals, allowing the active participation of all members of our society, through actions of intervention, training, and social awareness.

The organization carries out diversified actions:

- 1) Attention to migrant population: since 2017, it has been managing various accommodation resources of the Humanitarian Care programs for migrants in vulnerable situations;
- 2) Employment (Entabán): it prioritizes employment as a form of inclusion in society;
- 3) Trafficking of human beings: the National Program for Integral Intervention in Human Trafficking aims to contribute to the detection of existing trafficking situations to provide care and protection to victims through territories' resources, thus favoring integral recovery and adequate social, health and labor inclusion of beneficiaries.
- 4) Prevention and Health Promotion;
- 5) Intervention Program with families in vulnerable situations and at risk of social exclusion;

FCB promotes direct interventions in those areas where exploitation may occur to identify and detect it, providing information, and materials, and offering places in shelters to start a personal project according to the needs, including legal aid, psychological, social, and labor orientation.

More than 200 people are employed by FCB.

Beneficiaries of the service

Victims of human trafficking, the homeless, people with addictions, Victims of any form of exploitation, men in need of shelters, migrants, or people with a migration background (90% of beneficiaries are migrants).

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

The model of attention of FCB is focus on the single person, who is the protagonist of the process, approaching them not as a passive victim, but as an active builder of their future. Coordination between FCB in-house and external resources, Institutions and State Security Forces and Corps is fundamental to offer a truly comprehensive intervention. FCB operates to push the transformation of the social and structural conditions that foster the existence of trafficking and accompany processes of construction of new models, raising awareness, training, and political advocacy.

FCB methodology is based on the accompaniment throughout the process of physical and emotional recovery of the victims of trafficking that the organization assists from the moment of detection, reception, and intervention.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

FBC does not directly engage survivors/migrants' leaders, however some of the local offices have occasionally contracted beneficiaries for small jobs.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

FCB has not adopted in a structured way the peer-to-peer approach, however, the organization is getting familiar with it through participation in the VoiceOver project and thanks to feedback surveys and focus groups with people the organization hosts in shelters.

Moreover, FCB hired survivors as linguistic mediators (APRAM project, Spanish in Madrid).

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

FCB collaborates with the local Institutions in all the territories where there is an office, and with the government at the national level. FCB closely works with the police (the organization accompanies the police during activities to dismantle exploitation rackets and networks). FCB has a formal protocol with all the stakeholders, updated every few years; moreover, with the police, it exists a formal agreement signed by 11 different ministries and other associations/organizations, including FCB.

FCB is a member of Rete Española contro la trata, composed of 33 entities; the network does not have legal status, but it is a formal network, providing consultancies for Institutions; the network leader is the National Department of Equality and the FCB is the vice-president. At the EU level, FCB is a member of RENATA and La Strada.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

FBC currently manages 103 shelters for migrants to respond to disembarkment emergencies in the towns of Algeciras (Cadiz), Cordoba, Arahal (Seville) and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria; moreover, it provides emergency centers aimed at responding to extraordinary temporary arrangements and to reinforce the humanitarian assistance program in the event of large arrivals on the coasts and overcrowding of reception places. At present, there are two emergency centers in Gran Canaria, hosting 536 places.

FCB is structuring shelters for men victims of exploitation.

Adjustments and challenges over time

Although FCB has not yet implemented the peer-to-peer method, so it is not possible to report the adjustments concerning this specific approach, more in general the organization uses tools such as feedback surveys and focus groups with people hosted in shelters to continuously adapt its activities to the needs of the beneficiaries.

Social/territorial impact

FCB activities impact all of Spain and border areas.

In consideration of its internal organization, the participation in formal and institutional network also at the local level, FCB managed to have a widespread national and European impact.

Organizational and economic sustainability

FCB sustains its activities thanks to EU funds, National funds, private donors, and Local Institutions funds.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

Networking and structured capacity building methodology.

According to FCB, it is essential to network both internally and externally to develop effective and comprehensive care for the most vulnerable people with whom the organization works, so it structured two levels of coordination:

- The Internal Level: this is where the Program of Attention to trafficked persons is supported by the Community centers of the Foundation and the Family Homes of the FCB, spread throughout the national territory;
- At the Local level: FCB coordinates with the FCSE, other specialized entities and Public Institutions of the territory;
- At the National/International level: FCB carries out awareness forums on the subject and coordinates with specialized entities and Public Institutions;

A structured policy methodology guarantees the sustainability of projects and interventions and facilitates channeling new strategic plans.

Web-site/contacts

www.fundacioncruzblanca.org

fundacion@cruzblanca.org

C/Murcia 10 st-c 28045 Madrid (Spain)

Tel. +34 911090701

(FR) AUTRES REGARDS

Association de santé communautaire avec et pour les travailleurs et travailleuses du sexe

Name and type of service-provider

AUTRES REGARDS, NGO

Location and territory of action

Marseille (France)

Start date

The organization developed from the “RES Regional Health Agency” project based on a community approach, particularly with mental health, addiction, and prostitution, focusing on AIDS, and collaboration between sex workers and managers in social work.

Autre regards was then founded in 1998, starting its experience to deal with the health of sex workers, not only as sexual health, but health in a broader sense. Initially, the project started with street educators to do direct prevention.

The staff then expanded through the employment of educators, social workers, and psychologists, aiming at dealing with health in a broad sense, keeping a community-based approach among volunteers, the board of directors and former beneficiaries or sex workers.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

The organization aims to help beneficiaries find answers, tools, support, and guidance not only in terms of health, but also in terms of social inclusion, administrative and legal procedures.

The main objectives are:

1. To build an informal, friendly place to chat, meet other people and be listened to;
2. Prevention and sexual risk reduction (HIV, STI);
3. Night rounds in central and southern Marseille;
4. Medical, social, and legal support and follow-up to empower people: access to healthcare, rights (social, legal...) and citizenship;
5. Fighting all forms of exclusion and discrimination, raising public awareness, combating stereotypes about prostitution and stigmatization;
6. Fight against isolation.

The organization employs 7 persons working as prevention animators, 4 social workers, 1 psychologist, 2 French language teachers, 1 atelier animator, 3 people in management, 1 midwife health coordinator; 8 people out of 18 are peers.

Beneficiaries of the service

The main beneficiaries of the service are VoT, sex workers, transexual people, victims of GBV, victims of sexual exploitation, and discrimination, migrants who experienced deportation and police interventions, victims of violence by clients, and victims of violence based on migration status.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

Since its foundation, Autres Regards has chosen to continue carrying out actions based on the community health model. This approach, initiated in the United States and Canada in the late 50s, follows on from the popular education initiatives carried out in Brazil's favelas during that decade. The approach, the product of a dual influence - social (popular education) and health (anti-psychiatry and mental health) - consists of involving target audiences in the design and implementation of actions that concern them.

The concept of community health was taken up in France in the 1978-80s and put into practice through urban social development projects (DSU). This approach involves collaboration between health and social professionals and the community to identify and resolve a health problem. It involves reciprocal training of the players involved, and the sharing of skills, knowledge, and fieldwork results.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

Since the beginning, Autres Regards has been committed to encouraging the participation of those concerned (*personnes concernées*) in the development and implementation of its actions. As a result, prostitutes/sex workers, or those who have been involved in prostitution, sit on the association's Board of Directors, while others are part of the salaried team, to structurally maintain a pragmatic approach that is as close as possible to the field realities of the target groups, and to encourage greater responsiveness to changes in these realities.

Through a community health approach, the Autres Regards project aims to:

1. Creating and maintaining links with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people, combating exclusion and/or isolation;
2. Reducing sexual health risks for sex workers by distributing material, disseminating prevention messages, and promoting sexual health;
3. Access to rights, care, and citizenship.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

The beneficiaries, local associations, and political players, as well as the various partners are all involved in the community health approach.

Community action is built on exchange and implies a transfer of skills from the professional to the beneficiary (the action's recipient), as well as from the beneficiary to the healthcare professional. The peers' recruitment is mainly funded on projects which need people to implement them; at the same time, community health always needs involved people to have strong relationships with the community itself.

Peers are involved through job posting for ANIMATRICE OU ANIMATEUR PREVENTION/ PEER, which is always presented as a formal job offer. Some people are already extremely trained, other times people who are not formally qualified are trained once hired to do a specific activity.

The peer worker therefore has a well-defined professional role, different from that of the operators with whom she works; this role is based on:

1. Personal experience of sex work;
2. Personal experience as a prostitute, acquired through training;
3. On the possession of technical and specific information;
4. Transversal relational skills.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

Particularly local partners that are solicited on a project basis. E.g., mental health centers (MEDU), shelters, local family planning and gynecological services with whom there are conventions.

Regional health agencies, municipalities, and organizations on HIV.

More informal agreements have been made by the organization with police services (anti-exploitation) on accompaniment and complaint writing, rushed with police stations for situations of violence.

Autre regards is also a partner of BE ON THE BORDERS - a transnational network established in 2022 in Ventimiglia, between associations including 40 structures between IT and FR to legally oppose trafficking.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

La santé Communautaire methodology has been structured and deeply explored, especially on the role of education of peers.

A peer worker is someone who belongs to the community, and who is currently prostituting or has prostituted in the past. This characteristic means that the peer worker occupies a position both close to and distant from the community. The peer is no longer just a prostitute, but a prostitute or ex-prostitute who has been trained to provide support to her colleagues. The peer is seen as a community "leader", someone who can act as a point of reference for colleagues or ex-colleagues. Her role is based on the development of her own experience, reinforced, and deepened by new and regularly updated knowledge. It is a role of great responsibility, requiring knowledge of specific subjects as well as self-esteem. The first aspect that needs to be emphasized is the need for strong motivation to take on this role. For peer educators who are still prostitutes, this means that they must be able to take on a double role.

Adjustments and challenges over time

According to the organization, readjustment is very laborious.

Changes are unavoidable as although the peer-to-peer method proved quite effective, it is very complex to realize, particularly in team settings. Changes over 5 years were agreed upon by the team and discussed. Teamwork in pairs, on the one hand, allows for the growth of mutual competencies and protects people from the mirror/transference phenomenon that is more present in peers, especially in the beginning.

On the other, leads to the adaptation of the method on the issue of legitimacy: who is legitimate to be engaged as a peer? The method requires keeping the vision of social accompaniment with patience, flexibility, and the ability to interrogate practices and question them. Training is essential.

Social/territorial impact

Marseille, Marseille region, case reorientation in other parts of France as well.

Organizational and economic sustainability

The organization is funded through EU funds, national funds, private donors, local Institutions.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

Having a long experience adopting the peer method, several considerations elaborated by the organization could be used to tailor other peer-to-peer experiences.

The problem concerning outside comes from scepticism for training culture that is of one kind-peers who do not come from EU style training path considered as lacking skills. Power issues arise on the inside, especially about who holds the power, as there is a hierarchy within every organization.

Web-site/contacts

<https://autresregards.org/it/iniziale>

contact@autresregards.org

3, rue de Bône
13005 MARSEILLE (France)
Tel. +33 04 91 42 42 90

(FR) CCEM - COMITÉ CONTRE L'ESCLAVAGE MODERNE

Name and type of service-provider

Comité Contre l'Esclavage Moderne, NGO

Location and territory of action

Paris (France)

Start date

The Comité contre l'esclavage moderne (CCEM) was founded in 1994 on the initiative of Dominique Torrès, a French journalist investigating the murder of a young Moroccan maid in London. Her investigations led her to uncover slavery practices in other European countries, notably France. A small group of journalists, lawyers, and company directors came together to confront the general disbelief and indifference of the authorities and public opinion on modern slavery.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

CCEM assists victims, the vast majority of whom are women or young girls in domestic servitude, but also men who are victims of human trafficking for economic purposes in the construction, catering, trade, craft, small business, or agricultural sectors. It provides them with comprehensive social, legal, and administrative support.

The main area of activities are:

1. Home and associative life;
2. Legal support;
3. Social and psychological support;
4. Awareness-raising and training;
5. Advocacy;
6. International actions

CCEM employs 13 people.

Beneficiaries of the service

Today, the CCEM accompanies between 200 and 250 people a year nationwide.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

CCEM receives new reports every day from all different parts of France; before deciding whether to take charge of a case, CCEM studies the background of each person reported, as well as their current situation, as part of a global approach (legal, administrative, and social). The average time between a telephone referral and a decision to take charge is between 1 and 3 months (average 46 days), depending on the information provided by the referrer and the person's agreement. Some cases are decided on an emergency basis, particularly in cases of violence and the need for immediate shelter. On average, care lasts four to five years in social terms and up to 12 years in legal terms.

Each referral is analyzed based on 7 criteria:

- Exorbitant workload without time off;
- Absence or inadequacy of remuneration;
- Confiscation of identity documents;
- Threats, bullying, insults, or any other form of psychological or physical violence;
- Control of contacts with the outside world and social and family ties;
- Discriminatory living conditions;
- Cultural and/or social isolation.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

CCEM adopted an associative/community approach to engage migrants' leaders, through the institution of the Comité de vie associative in 2023.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

The “Comité de vie associative” is organized voluntarily and composed of 6 people involved to discuss what they want to do and involve them in strategies and events. It organizes workshops on rights, procedures, the Internet, and Institutional learning. The involved people are previous beneficiaries, and some of them are still beneficiaries, planning experimental activities.

The benefits and goals of the action are to involve more people in strategies and missions; the method responds also to the need to have feedback and to have people to consult and work with; at the same, it was a political decision made by the social workers to work with people in a way to boost beneficiaries' empowerment.

It turned out to be very hard to gather people, and to build group discussions together, as there is a very strict formal protocol to recognize victims within the organization.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

The CCEM strives to renew and strengthen its institutional and associative networks and partnerships, at National, European, and International levels. Its aims to reinforce the fight against trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation, to exchange best practices, but also to find opportunities and solutions to better support victims and diversify their path to integration. It is in these capacities that the CCEM participates in:

1. Collectif ensemble contre la traite des êtres humains (Together against human trafficking);
2. The Office central de lutte contre le travail illégal (OCLTI) and the Labour Inspectorate;
3. Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA);
4. The Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women against Violence and the Fight against Human Trafficking (MIPROF);
5. The National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH);
6. Le Défenseur Des Droits;
7. The national Ac.Sé system;
8. La Strada International network.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

CCEM engages directly (not through external lawyers) with the procedure, it adopts a structured methodology. Legal support involves a number of different tasks for victims of human trafficking and other forms of labor exploitation:

1. Analysis of the facts, evidence and possible legal obstacles;
2. Providing information on victims' rights and the various steps available to them, in particular the possibility of lodging a complaint;
3. Determining the litigation strategy for the case;
4. Taking the case to court and assisting the victim through the process.

Adjustments and challenges over time

CCEM did not developed specific methodological guide/guidelines for peers' involvement, as this approach has been newly adopted and the organization want to create the methodology directly with the first peers involved, in a developing process.

At the moment, the process so far has been informal and CCEM is trying to not put any pressure and to avoid extra control over peers.

Social/territorial impact

CCEM has a national impact, identifying victims of any form of exploitation in all French territory.

Organizational and economic sustainability

CCEM supports itself through half private and half public funding, mainly from the National Government.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

According to the developed experience and the analysis of its capacities, CCEM decided to set its ambition in the regard of the peer-to-peer approach small, mainly to involve survivors as consultant and ease their meetings, as CCEM considers not possible to change all the organization to structure within it the peer-to-peer approach (collective actions but not at structural level).

Web-site/contacts

www.esclavagemoderne.org

info@ccem.org

169bis bd Vincent Auriol Paris 75013 (France)

Tél: +33 01 44 52 88 90

(FR) MIST

Mission d'intervention et de sensibilisation contre la traite des êtres humains

Name and type of service-provider

MIST, NGO

Location and territory of action

Paris (France). The organization is Paris based, but also acting in other cities in France and staff members are also based in different French cities.

Start date

Created in January 2020 by a multidisciplinary team of professionals already experienced in fighting human trafficking.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

The MIST is a group of former victims of procuring or trafficking for sexual exploitation who mobilize to promote the identification of other victims, their protection, their inclusion, in a process allowing them to enhance their experience by helping other victims.

MIST is pursuing several objectives:

1. Help: to help the victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation by advising, encouraging, mentoring, and supporting them;
2. Acceptance and empowerment: to raise awareness among the community of victims, so that we begin to respect and accept who we are and what we are fighting for. To empower one another so that we can all be more active in the fight against human trafficking for sexual exploitation. To create a space where we can learn from one another and teach each other;
3. Knowledge: To give the possibility to the victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation to share their experience, to prevent others from becoming victims. To make the world understand that there are still a lot of people in bondage and that human trafficking for sexual exploitation needs to be abolished;
4. Community: To create a solid community for the victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. To give an active role to all the members of the community to move the association forward.

MIST is currently composed of 40 active volunteers and 18 non-active members.

Beneficiaries of the service

Beneficiaries of the service are victims of trafficking, sexual and other form of exploitation.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

MIST's mission is based on a unique social intervention methodology developed with people who are victims of sexual exploitation. It aims to promote the creation of spaces allowing them to speak for themselves within an evolving framework, to empower themselves by taking part in the action

and governance of the association, to work in favor of the production of recommendations, better access to rights for victims and the fight against the trivialization of violence or phenomena of influence within peer groups.

The main methodologies are peer-to-peer education and community organizing (building collective power and facilitating come togetherness as an act of collective engagement).

MIST bases its methodology also on feminist practices and feminist studies.

The main activities are:

1. Resource center for victims of trafficking and the professionals who accompany or meet them;
2. An office for access to rights in the Bois de Vincennes co-hosted by the Mist and the volunteer lawyers of the Paris Bar's Solidarity Bus;
3. MIST Law access Point;
4. National Acsé Scheme referral: the national AcSé scheme is an integral part of the protection measures for victims of trafficking in France, as cited in Decree No. 2007-1352 of 13 September 2007 on the admission to residence, protection, reception, and accommodation of foreign victims of human trafficking. The Mist is a partner of the national AcSé scheme and is the main referral service in 2020;
5. Self-managed podcast creation workshops;
6. History/our Story workshops.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

MIST is the first association of women victims of trafficking in France: half of the board of directors is made up of women having been trafficked as minors. Moreover, 96% of the organization is composed of previous beneficiaries, which are defined by the organization *premiers concernées* (first concerned people), not victims or survivors, in order not to use terms that may stigmatize the persons.

MIST informs, guides, and supports victims of trafficking in accessing their rights. Mist also supports volunteers, social workers or educational teams who accompany victims, through information, training, or the setting up of co-accompaniment protocols if necessary.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

MIST adopted since its foundation the peer-to-peer method throughout all its activities, which implies a strong methodology of healing, collectiveness, and free debate.

In general, the core of the activities stands for healing together, as psychological support and therapy not always are effective. Tools such as talking groups and shared podcasts help *premiers concernées* to express themselves and empower themselves by being together. Beneficiaries self-provide tools to take part in the activities, as they decide the topic of each working meeting according to needs, trying to debate as well what they are doing as women.

The peer-to-peer method does not just apply to a specific activity, it has also been used to structure and establish the organization, as beneficiaries are also members.

To join MIST, a person needs to:

1. Be a victim of human trafficking for sexual exploitation;

2. Sign the MIST Rules and Regulations form (http://mist-association.org/wp-content/uploads/mist_livret_ENG.pdf);
3. Participate in one or more activity of the support groups;
4. Communicate with the rest of the community.

To become an active member, a person meets with one or several members of “Roots” (group of active members). During that meeting, a conversation is carried out. Then the person is told what is expected from an active member. If the person agrees, she/he signs the specific Rules and Regulations form for active members and receives an active member card. She/he can join working groups.

These people bring the report to the rest of the Roots members groups and a vote is done, based on the criteria. A mentor is chosen for the person, to support and help her/him.

The person is added to the communication tools of the group.

A proper introduction of the new person is done to the other active members (Online or through other means).

Someone being assisted and followed up by another charity can be recommended to MIST and then become a member.

A strong asset of the organization is the implemented working model based on engagement, participation, and accountability. In fact,

All members of MIST have:

1. To be there, to be active and engaged: when a meeting or an activity is organized members are expected to be present except for an emergency. Members are expected to contribute with ideas and opinions. The principle is to learn and benefit from the group as much as each person gives to others;
2. To be attentive to the ideas of the group: all ideas and suggestions are well received and examined. Everyone participates in making sure that those ideas and suggestions are considered and executed;
3. To be focused on what is going on: during meetings, no one on the phone, gossiping, side-talking;
4. No separate meetings: if during a meeting someone disagrees, or wants to correct someone else, he/she should not hesitate to step forward. And if there is an issue to be addressed, it should be discussed publicly and settled immediately.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

The national Ac.Sé scheme is an integral part of the protection measures for victims of trafficking in France, as cited in Decree No. 2007-1352 of 13 September 2007 on the admission to residence, protection, reception and accommodation of foreign victims of human trafficking. The Mist is a partner of the national Ac.Sé scheme and is the main referral service in 2020.

MIST is part of MIPROF – the French network of all associations working on the Trafficking of Human Beings, contributing to the improvement of national strategies (governmental policy-making table).

MIST works with municipalities, and NGOs, provides materials and seminars to the police, and social service shelters.

It also operates with private organizations of civil society informally.

The organization take part in anti-trafficking/human rights networks of NGOs, such as Global

Alliance and La Strada at international level. Participation in the network impacts on the activities also in terms of developing good practices through exchange with associations of the countries of origin of the beneficiaries, to better understand their background (the relation between countries help to change strategies).

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

The association signed a partnership with the Bureau de Paris to set up an unprecedented operating mode in a Parisian prostitution territory, between three Nigerian mediators and the volunteer lawyers of the Bus Paris Solidarity.

Adjustments and challenges over time

There have been no adjustments to the method over time, however as the organization keep on exploring, several issues to be taken into consideration for future developments emerged. The Peer-to-peer method works if the staff involved is ready to give people the power, as it is proved to be difficult to step back and allow knowing the know-how and to accompany a person from soft to hard skills. Moreover, there are a lot of challenges, such as the need to develop personal interest, to make people comfortable, to establish a lasting relationship as people keep moving, to build the purpose to follow the method, which includes building a shared vision, often difficult when people with personal trauma are involved.

Social/territorial impact

The peer-to-peer practice has been acknowledged national level and made a positive impact, as the organization shared the method through seminars and meetings.

A group of members of the Mist made up of civil parties, won the biggest sentence ever handed down in France for acts of trafficking in human beings at the Assises in Paris.

Organizational and economic sustainability

MIST support itself thanks to private donors (only foundation), Local Institutions, EU funds, and National funds.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

The above-described peer-to-peer method is innovative and transferable; however, it needs to be adjusted to each organization willing to adopt it, also by the creation of specific tailored programs.

Web-site/contacts

<http://mist-association.org/en/home/>

contact@mist-association.org

(IT) BEFREE

Name and type of service-provider

BeFree, NGO – Social business

Location and territory of action

Rome, Lazio, Abruzzo e Molise (Italy)

Start date

BeFree social cooperative against trafficking, violence, and discrimination was founded in February 2007 by a group of workers with extensive experience in 'reception and support for victims of abuse, mistreatment, human trafficking, and human rights violations. These issues are analyzed and addressed in all their aspects and complexities in the context of the cultural, legal and ethical system that generates and reinforces them.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

BeFree's interventions and activities are from a gender perspective.

The main activities are:

1. GBV centers;
2. Anti-trafficking activities;
3. Training;
4. National and international projects;
5. Policy school;
6. National and International Advocacy.

Befree carries out an action aimed at:

1. Counter the phenomenon of human trafficking for sexual/labor exploitation, violence against women and minors, and discrimination;
2. Offer specialized and highly qualified reception;
3. Contribute to the dissemination of a culture of respect and recognition through events, publications, training for social workers and law enforcement officers, interventions to prevent aggressive behavior in schools, and publications.

Befree hires 100 people, between partners 30 and collaborators. Some former beneficiaries are staff thanks to European project funding.

Beneficiaries of the service

The main beneficiaries are VoT, victims of GBV, people at risk of any form of exploitation, migrants, and people with migration backgrounds.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

According to Befree, the interview is one of the main tools to refer to, to ease VoT emersion from trafficking, also through the management of protected structures and first reception centers. A structured and detailed interview serves to understand if a person is ready for the second reception stage. Since 2001 in partnership with ARCI Roma for SAI the organization has had widespread reception on women, family, and single parent status holders. Being in first reception and SAI allows for a global vision of the individual woman's journey.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

To engage survivors and migrants' leaders, Befree worked with persons who had already come out of shelter projects in a relationship that was never interrupted, and they showed particular interest in playing a role as agents of change.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

Befree, after the selection, trains peers as anti-trafficking workers and contracts on a project basis. The method was constructed empirically and informally. Attention has been put to timing, and to avoid allowing too much time to elapse from leaving the project to the beginning collaboration. In building a peer-to-peer approach the organization depended on projects, which made it difficult to continue to maintain female workers, in consideration of the on/off nature of project funding. This issue led also to problems concerning maternity life-work time, with the risk of worsening the conditions of the vulnerability of women to maintaining economic autonomy. On the other hand, positive empowerment emerged in facilitating trust building and building.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

The partnership is led by Lazio region, with legal sharing that is from Befree. Municipality of Rome, social policies and equal opportunities Ministry, Lazio Region, Hospitals, prefecture, protocol as anti-trafficking body, Tribunal of Rome (protocol).

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

Project "P.R.A.L. 5 - Regional Anti-Trafficking Plan Lazio " which has as lead partner the Lazio Region, under the Call 5/2022 funded by the Department for Equal Opportunities at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Within the project, which sees a partnership with several anti-trafficking entities of the regional territory Befree has several tasks:

1. Carries out activities to bring out the stories of trafficking and sexual exploitation, when they are still invisible and submerged, at different locations such as the anti-trafficking desk of the Befree office, reception centers, courts, etc;
2. Manages a secret address escape house in the regional territory for 6 women survivors of trafficking;
3. Takes care of the training of women workers and operators of reception centers and associations;
4. Offers legal advice and court support through its legal department, which consists of lawyers specializing in the phenomena of gender-based violence, with particular reference to human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Adjustments and challenges over time

Befree carried out an evaluation of the impact of the activities following two European projects implemented, as they also included pieces of training to operators in which they actively participated to exchange best practices. Consequently, some aspects of the peer-to-peer method have been changed, especially related to the emotional difficulties experienced by peers, in the early stages of the process. Another issue concerns the age of peers (if too young difficult to be trusted by older women).

Social/territorial impact

Carrying national and international advocacy campaigns, BeFree territorial impact is multilayer and multi-territorial impact.

Organizational and economic sustainability

Befree relies on EU funds, municipality funds, regional and governmental funds, church donations, and private foundations. Regarding the peer-to-peer approach, now the sustainability is only project-based, although casual service contracts are avoided so as not to further reduce the spectrum of peer rights.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

Befree applies in all its activities a fender and intersectional methodology; the perspective is to approach peers and support them, not to assist. This methodology is based on sharing and reciprocity that enables a peer approach and takes away a sense of otherness.

Web-site/contacts

www.befreecooperativa.org/chi-siamo/

befree.segreteria@gmail.com

befree.stampa@gmail.com

Via Biferno, 4 00199 Roma (Italy)

Tel. +39 06 64 76 07 99

(IT) CIAC

Center for Immigration Asylum International Cooperation of Parma and Province

Name and type of service-provider

CIAC NGO – Social business

Location and territory of action

Parma (Italy)

Start date

CIAC was funded in 1998, the starting point can go back to the days of the “Let's Stop a Gun at a Time” campaign that it was launched in Parma in 1993 to welcome and support defectors from the war in the former Yugoslavia.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

The organization networks with local services to help people in their citizenship journey, interventions in close contact with the territory, public service, access to services, and legal support.

The central theme is protection.

The main activities are:

1. Legal support (application for international protection, practices of conversion of residence permits, family reunifications, access to social benefits);
2. Territorial impact: SAI projects, the network of Territorial Counters and the experiments of Territorial Tutors for Integration and Refugees in Families, projects to its credit that integrate and strengthen the 'integrated and widespread reception on the territory with strands of intervention aimed at the protection of vulnerable groups, community development, building networks of solidarity and collaboration to promote the autonomy of migrants and refugees;
3. Dissemination and communication;
4. Cultural mediation;
5. Health support;
6. Empowerment: “Economic autonomy of the people we welcome into our projects is at the heart of our work. Through training and job placement paths in local area realities, we aim for people full autonomy”.

CIAC hired 60 employees, including a good share of workers who were in reception structures, others were users of the counters. It reaches out to more than 2000 beneficiaries per year.

Beneficiaries of the service

The main beneficiaries of the service are asylum seekers, migrants, or people with migratory backgrounds, VoT, victims of GBV adopting a diffuse and integrated reception model, personal experimentation, and autonomy reactivation.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

Welfare Community: welcoming Territories for Inclusive Development, implemented in the Municipality of Parma, aims to promote the reception and social-work integration of refugees and migrants within the framework of a broader inclusive community development.

The project strategy is based on the need to promote and strengthen the Community-Based Protection model for the reception and integration of migrants and refugees that - starting from the SAI experience - is constitutive and generative of community welfare, that is, of social welfare. The goal is, therefore, to ensure coexistence and cohesion of all components of the community of people who inhabit a territory, favoring tools and pathways to counter exclusion and isolation of citizenship, caused by economic, cultural, ethnic, linguistic, social, age or social context fragilities. There are 4 areas of intervention:

1. Participatory planning and evaluation: it involves the consolidation of territorial networks and the development of effective and inclusive integration strategies;
2. Housing autonomy and social mediation: reception and social mediation services for 8 refugees residing in the City of Parma;
3. Territorial development and tools for socio-work autonomy: orientation to services and opportunities in the territory, training, and orientation to work;
4. Inclusive community development and integrated community development pilot pathways.

Laying the foundations for community welfare means imagining and experimenting with pathways in which the theme of solidarity and mutualistic social relations is central and involves citizens in new forms and practices of reception, communication and interaction between asylum seekers/refugees and the host society, so supporting people's autonomy by promoting their intercultural contacts, positive relationships, and the expansion of social networks by overcoming the mutual fear of encounter.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

CIAC adopts the peer-to-peer and welfare community approach for most of the activities, including personal care and welfare activities. The group dimension and peer method have an essential function in activating survivors/migrants' leaders, enhancing skills, fostering relationships, and elaborating group reflection on complex issues.

CIAC started to develop methodological guidelines to differentiate peers from cultural mediators.

While developing guidelines for this type of activity (still in progress), it emerged that this approach has many strengths, as it helps people recognize skills and allows networking and belonging relationships.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

CIAC process entails Italian and foreign youth socialization groups and peers about age; it creates pathways for community activators and people who are in reception centers.

In particular, the creation of the Safe Space for women project empowered facilitator figures who have group relationship through self-nominations.

At a later stage, while for specific tasks additional training is provided, peers are both employed or operate as volunteers; some peers work permanently in the organization.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

CIAC operates in networks: collaboration with different organizations working in the area, social services, social-health services, prefecture, police headquarters, also protocols (mainly for landings), provincial asylum protocol with municipality and prefecture, teams with municipality and other agencies doing reception for SAI (reception system).

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

SAFE SPACE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS - to meet, share, learn, and help each other: the Safe Space for Women and Girls is a place designed to ensure the physical and emotional safety of women and girls, who can access information and services and, through empowerment paths, improve their psychosocial well-being and fully realize their desires and life plans. Art workshops, city tours, thematic meetings on wellness and health, and more are organized, based on the beneficiaries' proposals (play area for your boys and girls).

Adjustments and challenges over time

CIAC is developing adjustments based on the developed experiences, as its approach has many strengths; it helps people take part in it, recognize their skills, and it facilitates networking. However, it has complexities since services sometimes have a rigid approach, so there are difficulties in accepting "hybrid or more complex" roles as peers, and there is structural skepticism in understanding how these figures fit into services.

Social/territorial impact

The organization has a solid social impact at local level.

Organizational and economic sustainability

CIAC supports its activities through governmental fundings, EU projects, Foundations, projects with UNHCR on community matching.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

CIAC has implemented the project SAFE! which aims to promote gender citizenship within migrant communities in the territory of Parma and Province, contributing to the prevention and contrast of phenomena of social marginalization, discrimination, and violence against women, particularly against foreign migrant women, refugees, and asylum seekers. CIAC works alongside the Parma Anti-Violence Center in contacting foreign communities and activating empowerment and awareness-raising paths. Collaboration and exchange of knowledge and experience between practitioners of different services and agencies aim to improve the responsiveness of the network of territorial services.

Web-site/contacts

<https://ciaconlus.org>

associazione@ciaconlus.org

Via Cavestro, n.14/A – Parma (Italy)

(IT) Dedalus

Name and type of service-provider

Dedalus, NGO – Social business

Location and territory of action

Naples (Italy)

Start date

Dedalus was founded in Naples in 1981 by a group of people with different histories, skills and knowledge, experts in economics, labor market, research, and social policies.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

Dedalus priority is to strengthen the welfare system and help activate virtuous paths of social-work inclusion, from a community and integrated welfare perspective to guarantee the universality of rights, through the enhancement and centrality of the civil service.

Dedalus is committed to fostering the participation of members in the life and growth of the cooperative, supporting the formation and development of a sense of belonging, promoting information, communication between members; the professional growth of workers, producing and disseminating its social report; initiating the path to obtaining quality certification. For the realization of the company's goals, interventions are articulated that constitute specific objectives, aimed at operationally bringing to life the spirit of the cooperative's mission and, at the same time, building themselves as indispensable dimensions for its affirmation. Such articulation, crosses both the general areas of intervention and the project and service management areas as well as organizational structuring, consistent with the operational objectives and corporate purpose.

Dedalus has developed a specific interest in issues related to migratory flows, carrying out research and innovative forms of intervention with the aim of fostering their social and labor activities, targeting people underage, young people and women.

Dedalus areas of intervention are:

1. Shelter and programs for women;
2. Training and work;
3. Interculture and schools;
4. Urban marginality;
5. Cultural mediation;
6. Minors;
7. Trafficking and exploitation.

Dadalus hires 80 employees.

Beneficiaries of the service

The main beneficiaries of the service are Unaccompanied minors, migrants, Victims of Trafficking, people with migratory backgrounds, victims of GBV, persons at risk of any form of exploitation, detainees, lgbt+.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

Dedalus has developed a methodology based on tailored programs. These programs are joint actions involving the active participation of the person concerned, in a way that reconstructs their history, needs, and desires. The programs aim to accompany the person as he/she emerges from his/her condition of difficulty until his/her full inclusion in the social and relational context of reference.

Dedalus designs individualized programs, shared by the person from the very moment they are drawn up and supported by the intervention of the territorial network, which starts from the person's personal history and continues in the identification of needs and criticalities, in the definition of the resources and skills to be activated, generally also envisaging financial support, articulated as 'citizenship grants', concerning the highlighted problem priority.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

The organization includes previous beneficiaries in its staff, even at management level.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

Dedalus started to adopt the peer-to-peer approach in the 1990s, developing the method with cultural mediation, and then training some selected beneficiaries to become operators through an on-the-job training.

THB and sex work beneficiaries became peer operators, including street workers and mediators. Especially in the minor's area of activity peer education started very experiential, involving people who just became of age as peer operators in residencies and shelters as well as groups sharing apartments (17-21 years old).

Peer operators in residencies may have various profiles, and be trained as cultural mediators, and social service operators.

The developed method is based on experimental activities, dialogue, evaluation of peers' proposals, planning functions to be performed only for a limited time by peers.

Once the beneficiaries have been selected by the organization, training are provided for as peer operators (as social operators and for young people).

Different types of engagement are envisioned; a peer can be contracted as an intern, more informally, through reimbursements or with computers. In case they are permanently engaged, they can stay in shared apartments or shelters.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

Dedalus has developed a solid network of collaborations: ministries, regional governments, municipalities, foundations, private companies and businesses, banks, volunteering associations, traders, prefecture, police stations, social services, and the local anti-trafficking system.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

Fuori Tratta is a project carried out by Dedalus in which Actions for emersion, assistance and social integration aimed at victims of trafficking and serious exploitation are taken.

The Project addresses victims of trafficking and exploitation who reside or transit in the territory. The project adopts a strategy that promotes integration and extends the network of public/provided entities and the various territorial experiences that intervene in the phenomenon, consolidated over the years.

The main objective is the emergence, protection, and social integration of victims, ensuring adequate reception conditions, socio-medical assistance, and legal protection on a transitional basis.

Activities consist of:

1. First contact activities aimed at emersion and first assistance;
2. Multi-agency victim identification activities;
3. Listening centers for taking charge;
4. Operational liaison with the anti-trafficking hotline;
5. Legal protection, psychological support, socio-medical assistance, residential accommodation;
6. Individualized programs for labor inclusion.

Adjustments and challenges over time

Dedalus has adjusted challenges over time and structured the results in methodological guidelines presented in research the organization is about to publish.

The adjustment to the peer-to-peer method is based on a long experience, thanks to which the organization has been able to dig into strengths and weaknesses, which Dedalus considered mirrored: on the one hand, working in a team eases communication and cooperation and the relationship with beneficiaries is facilitated; on the other, some difficulties emerge as the relationship with beneficiaries is not always clear as peers are half part of the team and half users, which sometimes leads to abuse of power and the creation of conflict dynamics.

The organization underlined how valuing the users' pathway would help in reducing risk damages, trying to involve them in social work, also motivating the beneficiary to build up into the peer-to-peer method, supporting them in pursuing personal ambitions and experimenting with their approaches and solutions.

Social/territorial impact

Dedalus operates in Naples's area, however due to the interconnection between its network and the development of the methodologies in collaboration with a solid European and national network, its activities have a much broader territorial and social impact.

Organizational and economic sustainability

The organization is funded through public and private fundings, EU funds, local Institutions, private donors.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

The peer-to-peer selection method has been already transferred to other contexts; for instance, in the project OLTRE in partnership with Equality NGO based in Padova. Focusing on unaccompanied minors, the project set the criteria to identify the peers:

1. Selected peers must have had a pathway from being unaccompanied minors;
2. A good knowledge of the Italian language;
3. Consistent and established presence in the territory of intervention of the selected peers once become of age to guarantee a stable proximity to the beneficiaries of the project selected in the same territory;

Once selected by the organization, the peers are not recognized with any economic remuneration, however vouchers in stores in the territory are provided for.

Training and a course on peering, position responsibility along with specific competencies and skills are organized in the different territories where the organization operates, these activities include.

educational work for peers that is based on experiences developed as a former beneficiary of the organization, including listening skills, conflict mediation, and empathy development.

Web-site/contacts

<https://www.coopdedalus.it/who-we-are/>

info@coopdedalus.it

segreteria@pec.coopdedalus.it

Centro Interculturale Nanà
Vico Tutti i Santi, 65 (nei pressi di Corso Garibaldi)
80139 Napoli (ITALY)
Tel +39 081 291218

(IT) EQUALITY

Name and type of service-provider

Equality, NGO

Location and territory of action

Padova & Veneto Region (Italy)

Start date

Active since 2008, Equality was born on the experience of Mimosa Association founded in 1996; the same group of people decided, in fact, to channel their experience of active citizenship and professionalization of services to establish the NGO.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

The mission of the organization is to support victims of trafficking, any form of exploitation, sex work and minors, focusing on anything that can contribute to the prevention of distress and fragility, including strategic intervention with educating community and prevention with a constant look at the territorial needs.

Equality aims to manage social-health and educational services and any type of training, dissemination, study, research, and awareness-raising activities, in a spirit of cooperation with other realities having their missions in line with its scope.

Within the scope of the social object defined by the Statute, the Cooperative currently provides social-health, social and educational services structured in three operational areas:

1. Reception Area. Includes high-threshold services aimed at people who intend to develop processes of social and labor inclusion. The main area of interventions focuses on unaccompanied foreign minors, victims of trafficking and minors and young adults in specific vulnerable conditions;
2. Contact Area. Includes low-threshold services aimed at people who experienced the street context. The main area is prostitution in its various components: people who engage in prostitution (supply of paid sex) and people who access the prostitution market (demand for paid sex);
3. Communication and Awareness Area.

Equality aims to meet needs expressed by the territory, such as the demand for essential information about the phenomena of immigration and prostitution (particularly migrant prostitution) and the mediation of conflicts between social actors involved in different capacities within these phenomena. Among the recipients of the activity, special attention is paid to youth groups (16 to 18 years old), city representatives (institutional and associative) and individual citizens in general.

31 people currently work for the organization.

Beneficiaries of the service

The main beneficiaries of EQUALITY are Victims of Trafficking, victims of GBV, people at risk of any form of exploitation, migrants, or people with a migration background, sex workers, minors, and new adults, both with migration backgrounds and not.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

EQUALITY identifies itself as a territorial reality committed to reaching out individuals in a state of social distress and marginalization, listening to their needs and activating appropriate response interventions based on a methodology hinged on 5 keys principles:

1. Centrality of the person: must be recognized the person's choices, whatever they may be;
2. Non-judgmental presence: centrality of the persons' dignity, regardless of the context in which he or she operates;
3. Active listening: to create a comfortable environment to ease the explication of the persons' needs and aspirations;
4. Awareness of the limits of intervention: the operator's response to the persons' needs is never decisive;
5. Continuing education: staff has a duty to reflect and keep up on issues that arise during the intervention.

Moreover, the organization adopts a looking-toward-needs approach, based on listening, research, observation of phenomena and consequent adaptation of proposed activities.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

Before the Voiceover Project, EQUALITY worked on the engagement and training of migrant leaders within the OLTRE Project. OLTRE stands for Orientamento al Lavoro, Training ed Empowerment per minori e giovani migranti soli. The goal of the project, which officially launched in November 2021, is to increase the chances of employment and housing autonomy for 60 young migrants between the ages of 17 and 21 who arrived in Italy as minors and alone (30 in Campania and 30 in Veneto), in cooperation with Dedalus NGO (based in Naples). The focus of the intervention is on accompanying pathways to employment and housing independence. 60 young people have been involved in several socio-educational and cultural activities, and legal support, to actively implement an exchange in which everyone takes and receives responsibility.

Description of Peer – to - peer method adopted

The peer method has been adopted for the first time within the project OLTRE created with Dedalus, as the organization already had experience in training and selecting peers.

1. Focusing on unaccompanied minors, the project has seen several criteria set to identify the peers: selected peers must have had a pathway from being unaccompanied minors;
2. A good knowledge of the Italian language;
3. Consistent and established presence in the territory of intervention of the selected peers once become of age in order to guarantee a stable proximity to the beneficiaries of the project selected in the same territory;

Once selected by the organization, the peers are not recognized with any economic remuneration,

however vouchers in stores in the territory are provided for.

The organization will define as a reference one individual peer selected to cooperate with the educational staff of the organization: educational work for peers is based on experiences developed as a former beneficiary of the organization, including listening skills, conflict mediation, empathy development.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

The organization interact with social services and the national and local anti-trafficking system. The frame is N.A.V.I.G.A.Re Project to which all actors in the area have joined. N.A.V.I.G.A.Re is a project that works to combat the phenomenon of human trafficking by bringing together many different forces and doing studies and actions in the Veneto region. As of July 1, 2021, Equality is the lead partner of the Act of Implementing Entities of this project, which was submitted in response to the Call 4/2021 published by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department for Equal Opportunities, with the Veneto Region as lead partner in a planning and operational partnership with Local Authorities, U.L.S.S. (NHS), Universities, Judicial and Police Authorities, labor supervisory bodies and third sector entities in the Veneto territory. The operators of the N.A.V.I.G.A.Re Project deal with the identification of potential victims of trafficking and/or serious exploitation present in the territory through direct contact that serves to provide information and support the potential victim person, also thanks to the presence of the qualified linguistic-cultural mediation. The action of the social workers is also directed to ensure the potential victim's help and accompaniment in working with the Judicial Authority and promoting a multidisciplinary intervention to combat crime. EQUALITY is also a member of the National anti-trafficking platform (23 partner entities).

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

Starting from the frame of the N.A.V.I.G.A.Re project, the organization attempts to create a sustainable model, accompanying social workers to reach some more marginal areas at risk of exploitation.

The organization is working on the problem of the intersection of trafficking with other phenomena, a perspective that is not always understood by the equality local and national bodies within which anti-trafficking falls; this is why EQUALITY is working on building a space for collective reflection on shared advocacy practices with other organizations (e.g. when expired national anti-trafficking plan 2016 - 2018 the platform urged an opinion on drafting new national plan).

Adjustments and challenges over time

The peer-to-peer approach has been recently implemented by the organization: it is keeping track of emerging challenges.

However, so far EQUALITY recollected several strengths as well as critical aspects that will be considered for future adjustments. With regards to the firsts, a valuable point consists in the enrichment of the overall activities; subjects with direct experience have different and diversified experiential knowledge to share, which can lead to the construction of a more specific response to needs (also questioning power roles and restoring spaces by moving from a power caring/accompanying relationship). As to the critical issues, it is difficult to foresee how peer figures will be experienced by beneficiaries compared to professional figures, such as mediators, also about the intra-mediator vs. peer relationship; a major attention should be paid to the introduction of these figures within the organization to avoid risk factors of distress of the organization.

Social/territorial impact

EQUALITY operates as a member of a network of NGOs, associations, and Institutions at the regional/national level, being part of policy-making platforms.

Moreover, it actively operates in a territory, Veneto region, where the number of foreign citizens accounts for 10.3 per cent of the population, significantly above the Italian average of 8.5.

Organizational and economic sustainability

The organization supports its activities thanks to EU funds, national funds, private donors, and local Institutions' calls for services.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

1. The construction of a solid Network: in fact, the project provides for the creation of a network between different entities and Institutions (Associations, Cooperatives, Municipalities, Regions, Police Headquarters, etc.) that coordinate together and operate in the territory. This network allows greater effectiveness of the proposed service, thanks to the interpenetration of the different skills and possibilities for action of each entity/Institution. In addition, it makes it possible to acquire more informed and attentive looks at the needs of the people. Moreover, the model of accompaniment to housing autonomy involves creating a "Network of Good Housing," that is, a territorial network among different actors involved in the housing market who can be supportive of the housing autonomy goals of young recipients, thus who can carry out the matching between associations, cooperatives, foundations and real estate agencies, private renters, and territorial Social Services of housing.
2. Intersectional methodology: multi-agency, multidisciplinary and multidimensional work, oriented to the protection of human rights and empowerment of the beneficiaries. The achievement of the objectives is ensured by the contribution of the project teams, composed of different professional figures with expertise in social, educational, psychological, sociolegal, transcultural mediation and human rights.

Web-site/contacts

www.equalitycoop.org

info@equalitycoop.or

Via Canestrini 91, a Padova

Tel. +39 049 8752638

g

(IT) ON THE ROAD

Name and type of service-provider

ON THE ROAD, NGO - Social Business

Location and territory of action

Marche, Abruzzo and Molise regions (Italy)

Start date

The organization was funded in 1994, to intervene in the phenomena of prostitution and trafficking, with reference to the prostitution of migrant women and minors, who are often victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation by criminal subjects and organizations.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

The organization main areas of activity are:

1. Trafficking And Exploitation;
2. Gender-Based Violence;
3. Extreme Poverty;
4. Migrants;
5. Employment Services;
6. Vocational Training.

The organization hires 100 members and 90 employees: beneficiaries are not directly employed, but there is an on-the-road volunteering twin association that former beneficiaries can join to get involved for workshops activities or language mediation (casual job collaboration).

Beneficiaries of the service

Main beneficiaries of the project are: VoT, victims of GBV, people at risk of any form of exploitation, migrants, and people with migration backgrounds.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

When it comes to dealing with VoT, the organization has a specific procedure. It starts with Mobile Units. Street units come into contact with potential victims of sexual, labor or begging exploitation in contexts of exploitation and marginalization. They are made up of multidisciplinary teams of professional educators and educators, street outreach workers, linguistic and cultural mediators and mediators from the potential victims' countries of origin, legal workers and practitioners, and volunteer doctors.

During the outings staff observes, maps, and monitors the phenomenon and its developments. The staff meets people, listens to, and carefully analyzes their needs, accompanies and educates them to access services in the area and offers counselling sessions and the establishment of a helping relationship. The organization designs and distributes information materials developed in the languages of origin of those involved in exploitation to disseminate health information and promote rights awareness. Through tools such as the toll-free

number, the person seeking help can be immediately included in the national anti-trafficking network and housed in safe places away from areas of exploitation.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

Engagement is built up starting from Drop-in centers.

Near places of exploitation, On the Road has placed 7 low-threshold (drop-in) counters, where anyone can access to request information, guidance, and help. Here lawyers, psychologists and social workers offer listening and needs analysis, guidance information, and legal and social-health counselling. They accompany and educate on services in the area, offer counselling and the establishment of a helping relationship.

On the Road offers pathways out of exploitation and enfranchisement from violence and provides orientation to social assistance and integration programs. Finally, the organization collaborates with the Territorial Commissions for the Recognition of International Protection and the Prefectures to activate all necessary measures aimed at ensuring the identification and adequate assistance of trafficking victims who are applicants for or holders of international protection.

After this phase, it starts the take, reception, and accompaniment towards autonomy phase. Once the path to exit has begun, the organization welcome the beneficiaries of the projects in residential micro-structures: escape and first reception houses, second reception houses, communities, families and autonomy houses. The choice of the type of shelter is diversified in relation to the type of person (age, gender, type of exploitation), the level of risk, the stage of the individual program, and his or her wishes and abilities.

After an initial phase of acclimatization, the organization works out with beneficiaries individualized paths of assistance and social integration aimed at autonomy; protection and guardianship, board and lodging, health care and psychological support, literacy and Italian language learning programs, motivational workshops, educational and school activities, socialization and active citizenship activities, orientation interviews, vocational training and internships, and support for job placement are provided. The multidisciplinary team is made up of professional educators and educators, social workers, sociologists and sociologists, psychologists and psychologists, and cultural mediators and mediators who work by putting the person at the center, not the malaise they suffer from or the target category they belong to.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

The organization started with the peer-to-peer method in 2018; currently, it is not using this approach as there are no former beneficiaries in the territory: peoples' mobility has an impact on the success of the approach. In the past with both former beneficiaries and local volunteers peer-to-peer has been used to facilitate integration: selected peers were placed as volunteers, an interview was done, training on trafficking was provided to volunteers and activities were agreed upon. Former beneficiaries' interviews were highly valued to understand motivation and activities to do and how to do it. This led to building a trust relationship with former beneficiaries who have left the facilities and through this relationship interests and expectations were identified. At the beginning, people embedded for some time in the territory were involved to see if the network at the local level could work.

The European LIBES project gave a way to formalize the peer-to-peer

[\(https://www.ontheroad.coop/en/blog-en/buddy-program-mentoring-programs-for-victims-of-human-trafficking-libes/\)](https://www.ontheroad.coop/en/blog-en/buddy-program-mentoring-programs-for-victims-of-human-trafficking-libes/).

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

The organization cooperates with police headquarters, prefectures, prosecutor's offices, local authorities, Regions, trade unions, law enforcements, labor inspectorates, health services and territorial services for addiction, and social services of municipalities.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

Minors – The organization sealed an agreement with the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court of L'Aquila, the Juvenile Court of L'Aquila, the Juvenile Justice Center for Lazio, Abruzzo, Molise, and the Office of Social Service for Minors of L'Aquila, on November 23, 2023, for the identification and intake of minors who are victims of trafficking and exploitation.

Adjustments and challenges over time

The European LIBES Project has been an incentive for reflections on the approach, on the fact that beneficiaries are in protection programs, so there is a problem of safety and exposition to criminal networks.

Social/territorial impact

The organization is acting in three Regions; in these three regions there are collaborations with local partners to provide shelter facilities.

Organizational and economic sustainability

The organization supports itself with EU funds, Equal opportunity department funds, ministerial funds, local authorities and Regional funds.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

The organization does not adopt the peer-to-peer approach at the moment, the reasons could be considered as a valuable transferable element: the practice is sustainable when projects' funded, there is great turnover of beneficiaries.

Web-site/contacts

[/www.ontheroad.coop](http://www.ontheroad.coop)

info@ontheroad.coop

San Benedetto del Tronto
Contrada San Giovanni n. 2 – 63074 (AP) - Italy
Tel. +39.0861.796666 – 762327 Fax +39.0861.765112

(RO) ADPARE

The Association for the Development of Alternative Practices for Education and Reintegration

Name and type of service-provider

ADPARE, NGO

Location and territory of action

Bucarest (Romania)

Start date

ADPARE has been active for 20 years; the president started working with victims of the Balkan war and shelters run by IOM. When the IOM funding was over, part of the staff decided to start working together as an NGO.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

The purpose of the association is to develop social programs to reintegrate young people, young and old, in difficulty, by carrying out socio- educational activities.

The organization main activities are:

1. Developing communities;
2. Training;
3. Research;
4. Protection and assistance;
5. Victims' support in criminal proceedings;
6. Prevention and empowerment of vulnerable people (e.g. refugees in camps from Ukraine);
7. The ACASfÇ Programme.

ADPARE is composed by 15 permanent staff plus collaborators, among which there are 18 lawyers to assist during criminal proceedings, psychologists, and a network of 40 volunteers.

Beneficiaries of the service

The main target population(s) of the organization are victims of any form of exploitation. ADPARE reaches about 300 beneficiaries per year.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

ADPARE exclusively carry out its activities specific to the fight against trafficking in human beings, primarily victim coordination activities within juridical proceedings, protection, and promotion of victims' rights. In addition, the organization offers support services for victims, but we are also involved in research, training, and prevention.

Together with the people from the program, with its collaborators and volunteers, the organization make plans and identifies solutions.

The protection and assistance services are approached in a flexible mode, adapted to the needs of the beneficiaries, the working method being case management, to focus on the beneficiaries' resources, motivation for change and initiatives, to increase the level of adaptation of the person to the requirements of an independent life. This process varies from person to person because the needs are different, but a support program can take between 1 and 3 years.

1. The assistance activities being implemented at the ADPARE counselling center are Material assistance;
2. Psychological assistance: including the beneficiaries in individual psychotherapy sessions, couple/family psychotherapy; psychological support group sessions, art and ergo therapy encounters; mediation of the beneficiaries' relationships with the origin/nuclear/extended family; psychological support and preliminary evaluation (via telephone) before preparing voluntary assisted returns; psychological support before/after conducting medical investigations; psychological accompaniment in connection with the authorities;
3. Medical assistance;
4. Social assistance: conducting social enquires and risk assessment to re-victimization; re-issue of identity papers; advice and support to obtain social protection facilities; covering intra and extra-urban transportation costs; accompaniment of the beneficiaries during the reintegration process; periodic monitoring of the beneficiaries; mediation of the connection with state social services, professional training providers, educational Institutions;
5. Educational assistance;
6. Juridical assistance.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants leaders

The organization includes previous beneficiaries in its staff/board/managing positions, and in paid positions. Survivors/migrants' leaders are involved at the very beginning in all the activities, using a project management method: people taking part in the program are involved in new cases. Formal victims are involved in everything, as well as in running shelters, handling the budget, and the newcomers.

Description of Peer – to peer method adopted

ADAPARE has adopted the peer-to-peer method structurally within the organization since the beginning. All the beneficiaries are directly involved in the program, and they are asked to be part of the staff, which creates an opportunity to become staff, the case managers are preparing beneficiaries step by step to be fully included in all the activities. However, ADPARE prefers to use "empowerment" rather than "peer-to-peer", as in the organization all the activities are carried out by the people in an empowering relation: the intervention is coming from communities (community-based approach).

1. Conditions for inclusion in the program are based on an internal procedure based on a tool used by each team member. The eligibility criteria of the beneficiaries are as follows: the person (s) who are victims of trafficking in persons as regulated by Law 678/2001 on preventing and combating trafficking in persons, with subsequent modifications and completions, with domicile in Romania, South-East and Bucharest;

2. The person identified as a victim of trafficking in persons according to the legislation in force, by the judicial bodies;
3. Persons identified through the diplomatic missions and consular offices of Romania;
4. Persons identified by Institutions / organizations in the country and abroad.

The tools used in the selection of beneficiaries are the Case study and the risk assessment form. These tools provide specialists with the opportunity to collect information, assess the psycho-social situation, and formulate conclusions and recommendations so that beneficiaries can access services according to their needs. Assistance provided to victims of trafficking is based on a holistic approach, which meets all their needs, maintains the continuity character, follows the individual characteristics of the victim (age, sex, culture, religion, health) and, to the same extent, is provided by trained professionals in a safe, protected, and welcoming environment.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

ADPARE collaborates with national and international organizations, it is also part of the national referral system. Since September 2019, ADPARE is a member of the La Strada International network – the European NGO platform that promotes the rights of victims of human trafficking. Since October 2020, ADPARE has been a member of the ProTECT network — The Platform of Specialized Anti-Trafficking Organizations in Romania (national network composed of 23 NGOs – working in subgroups). It is part of the Governmental antitrafficking commission, so it is involved in the national strategy on THB.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

Specialized protection and assistance program for victims of trafficking in human beings. The ACAS program included the following projects:

1. The coordination program for victims/witnesses in judicial proceedings. The coordination program for victims/witnesses in judicial proceedings is implemented in partnership with National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons as an integrated part of supporting efforts to assist and protect victims of trafficking in persons/minors and child pornography;
2. Other services complementary to the coordination in judicial proceedings;
3. Accommodation in ADPARE's protected house: shelters for women victims of human trafficking who are either in a transit situation in Bucharest (for 1-2 nights) or in a crisis (for 1-2 weeks) and long -term (for several months, depending on individual needs);
4. Improving the housing situation in the nuclear family of origin, extended family or in the community;
5. Psychological counseling and psychotherapy.

SAPE Project - Adult Education in Victim Support: Empowering Men affected by Human Trafficking and Severe Exploitation. Exchange of Experience and Developing Recommendations.

Adjustments and challenges over time

ADPARE is monitoring and evaluating the service through qualitative interviews with previous beneficiaries (study in English on the website). Monitoring, evaluation, and feedback (also in shelters) are part of the process to always adjust the activities keeping the focus on the security and legal aspects. Moreover, these activities are necessary to respond to rising challenges such

as trauma, people who do not want to identify as victims, lack of trust. (<https://adpare.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Evaluation-of-support-services-provided-to-victims-of-trafficking-in-human-beings.pdf>)

Adjustments are also part of the ADPARE Security Policy. The association carries out a security risk assessment every three years, this analysis may be generated by the association's activities about its beneficiaries and /or legislative changes; depending on the results of the analysis, and this security policy can be amended whenever necessary.

The risk assessment process provides ADPARE's employees with a structured approach towards safeguarding adults and minor victims of trafficking at regulated activity. When undertaking the risk assessment, consideration should be given to the victim's profile and hazards/risks identified and the likelihood of the risk occurring and the consequences of the risk and this should determine the level of safeguarding measures that are necessary to make the activity safe.

Social/territorial impact

ADPARE decided on an external low-profile policy, a decision taken for security reasons of staff and beneficiaries in consideration of the central role the organization is carrying out in criminal proceedings of the persons it assists.

The low-profile policy applies also to the peer-to-peer method for similar reasons.

Nonetheless, ADPARE has a central role in the whole territory of Romania, also in consideration of its engagement as part of the national referral system.

Organizational and economic sustainability

ADAPRE sustains itself thanks to private sponsorship, EU projects, private donation.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

Methodology, Monitoring and Evaluation. ADAPRE have developed strong methodological guidelines for peers' involvement, supervision, and Security (Internal Safeguarding policies guidelines) which can be transferred and adapted to other contexts and organizations and, moreover, allow to the structuring of lasting strategies and scaling projects.

Web-site/contacts

<https://adpare.eu/en>

adpare@adpare.eu

Tel. +40 (021) 253 29 04

.

(RO) FREE

Name and type of service-provider

FREE, NGO

Location and territory of action

Romania.

Bucarest, Braschow, outreach in 8 cities in Romania.

Start date

FREE was founded in 2013.

General description of the service and relevant action(s) carried out

The mission of the organization is to see Romania's sexually exploited women and children set free, restored, and empowered to build the life and future they want.

The main activities of the organization are:

1. Provide social assistance;
2. Reach out to women who are trapped or exposed to the sex industry;
3. Support those who want to break free from the sex trade and start a new dignified lifestyle;
4. Restore the lives of the victims we encounter using a holistic approach;
5. Prevent and raise awareness on the issues of sex trafficking;
6. Promotion of the Payco - educational program.

The organization is composed of 4 people, volunteers, and board members.

Beneficiaries of the service

FREE main beneficiaries are Victims of Trafficking, Victims of GBV, children, sex workers.

FREE in 2022 reached 800 beneficiaries, including children of the beneficiaries, and about 5000 women via online services.

Approach in engaging with vulnerabilities

FREE in the Casa Talita Project developed its engaging process. Casa Talita is a transitional apartment that opened in October 2016 with the support of Entraide Lutherienne of France as a pilot project. It offers acute and long-term support to women who have been exploited in prostitution, pornography, or human trafficking for sexual purposes. In May 2017, the association Talita (talita.org) has joined in and is partnering with Asociatia FREE to support this program. Casa Talita entering conditions are:

1. Not receive mothers and their children;
2. Not support women with drug addictions;

3. Receive women who have the ability of independent living;
4. Housing for a period of 6 to 12 month according to the needs of the beneficiaries;
5. Social assistance;
6. Psychotherapy;
7. Basic medical support;
8. Support group.

Engagement and training of survivors/migrants' leaders

FREE at the moment does not engage/train beneficiaries.

Description of Peer – to- peer method adopted

The organization tried to adopt a peer-to-peer method and it is currently working on new attempts of adopting it. In the past FREE tried to recruit mentors' volunteers and start a mentoring program, engaging a few beneficiaries (women) in their projects. However, the peer-to-peer approach did not successfully work for several reasons, particularly many difficulties emerged in the starting process, in the engaging phase and the initial training activities to the mentors. For these reasons, the organization interrupted the peer-to-peer project due to a lack of interest from the beneficiaries in taking part in it.

Significant collaborations with public, non-profit and/or private entities

FREE collaborates with local social services, the National Agency on Human Trafficking, the Police organized crime department, hospitals, city halls, Ministry of labor. The organization interacts with the National Agency on Human Trafficking which has an emergency number during the daytime (not the during weekend), the national agency does not activate a case, they only take the data. When the person is identified as a victim, the agency refers to the partners they have according to the area and the city, this is the reason Free has its emergency number. FREE is part of the European Freedom Network.

Other innovative and experimental aspects of the service/initiative

FREE implements several experimental initiatives:

1. Street Outreach: because of poverty, many women in Romania find themselves without the possibility to offer their children decent lives and feel like they have no other options than to practice prostitution. Others are victims of exploitation and trafficking. Outreach in Bucharest: three times a week, members of our team go out into Bucharest red light districts and reach out to women in prostitution, offering hot drinks and snacks, but also information on woman's rights and gifts on special occasions. FREE invites them to the drop-in center and offers them basic access to social and medical care. Outreach in Romania: FREE team regularly reaches out to women in the cities of Constanta, Ploiesti, Campina, Brasov, Ruse, Sighisoara and Targu Mures;
2. Strip Club Outreach: in 2015, FREE started reaching to women trapped in the sex industry in strip-clubs and erotic massage parlors of Bucharest and Constanta. In Romania, since prostitution is illegal, video chats, massage parlors have started to flourish all around the

country. Some members of FREE team have once been working in those clubs. They had the desire to go back and tell their redemptive stories.

3. Children Community Outreach: this outreach program is aimed at the children from the red-light district of Bucarest.

Adjustments and challenges over time

The organization adapts all the activities according to the needs, also regarding the peer-to-peer method, during the period it was adopted.

Social/territorial impact

FREE is part of the national network PROTECT which does advocacy to the government, lobbying to MPs, it drafts proposals for laws working on standards for anti- trafficking in Romania. Romania is a source, transit, and destination for men, women, and children subject to trafficking. It is one of the number one origin countries for slaves exploited in Western Europe.

Organizational and economic sustainability

Funds for FREE projects and activities come mostly from private donors, foundations from outside the country, some corporations, that do not get funds from the government even if the organization is licensed by the Ministry of labor, and some small funds from the city hall.

Elements transferable to other contexts/possible scaling up

In consideration of the peer-to-peer experience, FREE reported as transferable elements some critical points which may address future similar projects implementation, such as the fact that human resources are very important to succeed in peer-to-peer, especially the selection process and methodology to find the right people to mentor (e.g. girls not a risk of being manipulated), planning the right the timing and schedule to train the mentors, invest a relevant amount of time to build a trust relationship with beneficiaries to avoid the lack of availability and the lack of consistency. A crucial focus is on the recruiting and the training aspects.

Web-site/contacts

<https://asociatiafree.org/free/>

office@asociatiafree.org

Tel: 07.67.05.55.02.



Report produced as part of the project “VoiceOver: Victims of trafficking in human beings support and Empowerment by means of a survivor leaders Engagement model”, co-funded by the European Union, Call AMIF-2022-TF1-AG-THB (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021-2027)

The research work and writing of the present document was carried out by Carlotta Giordani under the supervision of Prof. Giovanna Marconi.

Suggested Citation: Giordani C. (2024) “Towards a survivor engagement model - Tool on Good Practices”, SSIIM UNESCO Chair, University Iuav of Venice.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission of the copyright owners.