

# NEWSLETTER

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## FOCUS ON:

The NExT TO YOU training activities



## 1. INTRODUCTION: WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROJECT?

*by project coordinator Maria Carla Midena and Federica Irene Molinaro, Veneto Region Social Services.*

At seven months from its beginning all NExT TO YOU Project activities are in progress and some have already been carried out.

Concerning the **Work Package 2 (“Capacity building on the early identification and support to the victims”)**, in Italy and Spain, stakeholders were trained by NGOs partner practitioners and the University of Padua as experts on early identification of child TPs between last April and May. This is the Project contribution to building capacity among professionals meeting minors to better detect child victims, refer to the anti-trafficking local network and thus ensure the children's protection and social inclusion.



Co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union

After completing their tasks, Equality and Cruz Blanca will be exchanging information and best practices on the identification of child and young adult victims of the two forms of exploitation they focused on their training (forced criminality and forced marriage).

With reference to the **Work Package 3 (“Intensive labor market inclusion programs”)** which is another specific object of the NExT TO YOU Project , the better integration into the labour market for 60 trafficked minors and young adults in Italy, France and Spain, has started with the assessment interviews of the first beneficiaries. In Italy the first occupational workshop has been carried out by social workers with cultural mediation, on active job search, rights and duties at work, income support tools, conscious and critical use of social networks.

Regarding the **Work Package 4 (“Psychological workshops and psychological support for TPs”)** in Belgium, Italy and Spain, the Psychosocial workshops for the beneficiaries are already in progress. Groups are aimed at self-knowledge and the prevention of risky situations and/or re-victimization. Furthermore, their goal is also to activate resilience and those protective factors that can be useful to build a durable project of life autonomy and, therefore, to increase the integration process.

The “**Sharing of learning and best practices**”, which are the actions of the **Work Package 5**, have been implemented, thanks to the project meetings. Even though they were held online, they represented the occasions to exchange good practices on the identification of victims of Trafficking in Human Beings.

The next consortium meeting will be held at the beginning of **September**. This will be a rather technical one. In addition, a physical meeting is planned for **April 5-6** hosted by our Spanish partner in **Seville**, hoping that the Covid situation will allow it. It will be a most fruitful opportunity for best practices exchange.

**NEWS!! NExT TO YOU project website is available!**

**[www.ensa-network.eu/nexttoyou](http://www.ensa-network.eu/nexttoyou)**



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## 2.EDITORIAL: GENERAL OVERVIEW ABOUT THE TRAINING EXPERIENCE OF THE NEXT TO YOU PROJECT

by Prof. Degani, University of Padua

The project, which began in December last year, is proceeding in line with the timeframe agreed upon by all those involved at the kick-off meeting. Despite the persistence of the Covid-19 pandemic, the commitment of the partners has, first of all, made it possible, to carry out the training activities on the topic of trafficked minors in Italy and Spain. The action has, as frame of reference, the strengthening of tools for the early detection and identification of minors victims of trafficking in Italy and Spain.

In particular, **the specific objectives of this action include the strengthening and promotion of referral mechanisms and anti-trafficking networks to ensure the protection and recovery of minors.** Another goal is the collective development of holistic and coordinated solutions in two European countries at the forefront of migration routes in the Mediterranean and beyond. Both these countries are, in fact, significantly exposed to both incoming and transit movements of numerous boys and girls in search for a better life for themselves and their families of origin.

In order to make the most of the training experience, these two countries and the partners involved in this activity, have decided to orient their interests in specific directions, identifying the themes of serious exploitation in relation to forced marriages for Spain and forced criminal activities for Italy. Even though these areas are sectorial ones, they are of extreme interest, because they have been little explored and certainly not adequately considered in quantitative terms. This fact is due to the difficulty of emersion of the victims and to the peculiarities of these targeted support interventions. Therefore, it was thought that sharing, with a **multi-agency** approach, the experience of the project's training course with those who are in direct contact with these young people, was essential. It was the case, both to increase awareness about the characteristics of these forms of subjection and to strengthen the operational synergies.

The mapping of existing tools related to the identification of minors victims of trafficking was propaedeutic to the training action and to help subjects/authorities intercepting minors victims of trafficking for the purpose of exploitation in forced criminal activities and forced marriages.

The training has turned out to be a very positive experience in both countries. Spain and Italy have built up numerous experiences in the field of European projects over the last 20 years, which often allowed to share training experiences. The events organized within the framework of the N.E.x.T TO YOU project have highlighted the need to share experiences and practices with the chain of professionals.

*The training action has, as frame of reference, the strengthening of tools for the early detection and identification of minors victims of trafficking in Italy and Spain.*

Sharing with a multi-agency approach the experiences of the project training course is essential.

In particular support is needed when dealing with the protection of minors involved in trafficking situations, the repression of situations of exploitation and the social reintegration of young people through empowerment and social-work inclusion. Perhaps more than in other circumstances, **the novelty of the forms of servitude considered and the multiplicity of nationalities potentially affected from both the problem of forced marriages and forced criminal activities has made the training course particularly meaningful.**

**The truly consistent number of people who have enrolled in the training courses, both in Spain and in Italy, highlights the training gaps in these specific areas of work** together with the need to deepen aspects of the condition of foreign minors which are not often taken into consideration though their numbers are certainly increasing.

On one hand, there is a need to strengthen the actions aimed at minors involved in situations of serious exploitation, also by more adequate professional specialized competences in the field of interventions. On the other hand, there are many non-specialized organizations that are obviously not able to carry out a correct analysis of the actual situation of the victims of trafficking.

Therefore, training and inter-institutional coordination are fundamental in order to guarantee an effective intervention, especially taking into account that the referral mechanisms, whether they exist or not at national level, always require adaptation to the structural changes of the phenomena.

In view of the excellent results achieved in these first months of work, professionals have begun to reap the benefits of the experiences gained during the meetings that, although online, have been quite rich in terms of exchange of practices and learning about of the phenomena.

The next actions are taking shape, hoping that the Pandemic will allow a debate less mediated by "distance" even outside current activities. **Thus, we do hope that the meeting already scheduled for April 5-6 in Seville will be held physically. It will represent a most valuable opportunity to strengthen the networking links that the project has created in view of sharing other working opportunities.**



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### 3.DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN BELGIUM: THE “PAYOKE WAY”

by Anthony Verhasselt, Payoke.

In Belgium victims of trafficking in human beings are mostly identified by frontline responders, like the federal or local police, the social inspection or health services, or the dedicated support centres for victims. Referrals may also come from social services, lawyers, other specialized centres, immigration and consular services or citizens. Some other victims may contact the services directly.

During the detection phase, a first screening is conducted to assess whether the intercepted person is a potential victim. **Detection and identification are very difficult and sensitive tasks, as demonstrated by the large number of victims who remain unidentified, and ultimately, invisible.** When responders lack sufficient training, they may fail to notice the victims or take appropriate action to bring them to safety.

Victims are detected based on their account or of indicators and red flags that help recognize signs of victimization. Frontline responders must meet the person's urgent and basic needs, and must inform them about the victim protection program.

**A multilingual information leaflet, available in 22 languages, helps victims understand their situation and the support they can expect,** including contact information for the three specialized reception centres for victims of trafficking and their services.

The Belgian multi-agency cooperation model is based on the intertwined intervention of 3 main players:

- **The 3 anti-trafficking organisations** recognized by the federal government which provide guidance, shelter, assistance
- **The justice department** whose prosecutors carry out the formal identification
- **Federal Service of internal Affairs** (Immigration Office) is in charge of delivering temporary documents to a victim of THB who are under the guidance of one of the three recognized shelter houses

There is a high degree of cooperation and trust amongst the anti-trafficking players, and this determines the successful outcome of investigation and victim support.

**In Belgium victims of trafficking inhuman beings are mostly identified by frontline responders.**

When it comes to detection and identification, according to the Payoke model, that we call “**The Payoke Way**”, certain quality standards must always be upheld in an interview:

- **interviewers are flexible and mobile**, that means they can go see the potential clients and talk to them in a place that is safe and comfortable to them or that is neutral in order to create trust,
- the interviews must be conducted **in a language the victim can easily understand** and the interviewers will act with respect, care and compassion,
- the social worker will collect data to **report the story to law enforcement** but they do not contribute to the investigation; the person’s story is used to understand how what assistance they need,
- **social workers are aware of diverse cultural and religious beliefs** and they help clients express their fears or faith in traditions, religious and non-religious practices, for example those linked to juju and voodoo,
- **they try to steer the clients’ away from self-blame** from the very beginning and invest in building a relationship of trust.

The “**Four Cs’ approach**”:  
**Confidentiality**  
**Control**  
**Cooperation**  
**Consent**

At the core of the Payoke’s Way in detection is the ‘four Cs’ approach, based on the principles of:

- a) **Confidentiality**,
- b) **Control** from the side of the victim over the possibility to stop the interview at any time, to have someone present for support, to ask questions, and to have his or her privacy and confidentiality respected,
- c) **Cooperation** with the police, judicial authorities and/or NGOs,
- d) **Consent** of the person to the interview. ù

The application of the ‘four Cs’ approach shall ensure that the human rights of victims are respected.





## 4. EARLY IDENTIFICATION, INTERVIEW WITH SOCIAL WORKERS DEALING WITH TRAFFICKED VICTIMS,

by Chloë Dumas, France terre d'asile

France terre d'asile has established, within the framework of the AMIF funded STEP project, Sustainable integration of Trafficked human beings through proactive identification and enhanced protection, synthetic **lists of indicators**. Through a **guide**, frontline workers can better identify a situation of human trafficking. Detailed indicators according to the type of exploitation or context and are separated into 4 categories:

- **Migration experience;**
- **Daily life linked to exploitation;**
- **Means of control used by traffickers;**
- **Observable signs.**

This instrument is promoted in every France terre d'asile accommodation centre, as well as awareness tools for victims.

At a national level, France, through an inter-ministerial mission (Miprof) is currently working on its National identification and referral mechanism with a consortium of public institutions and NGOs.

*A guide has been established to help workers to identify situations of human trafficking.*

**Hereunder please find testimonies from social professionals working with trafficked victims.**

JF: With the creation of an emergency accommodation centre for asylum seekers in 2019, almost half of our clients were Nigerian families in which the woman had been a victim of human trafficking. In 2020, in our accommodation centre (not the emergency shelter), 26% of new arrivals were Nigerian women, alone or with their partner. The identification of trafficked victims is easier for Nigerian women, as many of them are able to give details of their story. However, it is much more difficult for women of other nationalities.

**What indicators lead you to believe that a person is still under the control, the influence of the human trafficking network?**

JF: The coherence of the narrative (chronology, places, people) is an indicator of distancing from the network. The willingness to file complaint is also an indicator. The absence of these elements (incomplete story) or violent conflicts within the couple feeds our suspicions. Suspicion is reinforced by the role of the man within the couple (cultist member, lover boy, etc.).

BF: There may be frequent links with the community (by telephone and travel) and many acquaintances in bigger cities, the recurrent absence of the partner or particular links with Nigerian churches.

**What specific support do you offer to a (former) victim of human trafficking?**

JF: We work with NGOs specialized in human trafficking and we refer our clients to them when needed. We help them with their residence rights (e.g. based on their way out of prostitution). We can also alert the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons during their asylum claim.

BF: When preparing for the asylum interview, we are always in quiet offices where confidentiality can be respected. We offer to keep certain documents in the office. All procedures and documents are constantly translated to make sure that each step is well understood and the sharing of information agreed upon. We can accompany clients in filing a complaint, they are received by an officer specialized in hearing victims of violence and with whom we have a strong working relationship. We are also making more frequent home visits and offer psychological support.

**The absence of specialized associations in our territory is a major obstacle.**

**What additional elements would you need in supporting victims of human trafficking?**

JF : We have prospecting to dedicated some of our accommodation places to victims of trafficking in human beings and domestic violence. In particular, this will include: dedicated and secure housing; psychological and interpreting services. The development of our partnership network is central to this project (cultural mediation, mother and child protection, specialized NGOs, etc.)

BF: The absence of specialized associations in our territory is a major obstacle.



[1] France terre d'asile has already created dedicated places its Parisian accommodation centre (20) and in its Emergency accommodation centre in Angers (10).

*The lack of data and studies in this field remains one of the biggest challenges in the area of trafficking.*

## 5. INTERVIEW ABOUT THE TRAINING IN ITALY

Views of the President of the Equality- Cooperativa Sociale Onlus, Barbara Maculan.

**Could you describe the aims of the training activities of the N.E.x.T. To You project?**

Training actions had been foreseen for professionals who play significant roles in the protection of minors and youth in order to strengthen the early detection and thus building capacity in the early identification of minors victims of trafficking in Italy and Spain. Specific training objectives included the **strengthening and promotion of referral mechanisms and anti-trafficking networks to ensure the support protection and recovery of minors victims of trafficking**. In Italy we focused on an under-explored and under-detected form of exploitation of minors in criminal economies. In the long run, we meant to contribute to the **collective development of holistic and coordinated solutions** in two European frontline States in the context of Mediterranean migration routes.

**How do you foresee to facilitate the identification of minors victims of Trafficking?**

To reach this aim we planned a mapping of key actors and existing instruments. In addition, we acknowledged that, in line with other agencies, the lack of data and studies in this area remains one of the biggest challenges in the area of trafficking. Moreover, there are several official documents of the European Italian and Spanish legal framework applicable to the identification of minors victims of trafficking that have been analyzed in the course. In the special case of third country national minors being at the same time victims of exploitation and authors of crimes (e.i. pick pocket or drugs dealing) Italian Immigration Law forces a special residence permit.

A mapping of the professionals who, in different capacities, can intercept minors victims of trafficking for the purpose of exploitation in criminal economies, both in public institutions and in the private social sector, was carried out.

**Did the pandemic affect the training course?**

Inevitably, it did. Due to the current health situation, the course "**The Early Identification of Child Victims of Trafficking and Serious Exploitation**" took place in virtual mode in four modules of three hours each on April 23 and 30 and May 7 and 14 2021. The training was delivered by trainers and professionals active at national and local level on the topics covered. It allowed the observation of broad phenomena while keeping a focus on the participants' professional roles.



Although, the virtual mode did not allow the use of participatory training methods such as role-playing and live simulations, it allowed the interaction of a larger number of people. Around 60 persons per session.

### What themes did you choose for the course?

The training course focused on:

- **Unaccompanied foreign minors in Italy**, the characteristics of the phenomenon and the instruments of protection;
- **The vulnerability of unaccompanied foreign minors**;
- The topic of **forced criminal activities** in the frame of trafficking and other serious forms of exploitation;
- **Forced criminal activities and serious exploitation**: reflections with a human rights and multi-agency perspective on the operational dimension.

### What lessons can you draw from this course?

As it will be highlighted in the article of Cruz Blanca, the large number of people who enrolled in the proposed trainings, both in Spain and in Italy, underlines the training gaps in this very specific area. On one hand, there is the need to increase actions and specialized resources for minors victims of trafficking, on the other hand, there are many non-specialised organisations that come into contact with potential child victims.

We consider particularly useful to point out that, during the training course in Italy, the Action "**Inside Out**" has been promoted as a "good practice" to be shared at national and European level. It has been experimented in the N.A.Ve - Anti-Trafficking Network for the Veneto Region.

### Could you briefly provide some key information about the "Inside Out" Action?

The proposal to carry out a systemic action aimed at exploring the phenomenon of unaccompanied foreign minors and young adults who are both offenders and potential victims of trafficking for the purpose of exploitation in forced criminal activities arose from the difficulty of making these situations visible and bringing them to light.



On one hand, there is the need to increase actions and specialized resources for minors victims of trafficking, on the other hand, there are many non-specialised organisations that come into contact with potential child victims.

## 6. ONLINE TRAINING: CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, EARLY DETECTION AND SUPPORT STRATEGIES, FOCUS ON PROTECTION AND FORCED MARRIAGES

by Carmen Martinez-Raposo, Fundación Cruz Blanca

One of the key goals of the N.E.x.T. To You project is the capacity-building of the professionals working in the field of child protection to improve their ability in early detection and identification of victims of trafficking in Italy and Spain. For this purpose, Fundación Cruz Blanca delivered the online training "Child Victims of Trafficking: Early Detection and Support" on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th of April 2021.

*In the training course, priority was giving to collective learning processes, based on a participatory methodology.*

Previously, the relevant stakeholders working with minors and young adults at national level were mapped. Among these 58 entities there were NGOs, Religious Organizations, International Organizations, National and Regional Networks, Public administration, Police and shelters for minors and for migrants. Additionally, a call was made to the general public through the digital platforms and many other applications were received. At the same time, tools related to the identification of child victims of trafficking have been mapped according to the format and objectives of the online training. The training course, structured in 4 modules of 3 hours each, was held virtually due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. **Nevertheless, priority was given to collective learning processes based on a participatory methodology.** Although the lack of face-to-face contact clearly represented a challenge, debates, group dynamics and practical activities focused on a variety of case scenarios helped construct a free environment to encourage the participants' expression. **The activity resulted in an average participation of around 60 people per session, 40 of whom obtained a certificate** for having attended the entire course, after which an evaluation questionnaire was distributed and completed.

The contents of the sessions focused **on introducing human trafficking and the human rights, gender and child rights-based approach (I), the early detection and identification of child victims (II), protection mechanisms** of child victims and forced marriages (III) and **supportive strategies** and practical tools (IV).



This training carried out in Spain had a special focus on trafficking for the purpose of forced marriages. Since the authorities began collecting data on forced marriages in 2016, 10 child victims trafficked for this exploitative purpose have been identified throughout Spain. Forced marriage is mostly perceived as related to the cultural practices of certain countries, as the victims identified are mainly Romanian and Moroccan. The lack of research focused on forced marriage as a form of human trafficking translates into a lack of specialisation, resources and professionals. As a result, Fundación Cruz Blanca decided to focus the online training on this type of exploitation, with a specific session thereto dedicated and a transversal focus throughout the course.

**Forced marriage is mostly perceived as related to the cultural practices of certain countries, as the victims identified are mainly Romanian and Moroccan.**

The fact that more than **430 professionals applied to participate in the workshop** reveals there is a **significant training gap** in this very specific sector. One of the conclusions that emerged from the capacity-building sessions is the need to increase specialised interventions and shelters for child victims of trafficking. However, there are also many non-specialised organisations that come into contact with potential child victims.

Therefore, training and inter-institutional coordination are essential to ensure effective and successful actions in this area, particularly considering that Spain lacks a national referral mechanism as such. All this is crucial to implement best practices, which have been identified in the design of individualised support strategies based on a comprehensive approach, taking into consideration the legal, socio-educational, professional and psychological needs of the child.



[2] Ministerio del Interior, 2019. Trata de seres humanos en España Balance estadístico 2015-19. [Online] Available at [this link](#). [Accessed 16 06 2021].

## 7.EU NEWS



**EU Parliament adopts two funds for asylum and border policies**

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210701IPR07514/eu-parliament-adopts-two-funds-for-asylum-and-border-policies>

**New Pact on Migration and Asylum: Agreement reached on the new European Union Agency for Asylum**

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/it/ip\\_21\\_3241](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/it/ip_21_3241)

**EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime & EU Strategy on combatting Trafficking in Human Beings**

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_21\\_1664](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_1664)

**Greetings from the N.E.x.T. TO YOU partnership!**

**For further information:**

**[www.ensa-network.eu/nexttoyou](http://www.ensa-network.eu/nexttoyou)**



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