



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

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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.

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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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