

Osservatorio Tratta

Observatory and National Resource Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings

Activities and results

Frame of reference

The aim of the project was to activate an Observatory and National Resource Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings.

Trafficking in human beings constitutes a serious and unacceptable violation of human rights. It involves children, women, men and transgenders that are exploited in prostitution, in different sectors of the labour market, in begging, in illegal activities, for the purpose of adoption or the sale of organs for transplants.

Confronting the phenomenon means putting into effect incisive interrelated strategies for prevention, protection and anti-trafficking measures at national and transnational level. Two fundamental principles must underlie these strategies: an approach for promoting and protecting human rights and a multidisciplinary and integrated approach.

Because trafficking is an extremely complicated and continually evolving phenomenon, it is essential to aid and support legislative systems, policies and interventions with appropriate tools for observing and monitoring the phenomenon and the actions taken that are able to provide an up-to-date and in-depth interpretation and, consequently, to contribute to their planning.

Aims

The *Observatory and National Resource Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings* project aimed at designing new tools and knowledge and monitoring systems on the different forms of exploitation linked to trafficking, proposing at the same time liaison tools for different kinds of organisations working at different levels for the protection of trafficked persons and working in combating the phenomenon, for the purpose of influencing in a positive way policies and interventions in the sector.

Soggetto Referente

Partner



Objectives

The objective of the project was to provide key players in the sector with new skills influencing positively knowledge, interventions and networking systems.

This was implemented by pursuing the following specific objectives:

- Construction of tools for processing, recording and retrieving of data on the phenomenon, laying the foundations for the creation of a permanent monitoring system on trafficking in human beings;
- Creation of a system for the development of intervention models and networking; of systems for assessing interventions in the sector; of the job profiles and training curricula of the various professionals involved;
- Creation of information systems (databanks), exchange and liaison regarding projects and services engaged in social interventions on trafficking in human beings at national and transnational level;
- Creation of a pole for technical support, consulting and training for the development of programs, projects and interventions in the sector and a reference point for horizontal and vertical mainstreaming initiatives.

Players and beneficiaries

The Project Partners have allowed the project to have national impact by involving various public and private parties active in the sector:

- public bodies and non profit organisations that implement projects under Art. 18 of Legislative Decree No. 286/98, projects under Art. 13 of the Law on Trafficking No. 228/2003, organisations owning or managing the local sites of the Toll-Free Number for victims of trafficking;
- other key players in implementing actions aimed at victims of trafficking (law enforcement agencies and the courts, health services, employment agencies, employer and trade union associations, third sector networks).

Notwithstanding the ongoing interrelationship with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and with ISFOL ("Institute for the Development of the Professional Training of Workers"), a close relationship was built with the Italian Rights and Equal Opportunities Department (with which a specific Protocol of Understanding was signed) that chairs the *Interministerial Commission for the Support of Victims of Trafficking, Violence and Serious Exploitation* at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, with the participation of the Ministries of the Interior, Justice, Social Solidarity, Policies for the Family and the Joint Conference. Specific relationship have also been set up with other competent Ministries and with the Anti-mafia National Bureau.

Over 400 public bodies and non profit organisations have been involved and over 900 different kinds of workers have participated in the seminars and in events relating to training/consulting.

Implemented activities and products

Research and publications:

- Osservatorio Tratta Section as part of the *On the Road* series (Franco Angeli Publishing House):

- Volume I, **La tratta di persone in Italia. Evoluzioni e ambiti di sfruttamento**
("Trafficking in Human Beings in Italy. Evolution and Spheres of Exploitation")
- Volume II, **La tratta di persone in Italia. Le norme di tutela delle vittime e di contrasto alla criminalità**
("Trafficking in Human Beings in Italy. Regulations for Protecting Victims and Combating Criminality")
- Volume III, **La tratta di persone in Italia. Il sistema degli interventi a favore delle vittime**
("Trafficking in Human Beings in Italy. The System of Interventions for Victims")
- Volume IV, **La tratta di persone in Italia. La valutazione delle politiche, degli interventi, dei servizi**
("Trafficking in Human Beings in Italy. Assessment of Policies, Interventions and Services")

(The last three volumes were realised within the ambit of Action 3)

- *Glossary on Trafficking*



Building information systems:

- web site www.osservatoriotratta.it
- online databank of the organisations active in the sector on a national and transnational level (covering over 50 countries);
- information system (online databank) for storing data about projects implemented under Art. 18 of Legislative Decree No. 286/98, Art. 13 of Law No. 228/2003 and the National Toll-Free Number for victims of trafficking in human beings (operational and currently being experimented in collaboration with the Italian Rights and Equal Opportunities Department).

Protocols of understanding and policies in the sector:

- "Protocol of understanding for creating tools, systems and activities for monitoring the phenomenon of trafficking and sector-specific interventions" between the *Trafficking Observatory* partnership and the Italian Rights and Equal Opportunities Department, signed on 26 June 2007.
- Prototype of the National Observatory on Trafficking.
- Creation of a Coordination/Observatory of the Italian Street Units and Mobile Units dealing with prostitution.

- Contribution to the public presentation on 19 December 2006, at the Chamber of Deputies, of the previously compiled document "From Victims to Citizens" for the revitalisation of policies on trafficking, promoted by On the Road and CNCA and signed by 157 public and private bodies. The document was cited in the official invitation of the Italian Rights and Equal Opportunities Department to the opening meeting of the *Interministerial Committee for the Coordination of Government Actions on Trafficking in Human Beings* that was also instituted on the basis of the requests made in the document mentioned here.
- The legal seminar held in Giulianova (TE) on 2 December 2006 on the initiative of the *Trafficking Observatory* project (with the participation of experts, professionals in the field, lawyers, judges, members of law enforcement agencies and representatives of the government, in particular, of the Italian Rights and Equal Opportunities Department) led to the drafting and approval of Art. 6(4) of Decree Law No. 300 of 28 December 2006, converted into law by Law No. 17 of 26 February 2007 amending Art. 18 of the Consolidation Act on Immigration by adding sub-article 6 bis in order to guarantee persons belonging to the Member States of the European Union access to social assistance and integration programmes.
- On 24 April 2007, the Council of Ministers approved the Bill relating to a Legislative Decree amending the Consolidation Act on Immigration in which the proposals regarding trafficking (which were otherwise missing from the Act) made by a group of organisations within the *Osservatorio Tratta* project coordinated by On the Road were added to a document sent to the competent Ministries.

Consulting agency:

A Consulting agency was set up on trafficking in human beings (and correlated areas) able to offer a wide range of parties (Regions, local authorities, local health agencies and non profit organisations) specialised advice and training in the area of legislation, research, training, models of interventions to implement, validated good practices, referral networks, tools for assessing and testing the process, social planning and fund raising.

A total of 17 consulting modules were organised, 9 of which were system sessions taking place over several days and 8 one day spot sessions. Two regional meetings were also held in Naples and in Palermo, organised in collaboration with the Italian Rights and Equal Opportunities Department on promoting, planning and implementing interventions on behalf of victims of trafficking (in particular, on the calls for proposals of the Department itself, art.18 and art.13). A total of 30 days were dedicated to developing consulting modules.

Approximately 300 people attended the different meetings, of whom about 25% were representatives of public administrations and about 75% from non-profit organisations.

An on-line legal advice service was also activated.

Conferences and seminars:

Amongst others:

- Seminar for the presentation of the project "The Multidimensionality of Trafficking in Human Beings: Hypotheses for the Construction of New Knowledge Systems regarding the Phenomenon and Liason among Players in the Field", Padua 5 May 2006, at Civitas, XI Expo Conference on Solidarity and the Social and Civil Economy.

- National Conference "Exchange on Scenarios of Trafficking: Phenomenon, Policies, Interventions", San Benedetto del Tronto, 26 and 27 January 2007.
- Seminar on "Victims of Trafficking: Models for Intervention and Professionalism in the Field. Results and Perspectives of the Research Carried Out in the Osservatorio Tratta Project: Presentation and Meeting with Organisations Working In the Sector", Padua, 3 May 2007.
- Final Headway Conference "Improving Social Intervention Systems for Victims of Trafficking", Rome, 25 June 2007, at the Chamber of Deputies, in collaboration with the Italian Rights and Equal Opportunities Department and within the framework of the official initiatives of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.
- Seminar "Trafficking in Human Beings. An Observatory and National Resource Centre", Bologna, 8 November 2007 c/o COMPA.
- Conference on the Experimental Research Project "Margin Minors", Padua, 30 November 2007.
- International Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings (jointly organised on the occasion of a Save the Children Agis Project) with the presentation of the first two publications of the Osservatorio Tratta, Rome, 13 December 2007.
- Final Conference "Osservatorio Tratta – Proposals for an Integrated System of Policies and Interventions", Rome, 25 February 2008, at the Chamber of Deputies, in collaboration with the Italian Rights and Equal Opportunities Department.



The transnational project

The transnational aspect of the project that has seen the involvement of countries which have been members of the European Union for some time as well as recently admitted countries that represent the countries of origin and/or transit of victims of trafficking is of special interest. Thanks to the wide ranging partnerships, contacts with organisations working in the sector in the countries of origin of victims of trafficking that do not belong to the European Union were created and put online.

The following should be noted:

- web site of the project in which all the material and studies produced are collected together (<http://www.osservatoriotratta.it/headway/index.php>)
- international databank on the organisations actively engaged in protecting victims of trafficking (http://www.osservatoriotratta.it/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7&Itemid=32) found within the national databank
- final publication of the project with all the gathered material
- analysis of the national legislation for combating trafficking in human beings
- collection and exchange of good practices for assisting and protecting victims of trafficking
- comparative study of monitoring systems and the construction of a model for monitoring the phenomenon



The TCA – Transnational Cooperation Agreement comprises the following:

Italy - Segretariate	<i>Osservatorio Tratta - Osservatorio e Centro Risorse sulla Tratta di Esseri Umani ("Observatory and National Resource Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings")</i> - Lead partner: Associazione On the Road
Germany	<i>Reintegrationsförderung von Menschenhandelsopfern - Stärkung nationaler Akteure ("Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking - Strengthening of National Supporters")</i> - Lead partner: IOM – International Organization for Migration
Estonia	<i>Prostitutsiooni kaasatud naiste integratsioon legaalsele tööturule ("Integration of Women Involved in Prostitution into the Labour Market")</i> - Lead partner: National Institute for Health Development – NIHD
Lithuania	<i>Prekybos žmonėmis integracija ir reintegracija į darbinę visuomenę ("Integration and Reintegration of Victims of Human Trafficking into Working Society")</i> - Lead partner: Missing Persons' Families Support Centre
Poland	<i>IRIS - reintegracja społeczna i zawodowa kobiet - ofiar handlu ludźmi ("IRIS – Social and Vocational Reintegration of Women - Victims of Trafficking")</i> - Lead partner: La Strada Foundation
Portugal	<i>Cooperação-Ação-Investigação-Mundivisão ("Cooperation-Action-Investigation-World vision")</i> Lead partner: Commission for Equality and Women's Rights (CIDM)

The web site – osservatoriotratta.it

The site is one of the information tools through which *Osservatorio Tratta* intends to exchange information with the social and local players involved with trafficking in human beings. It is constructed in the form of a portal that guides communication in very different directions:

- from the staff of *Osservatorio Tratta* to the local system to provide information about data, events, legislative amendments, training sessions, working documents, and resources found in the system;
- from the local system to *Osservatorio Tratta* for receiving warnings and information about problems, research needs, requests for help and accompaniment;
- as an information deposit where the acquisitions and the knowledge of each player can be deposited in order to share them and for a common added value to be offered (see not only the databank of the organisations, but also the section devoted to methodologies and tools).

The outcome of this approach is a huge amount of information available to those working in the sector, to those in charge, to policy decision-makers for supporting and orienting their work and for putting them into contact with other parties working on these same complex themes, allowing them to make comparisons.

Database of Organisations: this is a complete census of the most important information about the organisations working in Italy on trafficking; it also includes a large number of organisations that are active abroad (in over 50 countries).

Legislation: this is a complete collection of legislation on trafficking, from international to regional level.

Documentation Centre: research material and a wide range of material from the press on the topic, updated every day.

Warning Centre: the possibility to give a warning on the topic and on situations that create problems for the protection of victims of trafficking.

Resource Centre: the training calendar and consulting carried out by *Osservatorio Tratta*, with the possibility of learning about both the programming and the materials that have been produced or have emerged.

Many other useful sections should be noted (Links, News, Glossary, Seminar materials...) for which we recommend the user to "carefully navigate" the site starting from the Home Page www.osservatoriotratta.it

Information system: (online databank) for storing data about projects implemented under Art. 18 of Legislative Decree No. 286/98, Art. 13 of Law No. 228/2003 and the National Toll-Free Number for victims of trafficking in human beings (and currently being experimented in collaboration with the Italian Rights and Equal Opportunities Department).

The Development Partnership

Lead partner:

- **Associazione On the Road**

Partners:

- **Azienda ULSS 16 of Padua**
- **Censis – Fondazione Centro Studi Investimenti Sociali**
- **Cnca – Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza**
- **Municipality of Venezia**
- **Department of Social Sciences – University of Turin**
- **Irecoop Veneto – Istituto Regionale per l'educazione e gli studi cooperativi**
- **Irs – Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale Società Cooperativa**
- **Onlus Nova – Consorzio Nazionale per l'Innovazione Sociale**
- **Province of Pisa**
- **Save the Children Italia onlus**