



COUNTERING NEW FORMS OF ROMA CHILDREN TRAFFICKING

PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

COMPENDIUM OF GOOD PRACTICES



**CENTER FOR
THE STUDY OF
DEMOCRACY**

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This publication presents the results of an identification of good practices for providing assistance to Roma child victims of trafficking conducted within the project “Countering new forms of Roma children trafficking: Participatory approach” (CONFRONT). The project took place in seven EU member states: Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Slovakia. Experts from Center for the Study of Democracy coordinated the project and conducted the research in Bulgaria.

The practices were identified by team experts from project partners from the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights, Austria; Censis Foundation, Italy; Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, Greece; Center for Policy Studies at Central European University, Hungary; People in Need, Slovakia; Soros Foundation Romania. The publication was compiled by Liliya Dragoeva, Center for the Study of Democracy.



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CONTENTS

Introduction	5
1. Austria	7
2. Bulgaria	15
3. Greece	19
4. Hungary	23
5. Italy	31
6. Romania	35
7. Slovakia	43

INTRODUCTION

This Compendium of Good Practices is developed in the framework of the project Countering New Forms of Roma Child Trafficking: Participatory Approach (CONFRONT). The project objectives are:

- To strengthen counter-trafficking efforts targeting Roma children by providing better understanding of new forms of trafficking through developing and testing new methods of participatory research (PR) and carrying out evidence-based analysis;
- To empower Roma communities to act as equal partner in counter-trafficking policies and measures;
- To enhance child victim support in countries of origin and destination by developing pilot initiatives for child victims of trafficking (VoT) support and sensitising service providers and child protection authorities to new forms of trafficking and improving coordination.

Project activities include literature review and preliminary research on three specific forms of child trafficking (for begging, for pickpocketing and for sexual exploitation of boys), developing of methodologies for participatory research among Roma communities, data analysis, piloting initiatives to improve child victims' assistance, good practice identification and advocacy activities.

The identification of good practices for providing assistance to Roma child victims of trafficking falls within CONFRONT project objective "to enhance child victim support in countries of origin and destination".

The search for good practices took place within all seven partner countries, provisionally identified as origin countries of child victims of trafficking – Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and typical destination countries – Greece, Italy, Austria. The identification of good practices was implemented after the fieldwork months of the project time frame. Research questions on good practice identification were formulated in the CONFRONT Participatory Research Methodology and Guidelines for the Identification of Good Practices and were developed by the project coordinator. The current report will present examples of good practices in the field of child VoT prevention, assistance and reintegration, data collection, etc., which have been identified based on their adherence to predefined criteria. The purpose of this identification is to illustrate initiatives which have proven to be beneficial to children at risk of exploitation and trafficking and which could be replicated in other countries.

Although none of the initiatives described in this report fulfil all predefined criteria for good practice, they are nevertheless described as such due to their *relatively* high scores which could translate to a positive impact in the field of child VoT prevention, assistance and reintegration. As impact

assessments or evaluations of the practices have not been conducted, the practices could best be described as “promising” in improving prevention and assistance to children at risk and victims of trafficking.

1. AUSTRIA

1. Area of good practice: Practices with Indirect Benefit to the Children of Poverty Migrants – Multi-Stakeholder Networking Initiatives – “Round Tables”

- **Round Table Salzburg**

The Round Table on Begging was initiated in spring 2014 by the local vice mayor of the City of Salzburg to which politicians, representatives of public authorities, civil society organisations, church institutions, the local commerce and academics were invited. Since then, several meetings took place, the last one in autumn 2014. The objective of the Round Table is to exchange with diverse stakeholders especially on the presence of “migrant beggars” (*Bettelmigranten*) in public space. Within this Round Table two working groups were set-up. One on social policy measures (discussing basic care, including accommodation, also for families) and the other one on regulatory measures, like the introduction of a sectoral ban on begging.

Key Stakeholders involved: political representatives of the municipality, local authorities, NGOs and social service providers, academics, Phurdo Roma organisation

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Key actors include the civil society network “Platform for Human Rights” Salzburg, and the Salzburg Child and Youth Ombudsperson.
2. “Do no harm” principle – impact assessment	Within the Round Table there are also voices that strive to ban and expel poverty-migrants from Salzburg, which would negatively affect to a high extent also the situation of children and their families.
3. Gender Sensitivity	Partly met
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Partly met
5. Effectiveness	<p>A positive effect has been the establishment of a network among diverse stakeholders. It was possible to raise awareness for the problems migrant beggars are facing. With regard to the current accommodation problem, it is planned to set-up a shelter for poverty-migrants to which also families should have access.</p> <p>A clear negative effect has been the publication of a paternalistic information leaflet for migrant beggars with controversial information on legal aspects; this publication has not been approved by the entire Round Table but was published based only on the initiative of those forces who aim to regulate begging even more restrictive.</p>
6. Replicability	Yes
7. Community Involvement	Yes, there is one Romani NGO involved that engages directly with migrant beggars.

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: More regular meetings should be scheduled; no need to come to quick decisions at the cost of lack of consensus among stakeholders; decisions should be approved by all participants. A dedicated, more explicit child and human rights approach taking into account also gender-specific needs of girls and boys should be considered in the measures discussed.

- **Round Table Linz/Upper Austria**

In 2014 the Department responsible for social policy on the *Länder* (province) level has invited social service providers and NGOs to a “Round Table” to discuss social measures in order to improve the social situation of poverty migrants. The participants split up into sub-working groups on different topics relevant to the situation of migrant beggars (like special services during winter-season, accommodation, education, employment possibilities, etc.) The Round Table to which the working groups report takes place every 2-3 months. In the context of these processes, Caritas Linz opened a day-care centre for children of poverty migrants (see below).

Key Stakeholders involved: state authorities, NGOs, CSOs, including Ketani organisation for Roma and Sinti

Criteria met:	
1. “Do no harm” principle – impact assessment	Yes
2. Gender Sensitivity	Partly met
3. Effectiveness	Too early for assessment since the Round Table is working for less than a year.
4. Sustainability	Too early for assessment since the Round Table is working for less than a year.
5. Replicability	Yes
6. Community Involvement	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: As with other round table processes, there is a lack of an explicit rights-based approach, with particular attention to the rights of children.

- **Legal Counselling by the Beggars’ Lobby Vienna**

Since autumn 2013 the Beggars’ Lobby Vienna (*Bettelobby Wien*), a civil society initiative, offers legal counselling to migrant beggars who are fined for infringements of the various legal regulations for begging (begging restrictions, road traffic regulations, etc.). As the migrants typically do not have the financial means to pay the fine, they are in repeated cases often imprisoned for several days in default of payments. This means that children lose their parent for a certain period of time, and in not all cases, other family members may take care of them in the meanwhile. Additionally, the financial situation worsens as they do not generate

income through begging any more – with huge overall impact on the socioeconomic and emotional situation of the affected children.

Key Stakeholders involved: Beggars' Lobby

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes, the Beggars' Lobby explicitly advocates for the protection of human rights of beggars.
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Partly met
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Recently, care services for children during counselling of parents has started.
5. Effectiveness	Since the start of the legal counselling certain types of fines became less frequent, several cases were dismissed after appeals, which has a positive impact on the beggars.
6. Sustainability	Considering the existence of the service for more than 18 months and the successful cases so far the further continuation of the counselling can be expected; nevertheless, it is a volunteer initiative carried out by individuals in their free time, not embedded in any infrastructure.
7. Replicability	Yes
8. Community Involvement	Yes, some counsellors also work with Roma organisations.

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: This service is an initiative of private persons, among them one lawyer, who offer their help in their free time. They do not have dedicated infrastructural support or other financial assistance.

- **Shelter for families (Red Cross Innsbruck, Tyrol)**

The emergency shelter of the Red Cross in Innsbruck offers accommodation to families of poverty migrants from Romania. This is an exceptional service insofar, as publically funded shelters across Austria for non-nationals in general do not offer their services to families, but only to adults. The shelter has a capacity of 31 places, but in 2014 it was necessary to expand it to 51 places plus 5 emergency places. However, this measure is limited to the winter season only (this means that it is opened from mid-November till mid-April).

During the whole season an average number of 10 children not of school-age are accommodated. According to the head of the shelter, children of school-age are left back home in Romania. During the day the children are not with the parents begging on the street, but one family member takes care of them. They stay either in the car or in a park as there is no day-time-shelter for them.

Key Stakeholders involved: Red Cross

Criteria met:	
1. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
2. Gender Sensitivity	Partly met
3. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Partly met
4. Effectiveness	Very limited as the offer is due to funding just limited to the winter-season.
5. Sustainability	Very limited as the offer is due to funding just limited to the winter-season.
6. Replicability	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The service should be offered the whole year round; however, the funding of the Province of Tyrol is just provided during the winter time. This means by mid-April the families will sleep again in their cars or somewhere hidden under bridges or in tents; a dedicated child rights approach should be considered.

2. Area of good practice: Initiatives with direct benefit to the children of poverty migrants

- **Day-Care Centre by Caritas Linz (Linz/Province of Upper Austria)**

Since 2014 the local Caritas office offers a low-threshold Day-Care for children of poverty-migrants. The Centre is opened to all age groups and aims to provide the children also with basic skills in reading, writing and math, as some of them have never attended school, not even in their (mostly Romanian) regions of origin. The parents bring their kids there in the morning before they go begging and provide the Centre with their contact details in case of emergency.

Key Stakeholders involved: Caritas Linz

Criteria met:	
1. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
2. Gender Sensitivity	Partly met
3. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Partly met
4. Effectiveness	The project has high potential for effectiveness, however, it is too early for an assessment.
5. Sustainability	The sustainability of the project depends on the funding, which is now provided by the local government for a limited duration of time.
6. Replicability	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: For the time being, the Centre is only financed until autumn 2015 and also just for 3 half-days/week. The children spent the rest of the time on the streets with their parents or in a park. As the city of Linz does not offer them any accommodation, the families sleep in tents (also during winter) in the forests nearby. Therefore, it is of particular importance to extend the current service to five whole days a week. In addition, proper accommodation for the families would be needed in order to improve the overall situation of the children; a dedicated child rights approach should be considered.

- **Tutoring and School Mediation by Romano Centro (Vienna)**

The Romani NGO Romano Centro Vienna runs two programmes (Tutoring, since 20 years, and School mediation, since 15 years) which address specifically children, mostly from Romani communities, in recent years also more and more of poverty migrants.

Tutoring: The tutors visit the children at home and assist them with their homework and preparation for the class. Currently, there are eight Romanian children (out of 100) from this target group in the programme and they are supported by Romanian speaking tutors.

School Mediation: Four school mediators with Serbian (which allows communication also in Bulgarian) and partly Romanian language skills, who are themselves from the Romani community, work in primary schools, and schools with special education in Vienna. Their linguistic skills and cultural background allow them to engage directly with the children from this target group. Consequently, they are an important “bridge” between the school and their parents, who are also supported with know-how regarding the Austrian educational, health system, etc. An improvement of the children’s performance at school can be observed mainly in connection with an improvement of the severe socio-economic situation of the entire family.

Key Stakeholders involved: Romano Centro, eight schools in Vienna

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Partly met
2. “Do no harm” principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Yes
5. Monitoring and Evaluation	Romano Centro has internally evaluated its programmes.
6. Effectiveness	Since children from poverty migrants are just recently included into the programmes, no precise information is available about its effectiveness.

Criteria met:	
7. Sustainability	Usually, tutoring and mediation take place over years that allow to observe the development of the children.
8. Replicability	Yes
9. Community Involvement	Yes, direct involvement.

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The main potential for improvement is the field of funding, which should be extended in scope and period of time (mostly agreed annually). This means that the NGO doesn't have enough capacities to intensify the support needed. Currently, no more children can be enrolled to the programmes, despite significantly stronger demand. Funding has been even decreasing in 2014 with unclear prospects for the school year 2015/16.

- **Child-Care Initiative by the Beggars' Lobby (Vienna)**

The Child Care Initiative by the Beggars' Lobby is an accompanying measure to the legal counselling the CSO is offering to migrant beggars (see details above).

During the legal counselling which takes place once a month, parents can bring their children for whom care is provided. The aim of the care is also to use the time to provide the children with useful skills and know-how. Moreover, it is the purpose to provide them with basic needs, like proper clothes and shoes. During Christmas time every child may express a wish for a gift. The children were then visited directly at home where the presents were given to them personally, which is an important measure to ensure direct access to children and their families; in 2014 50 children were visited through the gift activity.

In order to intensify the contact to the families, this initiative aims to organise four times a year a "family gathering" for this target group, starting end of March 2015.

Key Stakeholders involved: Beggars' Lobby Vienna

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Partly met
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Yes
5. Effectiveness	The initiative was set-up recently and the first meeting of the "family gathering" will take place only end of March 2015. Any assessments in terms of effectiveness can't be made for the time being.

Criteria met:	
6. Sustainability	Assessment is not yet possible; however, this initiative is carried out privately by two young women who invest their own resources into this project.
7. Replicability	Yes
8. Community Involvement	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: Sustainable funding is essential, even the lack of resources for buying a metro ticket for the children can become an obstacle to participation in the meetings/gatherings.

2. BULGARIA

1. Area of good practice: National Mechanism for Referral and Support of Trafficked Persons

The National Mechanism for Referral and Support of Trafficked Persons (hereafter the NRM or the National Referral Mechanism) was developed by an inter-institutional working group under the leadership of National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Persons and the Association Animus La Strada Foundation. The NRM, officially publicised by the Ministry of Interior on 25 November 2010, aims to describe the cooperative framework through which state and non-state actors fulfil their obligations and to provide guidelines for implementation of the measures for protection and support to minor and adult child VoT. The NRM gives information on the institutional framework of cooperation, the leading principles of work and the standard operating procedures.

Key stakeholders involved: National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Agency for Social Assistance, Child Protection Department to the Social Assistance Directorate, Employment Agency, State Agency for Child Protection, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), State Agency for Refugees (SAR), International Organisation for Migration, Supreme Cassation Public Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Health, NGO service providers, Crisis Centres and Centres for Temporary Accommodation.

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	The NRM makes more explicit references to principles of non-discrimination, confidentiality of information and data protection, unconditional support and protection of victims, rights of the children to receive information and to express their views openly. Other rights of the child are referred to indirectly, through a statement that the mechanism is in line with the last amendments of the law on child protection.
2. Sustainability	Yes
3. Replicability	The NRM has been documented in operational guidelines which outline all stakeholders involved, their specific responsibilities, procedures and standards of operation. However, the implementation of the mechanism needs to be thoroughly analysed in order to determine points of strength and points of weakness before attempting its replicability.

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The lack of an established mechanism for data collection, monitoring and evaluation of the mechanism points to a deficiency in the operation as it does not allow for an assessment of the effectiveness of actions. The effectiveness of the mechanism could be assessed on the basis of analysis of data on the number of victims identified, number of referrals, disaggregated data on the types of assistance offered to victims and the outcomes of the reintegration measures. Unfortunately, the data collected by the official institutions does not cover the necessary indicators for a thorough analysis. In addition, possibilities for the involvement of community based serviced providers in the different phases of assistance should be explored.

2. Area of good practice: Care Plans for Interim Care of Child VoT

The assistance and reintegration of child VoT in Bulgaria is conducted in two stages – crisis intervention and long-term reintegration. The first interim phase of assistance is implemented within the framework of specialised facilities, called crisis centres for “children at risk” (including child VoT) and is documented by respective Care Plans. The second stage – that of long-term reintegration is implemented by the Child Protection Departments (CPD) of the Agency for Social Assistance (ASA) at the place of long-term referral of the child. This reintegration stage is documented by respective Plans of Action. The infrastructure for child VoT assistance at the interim stage involves a network of specialised crisis centres for children – victims of violence and trafficking in human beings.

Key stakeholders involved: The Agency for Social Assistance with its network of local Child Protection Departments, Crisis centres, Local Multidisciplinary Teams.

Criteria met:	
1. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	The two national guidelines, the Methodology for Management of Cases of Children at Risk; and the Methodology for Providing the Service of Crisis Centre set clear standards for assuring the participation of the child in the formulation of the Needs Assessment and the Reintegration Plans (Action Plan and Care Plans). Moreover, both documents set clear requirements for the involvement of local stakeholders in the process of drafting and implementation of Reintegration Plans (respectively Care Plans).
2. Effectiveness	The Care Plans developed at the crisis centre of Balvan appear effective in that they serve successfully the task of planning relevant assistance measures at the interim stage of (re)integration of child VoT. Based on the Needs Assessment Report, Care Plans provide well-structured plan of activities for the stabilisation of the child. They are constructed in a way that allows dynamic adaptation of aims and activities in accordance with the individual needs of each case. The Care Plan serves to document the full process of interim care provided to the child, including well justified durable solution recommendations.

Criteria met:	
3. Sustainability	The sustainability of Care Plan development and implementation in the Bulgarian context is assured through the two National Guidelines which set frames and standards of implementation as well as designate stakeholder responsibilities. A sign of the sustainability of Care Plans (as a tool of effective intervention planning) is the established network of crisis centres which provide the infrastructure of interim assistance for child VoT in the country.
4. Replicability	Care plans developed at the crisis centre of Balvan in accordance with National Guidelines are easy to replicate in the context of Bulgaria as well as internationally. Interim assistance measures for child VoT could be planned and monitored if the templates elaborated at the Centre of Balvan are used elsewhere. While the institutional frameworks of assistance in other countries might be different the principles of interim assistance planning laid in the Balvan Care Plans could be replicated and easily adapted to local realities.

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: While social workers at the crisis centre of Balvan reported on a very good and effective cooperation among stakeholders, represented in the local MT, this is not the case throughout the country. According to a monitoring study of the implementation of the Coordination Mechanism, conducted by the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP), a number of imperfections exist with regard to the effective operation of MT. The effectiveness of Care Plans could be hindered by inadequate resource mobilisation. For example the endemic understaffing of CPD throughout the country leads to very poor communication between CPD in different regions and undermines effective case assessment at the stage of identification and referral of the child. This in turn establishes hindrances to the development of well-designed Care Plans based on comprehensive information about the background of the child.

3. GREECE

1. Area of good practice: Appointment of a guardian for each trafficked child

While anti-trafficking legislation does not explicitly provides for the appointment of a legal guardian to victims that are minors, Presidential decree 220/2007 (as amended by Presidential Decree 114/10) foresees the appointment of a legal guardian to unaccompanied minors, irrespective of their legal status. As soon as a separated minor is identified by the competent authorities, the Public Prosecutor for Minors is informed in order to act as a temporary guardian of the minor and to propose a guardian that is to be appointed by the Court. Meanwhile, as temporary guardians, the prosecutors are mandated to represent the child in any legal or judicial proceedings, take into consideration the child's opinion prior decision-making and generally act in the child's best interests.

Key stakeholders involved: Public prosecutors

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. Child Participatory Approach	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The guardianship system is in practice not effectively functioning, mainly due to the disproportionately large number of children compared to that of prosecutors. Therefore there is a need for strengthening the resource capacity of Prosecutors. Designate a body that prosecutors can refer to in order to appoint permanent guardians. Specify time limit for the appointment of guardian. There is no specific time limit within which the guardian must be appointed.

2. Area of good practice: Interim care and protection

The domestic anti-trafficking framework recognises the victims' right to life, physical integrity and personal and sexual freedom and prescribes interim care, protection and assistance measures. VoTs, including children and minors, have access to these measures/facilities irrespectively of whether they have been officially granted the status of a victim or not. Moreover, during interim care child victims of trafficking are entitled to participate in educational and vocational training programmes. In 2013, 1150 minors were referred to housing and protection programmes (www.ekka.org.gr)

The existence of this framework may be considered as a point of strength although in practice the system of interim care services suffers from a number of deficiencies.

Key stakeholders involved: National Centre for Social Solidarity; Protection and Assistance Units and Services (public care facilities and NGO's)

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. Gender Sensitivity	NGO A21 runs the only available accommodation facilities particularly addressing female victims of trafficking, women and girls (gender sensitivity). It is a crisis shelter where enhanced safety measures are followed, and it offers food, accommodation and counseling services lasting up to six weeks on a voluntary basis. Girl victims are enrolled in school and usually stay in the crisis shelter longer than 16 weeks. Women, on the other hand, move to transitional residence where career counseling, financial management, and educational enhancement are provided.
3. Effectiveness	Arsis undertakes streetwork targeting children engaging in begging and other street income-generating activities. In addition it runs both a day-centre that operates as a contact point for street children and the families who want to ask for help and support and a shelter for mistreated, neglected and children victims of trafficking and exploitation. The combination of these practices/facilities offers a comprehensive framework for intervention.

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: Inadequate resources and places available in crisis and interim care facilities. Lack of standard operating procedures.

3. Area of good practice: Research and data collection

The National Centre for Social Solidarity is in the process of launching 'e-pronoia for the citizen' an e-platform for the registration of information on all cases dealt with by social welfare service providers in Greece, including child victimisation cases. The creation of this database is expected to facilitate the coordination, cooperation and horizontal interconnection of child welfare services, including facilities offering assistance to victims of trafficking and to facilitate collection and analysis of data on the type and quality of services provided, addressing therefore current problems of fragmentation in documentation and data collection.

The Centre has created a pilot database for the registry of child abuse and neglect cases (National Registry for Child Protection), where professionals and service providers in the areas of health, social welfare, justice and law enforcement shall be able to collect data concerning child abuse and neglect cases in a unified database. This would allow the follow up of cases and better coordination between the services.

Key stakeholders involved: National Centre for Social Solidarity

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. Monitoring and Evaluation	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: N/A as it is work in process

4. Area of good practice: Registration and documentation

In transposing the EU Directive 2011/36/EC, Law 4198/2013 on the Prevention and fight against human trafficking, protection of its victims and other regulations has established a National Rapporteur's Office. This office has assumed the coordination and implementation of the National Strategy for the fight against human trafficking.

The basic responsibilities of this Office are a) the integration of the National Reporting Mechanism for the identification of victims, b) the creation of a National Data Base, c) the training of agencies, and d) the deepening of cooperation. The National Rapporteur's office coordinates an inclusive Network of competent State and NGO stakeholders that are collaborating towards the implementation of a large-scale Action Plan in Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Partnership. The NR Office will also develop guidelines on how to use the criteria for the identification of victims, how to address issues such as compensation and safe return and also define the roles and responsibilities of all those involved through the creation of a National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Key stakeholders involved: Office of National Rapporteur for Combatting Human Trafficking, under the central service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Criteria met:	
1. Effectiveness	Yes
2. Monitoring and Evaluation	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: N/A as it is work in progress.

5. Area of good practice: Questioning by the authorities – investigation and prosecution

A series of training activities have taken place targeting judiciary and cross-border law enforcement officials. The staff of the Hellenic Police (front and second line) and especially those who work in the border control participate in educational programmes which are organised by Hellenic Police in cooperation with competent European or national, governmental or non-governmental organisations (e.g. IOM, FRONTEX, CEPOL, etc.). These training programmes pay special attention on awareness, recognition and handling of (suspected) victims of trafficking. Recent examples of such training programmes are the training of the Greek police staff on trafficking by police experts, the law enforcement training received by the "Warnath Group" and the training of police & judiciary within the train the trainers programme of the ISEC Project EuroTrafGuide.

Also, extensive training of all anti-THB Police Task Forces takes place on a regular basis by the NGO "A21" (based on the Polaris training).

Furthermore, several other State agencies and Greek NGOs that have been accredited by the Commission's Civil Society Platform (Praxis, ARSIS, GCR, Smile of the Child, KMOP) have engaged Greek law enforcement authorities in various trainings in cooperation with leading international agencies such as IOM, UNHCR, FRONTEX.

Key stakeholders involved: Hellenic Police (ELAS) and cooperating European organisations and NGOs

Criteria met:	
1. Effectiveness	Yes
2. Rights based approach	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: Training should be more systematic. Training must specifically focus on trafficking in children and Roma migrants in particular.

4. HUNGARY

- 1. Area of good practice:** Empowering institutions through networking to counter human and child trafficking – A Local Cooperative Working Group on Prostitution (PEM)

The working group operates in Pécs, Southern Hungary, where there has been a significant increase of trafficking of women and young girls for sexual exploitation. The working group was founded and coordinated by INDIT Public Foundation. The working group has participants from the local child protection, family services, police, hospitals and social workers. Their aim is to manage problems related to prostitution (and other related issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, dysfunctional families, exploitation, etc.). The working group has been operational since 2010 and it strives to discuss and exchange information on current problems related to prostitution. Due to the activity of the working group now it is possible to follow-up on individual cases.

Key Stakeholders involved: Civil and local government institutions: local child protection, family services, police, hospitals and social workers.

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Although the aim of the working group is to establish a forum for stakeholders for cooperation and exchange of knowledge and information, there is no document or any declaration which directly refer to human/child rights standards.
2. “Do no harm” principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Sustainability	The working group convenes regularly. No special extra financial support is needed for the working group to meet. However, it is purely dependant on the activity of its participants rather than being institutionalised.
5. Replicability	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: According to the participants, although the working group has not yet achieved serious changes in the field of anti-trafficking policies, the mere fact that local actors meet regularly and discuss current problems, is itself a positive step. There is no similar initiative at the moment in any other locations. However, similar working groups could be established in any location. It would also be desirable if this and similar initiatives get more support from the state and local governments. With such support, they could serve as a forum and an occasion for institutions to meet and develop actual co-operations and enhance communication which at the moment

is one of the most critical issues in the failure of the victim support system.

2. Area of good practice: Educative programmes for children in foster homes – prevention

In Hungary, one of the most vulnerable groups of children to trafficking in human beings are children placed in state care. They live in foster homes from where they regularly run away for they don't receive the necessary care and support. Some of the foster homes put a great emphasis on organising various educative and entertaining activities for their children. The aim is to make the children active and prevent them from run-away. In open institutions children have the right to leave but the main problem is that they don't return. This is a high risk for child trafficking as many of them fall victim while they are on the run.

In some foster homes, special learning activities are organised which enable children to get acquainted with the curriculum in an easy and entertaining way. Since most of the children in foster homes are traumatised to smaller or greater extent as they have suffered from some kind of violence or abuse, they are not capable of focusing on studying. E.g. with the foster home educators children have cooking classes and while cooking, they talk about history, literature etc.

Key Stakeholders involved: foster homes

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	It is not directly declared.
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Yes
5. Effectiveness	Yes
6. Sustainability	It depends on individual initiatives and efforts and no sustainable financial support is guaranteed.
7. Replicability	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The entire child protection system and foster homes suffer from various very serious flaws. Although they are the institution that should primarily have the role to prevent child trafficking as well as identify and assist victims, they fail to do so. Introducing programmes that prevent run-aways and provide children with educative programmes that help them to cope with all the hardships they have been through is a crucially important step towards prevention and assistance. At the moment, such initiatives are sparse and depend on individual initiatives of foster homes. This could easily be replicated in other or all foster homes: there is a need for more state

support as well as more active participation of foster home workers. It would also be necessary that foster homes acknowledge the problem of child prostitution in order to be able to take steps for prevention and assistance.

3. Area of good practice: Mobile team for sexually abused children – assistance

Children who are victims or potential victims of child trafficking for sexual exploitation had been in most cases sexually abused previously in their families or environment. Many of these children are placed in state care, however, the foster care institutions are not capable of recognising and assisting sexual abuse. The SOS Children's Villages (a network of foster homes) and the Norwegian Civil Fund launched a one-year programme for foster parents, foster home workers and other child protection institutions on how to recognise and give assistance in case of child sexual abuse. A psychologist specialised in child sexual abuse meets foster care workers in one of the SOS Children's Villages every week. They discuss cases and try to find solutions how to provide psychological treatment for these children. The aim is to generate regular meetings of foster care workers and foster parents. In addition, trainings are held on recognising and effectively assisting child sexual abuse for foster care workers in the SOS Children's Villages and other external experts. Another training is organised for decision makers, authorities and social workers in the child protection system to raise awareness on why it is important to deal with the problem of child sexual abuse. The programme also disseminates information materials on the issue.

Key Stakeholders involved: psychologists, the SOS Children Villages, foster care workers, social workers, all child protection institutions

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Yes
5. Monitoring and Evaluation	Yes
6. Effectiveness	The programme's effectiveness is limited as it is a one year programme for a selected group of participants.
7. Sustainability	The sustainability of the programme is also uncertain as it is a one-year programme. It is not sure how it is going to be financially supported in the future.
8. Replicability	Yes
9. Community Involvement	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The programme could become replicable given that it receives regular financial support. The need for specialised psychologists in foster care is enormous and this programme is a very important initiative that should be expanded and made into a nationwide programme.

4. Area of good practice: Prevention programmes

- **School prevention programme by the Police**

The national police has a crime prevention programme in which local police officers visit schools and talk about crime prevention and part of the programme is about how to avoid becoming victim of trafficking.

Key Stakeholders involved: police, schools

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. “Do no harm” principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Yes
5. Monitoring and Evaluation	Yes
6. Effectiveness	This is a programme with a limited scope.
7. Sustainability	Yes
8. Replicability	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: Although the programme is run by the national police, it is still limited in scope. There are only a few police officers involved in the programme who visit only a few schools. Thus the programme reaches a very limited number of children. There is a huge need for such prevention programmes in the most vulnerable areas, in schools in segregated and vulnerable communities. The programme could also be improved if the police cooperated with other institutions (child welfare, child protection, etc.) which are in contact with children at risk.

- **Foster home prevention programme by the Police**

In some local polices the crime prevention units organise music activity for foster home children, many of whom are Roma. Musicians are invited to the foster homes and children can listen to music as well as play with the musicians. This programme helps prevent children from falling victims of crimes.

Key Stakeholders involved: police, foster homes

Criteria met:	
1. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
2. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Yes
3. Monitoring and Evaluation	Yes
4. Effectiveness	It is an initiative by local polices. Limited in scope.
5. Sustainability	It depends whether the local police support the programme or not.
6. Replicability	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The programme is limited in scope, however, it would be easy to introduce in other locations. As in the case of the school prevention programme, it would be more effective if the police cooperated with other relevant stakeholders.

- **Prevention programme for Romani women by civil organisations**

An NGO for disadvantaged and Romani people (Igazgyöngy, Pécs) organises mothers' club around the themes of "security, love and money". Their aim is to give self-esteem and confidence to women and prevent violence. This programme is a good prevention activity against trafficking. These women live in vulnerable communities where prostitution of young women as well as children is a very common phenomenon. There is very little institutional assistance available for these vulnerable women.

Key Stakeholders involved: Roma NGO, Romani women

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Effectiveness	It is limited in scope and it addresses human trafficking only indirectly.
5. Sustainability	Given that it is run by an NGO based on project-financing, the sustainability is not ensured.
6. Replicability	Yes
7. Community Involvement	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: In most cases Romani organisations are not very active in participating in anti-trafficking activities. This is mainly due to their fear of stigmatisation. Such prevention

programmes, however, could be a good access point to the communities without the risk of stigmatisation. The programme does not directly address prostitution and trafficking, therefore, it fits well the “do no harm” principle. However, it is also its weakness as human trafficking is only indirectly targeted. The programme could still be a good example to follow for NGOs dealing with vulnerable women.

- **Prevention programme for segregated communities by civil organisations**

In a segregated urban settlement, where a huge number of women and girls are being trafficked for prostitution, a civil organisation is organising activities for children. Their aim is to show alternative ways of life for youngsters. It includes both boys and girls as prostitution is seen as a “normal way of life” – for girls as prostitutes, for boys as pimps. The same organisation invites a gynaecologist to the settlement so that women could have their medical check-ups. They also accompany women to the town centre for visiting the gynaecologist. Women would be afraid to go there alone, mostly because they would be treated badly by other patients or even the medical staff.

Key Stakeholders involved: civil organisation providing social services for children and adults in segregated community, community members

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. “Do no harm” principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Yes
5. Monitoring and Evaluation	Yes
6. Sustainability	The programmes are project based and depend on the actual funding available at a given time.
7. Replicability	Yes
8. Community Involvement	Only part of the community can be reached through the programme.

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The civil organisation complains that the services they provide cannot prevent children from seeing prostitution as a preferable future career. They claim that there should be effective intervention by the police to persecute traffickers who are active in the community. Now, any social service and prevention programmes remain ineffective.

- **Prevention programmes by church**

The Baptist Aid, which is one of the organisations providing assistance for victims of trafficking, visits foster homes and family welfare offices and

gives presentations on prevention of human trafficking to both potential victims (vulnerable children) and institutions which are responsible for identification and assistance.

Key Stakeholders involved: the Baptist church, foster homes, family welfare offices

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Yes
5. Monitoring and Evaluation	Yes
6. Effectiveness	It is limited in time and scope.
7. Sustainability	The programmes are project based and depend on the actual funding available at a given time.
8. Replicability	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The scope of the programme is rather limited. However, the Baptist Aid has a lot of experiences with human trafficking, more than any other organisation which provide prevention programmes. A cooperation of organisations and institutions in prevention programmes could bring more results in terms of effectiveness.

5. ITALY

Area of good practice: Interim care and protection

Article 13 of Law 228/2003 provides a special support programme that guarantees, as a transitional step, suitable accommodation, meals, healthcare and legal assistance to presumed or identified victims of trafficking.

Victims and presumed victims, whether they are of age or not, can benefit from this programme for three months, with a possible extension to six. The individuals who are protected in Art. 13 programmes are informally granted a “reflection period”, although it is not explicitly envisaged by the national system.

The projects under Art. 13 are implemented by NGOs in co-operation with Local Authorities. The services provided are funded through an annual invitation to tender issued by the Department of Equal Opportunities (DEO). The DEO supports 80 % of the total cost, while 20 % is supported by the Local Authorities involved in the projects.

The implementing NGOs are asked to demonstrate a consolidated expertise in the field of assistance to trafficking victims and must be enrolled to a special national register. They implement their projects and provide the related services by drawing upon the network of public and private services locally supplied, on the basis of a multidisciplinary and integrated approach. Although the implementation of the projects under Art. 13 is influenced by the different level of co-operation of the local stakeholders, they are in duty bound to guarantee a standard set of services to victims. On the contrary, they risk not to be selected for the co-funding by DEO.

The fundamental services are adequate shelter facilities for safe housing, assistance to victims, helping them to become aware of their condition, delivery of quick response social and healthcare services, agreements with NGOs involved in long term assistance and social integration programmes for the victims of trafficking (under Art. 18 d.lgs. 286/98) and with Local Authorities' social services.

The key element of this integrated system consists of paying the greatest attention (by funding and coordinating a special programme) on the delicate *preliminary contact phase* with the presumed victim of trafficking and on the *first assistance*. This phase may in fact be the turning point of the personal experience of a victim of trafficking, especially if he/she is a child and accordingly more fragile. In case he/she is adequately comforted and supported, he/she may decide to turn over a new leaf, accept to be protected by institutions and leave behind his/her individual condition of exploitation.

In the period 2006 – 2014 more than 260 children, presumed or identified victims of trafficking were sheltered and assisted through a project under Art. 13 and, presumably, they kept to be assisted through an assistance and integration project under Art. 18 or have entered into other protection services for children.

Key stakeholders involved: The Department of Equal Opportunities, the NGOs that are responsible for the implementation of the local projects, the Local Authorities (Regions, Provinces, Municipalities), the Local networks.

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	<p>In Italy any action referring to children must make reference to Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It establishes the principle whereby any intervention must in all cases be in the best interest of the child.</p> <p>In Italy children are granted protection as such, irrespective of he/she has been identified as a victim of trafficking. A central aspect is the fact that children <i>cannot be expelled or detained in temporary stay</i>.</p> <p>In consideration of the position of greater vulnerability that exists in the case where the child is recognised as being a (presumed or identified) victim of trafficking, specific protective measures are adopted, guaranteed through inclusion in specific projects pursuant to Articles 13 L. 228/2003 and 18 d.lgs. 286/98.</p> <p>As it is internationally recognised, the human/child rights based approach shapes the Italian system of <i>emergence-preliminary assistance-inclusion</i> of victims of trafficking as a whole. This system promotes also the autonomy of the victims of trafficking and exploitation.</p> <p>Children who are recognised as victims of trafficking can obtain a residence permit since they are not of age (residence permit “<i>per minore età</i>”) or for social protection (under Art. 18 d.lgs. 286/98) <i>without the obligation of filing a complaint with the authorities</i> (the same is for adults), and they are included in assistance and social inclusion paths aimed at accompanying them to autonomy.</p>
2. “Do no harm” principle – impact assessment	<p>From the first interview to the service provision, social workers do all their best to approach children in a sensible way, trying not to further traumatise them.</p> <p>When a child is stopped by law enforcement personnel or street units or in any case emerges as a potential victim of trafficking, the first interview takes place in the presence of a linguistic and cultural mediator; it is generally law enforcement personnel who ask the managers of local projects to provide this type of professional support.</p>

Criteria met:	
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	<p>In some cases the project operators, along with the linguistic mediator, are given the opportunity to conduct the initial interview alone with the child before he or she is interviewed by law enforcement personnel, so as to make the experience of telling his or her story less traumatic.</p> <p>After being referred to first reception centres and given food and drinks and, where necessary, urgent medical assistance, in-depth interviews gathering information on the story of the victim are carried out, assessing the willingness to receive assistance and informing of measures of protection available.</p> <p>In those cases where children are not placed in specialised facilities for victims of trafficking, that ensure an elevated level of protection, precautions are taken in terms of safety for the young person and protection from a reality that may recur.</p> <p>For each option, the aim is to provide <i>the best possible support with the least possible damage</i>, taking into account the ethnic and religious persuasion of the facility at the time when the child is admitted. For each individual case, the best solution is therefore sought and adopted.</p>
3. Gender Sensitivity	<p>The projects pursuant to Art. 13, as stated also in the annual invitation to tender of the Department of Equal Opportunities, respect the non-discrimination principle and are open to victims and potential victims "irrespective of their age, nationality, gender and type of exploitation suffered".</p> <p>Although the greatest part of the victims who access these services are female, some local services are specialised in assisting male victims providing measures and initiatives which meet their specific needs.</p>

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The main requirements for the replicability of the assistance programmes pursuant to Art. 13 in another context are availability of public funds to be deployed for enacting such projects and existence/possibility of inter-institutional networks of private public bodies co-operating in the provision of services. The sustainability and the success of this kind of projects in Italy are based in fact on their multidisciplinary and integrated framework.

Four main *areas of improvement* can be stressed:

- The annual expiry of the projects under Article 13 does not enable wide-ranging, long-term programming of services and removes a certain amount of time that has to be spent in activities associated with preparation for the following invitation to tender. The NGOs involved have been asking long since at least for a triennial programming, which would sort out many problems for both operators and decision makers.
- The integration of project pursuant to Art. 13 with those pursuant to Art. 18 would be of great help; the division between the two

provisions can sometimes be a burden for some entities that benefit from both funds. The union of the two programmes is an innovation introduced by the Legislative Decree 04/03/2014 n.24 implementing the European “Directive 2011/36/UE”, which should actualise in the near future (likely since July 2015) the two programmes which will flow into a Single Emergence, Assistance and Social Integration Programme.

- With regard to the services provided, the capacity of identifying child victims of trafficking should be empowered, in order to protect them conveniently. At present, the procedures followed on identification and support of child victims may vary considerably throughout the national territory.
- Italy lacks shelters which are specific for child victims of trafficking. However, usually children are included in the local projects having a greater expertise with this target group.

6. ROMANIA

1. **Area** of good practice: One national agency coordinating the efforts to fight trafficking in human beings

On May 2006 through the Government Decision No. 1584/2005 of 8 December 2005 the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (NATP) was set up. It was created with the intention to act as a specialised public administration body with legal personality and replaced the former National Office on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons. Its responsibilities were extended to cover other fields of action against trafficking in addition to prevention and monitoring of assistance provided to victims. The NATP is functioning under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The present state agency (NATP) has the following responsibilities: co-ordinate, evaluate and oversee national policies in the field of combating trafficking and the measures taken for the protection of and assistance to victims.

The Agency has the task to draft the national strategies in the field and coordinates their implementation by public institutions and NGOs. The NATP developed the National Integrated System to Monitor and Assess Trafficking in Persons (SIMEV) that became fully operational in January 2007. With this help NATP collects, processes and analyses data by managing the national integrated system to monitor and assess trafficking in human beings. NATP also monitor the functioning of the National Identification and Referral Mechanism (NIRM) and acts as the national contact point for international organisations working in the field of action against trafficking. During the years NATP took part in quite a number of visits focused on exchanging experiences of fighting trafficking in human beings with institutions with similar focus especially ones from Europe.

Key stakeholders involved: the national government, the national and regional NATP centres, and all the others state institutions mentioned above. In the process of defining the indicators also some NGOs were involved.

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Monitoring and Evaluation	There are certain indicators, but they are not covering the quality and effectiveness of assistance, not output and outcome indicators. Independent researchers could not come with an independent analysis (due to the way data is presented).

Criteria met:	
5. Effectiveness	Yes
6. Sustainability	Yes
7. Replicability	Yes

2. **Area** of good practice: Database about the identified victims of THB

The National Agency against Trafficking in Person (NATP) is using during the interviews with victims of THB a template derived from the list with 70 indicators about THB from the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The working group that produced the list of indicators for the development of NRM included also NGOs. The staffs working at the regional centres of NATP and the ones in shelters run by NGOs are using the template, being very well acquaintance with the list of indicators prepared for the NRM. The same list with 70 indicators is used by NATP during the trainings organised for police force. The list was used in the design on of database of NATP.

The National Integrated System to Monitor and Assess Trafficking in Persons (SIMEV) became fully operational in 2007. SIMEV is used as the main tool to monitor the assistance provided to victims of trafficking, understand the scale and trends of trafficking in human beings in and from Romania, and disseminate data to all interested institutions and designing new anti-traffic strategies. The database aimed is to gain better knowledge of the dimensions and evolution of THB, being also a tool of monitoring the assistance provided to victims of THB.

The database has approximately 100 indicators (personal data, social and economic background, recruitment and transportation, forms of exploitation, period of assistance and trial participation). SIMEV can be accessed only by permitted user within NATP, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination Office, NATP Regional Centres, as well as to certain users within the Offices to Combat Organised Crime and within the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Border Police. The system collects data also from NGOs, Directorate for Child Protection (General Directorate for Child Social Assistance and Protection – GDCSAP), and County School Inspectorate. NATP has put in place a number of measures for data protection and security. Statistical data is accessible only for specific indicators and for subordinate structures in the database.

NATP makes public the data from SIMEV in the following format: statistical analysis of the number of identified victims of trafficking in human beings, twice a year; annual report with statistical analysis of the number of identified victims of trafficking in human beings.

Key stakeholders involved: the national government, the national and regional NATP centres, and all the others state institutions mentioned above. In the process of defining the indicators also some NGOs were involved.

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Effectiveness	Yes
5. Sustainability	Yes
6. Replicability	Yes

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: The list of trafficking in human beings indicators is general and lacks "specific sub-groups for the purposes of exploitation or for child victims of trafficking in human beings" (Pawletta A., 2012: 29), nor their ethnic background. Romania has the legal framework that allows the collection of disaggregated data by ethnicity, but the institutions responsible refuse the collection in the case of THB providing no public explanation with legal arguments.

3. **Area** of good practice: Reports about the situation of identified victims of THB

The NATP developed the National Integrated System to Monitor and Assess Trafficking in Persons (SIMEV) that became fully operational in January 2007. With this help NATP collects, processes and analyses data by managing the national integrated system to monitor and assess THB. NATP also monitors the functioning of the National Identification and Referral Mechanism (NIRM) and acts as the national contact point for international organisations working in the field of action against trafficking.

Since 2007 NATP is publishing twice a year analysis of data concerning the identified victims of trafficking in human beings – the mid-term reports present mainly data, without much analysis, but the annual reports (especially those from 2009, 2010) present interpretation of data, discuss the mechanism of recruitment, profiles of victims and discuss types of exploitations. The same data was used to produce other reports on specific topics: trafficking of women, trafficking of minors, the recruiting process affecting the minors, as victims of trafficking in human beings, trafficking for labour, trafficking for begging.

Key stakeholders involved: NATP

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Effectiveness	Yes
5. Replicability	Yes

4. **Area** of good practice: Co-operation of law enforcement, in particular cross-border cooperation concerning the identification of THB

The most effective and efficient cross-border cooperation of law enforcement in Romania is presented in Tandarei case¹ – the identification and investigation of a criminal network of Romanian citizens that recruited minors from poor families (Roma and non-Roma alike). The cooperation started out of necessity – the UK police discovered and arrested several minors for petty thefts registering them as “low social danger criminal offenders”, without considering the possibility that those minors were the victims of trafficking. Later, they went and found out about the criminal network that led them to Tandarei, Romania. After preliminary investigations the Romania's Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) exchanged information with the UK police and they signed an agreement in 2008 and set up a Joint Investigation Team. Europol was involved in the investigation. In April 2010 the investigation unit, with the search warrants issued by the Bucharest Criminal Court participated in the execution of searching warrants.

More recent law enforcement co-operation is the “Arhimede” operation conducted by Europol. During the operation 1,027 persons were arrested and accused of THB and illegal drugs. The police confiscated huge amounts of drugs and saved 30 Romanian children that other would have been sent to foreign countries to be exploited by forced begging or forced labour. “Arhimede” operation focused on 9 areas of crimes enlisted in European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats with the aim at destructing organised crimes and their infrastructure across Europe. The operation consisted in at least 300 individual actions in airports, borders and ports across Europe, but also Australia, and Columbia. The police operation was not focused on human trafficking, but targeted many other criminal activities (drug trafficking, counterfeit drugs, prostitution, slavery). Nothing related to this case is present on the website of the NATP.

Key stakeholders involved: Romanian and other international state authorities

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. “Do no harm” principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Effectiveness	Yes

¹ A large and well organised criminal network involved in trafficking of children in Western countries with the purpose of exploiting them for begging and pick pocketing

5. **Area** of good practice: Community based organisation in prevention of trafficking in minors

The identification of a local organisation involved on purpose in preventing the trafficking in minors in Romania is considered a challenge. There are NGOs involved in providing children from poor neighbourhoods with certain supervised activities (after-school programmes, sports, different games, etc.) in order to protect them from bad influences around them (drug dealers and drug users, prostitutions, trafficking in human beings). According to experts from Soros Foundation Romania little or nothing is done with the clear purpose of preventing the children of becoming victims of trafficking in human beings.

Certain NGOs and NATP are involved in information campaigns in preventing the trafficking in human beings, but it is not clear what their impact is in reducing the phenomenon.

A small NGO dedicated to prevent trafficking in human beings organised its first event in November 2012 in Bucharest and delivered its first digital campaign in January 2013, being officially registered on April 2013. In the summer of 2014 the NGO moved to a not so wealthy neighbourhood in Bucharest and opened up their doors to children from the neighbouring streets. The staff's objective was to organise an after-school, especially for children from poor families that are more often unsupervised by their parents who are at work. In Romania it is difficult to organise a legally recognised after-school (the bureaucratic process takes a lot of time and efforts), so as a first step they decided to use the space that will be used for after-school as a place with few video games, Ping-Pong, etc. Apart from these playful activities they provided children with certain activities with the aim to help children in their social life while providing them with information about trafficking in human beings.

Another initiative of the NGO is offering specialised training on fighting trafficking in human beings. The NGO activities are financed with the help of a non-profit design agency through which they provide web-designs for CSR campaigns, social projects & NGOs.

Key stakeholders involved: NGOs

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Yes
5. Monitoring and Evaluation	Yes
6. Effectiveness	Too soon to evaluate.

Criteria met:	
7. Sustainability	Too soon to evaluate.
8. Replicability	Too soon to evaluate.
9. Community Involvement	Yes

6. **Area** of good practice: The specific referral procedures for minors, victim of THB

When a child victim is identified, irrespective of his/her country of origin, the representative of the General Directorate for Child Social Assistance and Protection (GDCSAP) shall be notified to take special measures for his/her protection according to the National Identification and Referral Mechanism (Order 335/2007). The GDCSAP from the child's home county has to carry out a risk assessment upon request from the Directorate of Child Protection functioning under the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly. The assessment aims to check the family situation of the minor, victim of THB and the possibility of returning the minor to his/her family or a relative. If this is not possible (the family is not found, they do not want to take the child back, they are under suspicion of having been involved in the traffic etc.) the child is placed in a state shelter for children or with a foster family. The assessment can be done before the return of the minor in Romania, but if the child is returned before the assessment, he/she will be placed in a shelter until the assessment is complete.

Key stakeholders involved: the state authorities and some NGOs

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Effectiveness	Without a good mechanism of monitoring and evaluation it is difficult to estimate the effectiveness of this measure.
5. Sustainability	Yes
6. Replicability	Yes

7. **Area** of good practice: Involvement of non-state actors in formal identification of victims of THB

In Romania there are specialised NGOs working on the issue of THB. Some of them are involved in anti-trafficking campaigns and prevention, but some are more involved in providing services to victims of THB. Their knowledge and expertise, but also their participation during the establishment of the list of indicators about THB for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), but also in drafting the anti-

trafficking strategy, makes them invaluable partners for the formal identification of victims of THV.

The NGOs providing services to victims of THB have the duty to inform the national anti-traffic agency (NATP) if they discover a victim of THB or if a victim of THB was referred to them directly by another NGO (Romanian or from another country). The entire process is regulated according to the Governmental Resolution 1238/2007 that acknowledge the role of NGOs in providing services to victims of THB. In Romania, NGOs play a key role in the prevention, the protection and assistance to victims of THB. Romanian authorities rely on the services provided by NGOs (victim assistance), but they are offering no funding/grants.

Key stakeholders involved: NGOs

Criteria met:	
1. Rights based approach	Yes
2. "Do no harm" principle – impact assessment	Yes
3. Gender Sensitivity	Yes
4. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Yes
5. Effectiveness	Yes
6. Sustainability	Difficult to assess because the NGOs involved in preventing the THB and offering services to victims of THB don't receive any financial support from the Romanian authorities.
7. Replicability	Yes
8. Community Involvement	Yes

7. SLOVAKIA

Available data in Slovakia show very low numbers of identified victims, especially of children – in recent years ranging only between one and two cases. Ambiguities in legislation and the lack of child-specific action plans or child-specific support programmes may contribute to this situation. In Slovakia, there is currently no formalised best interest determination process, which directly involves the trafficked child concerned (being a national or a foreign child), for the identification of appropriate interim care and of durable solutions. A formalised mechanism in respect of children still needs to be set up. Moreover, the current number of identified child victim does not allow for a proper assessment of the long-term solutions or reintegration and Slovakia has not had any experience.

Thus, having in mind this context a few measures in the field of identification and protection are provided, as they have potential for successful replication.

1. Area of good practice: Identification/Interim care and protection/ Individual case assessment

The “Programme against trafficking in human beings” has been mainly set up as prevention programme for children from foster homes, who belong to the most vulnerable group. Furthermore, the programme aims to create a space for the identification of potential victims, as well evaluate programme activities and their impact on the children. It focuses on educating children from foster homes about the human trafficking phenomenon in order to increase their awareness about the risks of human trafficking.

The programme consists of discussions with different community stakeholders, such as psychologists, police, social workers, and NGO workers, who discuss human trafficking with the children in their foster homes. In the discussions they put emphasis on a trusting and open atmosphere, in which the children ask questions and the stakeholders provide them with answers. At the same time the stakeholders can identify if there is any potential victim among the children.

The programme also focuses on independent activities of the children based on their acquired knowledge. For example notice boards are prepared on the subject of human trafficking or they present human trafficking stories to their younger peers in the foster home.

Material used for these activities is provided by the foster care staff through cooperation with other community stakeholders who have absolved training on human trafficking organised by organisation IOM or Slovak Ministry of Interior.

Based on our interviews with the foster care personal, the programme is an independent authentic initiative of several assistants in the home, who wanted to react to the increasing cases of children who leave their homes. They have provided the activity on a voluntary basis for several years and have achieved successful results.

Based on their own evaluation of the programme, the foster home children stated that after TV they received most of the information about human trafficking from the foster home. Some children admitted to personal experience with human trafficking during the interviews.

At the same time the programme has improved due to its cooperation with other community stakeholders. They share their experiences in victim identification. When there is a potential victim, they can contact organisations that provide assistance. More specifically, the local child custody stays in contact with the foster home and can intervene when there is a problematic case.

The main objective of the programme is to provide the children with prevention, assistance, and build up cooperation between community stakeholders, especially those who work in social services. Cooperation between different authorities in the community is necessary to identify the child victims of human trafficking. Identification is the most important step, which still has to be improved in Slovakia.

Such programme could be replicated in any foster home in Slovakia as well as abroad. This could offer systematical support for the foster care workers. Available promotion and funding of trainings in other foster homes as well as the implementation of the programme would help the replicability and sustainability of the programme.

Key stakeholders involved: Forster home Lienka, Vel'ké Kapušany, Slovakia

Criteria met:	
1. Gender Sensitivity	The programme empowers girls as well boys and explains the specific conditions for the boys and the girls who experience trafficking. The programme works with both groups and articulates their needs and rights.
2. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	Children are included into the programme activities. They are asked about their needs, experiences and opinions. The stakeholders consult with children regarding an appropriate commitment. The outcomes of the discussions with the children can be forwarded to the decision-makers in the community, especially those in the social service sector.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation	The evaluation of the impact of the programme can be seen as a good example of evaluation at a local level. The assistants determine the indicators and measure the quality of the foster care programme. The indicators include information from the children about the human trafficking mechanism, the assistance organisations, prevention mechanism, and their own experiences. This aids in the prevention as well as the identification of the child victims.

Criteria met:	
4. Replicability	<p>The programme is a result of the great demand for foster care workers. Through the documentation of the programme, its evaluation, results, and adaptability, the programme is replicable in other foster homes. Moreover, the open and supporting attitude from the foster care functions as a positive feature that is important for its transfer.</p> <p>To successfully spread the programme the foster home authorities should support their employees by providing them with time, place and finance for the programme. Furthermore, the national political will is important. The national authorities should recognise the programme as significant and provide sufficient financial and structural resources.</p>
5. Community Involvement	<p>The community authorities providing social assistance are involved in the programme through discussions and presentations in the foster homes, which ensures necessary contact with the vulnerable children. It brings the different local social providers together. This allows them to react and identify the national social assistance provider in human trafficking cases.</p>

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: Financial and personal sustainability of the programme is a major issue, due to a lack of financial as well as personal resources. Systematic implementation of the project is lacking and continues to be a challenge at present and in the future. The effectiveness of the programme is limited, because the programme only reaches children in the foster home "Lienka".

2. Area of good practice: Interim care and protection/Individual case assessment/Appointment of a guardian for each trafficked child

In particular, care-takers of the NGO opted a very child-sensitive approach *vis-a-vis* their minor client and every step was carefully planned, assessed and practice was reviewed. As for the girl cared for by the NGO, she required targeted crisis intervention for sexually abused children in a specialised institution, far away from the place of her residence (family involved in exploitation). The girl was illiterate at the age of 14. Her psychological health and her educational needs were particularly taken into consideration, as her physical health was satisfactory. She was not enrolled in a primary school in order to avoid re-victimisation (she was 14 years of age and could not be enrolled in the 1st elementary class with younger children). She received education within the NGO, which was provided by a qualified primary school teacher. She received intensive psychotherapy in order to mitigate her behavioural problems such as sexualised behaviour, aggressiveness, and depression. The availability and provision of psychological assistance and tailor-made education by a personal teacher is to be regarded as good practise in ensuring her successful reintegration. A special individual education plan was adopted and she was educated by a single teacher in order to reach the level of education appropriate for her age. More should have been done by the NGO/her guardian to suggest to the Court that her subsequent placement in another Children's Home after reaching the age of 18 should have been done in line with her particular vulnerabilities. Again,

this was a consequence of a lack of professional legal advice. Despite the fact that the Court decided to move the girl from the NGO to the Children Home in another town in the region, where her care arrangements were not based on the same approach as in the NGO and which later resulted briefly in behavioural and emotional deterioration, the care and the feelings of trust which she developed within the NGO served her well in her future life, as the girl is still in continuous contact with the NGO and knows that she will always find support there. Indeed recently the foster home helped her to obtain a copy of her birth certificate which she needed for her new job. She currently lives in the Czech Republic, has finished her vocational training as a beautician, and has a boyfriend.

Key stakeholders involved: NGO; one girl, illiterate, 14 years, in need of psychological assistance

Criteria met:	
1. “Do no harm” principle – impact assessment	Care-takers of the NGO opted a very child-sensitive approach <i>vis-a-vis</i> their minor client and every step was carefully planned, assessed and practice was reviewed. Her psychological health and her educational needs were particularly taken into consideration.
2. Child Participatory Approach and Stakeholder involvement	The child was asked for her opinion several times during the assistance. The NGO authorities asked her very carefully for her opinion and feelings on a daily basis, to found out what her experiences have been and whether an investigation method that was being planned seemed appropriate and relevant to her. The fact that the child is still in contact with the organisation at the moment is the sign of open participatory approach on the side of NGO.
3. Replicability	As the practice was partly documented, there is a possibility of replicability of the NGO assistance steps to another social authority. Also, the sensitive approach from NGO can be seen as a positive feature and is very important for transfer.

Potential for improvement (gaps) and replicability: One of the major problems reported by the staff of the NGO related to the interim care arrangements of the child, and in particular the appointment of a temporary guardian (who was the UPSVAR² in the town 400 km from the place where the NGO is located), since the child originated from that area and had her permanent residence there. Indeed, the courts usually appoint the UPSVAR as a temporary guardian as stated above, and not an individual social worker employed at UPSVAR. The procedure should rather be that a social worker, preferably from an NGO where the child is being cared for, or from an UPSVAR in the area where the NGO/Children’s Home that assists the child is located, is appointed as a temporary guardian by the court. With respect to the described case, a person authorised to carry out acts of guardianship is generally the only one to decide what is in the best interests of the child, without actually being directly involved in the care of the child, and hence it is

² Ministry of Labour, Social affairs and Family Slovakia.

not possible for him/her to follow and respect the best interests of the child in all actions involving the child. Moreover, a large concentration of power lay in his/her hands with regard to any decisions relating to the child and in the absence of a system of quality monitoring. There were cases, when during the court hearing, a social worker (a UPSVAR staff member assigned to the case) could not be present and was substituted by another UPSVAR staff member, who did not even know the details of the case and had not had the possibility to even speak to the child beforehand. There is a substantial concentration of power in the hands of UPSVARs staff who are designated by UPSVARs (UPSVARs are appointed by the courts as temporary guardians) to act in cases involving unaccompanied children (and other children). Such a staff member, who acts as a *de facto* temporary guardian, has mandate over any decision concerning the child, such as schooling, medical care, legal representation, asylum claim, family reunification, etc. The system of monitoring and supervision is non-existent. Therefore, the appointment of legal guardians to date, in cases involving Slovak child victims of THB, cannot be regarded as examples of good practice. Another area of concern was the lack of legal assistance afforded to the child victim, the importance of which was underestimated by the NGO, and thus the child did not benefit from such assistance during the pre-trial or trial proceedings. The NGO, as already mentioned, should have paid greater attention to the legal aspects of her case, both criminal and civil, as well as her protection needs during the pre-trial and trial proceedings. During the main hearing for example, the offender charged with THB sat right behind her and his lawyer made her go through a lot of unpleasant questions. The social worker (guardian) was present, but the girl did not have a legal representative. This aspect must be improved in the future, mainly through cooperation with NGOs providing legal assistance, as admitted by the NGO staff themselves.

