European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)
Annex I – new version 2014

Please complete the template in English in compliance with the ECPA criteria contained in the RoP (Par.2 §3).

The project's senior partner is based in Berlin, Germany and its junior partner is based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, but it works with other European countries as well.

General information
  1. Please specify your country.
     Germany

  2. Is this your country's ECPA entry or an additional project?
     It is an additional project.

3. What is the title of the project?

datACT- data protection in anti-trafficking action

4. Who is responsible for the project? Contact details.

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5. Start date of the project (dd/mm/yyyy)? Is the project still running (Yes/No)? If not, please provide the end date of the project.

Start of the project: 01/11/2012. It is still running.

6. Where can we find more information about the project? Please provide links to the project's website or online reports or publications (preferably in English).

www.datact-project.org

7. Please give a **one page** description of the project (**Max. 600 words)**

KOK e.V.-German NGO network against trafficking in human beings - launched together with La Strada International – European NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings, 'datACT - data protection in anti-trafficking action' - a joint project on data protection in anti-trafficking responses. The aim of datACT is to promote the rights of trafficked persons to privacy and autonomy and to protect their personal data. The timeframe of datACT is from November 2012 to October 2014.

datACT raises awareness and builds capacity among NGO counseling centers in selected European countries to protect the confidentiality between the counselor and trafficked persons and to assist them in providing safe and anonymized data to European data collection procedures. Further, it seeks to inform trafficked persons about control procedures to secure their personal data.

The project creates alliances for data protection among the relevant stakeholders, including NGO counseling centers, National Rapporteur Mechanisms or equivalent structures, IGOs and national data protection authorities.

In 2011, the Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA was adopted. Among other

measures, it requires from EU Member States (MS) the establishment of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms. They should both monitor trends in human trafficking and measure results on anti-trafficking action, including collecting statistics in close cooperation with civil society (Article 19). There are currently different types of data collection on human trafficking and evaluation initiatives in Europe, including different cooperation models between governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Therefore, the nature of cooperation between data collecting authorities and civil society actors needs to be firmly defined with a clear delineation of responsibilities and mandates for each respective stakeholder. The cooperation model should guarantee the obligation to confidentiality of the counsellor as well as the task of the collecting authority to access anonymous, standardised and international comparable data.

In addition, 'The EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016' (COM (2012)286 final) requires the establishment of an EU model for a Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM) by 2015. The concept of TRMs is based on a formalised identity status of trafficked persons and the cross-border referral of their respective personal data to the relevant authorities of the countries of origin.

datACT seeks to critically analyse these procedures against European data protection standards in order to strengthen the rights of trafficked persons as data subjects. It strongly believes that trafficked persons are autonomous human beings and not powerless persons whose personal data have to be identified, registered and stored. Trafficked persons share the same rights to privacy as any other citizen and bearer of human rights.

The project seeks to turn the 'victim-centered approach' of current anti-trafficking interventions into an 'agency-centered approach' that would allow trafficked persons to have low threshold and anonymous access to support and protection structures without going through official screening and formal identification procedures.

It supports the creation of an environment of anonymous counselling and alternative options in which trafficked persons can truly make informed decisions and can act upon available choices.

I. The project shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme.

8. How does the project contribute to crime prevention and/or to the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? (**Max. 150 words**)

The protection of privacy and data in the digital age has become increasingly a focus of political and social debates. Particularly victims of human trafficking are being enormously challenged by surveillance and data storage practices of international stakeholders and governments. As victims of serious criminal offences, trafficked persons have suffered complex experiences, such as sexualized violence, deprivation of personal freedom, torture or forced engagement in criminal offenses, such as drug smuggling. Thus the protection of privacy and personal data has become a core activity to prevent future national and transnational crimes, such as re-trafficking. In order to be able to live a non-stigmatized, integrated and independent life formerly trafficked persons are especially in need to not be recognized as a victim by respective authorities and society.

9. How is the project contributing to raising citizens' awareness of crime prevention? (**Max. 150 words**)

Effective crime prevention needs to be carried out with a multilevel and cross-disciplinary strategy. datACT is working on different levels in order to reach out for citizens' awareness of crime prevention. It trains grass-root counselling centres for victims of trafficking in

selected European countries on secure data management and the right of trafficked persons as data subjects, it organises international meetings to promote the right to privacy for trafficked persons with multiple stakeholders, including anti-trafficking activists and data protection experts from different European countries, it opens a multi-national and cross-sectoral dialogue to discuss data protection standards for anti-trafficking counselling centres and data collection tools, that both secure privacy rights and provides with solid information on the transnational crime of human trafficking.

II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.1

1 For more information on evaluation, see Guidelines on the evaluation of crime prevention initiatives (EUCPN Toolbox No.3): http://www.eucpn.org/library/results.asp?category=32&pubdate

10.   What was the reason for setting up the project? What problem(s) did it aim to tackle?

International organisations, including the European Commission, the UNODC and the OSCE, called during the last years for more joint action on qualitative and quantitative data collection on human trafficking. While international and national stakeholder published numerous tools and guidelines on data collection, the issue of privacy rights and data protection remained marginalised. In addition, the access to protection and support structures for trafficked persons was increasingly connected to administrative treatments, including registration and approval by authorities, which is often referred to as 'victim identification'. The rights of trafficked persons as data subjects, their right to have access to their files and control over their personal data has been systematically violated. As a consequence, victims of trafficking might be hesitant to look for support and protection as they fear to be stigmatized by authorities and their communities. Thus, crimes are not reported and perpetrators remain unpunished.
NGO counselling centres in different European countries raised their concerns on these identification practices, which created the starting point of the European datACT project.

11. Was the context analysed **before** the project was initiated? How, and by whom? Which data were used? (**Max. 150 words**)

NGO partners of datACT, the German KOK e.V. and La Strada International started to collect information on data collection tools and data protection obligations through its member organisations. The KOK NGO network comprises some 40 NGO counselling centres for victims of trafficking in Germany, while the La Strada network exists of 8 members in the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Czech Republic, Poland, Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine.

12. What were the objective(s) of the project? Please, if applicable, distinguish between main and secondary objectives. (**Max. 150 words**)
The main objectives of the project are:

- Research: a research and strategy paper will be drafted providing an overview of existing data collection procedures and an assessment of gaps, challenges and areas for improvement.
- Joint standards: standards and procedures will be developed for improving data collection procedures by providing a solid basis and benchmark on securing the rights of the data subject and to test these procedures in light of the feedback of practitioners, trafficked persons and data protection experts.
- Consultations: standards will be validated through stakeholder consultation and international meetings.
- Training: a training manual will be elaborated based on the standards, to be used for the trainings to be conducted.
- Dissemination: an easy online access will be facilitated to the manual, including the standards and the training curriculum.

13. Did you build in internal goals to measure the performance of the project? If so, please describe at what stage of the project and how you measured whether the project was moving in the planned direction. (**Max. 150 words**)

The performance of the project is being measured on a regular level by both the donors and the board of KOK and La Strada International.

14. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what where the main results? (**max. 300 words) -** *for more information on process evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.9-10 & part 2 - section 2A*

An evaluation of the project will be conducted upon the finalization of its activities which is by the end of December 2014.

15. Has there been an outcome or impact evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method where used and what were the main results? (**Max. 300 words**) - *for more information on outcome or impact evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.7-9 & part 2 - section 2A*

Please refer to the previous answer.

III. The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches.

16. How is the project innovative in its methods and/or approaches? (**Max. 150 words**)

datACT is an innovative project as it looks for the first time into data protection and privacy issues of trafficked persons and creates new alliances between the anti-trafficking NGO counselling centres, data protection authorities, and privacy rights activists. datACT aims at enabling trafficked persons to live a life without stigma and surveillance by perpetrators. In addition, datACT seeks to create alternative data bases that are not jeopardizing the privacy of victims of human trafficking but provide with evidence to prevent the crime of human trafficking.

IV. The project shall be based on cooperation between partners, where possible.

18. Which partners or stakeholders were involved in the project and what was their involvement? (**Max. 200 words**)

datACT is a collaboration of the German NGO network KOK e.V. and the European NGO network La Strada International. During the implementation, datACT created new alliances with data protection organisations and initiatives, including Tactical Tech and the Forum of Computer Scientists for Peace.

V. The project shall be capable of replication in other Member States.

19. How and by whom is the project funded? (**Max. 150 words**)
The project is funded by the OAK Foundation and an anonymous donor.

20. What were the costs of the project in terms of finances, material and human resources? (**Max. 150 words**)

The total budget of the project is around 223.200 € (plus 5% Overhead = 234.300 €). Since the project is personnel-intensive (studies, trainings, conference) the costs in terms of human resources cover the most of the expenditures: 68,5 % for permanent staff (expertise, project coordination, professional assistance) including 13,5 % of the total budget for administration and accounting. Additional 15 % are spent for external

consultants and other contracted services (moderation and interpretation at the conference, translation and layout, website adoption etc.).

31,5 % of the total budget are covered by operational and material costs: 2/3 (i.e. 25.000 €) are spent for travel costs, accommodation and catering/daily allowances (international conference, workshops). The remaining12.500 € are meant for public relations (publications, conference materials) and technical support (conference technique, rental fee etc.).

21. Has a cost-benefit analysis been carried out? If so, describe the analysis, including how and by whom it was carried out and list the main findings of the analysis. (**Max. 150 words**)

Not yet, as the project is still in its implementation phase.

22. Are there adjustments to be made to the project to ensure a successful replication in another Member State?

A follow-up project, which holds the working title datACT II, has been designed in cooperation with the KOK e.V., La Strada International and the German Forum of Computer Scientists for Peace (Forum InformatikerInnen für den Frieden e.V.). The envisioned project will include more European countries and – upon request – other regions to benefit from privacy rights trainings for trafficked persons.

23. How is the project relevant for other Member States? Please explain the European dimension of your project.

datACT is designed and implemented as an European project and operates in different European countries.

Please provide a short general description of the project (abstract for inclusion in the *conference booklet – **max. 150 words***).

datACT is a joint collaboration of KOK e.V. - German NGO-network against trafficking in human beings - and La Strada International - European network against trafficking in human beings. It aims at strengthening data protection in anti-trafficking responses.

datACT engages in research, training and public debates to promote the rights of trafficked persons to privacy, autonomy and protection of their personal data. The project seeks to encourage governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to establish low-threshold and anonymous counselling opportunities for victims of trafficking.