

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).

General information

1. Please specify your country.

Denmark

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

ECPA entry DENMARK

3. What is the title of the project?

HopeNow – Empowering trafficked people

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

Anne Brandt Christensen, Advokat & Chair; +45 2022 5598 ; abc@hopenow.dk

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.

HopeNow was founded in 2007, and the project continues to run.

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).

Our website : www.hopenow.dk www.hopenow.eu

HopeNow has since the projects start in 2007 developed from the ground of being very basic to being appointed by the Danish State as a non-governmental cooperation partner under the Danish National Action Plan to combat Human Trafficking 2011-2014 (see page 27). This has been a very big recognition of HopeNow's work and results. Please see the National Action Plan here: <http://www.centermodmenneskehandel.dk/in-english>

In 2008 HopeNow's work was featured on CNN in *Untold Stories* in the feature

Trapped about trafficking of Nigerian women, please read about and watch the feature here:

<http://edition.cnn.com/CNNI/Programs/untoldstories/blog/2008/03/trapped.html>

When the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime commissioned a training and awareness film on human trafficking, HopeNow worked together with a Danish documentary film maker who has documented much of HopeNow's work over the years which resulted in the film *Affected for Life* which can be seen here:

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/multimedia.html?vf=/documents/video/2009/Affected_for_Life_-_Long.fly

The five interviews with women used in the film are all women that HopeNow have worked with in Denmark. It was not possible under UN rules to give credit to HopeNow for participating in making the film, instead only the founder of HopeNow Michelle Mildwater is credited.

HopeNow and our work has also been featured in the documentaries *When the moon is dark* (2007) and *A life after trafficking* (2013).

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

8. Today HopeNow provides support at several levels to trafficked people in Denmark and functions as a consultant to the Danish Center against Human Trafficking. HopeNow works on many levels with the aim to provide holistic, empowering and human rights based assistance offering to trafficked people so we have direct contact as well as feed information about what we see to authorities and decision makers/politicians: No one should be able to say they did not know about the conditions of trafficked people in Denmark. We work daily and at a direct level with trafficked men and women; identifying trafficked people through outreach work in prisons, the asylum system, on the street etc.; teach and raise awareness of trafficking through lectures and events in all of Denmark. HopeNow is a project with many different activities to meet the needs of trafficked people in a truly holistic and empowering way. We provide free legal aid; free therapeutic work; provide teaching and social activities for trafficked men and women; lobby and advocacy work to ensure and strengthen the rights and protection of trafficked people's rights; provides support for rehabilitation/reintegration in country of origin or Europe; medical support and referrals; bridge building between trafficked people and Danish authorities (police, Immigration etc.). Our work is based on volunteers who work pro-actively and result oriented in a broad range of areas, which all have direct importance and relevancy for trafficked and vulnerable people, such as daily social work & care, advocacy and teaching and awareness raising. We work with both men and women exploited in forced labor, prostitution, crime, begging, drug muling and dealing, so we cover all kinds of human trafficking in our daily work. HopeNow also has what we call mini projects in different countries of origin, meaning that we support trafficked people who have been returned home by the Danish state to build a small business or get an education, to empower the individual and prevent re-trafficking. On occasion we have used this way of working in order to prevent trafficking by assisting in setting up a business such as a restaurant, which can sustain a whole family where some members may already have been trafficked, others are at risk. We aim to be creative and take care in uncovering the needs and abilities of the individual and to support at many levels – and difficult times - in the process: This is what we mean by working empowering and holistically. HopeNow is also involved in initiatives to prevent child trafficking in countries of origin in Africa on an individual and small group basis. We believe in trying new ways and methods in combatting human trafficking in all its manifestations, beginning with empowering the individual to take (back) the control in their lives and support them in their choices to ensure their basic human rights.

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**)

HopeNow meets hundreds of potentially trafficked people every year. By working in an empowering and holistic way by placing the trafficked person and his/her interests at the center of everything we do, HopeNow works to prevent the exploitation, re-trafficking and re-victimization of trafficked people. By working this way HopeNow has gained the trust of trafficked people which allows us to gather knowledge and data about new developments or trends within trafficking, which we can share with the Danish state Center against Human trafficking. Knowledge sharing between the State and an NGO is an effective way to prevent crime, re-trafficking and re-victimization, as the State gets access to information about vulnerable groups which it would not otherwise have had. In total in 2013, 76 people were identified as trafficked in Denmark, HopeNow identified 23 of these human beings.

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

On an on-going basis HopeNow has a significant number of speaking engagements about human trafficking all over Denmark; through lectures HopeNow has over the years reached more than 30.000 school children, and every year we mark the annual EU-anti-trafficking Day with a large public and free event. We ran a sponsored national awareness campaign in 2009 with adds in papers, spots on TV and in cinemas, at bus stops etc. focusing on the fact that trafficking can happen everywhere – also in Denmark. HopeNow also participates in international anti-trafficking cooperation, and this year we will focus on forced labor and how to identify situations of trafficking and exploitation in forced labor through a Europewide campaign. HopeNow always makes sure to speak of different kinds of trafficking exploitation such as forced labor, begging, crime, drugdealing to make the public aware that trafficking can manifest itself in many different and sometimes unexpected ways.

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

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

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>

HopeNow was created in response to the clear need to develop methods to identify the victims of trafficking; to develop methods to avoid re-trafficking and re-victimization and to offer assistance to trafficked people that is really based on empowerment and with a true human rights based approach, always placing the trafficked person at the center of the assistance. There was a clear need to provide assistance of many kinds to vulnerable groups, where the might be trafficked people, especially among the African women Since 2007 HopeNow's work has changed to also include working for and with trafficked men as women we have worked with over the years have begun referring other people to our services and eventually also began referring men. The project is very much built on the on trust of the target group of trafficked people which we have achieved by always providing truthful answers to their questions and supporting individuals as much as possible. More African people are now accepting and looking for assistance through HopeNow and that means that the knowledge of how they were trafficked, the root causes, their life conditions and knowledge of trafficking as a phenomenon has grown, and hence improving the response to trafficking and the identification process on many levels in Denmark.

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

The context was that prior to HopeNow starting up and developing, very few, if any, Africans were identified as trafficked and no one received or accepted any assistance in connection with trafficking. This is evidenced by the lack of data on this group collected by the Danish state. The people behind HopeNow were working within the Danish asylum/refugee system and through this direct contact and work became aware of the acute need and high risk of re-trafficking and re-victimization. So the context was not analyzed as such but we responded to the need we saw in the daily work. The Danish national Police also used the services of the founder of HopeNow in trafficking situations, so that way we were also sure that we had read the situation and needs correctly.

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

12. The objectives of HopeNow is :

13. To combat and prevent human trafficking of men, women and children

14. To through lectures; social work; information campaigns; teaching; community; national and international cooperation and activities to enhance peoples knowledge of trafficking (with special focus on vulnerable African groups) and the issues which relate to the phenomenon.

15. To fundraise means and resources for social and therapeutic work for and with trafficked people.
16. To work for and provide aid in improving the assistance given to trafficked people and their life conditions both in Denmark and in country of origin.
17. To contribute to trafficked people themselves wanting to take active part in improving their life conditions through empowerment.

It is difficult to distinguish primary and secondary objectives, as we aim to provide holistic and human rights based assistance to trafficked people, by a combination of direct work and advocacy work to inform authorities and decision makers of the life conditions of trafficked people.

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**)

HopeNow tries to reach out as many people as possible every year and to be as accessible as possible, 24 hours a day all year round. We believe that the fact that people from our target group of vulnerable and trafficked people seek out our services on their own accord is a good measure of performance of the project. However, HopeNow does not see the sheer numbers of people reached as a measurement which can stand alone, so we also on an on-going basis focus on the quality of the services provided and the complexity of a person's individual situation. Another way to measure is when a shift or change happens in the Danish system, when we manage to lobby for change which protects and reinforces the rights and protections of trafficked people.

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

Since HopeNow started in 2007 we have reached more than 2,000 vulnerable and trafficked people. In 2013 HopeNow met 366 people from our target group on the streets, mainly women, all from different countries in Africa. HopeNow has in 2013 met more than 30 men and women in custody or prison, and more than 50 men and women in the Danish asylum/refugee system. The contact can be once or on an ongoing basis through a period of months, in which case the work often is intensified and tailored to the individual. In 2013 HopeNow sent in 26 identification forms to CmM: 4 for men and 22 for women. Out of the

26, 23 have later been officially identified as trafficked by the Immigration authorities (3 men and 20 women), 2 deemed not to be trafficked (one man one woman) and one woman did not want her case decided. In total in 2013, 76 people were identified in Denmark as trafficked.

Annually, HopeNow reports to the Danish Center against Human trafficking on:

- The extent of human trafficking in Denmark as registered by HopeNow
- Number of people met who could potentially be trafficked
- Number of people who HopeNow identifies as trafficked
- The background of the victims of trafficking
- Types of exploitation/criminality
- Types of assistance provided
- Case work
- Trends within the area of trafficking

Through this reporting there is an internal evaluation of processes and results.

15. Has there been an outcome or impact evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method were 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 section 13 and 14 in terms of the impact of HopeNow.

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**)

HopeNow has a holistic approach to working for and with trafficked/ vulnerable people. Working directly with vulnerable and trafficked people enables us to spot trends, social & cultural contexts which we have come to realize are important in order to understand & identify trafficking and how the phenomenon develops over time. Trafficking and the exploitation that follows keeps evolving. We adjust our ways of working to the current situation at any time, catering to the needs of the individual as much as possible. Our way of working places emphasis on cultural understanding & context using social work, therapeutic measures, theatre, social activities, conversation, sports and more to empower the individual. Seeing trafficked people as whole people rather than powerless victims enables the creation of a genuine connection and the development of methods and ways of identification of trafficked people, which is one of the more difficult elements of the phenomenon.

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**)

HopeNow is an independent NGO, and we cooperate with other stakeholders within anti-trafficking, especially the Danish Red Cross, R.I. and ProVest, but also with Danish immigration authorities and police. HopeNow has been appointed by the Danish State as a non-governmental cooperation partner under the Danish National Action Plan to combat Human Trafficking 2011-2014 (see page 27). This has been a very big recognition of HopeNow's work and results. HopeNow cooperates and consults for the Danish Center against Human trafficking which is the government's coordinating anti-trafficking unit.

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 has been funded in part by government grants which are project specific and part in private and corporate donations & funding, income from HopeNow's public speaking and memberships of the organization.

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

Government funding is used for two full time social workers and two part time student employees; the majority of activities and support for the target group of trafficked people are funded by private donations as many of the people HopeNow work with are undocumented migrants, activities or support in country of origin which government funding does not support. In addition we use private funding to maintain and develop the organization, as support for that is not provided by government. The annual costs of running the project in its current form is approximately DKK 1,000.000 or EUR 140.000, which is part government and part private & corporate funding. HopeNow reaches around 300 people annually, providing in depth services and assistance to around 75-100 trafficked people annually. It is only possible to keep the costs low as HopeNow uses unpaid volunteers to support the activities and donations from private and corporate sources.

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**)

No cost-benefit analysis has been carried out, but as we use many volunteers

to support the activities the low costs of the project compared to the reach/impact is very efficient.

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

It will be important that the replication of the project has a good balance between being independent as an NGO but with close cooperative ties to the state authorities. Much of the strength of the project is that HopeNow is independent and hence has the possibilities to work in ways directly with trafficked people which the state and state authorities may not be able to.

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

At a European level there are trends in terms of the groups we see trafficked into and through Europe. The approach of bridge building between trafficked people and authorities is successfully being used nationally, and could be copied to other Member States, and even between Member States in order to identify trafficked people and to provide services and protection which empower the individual. People are being trafficked and exploited and moved throughout Europe - Human trafficking is not only a European problem, but a global phenomenon which keeps evolving and where Member States need to cooperate, not only together state to state but also with the exploited groups to provide a sensible response to trafficking and to combat human trafficking in all its ever evolving forms. The involvement of civil society is needed in Europe to combat human trafficking and to provide a sensible response to the assistance needs of the victims in order to avoid re-victimization and re-trafficking.

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

HopeNow works with the aim to provide holistic, empowering and human rights based assistance to trafficked people. We work daily and at a direct level with trafficked men and women; identifying trafficked people through outreach work in prisons, the asylum system, on the street etc.; teach and raise awareness of trafficking through lectures and events in all of Denmark; provide free legal aid; free therapeutic work; provide teaching and social activities for trafficked men and women; lobby and advocacy work to ensure and strengthen the rights and protection of trafficked people's rights; provides support for

rehabilitation/reintegration in country of origin or Europe; medical support and referrals; bridge building between trafficked people and Danish authorities (police, CmM, Immigration etc.) HopeNow is mentioned as a non-governmental cooperation partner under the Danish national action plan to combat human trafficking 2011-2014 and consultant to the Danish Center against Trafficking.