

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.

IRELAND

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

Our country's ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

'Tackling Trafficking in Human Beings: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution'

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

Detective Inspector Paul Molloy

Email: paul.molloy@garda.ie

Telephone: 00-353-1-6668854

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.

Continuous

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.blueblindfold@gov.ie

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

A multi-disciplinary partnership approach to police training to prevent and combat human trafficking.

With the introduction of robust Human Trafficking legislation in Ireland in 2008, the need to ensure that frontline police officers were adequately equipped to recognise trafficking, support its victims and prosecute perpetrators was identified as a priority. It was also recognised that any effective police response to trafficking would require a partnership approach with civil society.

Working in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration, An Garda Síochána (Irish Police Force) developed a bespoke training programme on human trafficking for delivery to frontline police officers. This training comprises modules on issues such as identification, victim protection, investigative techniques, legislation, international co-operation, crime prevention etc.

The training is delivered through a two day residential training course in the Irish Police Training College. The course is delivered by senior officers attached to the dedicated Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-ordination Unit of An Garda Síochána. International experts and attendees from other police forces also participate in and contribute to the course.

Significant focus on the training course is given to the role that other state agencies and non-governmental organisations can play in the fight against trafficking. Relevant non-governmental organisations with expertise in areas such as trafficking for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and legal advice for trafficking victims deliver course modules on their areas of expertise. Their input outlines the role they can play in supporting police work on trafficking. There are also panel discussions with these organisations to allow for course attendees to further explore both the role these organisations can play and their perspectives on trafficking issues. Other state agencies such as the National Employment Rights Agency, the Health Service Executive, the Child & Family Agency and the Legal Aid Board also deliver course modules on the roles they play in the fight against trafficking.

Over 930 members of An Garda Síochána have participated in this training course. Following extremely positive feedback on this training, a two day seminar for all senior Garda management in Ireland was held on the issue of human trafficking in October 2014. This Conference was developed on the model of the training programme and involved contributions from a range of national and international experts including EUROPOL and INTERPOL.

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**)

An Garda Síochána has placed particular importance on ensuring that its members receive training which will equip them to tackle the phenomenon of human trafficking. The training course has several objectives including alerting operational personnel within An Garda Síochána to the existence of the phenomenon of trafficking and to empower them to identify victims so as to provide for their wellbeing and to ensure initiation of criminal investigations, where appropriate. As such the training seeks to prevent crime where possible through enabling An Garda Síochána to identify and recover potential victims before they are exploited, for example at points of entry to the State or during transit. In instances where crime has occurred, members of An Garda Síochána can seek to reduce crime by recovering victims, ensuring their well being and carrying out investigations into trafficking and any other related criminal activity.

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

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Department of Justice and Equality provides a range of information on awareness raising and training on its website www.blueblindfold.ie. The website acts as a hub for information on anti-trafficking training and provides training material for persons who have undergone training and who wish to train others (train the trainers). This material can be utilised by those seeking to raise awareness amongst the general public in their local area.

II. 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?

Trafficking in Human Beings is a severe form of exploitation and violence which affects every country. In Ireland, between 2009 and 2013 more than 290 alleged victims were reported or detected by An Garda Síochána. In order to prevent human trafficking, protect its victims and prosecute those responsible, An Garda Síochána initiated a continuous professional development training course entitled '*Tackling Trafficking in Human Beings: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution*'. The course which was designed by An Garda Síochána is delivered in conjunction the International Organisation for Migration, the United Nations in addition to a number of state bodies and civil society organisations.

The project was established to better enable members of An Garda Síochána to be aware of human trafficking, to identify its victims, to provide for their wellbeing and

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>

to initiate criminal investigations into human trafficking were appropriate.

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

It is important to recognise that due to the clandestine nature of human trafficking and its overlap with other illegal activities such as those related to prostitution and various forms of exploitative labour practices, estimating the prevalence of this crime is highly problematic. Nevertheless, research conducted as early as 2007² by Dr. Eilís Ward (Department of Political Science and Sociology, NUIG) and Dr. Gillian Wylie (Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin) prior to the introduction of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 (Ireland's primary anti-human trafficking legislation), indicated that the trafficking in persons was occurring in Ireland. The research identified 76 potential victims of human trafficking and was based on a questionnaires and interviews with NGOs and statutory bodies. The research identified a serious gap in service provision and support in Ireland for women who have been sex-trafficked, largely deriving from the absence of a legislative framework, funding, policy directions and a coherent state response to the problem. Since 2009, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Department of Justice and Equality has been collecting data in a standardised format. On average each year 57 alleged victims are detected or reported to An Garda Síochána. The training course entitled '*Tackling Trafficking in Human Beings: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution*' is one of a wide range of initiatives which were designed to address these issues.

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

The training course has a number of key objectives with respect to members of An Garda Síochána. It seeks to (a) alert them to the existence of human trafficking. To (b) enable them to identify victims and (c) provide for their wellbeing. Finally it seeks to (d) provide them with the necessary expertise to initiate criminal investigations into human trafficking were appropriate.

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**)

A key internal goal of the training course was to ensure the successful transmission of the relevant information to enable members of An Garda Síochána to carry out the activities specified in 12. At the completion of each training session feedback forms were completed by participants of the training in an anonymous manner. This

² The Nature and Extent of Trafficking of Women into Ireland for the Purposes of Sexual Exploitation 2000 - 2006: a report from findings. Dr. Eilís Ward (Department of Political Science and Sociology, NUIG) and Dr. Gillian Wylie (Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin)

feedback informed review discussions which were held following the training sessions. Initially training consisted of a series of presentations from a range of different stakeholders (law enforcement, government bodies and civil society) however following a review of the feedback and input from course organisers a more interactive approach was adapted which also included panel discussions and more time for questions and debate. Feedback regarding the course has been very positive indicating that participants felt the course delivered on its objectives.

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

A process evaluation is carried out by course presenters following the completion of each training session. The evaluation consists of a review of anonymously completed feedback sheets and input from presenters. Review meetings have found that while the course has been well received by participants, it was felt that a more interactive format would be beneficial in taking onboard the topics featured in the presentations. According training sessions now have a more interactive format with panel discussions and debate.

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

No formal outcome or impact evaluations have been conducted. Given the complexity and clandestine nature of human trafficking it would be difficult to measure the effects of training on detection rates while controlling for other variables. However, consideration will be given as to how a follow-up of course participants might be conducted following the completion of the training course.

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**)

This course is innovative inasmuch as it involves law enforcement communicating with other State Agencies and Civil Society on a range of issues related to human trafficking. The interaction is not just by way of presentations, there is an open forum where questions can be asked and afterwards there is an opportunity for members of An Garda Síochána to interact on a one-to-one basis with presenters. Representatives from State Agencies and from non-Governmental Organisations have welcomed this level of contact with members of An Garda Síochána who work on the frontline and consider this level of communication an enhancement to their engagement with victims of human trafficking in terms of encouraging victims to trust An Garda Síochána (the Irish Police Force).

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**)

The course has one section where representatives from a number of organisations (including NGOs) are afforded the opportunity to present to members of An Garda Síochána. These organisations comprise State Agencies (representatives from the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the National Employment Rights Authority (NERA)) and NGOs (including representatives from Ruhama and the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) – who support victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and Migrants Rights Centre Ireland who supports victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation). These presentations provide the members of An Garda Síochána with an appreciation of the role of State Agencies in the fight against human trafficking and of the services Civil Society organisations provide to victims of human trafficking and how the Gardaí can link in with these organisations. Presentations are followed by a open forum session whereby members of An Garda Síochána can put questions to the representatives from State Agencies and Civil Society. It is also a useful opportunity for members of the Gardaí to meet with representatives of these organisations on a one-to-one basis to share experiences and build relationships.

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

19. How and by whom is the project funded? (**Max. 150 words**)

This course is capable of being replicated in other Member States. In Ireland the course has been designed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in consultation with the Human Trafficking Co-ordination and Investigation Unit

(HTICU) based in An Garda Síochána. The organisation of the course is undertaken by IOM and run in the Garda Training College. Attendees at the course comprise members of An Garda Síochána from all over the country and it is run over 3 days. One part of the course focuses on Garda Operations and the other on the role of State Agencies and non-Governmental Organisations in the provision of support to victims of human trafficking and how this can feed into the work of An Garda Síochána.

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

Generally each course is delivered to around 50 Gardaí at a cost of €10,000 to run the course (inclusive of the fee to IOM, materials and catering). In addition to this, members of An Garda Síochána are away from normal duties for the duration of the course (3 days). Presenters from Civil Society are reimbursed for their travel costs.

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**)

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

The materials would have to be tailored to the specific systems in place in other Member States. The format of the course etc would remain the same.

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

This course represents a best practice approach in bringing together law enforcement and non-Governmental Organisations for the shared purpose of assisting victims of human trafficking. The approach adopted in this course can be taken and transcribed in any of the Member States thus ensuring a European wide open approach to interaction between law enforcement and Civil Society thus benefitting victims of human trafficking.

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

An Garda Siochana (Irish Police Force) has, in conjunction with the IOM, developed and delivered a partnership based multi-disciplinary training course for frontline police officers in relation to preventing and combating human trafficking. This training comprises modules on issues such as identification, victim protection, investigative techniques, legislation, international co-operation, crime prevention etc. Significant focus on the training course is given to the role other state agencies and non-governmental organisations can play in the fight against trafficking. Relevant state and non-governmental organisations with expertise in areas such as trafficking for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and legal advice for trafficking victims deliver course modules on their areas of expertise. Their input outlines the role they can play in supporting police work on trafficking. There are panel discussions with these organisations to allow for course attendees to further explore both the role these organisations can play and their perspectives on trafficking issues.