

ECPA SUMMARY

CZECH REPUBLIC

MODEL OF SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic has increasingly become a destination country for trafficking in human beings in late nineties. No special provision was in place to help victims of trafficking to recover from their experience and/or to stay in order to participate in criminal justice procedures against perpetrators. Often victims had no legal status in the Czech Republic; they were treated as irregular migrants and were expelled from the country. On the other hand, the police was not able to provide victims, who wanted to stay in the country and give their testimonies at the court, with an appropriate accommodation and with a subsistence allowance.

The project was launched under the auspices of the UN ODC. The objective was to design a functioning national referral mechanism. Different working groups have been established to address the issue: a) intergovernmental working group composed of representatives of different ministries, b) working group for direct assistance to victims composed of government representatives, police officers, IOs and NGOs, c) intra-ministerial working group composed of different departments within the Minister of the Interior. This effort resulted in drafting Model of support and protection of victims of trafficking in close partnership between governmental offices, law enforcement agencies, IOs and NGOs.

The Model is based of the following principles. All victims identified by NGOs or the police are referred to La Strada or Catholic Charitas shelter where they are provided with crisis intervention. Participation in Model is offered to all identified victims. Aliens with illegal status are provided with a short term residence permit. One month of reflection period is applied to all victims. Then they have to decide whether they are willing to co-operate with law enforcement agencies. If they accept this possibility they are entitled to some additional benefits. Their rehabilitation process continues, they can take part in vocational trainign, they receive legal and social counselling. The costs related to their stay with the NGO and services provided to them is covered by the state. Those who agree to testify at the court are eligible for permanent residence permit.

The Model was initially tested in the framework of the UN ODC project. Later on it became national ownership of the Czech state authorities. Practical collaboration within the framework of the model is going to be regulated by agreements to be concluded between the Ministry of the Interior and relevant NGOs. Additional Police President regulatory provisions on the functioning of the information system „Victim“ and division of labour between different police units are under way. The Model has been recently evaluated by the UN ODC expert Paul Williams from Australia. The evaluation was rather positive.



FORMAT FOR PROJECT'S DESCRIPTION

MEMBERSTATE: Czech Republic

NAME OF THE PROJECT: MODEL OF SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

IN USE SINCE: March 2003

INFO ON THE WEB: www.mvcr.cz

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Please answer the questions on the following pages in English and in no more than the given six pages. This way the information will be as comparable as possible.

Projects can be submitted until November 1st. Entries that will be received later than this will not be eligible to compete for the European Crime Prevention Award.

You can send your projects and the one page summary by e-mail to:

Mrs Janny Pols
Ministry of Justice
The Netherlands

E-mail janny.pols@ccv.nu

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to receiving your submission for the ECPA!

PROBLEM (intelligence)

Give a short description of the problem?

The Czech Republic has not had a functioning system of cooperation between all organizations involved in helping victims of trafficking in humans. Apart from shelter housing provided by the La Strada non-governmental organization, there were no facilities capable of providing protection and rehabilitation to the victims. The police officers from special police units had been trained to identify a victim of trafficking in humans during a police action; however, if the victim refused to communicate and cooperate with them, and as long as such a victim had committed no crime and her personal identity documents were in order, the police had no choice but to refer her to La Strada services.

Since when is it a problem?

The Czech Republic has undergone a specific development in the field of trafficking in humans. Thanks to its geographical position, as well as to the changes in social and economic conditions after 1989, Czech Republic has transformed from the country of origin into the country of transit and destination.

Is it possible to give any data regarding the problem?

The scope of the problem is difficult to estimate due to the latent character of this organised crime activity.

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of crimes exposed	15	13	34	23	13	27	15
Number of crimes solved	14	11	34	22	13	25	10
Number of persons investigated and prosecuted	25	15	49	38	21	26	12

Describe the type of offenders?

Organized crime in the Czech Republic is mostly under the control of Russian nationals, who employ naturalized foreigners living and working in the country for their purposes.

What is their modus operandi?

Regular scenario: recruitment - promises to naive girls and women from socially and economically weak families and geographical areas, offering them jobs abroad, high income ... they end up as slaves in night clubs obliged to pay back alleged debts, threatened, beaten etc.

Who are the victims?

Both Czech nationals and women from such countries as Russia, the Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania, China, and Vietnam. Apart from these ethnic groups, the Czech Republic is a destination country for a number of women from Slovakia, mainly members of the Romany ethnic group.

What are the causes?

Gender, social, economical inequality, limited migration opportunities and limited opportunities to find a job abroad. To a certain extent naivety. High demand for cheap sexual services, unregulated sex business...

Do's

Dont's

WHAT (intervention)

Give a short description of the project.

The Model of Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation aims at creating a system where every institution involved in helping the victims will be aware of its tasks and responsibilities at every stage, and will know who to contact. All institutions must act in the best interest of the victim, even if they may set up certain rules that the victims have to observe. The structure of the Model should eliminate the possibility of abuse by either the victims or the criminals.

What is the short, medium and long term objective of the project?

Project overall aims:

- To ensure elementary protection of the victims' human rights and dignity;
- To motivate the victims to testify and help bodies involved in criminal proceedings to investigate, expose, prosecute, and punish the perpetrators of trafficking.
- To draft and test Model of Support and Protection of Victims

What are the activities in the project?

- establishing of the working group on the project implementation involving representatives of state authorities, law enforcement, NGOs and IGOs
- establishing a functioning referral mechanism
- organising awareness raising campaigns addressing pull and push factors of trafficking

Is the project to address

- situational
- offender or
- victim

orientated causes? Namely,
rehabilitation and empowerment of victims

Do's

The identified victims are offered participation in Model. When they agree to fulfill the conditions and collaborate somehow with law enforcement they are entitled to some benefits. It consist of sheltered and subsistence, rehabilitation, language and skills trainign, legal and social counseling. Aliens with illegal status are offered temporary residence. Police get valuable information.

Dont's

The period prior to victims consent with the model is discussed and the position of victims is not clear.

HOW (implementation)

Give a short description of the history of the project?

The project was started in the framework of the UNODC anti-trafficking project in the Czech Republic - now continuation

The stakeholders were identified and gathered. Models was drafted, tested and corrected. Sustainable funding was secured. Media campaign and seminars are organised to inform both victims, professional and public about the opportunity for victims.

Is there a project plan?

Yes - it will be incorporated into a newly drafted Regulation of the Interior Minister

How is the project customised for the local situation and context?

The project is based on a deep analysis - see National strategy against THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the Czech Republic

Do's

Dont's

WHO (involvement)

Which –both public and private- partners are involved in each fase of the project?

Mol, the Police - special units for the investigation of organised crime, La Strada, Catholic Charitas, IOM, Rozkoš bez Rizika (NGO)

What role and task does each partner have?

Ministry of the Interior - co-ordination

The Police - identification of victims, prosecution of traffickers - testimony of victims

La Strada and Charitas - direct assistance to victims

Rozkoš bez rizika- preliminary identification of potential victims - street work

IOM- voluntary return to the countries of origin

Who gave the input on the know-how?

Ministry of the Interior - study visits to Italy, belgium and the Netherlands - expertise adapted to local situation and needs

How is the project financed?

The costs of victim care are covered from funds allocated in the budget chapter

General Treasury Administration for the Crime Prevention Strategy in the years 2004 – 2007.

Did the project effect them who it was ment to, or also others?

The project effect through awareness raising acitivities also other segments of general public.

Do's

Dont's

EFFECT (impact)

Has the project been evaluated?

The UNODC part has been evaluated recently, the continuation will be first evaluated by the end of the year and afterwards regularly every year.

What was evaluated?

Financial expenditures, efficiency of the victim assistance, sustainability of the project, level of co-operation and co-ordination.

At what stage did the evaluation take place?

After 18 months of the UNODC project duration.

Who did the evaluation?

The UNODC evaluator.

What are the results?

The project was evaluated as a big success in the Czech Republic

Are the goals of the project achieved?

Yes - those parts of the project that were in the capacity of the Czech government have been fully achieved.

Do's

Human rights of victims are better protected.

Dont's

Police get operational information but still limited court relevant testimonies.