

## European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

### Annex I – new version 2014

#### General information

1. Please specify your country.

*Germany*

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

**Yes, it is our country's ECPA entry**

3. What is the title of the project?

*KOBRA - The Central Coordination and Advisory Centre for victims of human trafficking*

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

*Registered association Phoenix (register of association 5772)*

*President Wilfried Westermann*

*Postal code 4762*

*30047 Hannover*

*Germany*

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.

*01/09/1997; yes, the project 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.kobra-beratungsstelle.de](http://www.kobra-beratungsstelle.de)

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

*The aim of KOBRA is to improve the actual and legal situation of trafficking victims and to implement political and legal measures for them and against human trafficking on regional, supra-regional and national level. KOBRA pursues this aim by activities of coordination and advisory.*

*KOBRA is responsible for the entire federal state of Lower Saxony and is financed in large part by the State Ministry of Social Affairs, Health Care and Equalization. To start other projects and further measures of support and stabilization, KOBRA is dependent on additional fundings and donations as well as on the allocation of penalty payments.*

*KOBRA is an independent, non-governmental project. Our clients will be supported and stabilized in their personal life situations with all our options. Our support is anonym, free of charge, on voluntary basis and independent of the victim's willingness to cooperate with law enforcement agencies.*

*The Coordination Centre supports the implementation of human rights standards in dealing with victims by public relation, network and committee activities. Network activities including all involved stakeholders in the field of human trafficking are a key aspect of coordination,*

*because only by good cooperation with all stakeholders victims can be supported effectively and in line with their needs.*

*Coordination, done by a fully qualified lawyer jurist, includes:*

- *trainings, education and information sessions for institutions and public authorities involved in the topic (in the State of Lower Saxony)*
- *(supra-)regional lectures on human trafficking*
- *initiation and organization of round tables for institutions and public authorities to improve interdisciplinary coordination in victim protection*
- *installation of network and cooperation in the field of accommodation and advice for victims of human trafficking in the State of Lower Saxony*
- *cooperation and network activities with regional and national projects in the field of human trafficking*
- *installation of cooperation and network activities with advisory centres in the victims' countries of origin*
- *membership of several working groups, such as 'Milieu, prostitution and human trafficking' of the local crime prevention council in Hannover*
- *educational advertising and awareness raising*

*The aim of the advisory and consultation work, done by two educationalists, a graduated social education worker and a social worker, is to help victims in human trafficking in everyday life to help themselves. We hereby focus on the psychic stabilization of the victim. We escort our clients from the acute emergency situation to the far end of our support, when the victims plan their future life and start turning those plans into action. In addition to psycho-social support, our clients can make use of trauma counselling, where possible also in their native-language.*

*We offer advisory and consultation activities in Bulgarian, German, English, French, Polish, Romanian, Russian and Spanish. In all other cases we do work with interpreters.*

*Advisory and consultation activities are:*

- *psycho-social support of the victims regarding their needs and until the victim's departure*
- *organization of accommodation*
- *escort to public authorities and institutions*
- *native-language trauma counselling*
- *crisis intervention*
- *supporting accompaniment to advocates, law enforcement agencies and criminal justice*
- *psycho-social support in cases of hearings and legal proceedings*
- *permanent contact to law enforcement agencies and criminal justice to inform the victim/witness on actual developments in legal proceedings*
- *advisory work in prison/custody pending deportation*
- *visiting locations where prostitution takes place (in Hannover and all over Lower Saxony)*

- *organization of the return to the victim's country of origin in cooperation with embassies and institutions*
- *settlement of travel formalities and travel costs*
- *cooperation with NGOs in the countries of origin for assistance and support*
- *advisory and assistance for trafficking victims to deal with other problems such as family reunion, right of custody or planning life perspectives.*

**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)

*KOBRA develops information campaigns for the general public aimed at promoting awareness of the dangers associated with trafficking. KOBRA focusses on prevention approaches that act to prevent (young) women from becoming victims of traffickers in the first place. For example, the so-called 'loverboy-practice' is one alternative of becoming a trafficking victim (see question 9); and KOBRA illuminates the facts at schools.*

*Furthermore, KOBRA does not only meet with institutions and public authorities on a (supra-)regional level to exchange experiences and knowledge, but also meets with NGOs and public authorities from other countries to respond to trafficking and to exchange experiences and knowledge across borders. For example, KOBRA cooperates with La Strada in Warsaw/Poland and Animus Association in Sofia/Bulgaria and organized in 2004 further training for teachers in Belarus and in 2006 and 2007 conferences in Slubice/Poland. This also helps in crime prevention.*

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

*Educational advertising and awareness-raising is part of the coordination work. To raise citizens' awareness, KOBRA's coordinator works as a regional and supra-regional lecturer on human trafficking at presentations, conferences, events etc. KOBRA develops information campaigns for the general public aimed at promoting awareness of the dangers associated with trafficking. For example, KOBRA explains the so-called 'loverboy-practice', which is one alternative of becoming a trafficking victim. Loverboys are mostly young men, especially looking for minor girls to manipulate and to exploit them. Loverboys often contact those girls via social networks in the internet. Another way to get into touch with the girls is to address them directly in front of schools or public places. For that reason it is important to illuminate the facts at schools.*

*KOBRA also trains multiplier and holds education and information sessions for people involved in the topic (in the State of Lower Saxony).*

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

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

*The registered association Phoenix (<http://www.phoenix-verein.org/>) has got several projects, one is also called Phoenix (<http://www.phoenix-beratung.de/>) and is an advisory centre for women and men sex workers in Lower Saxony. Phoenix informs all those already involved in*

*sex works as well as those persons who wish to get into or out of it. In the second half of the nineties the colleagues noticed that in more and more cases, women did not work as a prostitute on a voluntary basis, but were forced to do so. As victims of human trafficking have completely different needs from sex workers doing their job voluntarily, it was obvious that the association should start another project, namely a coordination and advisory centre for those victims, where those women could get information and support, regarding their special needs. Above that, KOBRA is the first and only central coordination and advisory centre for victims of human trafficking in Lower Saxony and has been one of the first centres of this kind nation-wide. KOBRA aimed to improve the actual and legal situation of victims of human trafficking as well as to help trafficking victims in everyday life to help themselves and becoming stabilized – and KOBRA still does.*

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

*The project started in the above mentioned context (see answer to question 10). There was an urgent need for such a coordination and advisory centre, because there had been none in Lower Saxony and even few in Germany, as the project Phoenix analysed. Phoenix then showed the State Ministry the annual report in which statistics said that more and more women were victims of human trafficking and told them about things they got to know in their work (regarding the clients' interest). The State Ministry of Social Affairs, Health Care and Equalization could be convinced to support such a project financially, because by analyzing the situation they came to the same conclusion.*

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

*The aim of the coordination work is to improve the situation of victims of human trafficking and to strengthen their rights by announcing national and international standards for dealing with victims. The Coordination Centre supports the implementation of human rights standards in dealing with victims by public relation, network and committee activities. It thereby implements the requirements of victim protection.*

*The aim of the advisory and consultation work is to help victims in human trafficking in everyday life to help themselves. KOBRA hereby focusses on the psychic stabilization of the victim and the victim's needs.*

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)

*At the beginning of every year, mostly in January, the KOBRA-team does meet in conclave with the managing board to build internal goals for that year. In the following year, the management and KOBRA evaluate whether all goals were reached, what should be done better, on which topic to focus or to put more energy on, how to deal with new developments and so forth. By doing this every year, the team can always check whether the project is moving in the planned direction and correct wrong parts quickly.*

14. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally)? And what were the main results? (Max. 300 words)

*No, KOBRA never conducted an evaluation apart from the evaluation mentioned in the answer to the question before.*

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)

*No, KOBRA never conducted an evaluation apart from the evaluation mentioned in the answer to the question number 13.*

### **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)

*KOBRA is one of the first coordination and advisory centres for victims of human trafficking in Germany and the only one in the State of Lower Saxony. Other advisory centres for victims of human trafficking in northern Germany followed years later, for example Hamburg and Kiel in 1999 and Bremen in 2002.*

*Furthermore, KOBRA offers the victims psycho-social support in their native-language. And our clients can make use of trauma counselling, where possible also in their native-language, which is offered very seldom in other advisory centres.*

*Last but not least does KOBRA visit locations where prostitution takes place – and that not only in Hannover but all over Lower Saxony. This is to inform the rural landscape about the topic and KOBRA's work.*

### **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)

*Network activities including all involved stakeholders in the field of human trafficking are a key aspect of coordination, because only by good cooperation with all stakeholders victims can be supported effectively and in line with their needs.*

*Therefore KOBRA works with several institutions and public authorities to improve interdisciplinary coordination in victim protection such as the police and employment agencies and holds several memberships like in the working group 'Milieu, prostitution and human trafficking' of the local crime prevention council in Hannover. KOBRA works with partners in the field of accommodation to bring the clients to a safe place where they don't have to meet their perpetrators. KOBRA also works with advocates who help the victims to enforce the law. In cases, where the clients want to go back to their countries of origin, KOBRA works with advisory centres in the victims' countries of origin for assistance and support like:*

<http://lastradainternational.org/>

<http://www.animusassociation.org/?lang=en>

<http://www.badeshte.com/>

<http://www.generatietanara.ro/en/>

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

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

*KOBRA is financed in large part by the State Ministry of Social Affairs, Health Care and Equalization. To start other projects and further measures of support and stabilization, KOBRA is dependent on additional funding and donations as well as on the allocation of penalty payments.*

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

*As mentioned before, KOBRA is financed in large part by the State Ministry of Social Affairs, Health Care and Equalization. Apart from the first year, where costs for material and human resources were fifty-fifty, in the following years the personnel costs lay by 82 % and material costs by 18 %. Nowadays it is around 85 % personnel costs and 15 % material costs. Since the beginning in September 1997 until nowadays, KOBRA produced costs in the amount of 3.179.900 Euros altogether, therefrom 2.622.100 Euros human resources and 557.800 material 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)

*There had not been carried out a special cost-benefit analysis. But as KOBRA is financed in large part by the State Ministry of Social Affairs, Health Care and Equalization, KOBRA has to work out an annual financial and scientific report, and the State Ministry controls and supervises KOBRA's work and would hint to disproportions of any kind.*

22. Are there adjustments to be made to the project to ensure a successful replication in another Member State? *Not necessarily, but for being successful it is very important to have or build good networks within the non-governmental community as well as cooperation with law enforcement and other public authorities. And in countries with, for example, a corrupt police you have to be very careful on which information to share.*

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

*Even today, a clear and ever-increasing gap exists between the wealthier industrialized nations of the world and those so-called threshold or developing countries. Young women have to contribute at an early age to the support of their family against a backdrop of rising unemployment and non-existent opportunities for advancement.*

*With such a background, many women and girls decide to migrate. They want to escape the poverty in their homelands long enough to earn money for the security of their families at home or to build and finance a future for themselves. Middle-men and -women target and approach such women and girls. They promise well-paid work in various industries, domestic and au-pair work, kitchen work, prostitution, or even an arranged marriage offer. The women and girls are then asked to pay money towards the arrangement costs and the cycle of exploitation typical of female trafficking begins.*

*Human trafficking is a huge human rights abuse issue and has many different faces. For the purpose of sexual exploitations human trafficking often includes rape, bodily harm and acute threats of life and limb. This leads to traumatic experiences for the victims of human trafficking over a long period. Human trafficking does exist all over the world, and the trafficking victims need to be supported and stabilized in their personal life situation by independent, non-governmental organizations.*

*Furthermore, especially women and girls of non-German origin are affected by human trafficking. In recent years women from Central and Eastern Europe have formed the focal point of KOBRA's work, but KOBRA is advising and caring for clients from many other parts of the world.*

*It is very important to improve the actual and legal situation of trafficking victims in all Member States and to implement political and legal measures for them and against human trafficking on regional, supra-regional and national level.*

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

*The Central Coordination and Advisory Centre for victims of human trafficking (KOBRA) was founded on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1997 as a project of the registered association Phoenix.*

*KOBRA is responsible for the entire federal state of Lower Saxony and is financed in large part by the State Ministry of Social Affairs, Health Care and Equalization. KOBRA is an independent, non-governmental project. Our clients will be supported and stabilized in their personal life situations with all our options. Our support is anonym, free of charge, on voluntary basis and independent of the victim's willingness to cooperate with law enforcement agencies.*

*The aim of KOBRA is to improve the actual and legal situation of trafficking victims and to implement political and legal measures for them and against human trafficking on regional, supra-regional and national level. KOBRA pursues this aim by activities of coordination and advisory.*