

## 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.

France

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

Yes

3. What is the title of the project?

Ac.Sé National Network for the Assistance & Protection of Human Trafficking Victims

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.

The project started in September 1st 2001 and is ongoing

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).

For more information, please visit the English version of our web site:

<http://www.acse-alc.org/en/> or download the English version of our brochure:

[http://www.acse-alc.org/images/brochure\\_anglais2012.pdf](http://www.acse-alc.org/images/brochure_anglais2012.pdf)

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

The Ac.Sé National Network for the Assistance & Protection of Human Trafficking Victims was founded in 2001 by the ALC Association. Today, it is an integral part of the measures of protection available to victims of human trafficking in France, such as those cited in Decree n°2007-1352 (13 September 2007). The French National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking 2014-2016 endorses Ac.Sé both as a network for the protection and the assistance of human trafficking victims and as a resource and training centre for professionals in contact with trafficking victims. Ac.Sé is a coalition of 70 different, partnered shelters and organizations specialised in human trafficking throughout France. This coalition is headed by the ALC Association, which is a registered NGO. Ac.Sé is funded by the French Ministry for Women's Rights, the Ministry of Justice and the Municipality of Paris.

The purpose of the Ac.Sé Network is to protect and assist the victims of human trafficking and to provide those in danger at their place of residence with the opportunity to relocate elsewhere in France. Ac.Sé offers shelter, assistance and the opportunity to relocate elsewhere in France to adult victims of human trafficking in a vulnerable or dangerous situation, indiscriminate of their gender, their nationality, their legal situation or their family situation. Ac.Sé provides protection and assistance unconditionally. There is no pre-requisite for co-operation with the police or the prosecutor's office in State investigations or legal proceedings. Since its creation, the Ac.Sé Network has provided assistance to one person a week.

The Ac.Sé Network also manages a resource centre for professionals in contact with trafficking victims. The Head Office of the Ac.Sé National Network of Assistance and Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking can be solicited for legal, administrative and social services advice and assistance with the risk assessment. It also provides legal and social services and provides for the publication of technical documents on human trafficking and related issues. Workshops are held twice a year on common issues facing professionals in contact with trafficking victims. In addition, the Head Office organises multidisciplinary training programmes on "Identification and Support for Victims of Human Trafficking" for social workers, law enforcement officers and members of the Justice Department. Over 1, 200 people have participated in these training programmes since 2007. The Ac.Sé Network also works continuously to promote awareness around the area of Human Trafficking (Exit-MTV Foundation et Not My Life WorldWide distribution) and regularly participates in European initiatives as either a stakeholder or a project leader.

**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**)

As the Council of Europe Convention recommends, a multidisciplinary approach is necessary in the fight against trafficking and the assistance and protection of victims. The support provided to the victims of trafficking by the Ac.Sé network contributes to the reduction and the prevention of crime. Every year the majority of persons referred to the Ac.Sé Network (54% in 2013) have cooperated with the police or the prosecutor's office in State investigations or legal proceedings. Some of them (30% of the victims who made a complaint in 2013) decide to make a complaint against their traffickers once they are welcomed and protected in the shelters. Their cooperation is an essential contribution to the fight against trafficking and helps law enforcement services and Justice department to prosecute the criminals. Victims can go through this important and dangerous step because they feel reassured and supported in the shelters of Ac.Sé Network.

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

In the schema of the resource centre activities, the Head Office of Ac.Sé Network provides training on the identification of victims to a large number of professionals who are not specialized in that specific area (social and health sector, law enforcement...). The web site of Ac.Sé network provides information to a larger target group and to citizens in general. Video clips available on the web site <http://acse-alc.org/en/18-news/33-ouvre-les-yeux> aim to raise public awareness about the different forms of trafficking, especially trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation.

The Ac.Sé Network promotes awareness around the area of Human Trafficking, through the dissemination of the film Exit-MTV Foundation and more recently the "Not My Life" WorldWide distribution film.

**II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.<sup>1</sup>**

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

The idea for the Ac.Sé National Network of Assistance and Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking came from field observations made in 1999/2000 by organisations specialised in working with people in prostitution. Due to the growth

<sup>1</sup> 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>

of cross-border human trafficking (especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation) during that period, these organisations, most particularly the ALC Association, increasingly found themselves required to provide a relocation service for “at-risk” human trafficking victims that had decided to flee or testify against those exploiting them. In order to offer these people a structured protection and assistance service run by trained professionals, the ALC Association decided to set up the Ac.Sé National Network of Assistance and Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking.

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

In 1999, owing to the increasing need for action and a parallel rise in co-operation at a European level (EFUS Project: SecuCities Women: Victims of Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation and Cross-Border Co-Operation- 1998), the ALC Association organized a national assembly of French organizations working on prostitution-related issues in Nice to share information on human trafficking trends & the sex trade industry. The ALC Association drew attention to the Eastern Europe-France human trafficking network. Its analyses were based on data collected by its outreach unit and the ALC drop-in-center in Nice: in 1998 43% of sex workers in Nice were non-nationals. In 2001, that figure jumped to 76%. It was suspected these were victims of human trafficking. In order to provide them protection, ALC founded the Ac.Sé Network project, following a Directorate General for Social Cohesion call for project proposals in 2001.

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

1. Protect victims of human trafficking in danger by providing relocation and shelter services as well as a service of specialized support based on each victim's specific situation and needs.
  - 1.1. Develop and consolidate the network of professional and qualified partners
  - 1.2. Ensure efficient logistical organization for the protection of victims
  - 1.3. Carry out case management for each situation
  
2. Manage a resource center that provides information and advice on the issues related to human trafficking, aimed at all intervening parties in contact with potential victims
  - 2.1. Update the information centre
  - 2.2. Organize bi-annual workshops for members of Ac.Sé. Organize identification and protection of victims training for all professionals in contact with potential victims of trafficking.
  - 2.3. Provide legal, administrative and social services for professionals

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)**

Since its launch, Ac.Sé's performance has been continuously measured in relation to its two main objectives.

Following conventions in 2001 and 2002, the ALC Association and the Ministry of Women's Rights are linked by way of a four-year plan which fixes Ac.Sé's main and secondary objectives. The Ac.Sé Head Office writes up an evaluation report yearly. Each partner contributes through a questionnaire detailing its work, problems and results regarding the assistance and protection of trafficking victims. The Interministerial Steering Committee is privy to these evaluations. They contribute to Ac.Sé's progress and to the improvement of legal framework.

The four-year plan set out two external evaluations which were conducted by experts in 2008 and in 2013. The Ac.Sé network was amended in line with these evaluations.

The resource centre has been evaluated through hosting 34 training sessions on the identification of victims since 2007. Participants (more than 1.000) evaluate the quality of the training with regard to their daily work.

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*

The Ac.Sé Network was founded as an experimental initiative in 2001 by the ALC in partnership with about 20 shelters and NGOs. Today the Ac.Sé National Network counts more than 70 partners and is an integral part of the 2014-2016 National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking.

Two external evaluations, conducted in 2008 (Cabinet FORS) and 2013 (Cabinet COPAS), highlighted both the value of the Ac.Sé Network as a whole and the value of the results achieved from its missions and set goals. They also outlined potential areas to develop. (see also question N° 15)

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*

Two external evaluations, conducted in 2008 (Cabinet FORS) and 2013 (Cabinet COPAS), highlighted both the value of the Ac.Sé Network as a whole and the value of the results achieved from its missions and set goals. They also outlined potential

areas for development. The methodology used by the two external evaluations was based on:

- Analysis of the annual reports and other documentation produced by Ac.Sé
- Interviews with the coordination, the partners and the funders.

The external evaluation showed that the Ac.Sé Network performed to the extent of its commitments, whether it was in terms of:

**Productivity:** Ac.Sé realized all of its forecasts, even overachieving them in certain areas.

**Applicability:** Ac.Sé working procedures are attuned to their purpose; progress was made in the necessary and anticipated areas

**Efficiency:** project goals and results were in just proportion to the means employed to achieve them.

**Outcome:** the Ac.Sé program delivered on its prognosis in the following areas: mobilization of participant organisations, training of affiliated professionals, competent care of victims.

**Opinion:** Participating organisations and beneficiaries (local member groups) have a very positive perception of Ac.Sé's work. This can be ascertained through the feedback surveys Ac.Sé distributes.

The potential of this scheme is enhanced by the role of Ac.Sé in European initiatives; a role which increases public awareness of Ac.Sé and the level of expertise available to it and expands its network abroad, particularly in the origin states of human trafficking victims.

**Yearly Internal evaluation:** Ac.Sé partners are also called to evaluate the Network through feedback questionnaires which are distributed at the end of each seminar. In addition, each year member organisations send case files on the human trafficking victims accommodated and assisted during that period to the Ac.Sé head office. This provides a means of performance control and a way of evaluating the running of the network, as well as a means of relaying the difficulties encountered in the field.

### **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**)

For more than a decade, the Ac.Sé Network has stood as the only existing apparatus in place at a national level to assist and protect human trafficking victims. Its durability and its originality are constituted by its capacity to evolve in

terms of the demographic accommodated, its capacity to adjust to changes in national and EU law and its twinned approach to the everyday, practical reality of fieldwork and the lobbying, awareness-raising and informative campaigns that must be brought before Government bodies.

**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)**

Since it was founded, Ac.Sé has depended primarily upon a network of participating organisations, shelters and groups specialised in the assistance of the victims of trafficking. The changes and positive evolution of the Network are due to the input from each participating organisation and the guidance provided by the ALC association. Two workshops are organised twice a year to help instruct Ac.Sé members and to furnish a platform for the exchange of information, expertise and procedures and for the discussion of potential 'problem' areas. The work carried out by the Ac.Sé Network as a group is presented before the different French ministries concerned by human trafficking by way of an interministerial steering committee appointed by the Ministry for Women's Rights. As such, the various questions relating to the assistance and protection of human trafficking victims are discussed at a Governmental level.

**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 annual budget for the Ac.Sé Network varies from €197,000 to €205,000 depending on the year and the amount of grants accorded. The Ministry for Women's Rights is the Network's principal benefactor. It is also funded in part by the Municipality of Paris and, since 2012, by the Ministry of Justice (which provides funding for training programmes).

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

The budget for 2014 is as follows:

*Purchases:* 1670€

*External Services:* 23,820€ (Office Lease, Lease for Two Emergency Shelter Apartments for Trafficking Victims, etc)

*Other External Services:* 43,924€ (Head Office Work Expenses, Seminar Travel Expenses, Victim Travel Expenses)

*Tax:* 7,912€

*Management Salary:* 86, 174€

*Depreciation:* 1,500€

*Other:* 32,000 (financial aid for sheltered trafficking victims)

The Ac.Sé Network often plays a role in EU initiatives as either a participating organisation or as a project leader. This helps fund research on human trafficking and transnational exchanges between Ac.Sé members and professionals from other countries working on trafficking-related issues.

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 analyses are not standard evaluative procedure in France. Every year, however, an external auditor certifies the reliability and sincerity of Ac.Sé consolidated financial statements in accordance with the legislation in force.

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

As a National Network of Assistance and Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking, the Ac.Sé Network could be replicated within another European country without great difficulty. The Ac.Sé resource centre is a structure that could be set up in another Member State given aid from its French counterpart. A similar structure could also be put in place at a regional level, in the Baltic region, example, or the Mediterranean area (Spain, France, Italy, Greece) which face a similar set of trafficking-related problems.

The idea of offering at-risk human trafficking victims an accommodation, assistance and relocation service through a network is one which could be implemented in a number of EU states, provided due attention was paid to the legal framework. The network administration and the shelter centers will always be dependent on the national setting but these are as amendable as the basic concept.

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

The project is relevant for other Member States as human trafficking is an inherently transnational phenomenon. It concerns Europe as a whole. The victims of human trafficking need protection wherever they are exploited.

The Ac.Sé Network is a French national project but it is also regularly invited to EU-level conferences and it often plays a role in EU initiatives and projects as a project leader or participant. As a result, Ac.Sé has developed valuable links and a level of transnational cooperation with NGOs in other countries (origin, transit and destination countries) which has facilitated a better and more comprehensive system of assistance for trafficking victims.

The Ac.Sé Network is able to convey the difficulties, the deficiencies and the realities in the field to the relevant national and European institutions. It was for this reason that GRETA conducted a series of interviews in 2012 with members of Ac.Sé coordination and members of partner organisations as well as a range of people who had been assisted by the Ac.Sé Network.

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

The Ac.Sé National Network for the Assistance & Protection of Trafficking Victims, founded in 2001 by the Association ALC which handles its administration, is a network of 70 shelters & NGOs throughout France. It is funded by the Ministry for Women's Rights, the Ministry of Justice and the Municipality of Paris.

Ac.Sé aims at protecting and assisting human trafficking victims at risk at their current address by providing them safe accommodation, support and the opportunity to relocate elsewhere in France.

It also manages a resource centre for professionals, providing information and advice on the issues related to human trafficking. The Head Office organises workshops on common issues facing Ac.Sé partners and also multidisciplinary workshops for social workers, law enforcement officers and members of the Justice Department.

The Ac.Sé Network promotes public awareness of Human Trafficking (Exit-MTV Foundation et Not My Life WorldWide distribution) and participates in EU initiatives.