



REPORT OF THE JOINT STAFF TRAINING EVENT

November 22 to 28, 2015, Prague, Czech Republic

During the period November 22 to 28, 2015, in Prague, Czech Republic, took place the training sessions between specialists in the human trafficking field, within the Project ***Chance and Challenge - Improve the assistance services for children and youth victims by developing innovative support programs***, project funded by the European Commission, through Erasmus Plus Program, Strategic Partnerships, implemented from September 2014 - August 2016 by Association Pro Refugiu, Romania, as coordinator, alongside its partners Caritas Prague, Czech Republic and TRABE – Iniciativas para la economia social y solidaria, Spain.

The event, organized by Caritas Prague, Czech Republic, brought together Romanian, Czech and Spanish experts in the social, psychological, legal, educational fields, along with Czech guests from the Ministry of Interior, Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (OSPOD), international network of



Christian organizations against human trafficking (COATNET), also benefit from the presence of an authorized coach.

Within the training sessions have been addressed issues concerning the legal framework of human trafficking phenomenon, the specificity of this phenomenon in the Czech Republic, the national and international collaboration between organizations and public institutions, the

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structure of an intervention plan, methods and techniques used in assisting survivors of human trafficking, exemplified by case studies, practical exercises and a study visit to a center where they are accommodated and assisted victims of domestic violence and trafficking, adult women, mothers with children.

The discussions regarding the legal and social aspects, the statistics, forms of exploitation were needed to help participants from the three countries (Romania, Spain, Czech Republic) to have an overall knowledge on the specificity of the trafficking phenomenon in the Czech Republic and to understand the stages through which these trafficking survivors are going through, equally appreciating this information to be useful in finding optimal ways of support provided by the specialists to this category of beneficiaries.

The study tour undertaken at the center run by the Archdiocese Caritas Prague, within the project Magdala, had a beneficial value for the participants in terms of obtaining a more detail understanding of how trafficking victims are assisted in this shelter. The presentation of the center (accommodation rooms, playgrounds, dining halls, common areas and those designed for individual sessions) and of the instruments used in providing assistance have helped this purpose.



The activities which involved the work in multidisciplinary teams (psychologist, lawyer, social worker), have created the opportunity for specialists from different countries (Romania, Spain) to work together to find the best methods of intervention in assisting trafficking survivors.

The central topic of the joint staff training sessions - coaching used as an innovative technique in providing assistance to children and youth, victims of trafficking - was presented

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in a extensive and well-structured manner during the training, the Czech coach having a rich expertise in using this instrument when working persons belonging to vulnerable groups.

Familiarizing participants with this method of intervention (coaching) was achieved through lectures (useful for explaining in detail the theory that forms the basis of this technique), but also practical exercises that have helped shape the skills needed to work with this technique in assisting trafficking survivors.

Coaching is an innovative approach used for various fields aiming to support people in the learning processes, to amplify awareness of the self in order to gain a greater confidence in overcoming various obstacles and challenges of life today, but also for the purpose of increasing the motivation. There is a real need for a new approach in assisting the trafficking survivors - namely an approach that takes into account the gradual reduction of vulnerability, promoting actively the victims' ability to help themselves to solve the problems of integration, which means more than just counseling.



A coach will help trafficking survivors to teach themselves without imposing them anything. A professional coach offers a partnership to support the beneficiaries in order to obtain excellent results for personal or professional life, namely to improve the performance and quality of life. A coach knows how to listen, to observe and to adjust to the subject depending on each beneficiary. It seeks to implement solutions and strategies from the beginning considering that the one standing in front of him is a creative person and a fountain of resources. The task of a coach is to provide the necessary support for the purpose of developing skills, resources and creativity that each person has.

This technique has been received with interest by the participants, who consider it useful and practical in the life context of the victims. They concluded that survivors of trafficking need to be in contact with their internal resources and that is why they sometimes need a coach.

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As learning methods besides power point presentations were used case studies, role plays, exercises on issues as: monitoring progress in coaching, child friendly intervention method, develop child victim emotional behavior and social relations as part of the reintegration process in society after the exploitation period.

In conclusion, participants appreciated as positive the unfolding of the training sessions, noting that there were created the conditions that invited to dynamics and useful exchanges of views and ideas. They also believe that training specialists from the field of trafficking and other related fields, adds change and awareness in the community and create the favorable conditions for the process of healing and reintegration into society of a trafficking survivor by strengthening the encouragement and support given by the Community.

Following the training sessions, the participants found useful that the skills and knowledge obtained, to be shared with other specialists working in the field of trafficking or related fields. Thus, subsequent to the training event in Prague, Czech Republic, participants transmitted the new acquired concepts to specialists from psychological, social, educational, legal fields (colleagues, collaborators, members of associations to which they belong, representatives of private and state educational institutions etc.)



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