



## **SOUTHEAST SAFENET:**

### **Preventing child trafficking and protecting unaccompanied minors in the Greek-Turkish borders**

Activities implemented - results and impact of the SESN project

#### **RESULTS of the project**

##### **1. Kick-off managerial meeting**

1-day Kick-off managerial meeting

Date: 30.06.2014

Place: Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, Meeting Room

Participants: 14

##### **2. Networking activities**

The activities that fall under this domain aim at creating a network of State law enforcement agencies, migration services, social services, health and mental health professionals and NGO's providing services to unaccompanied immigrant minors, in ports of entry and/or exit in the Greek-Turkish borders (Athens, Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Alexandroupolis and Fylakio-Orestiada in Greece and Izmir, Bodrum, Edirne, Ayvalik, Çeşme and Kusadasi in Turkey). Our goal was to promote coordination, cooperation and best practices for the identification and protection of unaccompanied minors and create a network of professionals and agencies who shall function as a safe net for victimized children or minors at risk of trafficking.

###### **i. Development of Greek network**

1-day interministerial meeting for the promotion of the project's activities and building partnerships for their implementation

Date: 10.02.2014

Place: Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, Meeting Room

Participants: 13 (Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human rights; Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Foreign Affairs/National Rapporteur's Office on Combating Human Trafficking; Institute of Child Health/Department of Mental Health and social Welfare)

A network of cooperation was established for the implementation of the project's activities through in-person meetings and contacts, the aforementioned interministerial meeting,

electronic and phone communication and the implementation of the training activity with the following agencies and authorities:

- ♦ Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings
- ♦ Ministry for the Protection of the Citizen: Hellenic Police (Aliens and border protection branch – border protection division and aliens division, anti-trafficking unit)
- ♦ Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction: First Reception Service
- ♦ Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy: Hellenic Coastguard – Security Branch (Security and Protection Sea Border)
- ♦ Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights: General Directorate of Crime and Penitentiary Policy in which the Directorate of Crime Policy and Minors Probation Officers' Service refer to
- ♦ Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity: Office of the Deputy Minister for Social Solidarity; Department for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers; National Centre for Social Solidarity
- ♦ Ministry of Health: National Health Operations Centre, University General Hospital of Alexandroupolis, General Hospital of Chios "Skilitseio", Athens General Children's Hospital "Pan. & Aglaia Kyriakou" – Child Psychiatry Department
- ♦ Municipal Social Services: Chios and Alexandroupolis
- ♦ International Non-Governmental Organizations: IOM Office in Greece, Médecins Du Monde Greece, Hellenic Red Cross (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)
- ♦ Greek Non-Governmental Organizations: Praksis, Arsis, METAdrasi, Med In, Nostos
- ♦ Athens International Airport "El. Venizelos": Security Department and private security companies (BRINKS Security Services and I.C.T.S. Hellas Security Solutions)

It should be highlighted that there was a close cooperation at all project's course between the Institute of Child Health/ Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare and the National Rapporteur's Office; the Anti-Trafficking Police Unit; the Hellenic Coastguard; the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights; the First Reception Service (an official cooperation memorandum has been signed); and the Deputy Minister for Social Solidary Office from the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity.

The established network exceeds the 200 participants as initially foreseen, and consists of circa 300 professionals and officials. Furthermore, stronger cooperation has been established among public and private agencies at a local level, as the SESN trainings were addressed to all involved parts (police, first reception service, coastguard, NGOs, hospitals) in each place, and thus the latter experienced the rare opportunity to gather altogether and explain what are the procedures that each one follows, what are the obstacles encountered, possible complaints among them and exchange contact information for further cooperation.

## ii. Development of Turkish network

A Turkish network of cooperation among agencies coming into contact with minor victims of trafficking and/or unaccompanied minors entering illegally in Greece has been established through in-person meetings and contacts, official communication and the implementation of the training activities as presented below:

- ♦ In Izmir: Izmir Family and Social Policy Directory, Izmir Immigration Management Directory, Karsikaya Court, Izmir, Dokuz Eylul University Medical School, Izmir, Izmir Custom Police, Izmir Department of Children Police, Izmir Police Passport Department, Izmir Public Health Directory
- ♦ In Ayvalik: Coast Guard, Police Department, Public Health Deputy Directory
- ♦ In Bodrum: Coast Guard, Police Department, 112 Emergency Medical Services
- ♦ In Çeşme: Coast Guard, Police Department, Çeşme 112 Emergency Medical Services
- ♦ In Edirne: Police Department, Public Health Deputy Directory, Edirne Family and Social policy Directory, Edirne 112 Emergency Medical Services
- ♦ In Kuşadası: Coast Guard, Police Department, 112 Emergency Medical Services

The Turkish network has exceeded its goal and instead of 50 participants, 80 officials and professionals have participated.

## iii. Coordination and cooperation meetings for Greek and Turkish Networks

Two coordination and cooperation meetings, one in Athens, Greece and one in Izmir, Turkey have taken place.

- ♦ 1<sup>st</sup> Coordination and cooperation meeting  
Date: 01.07.2014  
Place: President Hotel, Room Mezzo/ Athens, Greece  
Participants: 20
- ♦ 2<sup>nd</sup> Coordination and cooperation meeting  
Date: 24-26.08.2015  
Place: Dokuz Eylul University, Distance Learning Application and Research Centre/  
Dokuzcesmeler Campus, Buca, Izmir  
Participants: 23/24/13

## 3. Tools development

- i. **Review of European best practices for the identification of minor victims of trafficking**, in order to create the basis for the development of a tool for the identification of minor victims of trafficking in the Greek-Turkish borders. An extended bibliographical research was conducted among Greek and English sources with regard to best practices of initial stage identification procedures for minors, such as tools, interviews and indicators.

ii. **Screening Tool for the identification of minor victims of trafficking in Greek**, and translated in Turkish.

As the lack of adequate procedures for the identification of minor victims of THB is one of the most serious problems related to combating child trafficking, as well as key to the protection of children's rights and to providing assistance appropriate to their needs, the screening phase (first contact and initial interview) is essential. This initial stage of assessment can be roughly divided into three parts (Anti-Slavery International, 2005): first contact (which includes groups of indicators and samples of "first-line" questions), initial interview (which should help to ascertain whether a child is or is at imminent risk of becoming victim of THB) and the first formal interview (which can result in a victim's statement). During the past few years, efforts have been made in order to standardize identification procedures through, among others, the development and implementation of structured screening tools, which make use of empirical data and victims' profiles so as to identify the conditions and/or behaviors that make up strong indicators of THB.

The SESN Tool: The SESN tool for the identification of minors – potential victims of trafficking is an adjustment in Greek of the screening tool "Risk assessment matrix for children who may have been trafficked" that was developed by the London Safeguarding Children Board in the context of the London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit in 2011.

The adjustment of the tool was conducted by the Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare of the Institute of Child Health under the European "South East Safenet: Preventing child trafficking and protecting unaccompanied minors in Greek-Turkish borders – SESN" Program (HOME/2012/ISEC/AG/4000004394).

Reasons why we chose the "Risk assessment matrix for children who may have been trafficked"

- ♦ First of all, it is one of the few available screening tools that exclusively applies to minors.
- ♦ It refers to unaccompanied as well accompanied minors, victims of THB or at risk of becoming victims of THB.
- ♦ It can be quickly and easily applied in many different professional settings.
- ♦ It refers to both internal and cross-border trafficking, since it includes clusters of indicators to be detected at port of entry, exit or whilst residence in the country.
- ♦ After a 14-month pilot, the risk assessment matrix was rated by the participating UK authorities as a very useful, "must have" tool, for the identification of minor victims of THB.

However, there is one limitation:

- ♦ It may not be suitable for identification of child trafficking victims under ten years old, since it lacks in age-specific characteristics. That's the reason why in addition to the indicators described in the "Risk assessment matrix for children who may have been trafficked", the SESN tool also contains **7 appendices, 3 of which are developmentally adjusted.**

Target Group of the tool: Minor victims of trafficking or at risk of becoming victims of trafficking.

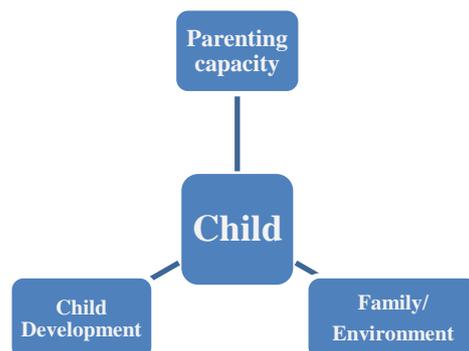
Age Group: 0-18

It is addressed to whom? The tool is addressed to first-line professionals that are more likely to encounter THB victims and high risk minors (unaccompanied minors, irregular migrants, children living on the street, children that have been arrested for involvement in illegal activities or have disappeared) such as:

- ♦ Law enforcement agencies (e.g. border guards, coast guard, police officers)
- ♦ First Reception Centres and Asylum Service Personnel
- ♦ Health Care Practitioners (doctors and nurses) at public sector or NGOs
- ♦ Social Scientists and Mental Health professionals at public sector or NGOs

Description of the SESN tool: The tool aims at creating a working framework that will enable professionals and competent services to collect and assess information in order to determine whether a minor has been a victim of trafficking or is at imminent risk of becoming victim of human trafficking. Professionals may have at their disposal a lot or very little information indicating that a child has been or is being trafficked. The professional should look across the list and tick the description/s of the incidents/circumstances which correspond best to the information available at the time. This is likely to mean ticking several descriptions.

The SESN tool includes 62 indicators for the identification of minors – potential victims of human trafficking, arranged in the domains of the risk assessment triangle: child development, parenting capacity and family/environment, for ease of reference (*Table 1*).



*Table 1.*

Each domain is divided into three parts:

- ♦ Exploitation
- ♦ Movement into, within and out of Greece
- ♦ Other risk factors

The first two parts, Exploitation and Movement into, within and out of Greece, derive from the UN definition of Human Trafficking, while in part three – other risk factors – indicators that might provide further evidence regarding the risk of harm in which minors are exposed are described. The fields in grey color refer to indicators in relation to the control exercised by the trafficker on the victims.

If the information known to the professional results in ticks in each of the 2 components of the UN definition, then there may be reasonable grounds to believe that the child is trafficked. It does not matter whether the ticks are across the 3 domains or are all in one. Professionals should always keep in mind the possibility that a piece of information, currently not known, could significantly raise the threshold of risk for a child.

Appendices: For a more thorough assessment of the minor’s condition, professionals are advised to consult the appendices that complement the tool in its Greek adjustment. Indicators A.2, A.7, C.3, C.4, C.7, C.8 and C.10 refer professionals to the relevant appendices (Table 2).

### I. Child development

<b>A. Exploitation</b>		yes	suspected
1.	Claims to have been exploited through sexual exploitation, criminality, labour exploitation, domestic servitude drug dealing by another person		
2.	Physical symptoms of exploitative abuse (sexual, physical etc) → <b>Appendix 1</b>		
3.	Underage marriage		
4.	Physical indications of working (overly tired in school, indications of manual labour – condition of hands/skin, backaches, etc)		
5.	Story very similar to those given by others, perhaps hinting they have been coached		
6.	Significantly older boyfriend		
7.	Sexually transmitted infection or unwanted pregnancy → <b>Appendix 1</b>		
<b>B. Movement into, within or out of Greece</b>		yes	suspected
1.	Returning after missing, looking well cared for despite no known base		
2.	Claims to have been in Greece for years but hasn't learnt local language or culture		
<b>C. Other risk factors</b>		yes	suspected
1.	Withdrawn and refuses to talk/appears afraid to talk to a person in authority		
2.	Harbours excessive fears/anxieties (e.g. about an individual, of deportation, disclosing information etc)		
3.	Shows signs of physical neglect – basic care, malnourishment, lack of attention to health needs → <b>Appendix 2</b>		
4.	Shows signs of emotional neglect / abuse → <b>Appendix 3</b>		
5.	Socially isolated – lack of positive, meaningful relationships in child's life		
6.	Exhibits self assurance, maturity and self confidence not expected in a child of such age		
7.	Psychological indications of trauma or numbing → <b>Appendix 4</b>		
8.	Indications of behavioral problems/disorders → <b>Appendix 5</b>		
9.	Evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse		
10.	Indications of emotional distress → <b>Appendix 6</b>		
11.	Self harming behavior including cutting, overdosing		
12.	Sexually active		
13.	Not enrolled in school		
14.	Has money, expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions without plausible explanation		

Table 2

Appendix 1: It provides indicators of physical and sexual abuse for example, bruises in unusual places such as ears, neck or thighs, difficulty relating to adults, or sexually transmitted infection, as described in the Protocol produced by the Institute of Child Health “Πρωτόκολλο Διερεύνησης, Διάγνωσης και Διαχείρισης Κακοποίησης και Παραμέλησης Παιδιών” (2015).

Appendix 2: It describes indicators of physical neglect, such as malnourishment or lack of attention to health needs as described in the Protocol produced by the Institute of Child Health

“Πρωτόκολλο Διερεύνησης, Διάγνωσης και Διαχείρισης Κακοποίησης και Παραμέλησης Παιδιών” (2015) .

[Appendix 3](#): It includes indicators of emotional neglect for example, presence of psychosomatic problems such as headaches, stomachaches etc., as described in the Protocol produced by the Institute of Child Health “Πρωτόκολλο Διερεύνησης, Διάγνωσης και Διαχείρισης Κακοποίησης και Παραμέλησης Παιδιών” (2015).

[In Appendix 4](#): The diagnostic criteria for the Post traumatic Stress Disorder are described, according to the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for mental disorders DSM-IV-TR®. However the symptoms of PTSD as described in DSM-IV, cannot effectively identify the presence of the disorder in small children. So we decided to add the diagnostic criteria for the disorder, given by the DC:0-3R (2014). For example, infants up to 36 months of age may exhibit increased anxiety in strange situations, angry reactions, sleep disorders, active avoidance of specific situations.

[Appendix 5](#): It provides clusters of indicators of behavioral problems, grouped together per age group (0-3yrs, 3-6yrs, 6-12yrs and 12-17yrs) by making use of criteria described in the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for mental disorders DSM-IV-TR® and the DC:0-3R (2014). For example, for infants between 0-3 years old, indicators such as unusual fussiness or withdrawal and high pitched cry are described.

[Appendix 6](#): It enables professionals to detect the presence of emotional problems/disorders in accordance with the child’s age by making use of criteria described in the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for mental disorders DSM-IV-TR® and the DC:0-3R (2014). So indicators are presented here as well, per age group, following the same distinction as in Appendix 5.

[Appendix 7](#): It provides an overview of the International, European and National legal framework relevant to child trafficking and unaccompanied minors.

Copies: 1500

A tool for the identification of minor victims of trafficking has been developed and all involved authorities and agencies have been equipped with it, so as to facilitate their identification procedures.

### **iii. Handbook for the use of the tool for the identification of minor victims of trafficking**

A handbook that accompanies the aforementioned tool was also developed, in order to assist first-line professionals in effectively identifying minor victims of trafficking. Apart from the description of the tool and the 7 annexes that complement the tool, the handbook also addresses issues such as: legal framework in relation to trafficking and unaccompanied minors, children’s needs and capacities according to their developmental stage, the impact of trafficking on children’s psychosocial wellbeing and interviewing techniques for children. A Turkish version of the handbook was also developed.

Copies: 1500

#### **iv. Database for unaccompanied minors and/or (possible) victims of trafficking**

The Southeast Safenet Application is a web based software that has been developed to record unaccompanied children and/or minor victims of trafficking crossing the Greek borders. The application was developed within the framework of the "Southeast Safenet: Preventing child trafficking and protecting unaccompanied minors in Greek-Turkish borders" [HOME/2012/ISEC/4000004394], that is co-funded by the Internal Security Fund of the European Union and coordinated by the Department of Mental Health and Social welfare of the Institute of Child Health.

The main purpose of the application in question is to register all unaccompanied minors and/or minor victims of trafficking who enter the Greek territory through the Turkish borders, so that they won't be "invisible" for the Greek State while handling their case. The application offers to its users the possibility to register, and thus evaluate, information in relation to children's social and developmental history, family background, course of their journey, difficulties and potential risk, while the competent services will be able to plan and implement interventions that will better serve the minors needs. In this way, minors can be protected more effectively, the possibility of their revictimization is significantly reduced while the course of their case can be evaluated more effectively and easily.

The Southeast Safenet Application has been developed using the most recent web technologies, is compatible with all W3C (WWW Consortium) standards and can be accessed from every electronic device, computer or mobile, that has internet access. Moreover it is customized using the most advanced technologies concerning the security of the recorded data and it complies with all the necessary by the project requirements that have to do with human rights and privacy.

The application is developed using PHP, HTML5, Javascript – JQuery and the relational database MySQL. It is configured in a way that makes it environment-agnostic, which means that can run on IIS, Apache or NGINX Application Server, on Windows Servers, Linux / BSD / Other UNIX Servers with exactly the same configuration. Southeast Safe Net Application has an extensive Restful API with basic authentication that makes it possible to send information to every other software in a secure and real-time way. Furthermore it includes a variety of «clever» importers that enable the application to use data from other software, CSV Files, Text Files, Restful or SOAP Web Services etc.

The Southeast Safe Net Application is complemented by a User's Manual with the following contents (see SESN-final reporting documents\Activities Cluster A\Tools Development\4. Database\User's manual database in english):

- ◆ Description of the Application
- ◆ Users and Permissions
- ◆ Questionnaires
- ◆ Views of the Inserted Data
- ◆ Data Comparison
- ◆ Annex I: Database variables

- ♦ Annex II: Annexes of the Database

Evaluation methods: preparatory meetings with National Rapporteur’s Office; preparatory meeting at Hellenic Police Headquarters, Aliens Division and Border Security Branch for discussing possible indicators/variables included in the database; meeting at the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights together with National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) for possible future interconnection of the SESN Database, the Ministry of Justice database for minor offenders and EKKA database for unaccompanied minors residing in reception facilities; piloted with ICH contracted Informatics Expert and First Reception Service personnel (agency’s Informatics expert).

A database for registering trafficked and/or unaccompanied minors entering illegally Greece through the Greek-Turkish borders was developed and piloted through simulated scenarios that were based on true cases. Certain points were modified and the database was delivered to the First Reception Service with the prospect to be incorporated in the operational procedures of the First Reception Centres, responsible for the registration of unaccompanied minors.

SESN project has contributed to the systematic and complete registration of trafficked and/or unaccompanied minors illegally entering Greece, by containing all the necessary information for each child and alerting the user of the database in case the inserted data are possible trafficking indicators. Therefore, this database safeguards that unaccompanied minors are visible for the State agencies with all their needs recorded and alerts in case he/she is a possible human trafficking victim.

#### v. Focus-groups with hospitality centres’ personnel

In order to research ways of safeguarding unaccompanied minors living in the hospitality centres discussion groups have taken place with the personnel focusing on children’s integration issues and measures taken for that and on possible follow-up strategies for unaccompanied children after leaving or absconding from the Hospitality Centres in Greece. The focus-groups with Hospitality Centre’s personnel were conducted in the shelters where the intervention workshops on children’s rights and empowerment of children (intervention activities), apart from one shelter. Specifically, the focus groups conducted are as presented at the Table below:

	<b>Name of shelter/place</b>	<b>Dates of discussion groups</b>	<b>Participants</b>
1	Anogia of Crete	22.10.2015	3
2	“Stegi plus”, Patras	4.01.2016 - 5.01.2016	8
3	Makrinitza of Pelion - Volos	24.02.2016 – 25.02.2016	9
4	“Mellon”, Athens	09.06.2016	2

Facilitators/Note keepers: Skoumbourdi Angeliki, Stavrianaki Metaxia, Nikolaidis George, Gyftopoulou Angeliki

Evaluation indicators: number of participants; focus groups’ results

The number of participants has reached the project's goals, as 22 professionals took part in the focus groups (20 persons foreseen). Findings have shown that keeping contact with children after absconding depends primarily on the relationship that has been built between children and staff and besides that the rules set by funding organisation play a more important role together with the stance that the staff has to keep in case of children deciding to abscond. It is crucial to invest in the integration procedures of children in the society and offer a prospect to this population.

#### 4. Training activities

##### i. Training of first-line professionals on issues concerning unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking in Greece

A 3-day (or 2-day in two cases) training workshop addressed to first-line professionals (law enforcement units, First Reception Service/ Centres/ Mobile Units, Asylum Service personnel, medical and paramedical professionals, social and health professionals working for NGOs or at public institutions) took place as shown:

Place	Dates	Participants
<b>Samos</b>	24-26.02.2015	15
<b>Lesvos</b>	2-4.03.2015	37
<b>Chios</b>	12-14.03.2015	39
<b>Athens – First Reception Service</b>	22-24.06.2015	8
<b>Fylakio Orestiada</b>	8-9.10.2015	38
<b>Alexandroupolis</b>	9-10.10.2015	52
<b>Athens</b>	18-20.11.2015	44
<b>Total</b>		<b>233</b>

Trainers: Hatzinikolaou Kornilia, Nikolaidis George, Pappa Vaso, Gyftopoulou Angeliki, Botsi Chryssa, Lazaridis Andromahi, Karyotis Vlassis, Logothetis George, Bratsikas Spyros, Katsigaraki Eftychia, Kogiannaki Evangelia

Facilitator-representative of Institute of Child Health in Alexandroupolis training: Roinioti Eleni

Modules of the training:

- ♦ Overview of international, European and national law concerning unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking and children's rights
- ♦ Definition of trafficking and child trafficking according to Article 3 of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol)
- ♦ Phases of the trafficking process (recruitment strategies, ways of transfer, forms of exploitation)
- ♦ Distinction between smuggling and trafficking

- ♦ Geography of THB, facts and myths about human trafficking
- ♦ Indicators for traffickers
- ♦ Indicators for victims, per type of trafficking
- ♦ Indicators for minor victims of THB, per type of trafficking - presentation of case studies
- ♦ Interviewing potential victims of THB
- ♦ Intercultural challenges when managing trafficked children and unaccompanied minors
- ♦ A familiarization with developmental psychology issues, in order to meet the needs of each age group in ways appropriate to the age and characteristics of the child concerned
- ♦ Impact of trafficking on children's physical health
- ♦ Impact of trafficking on children's psychological wellbeing – trauma and its manifestations in infancy, childhood and adolescence
- ♦ Communication skills and techniques needed when interviewing a minor
- ♦ Presentation and training - through case studies and role playing - in the use of the SESN tool (tool for the identification of minors who may have been trafficked)

Evaluation methods: self-assessment questionnaire on participants' knowledge (pre-post); assessment questionnaire on the training's implementation; meetings among trainers for internal evaluation of the trainings

Evaluation indicators: number of participants, participant's feedback

The number of participants has outreached the project's estimations and 255 professionals have been trained, instead of 200 initially foreseen. Firstly, the trainings were warmly welcomed by all professionals, particularly because such a training was taking place in their regions. Moreover, a relatively high percentage of them seemed to have a vague idea of human trafficking and little knowledge on specific indicators for child trafficking, developmental issues, legal framework, conducting an interview with a minor, health and mental health issues. Therefore, the training has proven to be extremely beneficial for this population.

## ii. Training of first-line professionals on issues concerning unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking in Turkey

A 1-day training workshop addressed to first-line professionals (officials and professionals from regional Police Departments, Migration Management Directories, Coastguard, Emergency Medical Services, Family and Social Policy Directories and Public Health Directories) took place as shown in the table below:

Place	Dates	Participants
Izmir	12.04.2016	10
Ayvalik	03.05.2016	10
Kusadasi	10.05.2016	8

<b>Cesme</b>	22.05.2016	12
<b>Bodrum</b>	26.05.2016	12
<b>Edirne</b>	28.05.2016	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>64</b>

Trainers: Soguglu Zeynep, Bal Ismail Umit, Kidak Levent, Nohutcu Nese Zeren

Modules of the training:

- ♦ Legal framework concerning unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking
- ♦ Definition of trafficking and child trafficking according to Article 3 of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol)
- ♦ Presentation and training - through case studies and role playing - in the use of the SESN Tool (tool for the identification of minors who may have been trafficked)
- ♦ Impact of trafficking on children's psychological wellbeing – trauma and its manifestations in infancy, childhood and adolescence
- ♦ Indicators for minor victims of THB, per type of trafficking
- ♦ Communication skills and techniques needed when interviewing a minor

Evaluation methods: meetings among trainers

Evaluation indicators: number of participants, participant's feedback

The number of participants has exceeded the 50 that were originally foreseen and 64 professionals were trained. Though this was a one day training, as only this was possible, still it received very good feedback regarding the structure and the information presented. It is particularly beneficial for the majority of the professionals, since they seemed to ignore that certain cases constitute trafficking. Coastguard has expressed its intention to continue the trainings.

### **iii. Training of Athens International Airport personnel on issues concerning unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking**

A 1-day training workshop of police officers responsible for passport controls and security companies' personnel, who conduct body search and baggage control, as well as the Airports' Security Department personnel, was carried out on 21.03.2016 in order to sensitize them on the issue of child trafficking and facilitate the identification of suspicious cases at the International Athens Airport (Police Building).

<b>Place</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<b>Athens – International Airport El. Venizelos</b>	21.03.2016	<b>22</b>

Trainers: Pappa Vaso, Gyftopoulou Angeliki, Bratsikas Spyros

#### Modules of the training:

- ♦ Overview of international, European and national law relevant to unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking and children's rights
- ♦ Definition of trafficking and child trafficking according to Article 3 of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol)
- ♦ Phases of the trafficking process (recruitment strategies, ways of transfer, forms of exploitation)
- ♦ Distinction between smuggling and trafficking
- ♦ Indicators for traffickers
- ♦ Indicators for victims, per type of trafficking, especially in airport settings
- ♦ Presentation and training in the use of the SESN tool (Tool for the identification of minors who may have been trafficked)
- ♦ Impact of trafficking on children's psychological wellbeing – trauma and its manifestations in infancy, childhood and adolescence

Evaluation methods: self-assessment questionnaire on participants' knowledge (pre-post); assessment questionnaire on the training's implementation

22 professionals have been trained at the Athens International Airport, instead of 20 originally foreseen. Professionals in such a setting had already a significant familiarisation with suspicious cases of trafficking and the training was very helpful to offer a background scientific and operational knowledge by providing them with indicators specifically observed in an airport setting.

#### **iv. Training on the database for the registration of unaccompanied minors and/or victims of trafficking in Greece**

A 1-day training workshop addressed to First Reception Service's personnel (Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction) in order to familiarize them with the use of the database for registering unaccompanied minors and/or minor victims of trafficking was conducted.

Date: 25.05.2016

Place: First Reception Service Headquarters, Syggrou 83, Athens

Trainers: Adamopoulos Panagiotis (informatics expert), Pappa Vaso, Gyftopoulou Angeliki

Participants: 15

Training material: User's Manual for the SESN database

Note: The database has been officially delivered to the First Reception Service in order to be incorporated to their operational procedures.

There are 15 members of First Reception Service staff familiarised with the use of the database. Noteworthy that the database was considered user-friendly and information was easy to grasp,

given that the majority of the trainees did not belong to the Informatics department.

## 5. Intervention activities

The intervention activities addressed to unaccompanied minors residing in state and NGO reception facilities around Greece were entitled "Their Voice Project" because it aspired to give unaccompanied minors "voice" in order to express their needs, their concerns and, also, to work on issues that they themselves consider as important for their lives. The activities were divided in two parts: a) a workshop on children's rights for unaccompanied minors, called as "the brief intervention" and b) an intervention program on empowerment and promotion of self-protection skills of unaccompanied minors, called as the "main intervention".

### i. Workshop on children's rights for unaccompanied minors

The workshop on children's rights (brief intervention) included: a) the first contact with each cooperative reception facility, i.e. to meet shelter' staff and unaccompanied minors who reside there and inform them about the project and b) the implementation of a 4-day workshop for unaccompanied minors on UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, on human trafficking and on self-protection skills. Each brief intervention (workshop) consisted of four 2.5 hours' sessions. This scheme was applied in all facilities where the Voice project was implemented. More specifically:

- ◆ Place: "Mellon" Shelter, Athens (Nostos NGO)  
Date/Duration: October 2014 to January 2015  
Number of interventions: 2
- ◆ Place: Shelter in Oreokastro, Thessaloniki (Arsis NGO)  
Date/Duration: January 2015 to March 2015  
Number of interventions: 1
- ◆ Place: Shelter in Makrinitza/Pelion, Volos (Arsis NGO)  
Date/Duration: April 2015  
Number of interventions: 1
- ◆ Place: "Stegi plus" Shelter, Patra (PRAKSIS NGO)  
Date/Duration: May 2015  
Number of intervention: 1
- ◆ Place: Drop-In Centre, Patra (PRAKSIS NGO)  
Date/Duration: May 2015  
Number of intervention: 3
- ◆ Place: Shelter in Anogia, Crete (Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation, Ministry of Education)  
Date/Duration: July 2015 to August 2015  
Number of intervention: 1

Facilitators: Tsangari Vasiliki, Chatzinikolaou Christina

Note: A training manual for brief intervention was developed in order for professionals working in reception facilities to implement such workshops.

Evaluation methods: participants' self-assessment questionnaire on children's rights (pre-post)

## ii. Implementation of empowerment and self-protection skills for unaccompanied minors

The second part of the intervention activities ("main intervention") was implemented in each reception facility after the completion of brief intervention and included: a) the conduction of individual interviews with minors who were going to participate in the main intervention. b) The conduction of a 10 session's workshop for the unaccompanied minors who had participated in the brief intervention. During this workshop participants could work further and deeper on trafficking and on other dangers they are exposed to, on issues they are concerned about and were empowered to plan their future and develop personal and social skills. c) The training of one professional from each facility's staff and of minors who had participated in the project in the manual of brief intervention. The main intervention (workshop) consisted of ten 2 hours' sessions. More specifically:

- ◆ Place: "Mellon" Shelter, Athens (Nostos NGO)  
Date/Duration: October 2014 to January 2015  
Number of interventions: 1
- ◆ Place: Shelter in Oreokastro, Thessaloniki (Arsis NGO)  
Date/Duration: January 2015 to March 2015  
Number of interventions: 1
- ◆ Place: Shelter in Anogia, Crete (Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation, Ministry of Education)  
Date/Duration: July 2015 to August 2015  
Number of intervention: 1

Facilitators: Tsangari Vasiliki, Chatzinikolaou Christina

Table with aggregated data of participants and shelters

Reception facility's name/ place	Organisation running the facility	Number of participants	Nationality
Athens "Mellon"	Nostos NGO (coordinator)	42	Afghanistan: 29 Syria: 6 Pakistan: 2 Iraq: 1 Morocco: 1 Palestine: 1

<b>Thessaloniki</b>	Arsis NGO	15	Afghanistan: 12 Mali: 2 Cote d'Ivoire: 1
<b>Pelion</b>	Arsis NGO	17	Afghanistan: 8 Pakistan: 5 Bangladesh: 2 Congo: 2
<b>Crete</b>	INEDIVIM (Ministry of Education)	10	Pakistan: 5 Bangladesh: 2 Afghanistan: 2 Somalia: 1
<b>"Stegi Plus"/ Patra</b>	NGOs Praksis & Greek Red Cross	9	Afghanistan: 5 Syria: 3 Sudan: 1
<b>Drop In Centre/ Patra</b>	NGO Praksis	49	Afghanistan: 49
<b>Total number of participants</b>	<b>142</b>		

Evaluation methods: Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) for measuring the psychological well-being of unaccompanied minors participating in the activity; discussion groups with participants at a closing session for evaluating the implementation of the activity

Evaluation indicators: number of participants, participants' feedback

Children participating in the workshops are now aware of the risk of being trafficked and are aware that they must always have a safety net of people in case they leave the shelter. Further they have been informed of what constitutes human trafficking and specifically child trafficking, given that according to Palermo Convention with regard to children regardless if have consented or not of their to their exploitation, the act is still trafficking. Moreover, they are informed over their legal rights, as minors and as migrants or refugees. Finally, the intervention has helped them express their anxiety for the past, present and future and has made them recognise their strength and resilience despite all odds, since they have managed to survive their difficult journey.

At the same time, the training manual for hospitality centres' personnel on the implementation of children's rights workshops together with the training that one staff member from each shelter has received in order to incorporate this workshop in their initial reception procedures safeguards that children will be fully aware of their rights and thus feel more confident.

## 6. Evaluation

External evaluator: Professor Kevin Browne

Prof. Kevin Browne has monitored the project's activities all along the project's life and carried out a report on their implementation, results and impact.

## 7. Dissemination activities

### i. Handbook of case studies

In order to produce a reference concerning the management of child trafficking and unaccompanied minors' cases in Greece for professionals a collective handbook was published that:

- ♦ Describes the international, European and national legal framework in relation to trafficking in human beings and unaccompanied minors
- ♦ Points out the inadequacies and gaps in the operational procedures regarding unaccompanied minors and/or minor victims of trafficking, especially at a political level
- ♦ Highlights the European dimension of the phenomenon of child trafficking and the steps to be taken for its combating
- ♦ Proposes tools and ways to optimize identification procedures in relation to child trafficking and treatment of unaccompanied minors
- ♦ Describes the steps for the development of the National Referral Mechanism for the protection of victims of trafficking
- ♦ Addresses trafficking as a health risk and describes identification procedures that can be used by health practitioners

Authors: Apart from the ICH professionals that were involved in the implementation of the project, experts on THB and unaccompanied minors issues were invited and contributed to the creation of the handbook; Heracles Moskoff, Areti Ketekidou, Kevin Browne, Angeliki Gyftopoulou, Korina Hatzinikolaou, Vaso Pappa, Christina Chatzinikolaou, Vasiliki Tsangari, Theodora Gianni, Ioannis Avranas, Chryssa Botsi, George Nikolaidis.

Copies: 1000

### ii. Leaflets against child trafficking

- ♦ A leaflet addressed to the general public was developed in Greek, in order to raise awareness in relation to child trafficking. It contains legal definition of trafficking and child trafficking, indicators and competent agencies and authorities to report such incidents.

Copies: 2500

- ♦ A leaflet addressed to professional groups who may encounter a child victim of trafficking within the framework of their daily working practice (medical and paramedical staff, teachers etc.) was developed in Greek, so as to inform them over the legal definition of trafficking and child trafficking, indicators and competent agencies and authorities to report such incidents.

Copies: 2500

### iii. International Conference

Title: "Children on the move – children at risk: from detection to intervention"

Place: TITANIA Hotel, Panepistimiou Str. 52, Athens, Greece

Dates: 23-24 May 2016

Participants: 196; out of which 28 were speakers

The conference consisted of presentations, speeches and discussion with the pertinent authorities and ministries, with NGOs involved in the management, treatment and reception of unaccompanied minors, freelancer professionals and professionals working at municipal centres and hospitals, the scientific community and the general public over ways to combat child trafficking and to apply more effectively children's rights in Europe; disseminate project's activities and results and enhance the cooperation and dialogue among the aforementioned. All pertinent Ministries and public authorities as well as NGOs involved in the protection and accommodation of unaccompanied minors and/or victims of trafficking presented their work so far, the gaps in policy and practice and their plans for the future.

#### **iv. Poster against child trafficking**

A Poster raising the awareness of unaccompanied minors regarding exploitative and abusive conditions that they might be experiencing and which constitute crimes and violations of human rights and at the same time, informing about agencies (telephone numbers and addresses) in order to seek for help has been designed, translated by native speakers and printed in English, French, Urdu, Farsi and Arabic.

Copies: 500

#### **v. Website**

A website accessible by all interested parties was developed in order to disseminate the project's activities, results to professionals, general public, and scientific community and inform regarding international law and NGOs' reports over trafficking and unaccompanied minors.

Website address: <http://www.southeastsafenet.eu/>

From the aforementioned dissemination activities more professionals including those that are not engaged in the front-line have been better informed on child trafficking indicators, issues and actions that need to be taken against this crime. Moreover the leaflets have served this purpose as well as, coupled with the awareness raising of the general public.

### **IMPACT of the project**

Within the framework of this project we have established a multisectional network of public and private agencies involved in the management of unaccompanied minors and/or minor victims of trafficking. The engaged agencies and NGOs not only were informed about the goals and activities of the project but also advocated and worked actively towards the successful implementation of these activities. In particular, both the Hellenic Police and the Hellenic Coastguard supported the trainings addressed to frontline professionals by disposing 2 officers

(one from each authority) trained on human trafficking issues to take part on the training activities as trainers. At the same time, these agencies incorporated the tool for the identification of minor victims of trafficking and the handbook on the tool into their operational procedures as the most appropriate tools for minors and asked for our permission to distribute the material within their services. The Tool for the identification of minor victims of trafficking and the handbook was equally distributed to NGOs working in the field of combatting child trafficking and protecting unaccompanied minors. Noteworthy that by creating a developmentally informed tool for the identification of minor victims of trafficking, a handbook with relevant topics (such as legal framework in relation to child trafficking and unaccompanied minors, interview guidelines and techniques, trauma and its manifestation in children) and by providing psychosocial support to unaccompanied minors residing in shelters, we have promoted in practice child-friendly procedures in the treatment of unaccompanied minors.

Furthermore, the project had a significant awareness-raising effect, since the Hellenic Coastguard within the framework of our collaboration decided to include trafficking related issues in its standard training modules. Similarly in Turkey, the Turkish Coastal Guard Management after acknowledging the positive impact of the training activities requested the continuing of the trainings. In Greece particularly, these trainings have been considered ideal and necessary for the reception facilities' personnel and the guardians of unaccompanied minors and have been included in the draft presidential decrees as a compulsory training to be received. The fact that these trainings were significantly well-received by first line agencies and professionals is also reflected in the fact that long after the implementation of these activities and up today ICH is receiving respectful requests from relevant to the subject matter stakeholders for additional informal trainings. Finally, through the development of the database for registering trafficked and/or unaccompanied minors entering illegally the Greek borders through Turkish territory and its delivery to the First Reception Service the SESN project has contributed significantly to the systematization of data collection and registration.

All the above indicate that at least some of the project's activities had a lasting effect in promoting effectiveness of services involved in protecting children on the move contributing thus to the sustainability of the project's impact. Moreover, it should be noted that this particular project having as a subject matter minors-victims of trafficking and related phenomena acquired an additional significance throughout the years of its implementation in virtue of the dramatic increase of immigration and refugee flows during exactly these years. As a result, the social usefulness of the project's outcome, the utility of the project-developed tools in enhancing services efficacy in identifying children-victims and providing improved protection were increased accordingly. The fact that the agency which implemented the particular project (ICH) keeps on receiving requests for further implementing some or other from the project's activities in first-line and social-design stakeholders is indicative of the wider recognition of the utility of the projects' outcomes and its acceptance in overall. The same equally applies to the fact that agencies such as the Hellenic Coastguard (but also other was well) officially acknowledged SESN's tools as indicated for use and thus incorporated them in their services regular practice. Last but not least, the fact that within the SESN project's context several networking, and coordination activities were organized and implemented contributed substantially in providing the necessary ground for synergies required at the domestic (via improving inter-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration) but also at the international (among Greek and Turkish respectful agencies) levels.