



INSigHT
Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

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WORKSHOP “WORKING WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SWEDEN & ITALY”

8 May 2020(14 - 16)

Zoom

Agenda

1. Welcome and presentation of workshop agenda, Isabelle Johansson, INSigHT researcher
2. Presentation of the INSigHT project, Michela Semprebon, INSigHT research coordinator
3. Presentation of the Swedish National Referral Mechanism and the role of regional coordinators, Elin Johansson & Sara Olsson, regional anti-trafficking coordinators South, Sweden
4. Presentation of the Italian anti-trafficking system and the project “N.A.Ve” anti-trafficking network, Elisa Bedin from the Municipality of Venice, Barbara Maculan and Gaia Borgato from Equality, Italy
5. Discussion & questions, open for all participants
6. Wrap up

List of Attendees

Sara Olsson, regional anti-trafficking coordinator South, Sweden

Elin Johansson, regional anti-trafficking coordinator South Sweden

Devisri Nambiar, Equality,

Giuseppina Di Bari, Comune di Venezia,

Marica Marica, Comune di Padova,

Francesca Sguotti, Equality,

Roberta Amore, Equality,

Chiara De Zan, Equality,

George Mekolle, Equality,

Silvia Etrari, Azalea,





INSigHT
Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

Luisa Pietropoli, Caritas di Rovigo (Associazione Il Manto di Martino),

X Che c'era in più?

Thomas Dall'Ara, Caritas di Rovigo (Associazione Il Manto di Martino),

x Che c'era in più?

IdanaCasarotto, Progetto La Tenda,

Elisa Bedin, Comune di Venezia, Coordinator of project N.A.Ve

Isabelle Johansson, IUAV, Researcher for the INSigHT Action

Serena Scarabello, IUAV, Researcher for the INSigHT Action

Gaia Borgato, Coordinator of Equality ATI for the INSigHT Action

Barbara Maculan, President of Equality ATI for the INSigHT Action

Michela Semprebon, IUAV/SSIIM, Research Coordinator for the INSigHT Action

Executive Summary

1. **Welcome and presentation of workshop agenda (Isabelle)**
2. **Short Presentation of the Action (Michela)**
3. **Presentation of the Swedish National Referral Mechanism and the role of regional coordinators (Elin & Sara)**
4. **Presentation of the Italian anti-trafficking system and the project "N.A.Ve" anti-trafficking network (Elisa, Barbara, Gaia and Devisri)**
5. **Discussion & questions**
6. **Wrap up**

Welcome

Agreement to reserve questions for after presentations

Presentation by Elin and Sara

Regional coordinators part of NMT. For more info, see: <https://www.nmtsverige.se/>

Stakeholders in NMT meet regularly, about 2 times a year

Regional coordinators

National referral mechanism, 7 steps.

IOM Voluntary Return Program

Webtools/guidelines





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Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

Campaigns to address “violence against women”

The Swedish work against trafficking as interlinked with violence against women, but we know human trafficking is more than that.

Regional coordinators now correspond to police regions, 7 regions. For more info, see:

<https://www.nmtsverige.se/om-oss/regionkoordinatorer>

The purpose of regional coordinators is “to be the one in the middle, to help clients” (clients meaning victims). They are co-funded by the Swedish Gender Equality Agency and social services. For more info, see:

<https://www.jamstalldhetsmyndigheten.se/en>

The regional coordinators collaborate with the police human trafficking group, help social workers with info and support.

Presentation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the different steps. From 2019.

For more info, see: <https://www.nmtsverige.se/publikation/national-referral-mechanism>

Presentation the NMR from the point of the regional coordinators.

The regional coordinators assist other authorities in asking potential victims questions and finding patterns. The role of the regional coordinators: help other with suspicions of trafficking, finding networks in south Sweden. There are target groups. They also address what is lacking in the system. Their part: “being difficult and nagging”. The system is not working as it’s supposed to. Big differences in Sweden with police and human trafficking depending where you live. Special police units do not exist everywhere, meaning that the location of exploitation matters when it comes to what you can access as a victim! Depending on status people might not be able to access support. Asylum and Dublin. Like staying at a safe house. NGOs come in as important here.

“Long-term” issue.

The IOM return program. People can enter to return to home country or permit country. The purpose of the program is described as also providing support to migrants who sell sex.

For more info, see: <https://www.iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return-and-reintegration>

Purpose is to decrease re-trafficking or returning to prostitution.

The regional coordinators: How does Italy work with IOM?

Prior experiences of reaching out to NGOs in Italy. Permits = money etc. Rec cross?

Unclear.





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Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

They've had cases. People who've been in Italy, they've reported the crime in Italy but received no help, then have come to Sweden being afraid to return to Italy. Narratives of mafia voodoo and violence against family etc.

Regional coordinators everywhere now. Since two three years. Big effect of their work. More NGOs in Sweden now too. Shelters. Not so many in the south? State doesn't offer any shelters for trafficking victims. Trafficking victims not mixed with victims of violence.

How we should work has been presented but the reality is different!

Dublin cases especially difficult access support.



UNIVERSITY OF VERONA





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Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

Presentation by Barbara, Gaia and Elisa

The case of a Nigerian woman in Verona who had been to Spain and Sweden. People think about Europe as one territory, which matters vis-à-vis social interventions. We need to improve the work between European countries.

Sexwork in Italy is NOT illegal, meaning the anti-trafficking work is not against sex work but against sexual exploitation.

Anti-trafficking system in Italy based on national law, starting with law in 1998 and art. 18.

The program of NRM of art. 18 started in 2000. Article 18 possibility of residence permits.

In the last 20 years we have seen a lot of transformations in the phenomenon, not only concerning sexual exploitation but also other types of exploitation and involvement in criminal activities (selling drugs, etc.)

2016, launch of National Action Plan.

Regional project since 2016 – comprising local authorities + NGOs entitled to work with VoT according to national guidelines

Women exploited for sexual purposes managed to come out and be assisted with long term res permit, 6+6+6 months of social protection program.

Sex work in Italy not illegal so Italian interventions not against prostitution but to protect against sexual exploitation as something very different.

NRM starts with this history since 2000.

20 years of transformation of the phenomenon of trafficking as a whole and people involved in criminal activity.

2016 response to European thb directive started the national action plan against thb but a national referral system already existed.

Nave started 2016 but the members already active working together.

The work of nave: Regional work as important. Network building but coordination is needed to guarantee help is given regardless of location.

Now in 3rd edition of project.

Regional ref mechanism already existed before. Veneto as one of the first regions coordinating itself and the various actors in contact with (potential) victims.

Guarantee support regardless of status, age, nationality etc. according to the legal framework!

Italy follows the directive and wrote a law before art 18 existed.





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Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

24/365 days active.

Methodology and approach. Mediators as important. A key professional bridging cultures.

Areas of interventions. Proactive. Outreach. Identification. Police report not needed.

Indicators for identifying victims, which they don't love.

Reflection period the time the victims have to consider if they want to enter a protection program and report to police.

Social inclusion.

Work in Italy heavily relies on NGO involvement. In Sweden not so much.

Shelters divided into different kinds. "Fuga" (escape), reflection, semi-autonomy etc.

Public social services and NGOs collaboration.

The legal area as key because of residence permit. It's everything!

Break

Devisri continues to address on the legal aspects, support and how it works. NRM.

Indicators they use a checklist they don't really like. They were the result of collaboration with UNHCR. You can get asylum in Italy as a victim of trafficking. Nigerians going back to Nigeria with return programs then come back to Italy. IOM - hard to apply to Nigerians.

Questions & Discussion

Input from Sweden: Collaborations with IOM in Italy? If they cannot take part in the program of IOM we can only find out whether something can be done to support them in Italy.

Input from Italy: Legal framework allows us to take charge of VoT and we can take charge of regularization. May not even enter the shelter but we take charge of them. Art. 18 is a very powerful tool that allows to work and has the aspect of contrasting criminal organizations. We use indicators as a checklist (in collaboration with UNHCR) + it is possible to get international protection - and it is very relevant for Nigerians + there is an issue of re-trafficking.

Devisri: Many cases arrive towards the end of the asylum process, when a negative decision arrive. We have 30 days reflection period and 2 months for investigation but nothing after that. Hence the asylum process will bring the decision that stands above everything else. If you have the 2 months for investigation you have access to shelters and support - many relating to NGOs.

Elin: Some people come to them at a late stage in the asylum process. One case of permanent residence permit to a VoT. Investigation and support + NGOs. Support is





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Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

dependent in Sweden. If a person has not been exploited in Sweden, but for example in Italy, then they are not entitled to assistance. To be able to have reflection period the crime must be connected to Sweden otherwise we cannot apply for it. This is a big difference between the countries. NGOs anti-trafficking platform filled some of the gaps the Swedish authorities left, but are now lacking funding. Undocumented migrant. Regional coordinators can't help and NGOs have little funding. If the victims haven't been exploited in Sweden no help.

Swedish Platform Civil Society against Human Trafficking: <https://manniskohandel.se/in-english/>

Elisa talks about Nigerian women reaching Sweden. Contacts there? Escorted there? Risks of working in prostitution in Sweden?

Elin and Sara on the complex Swedish prostitution policy, paying for and mediating the sale of sex is illegal. Selling not in itself illegal but there are risks for migrants selling sex.

Border control can deny an entry to migrants supposedly selling sex and migrants can be deported on this basis. Frustrating lack of knowledge about potential vulnerabilities! Dublin: how to connect the different interventions. (Regional to national to transnational.)

Elisa on how the Dublin cases work: we have a national green number + regional coordinators to collect requests and we can contact each other.

Elin: If a person comes to our office and says "I was in Italy" IOM cannot help. And it would be useful to have a contact in Italy. And the women are very scared to go back to Italy. The view is they are everyone under risk.

Barbara shared Italian national help line (free of charge: 800290290)

<http://www.numeroverdeantitratta.org/>

Dependent support in Sweden vs "independent" in Italy = evidence of the importance of transnational collaboration.

Elin on cases where there is fear of going back to Italy.

Sara on referral to Italy. Sara had one case referred to the Red Cross in Italy. This was in the South of Sweden. Talk on Skype with Italian organisation made the person calmer. They are still in contact. About Denmark: they've had some good collaborations with NGOs in Italy, and they've experienced some difficulties with IOM Returning Program. What about Italian collaborations with IOM?





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Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

Elisa and Devisri: no IOM program in Italy. Previously, 4 or 5 returns, but overall difficult to collaborate with IOM. The help in Nigeria turned out weaker than expected, so support couldn't be guaranteed. Instead, collaboration with other NGOs. There's been reduction of funding for IOM and increase of forced returns. The conditions of voluntariness have changed. People move independently in Europe. Interesting to know that people are scared to come back to Italy. Experimental project in Venice – because there is an airport – for asylum seekers and we informed them on the risk of trafficking and on the Dublin regulation, but it does not exist anymore. Also few cases of Dublin and we advocated with the Dublin unit whether they should return or not depending on their situation and risks. People who've been to Spain, then Italy. Managed to stop Dublin process to Spain because it was a risk. The Dublin system does not necessarily interfere with the asylum process.

Elin: The Dublin label is removed if you participate in a criminal investigation in Sweden. (In Italy asylum or art 18 cancels Dublin, but not the court proceeding in itself.)

Art 18 conditions on individuals? Are people willing to join Italian programs? They have conditions. Spaces of collaboration?

Roberta on the art 18 process: requires time and strength, motivation. They meet victims who are not ready to share or change. Pressure from Nigeria. What the person wants to be. Living in shelters. Reach aims. Family pressure. They don't want to work. Time to have children. Different difficulties at different steps. The role of educators.

Elin: NRM is about what the client should access. What people want matters too. Asks about what a person has to go through for an article 18 permit and mentions that they've encountered people with permits in Italy in Sweden. On what basis are you getting the permit? If people arrive in Sweden from Italy with a permit to stay in Italy and ask to get support, it sounds in Italy the person would be safe.

Sara: One permit was as a child, and she started being exploited in Italy after she turned 18, then came to Sweden.

Elisa mentions it matters what permits they have, ex. art 18 identification and program. If going to Sweden not all permits are valid anymore. Art 18 permit: the identification is by a social worker or a judge for 6 months + possibly 6 months + possibly other 6 and it can be converted into work permit. It is not written that it is an art. 18 permit. It used to be written "humanitarian" and now "special cases" but it is valid only if they are in a project. If they exit





INSigHT
Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

program no more permit. Asylum seeking process very long in Italy can take 3-5 years, refugee status 5 years.

Barbara on conditions for programs art 18. Minors are a whole different scenario!

Francesca on meeting girls in her work who've previously been in Sweden.

Wrap up

The complexity of systems makes it evident we need better collaborations between countries. Suggestions for follow ups: Another meeting with the colleagues of the national Italian helpline. Do a second round and talk about different permits specifically. Do a session on empirical examples/concrete cases involving potential or confirmed victims to identify how to improve the work. Concrete cases next session.

Isabelle sends out workshop info.

