



## SaviAV – Social inclusion and vocational integration of Asylum seekers and Victims of human trafficking

### Objectives

The aim of the SaviAV network is to promote the social, economic and human rights of trafficked people and contribute to a dignified standard of living for asylum seekers, by identifying emerging issues and policy gaps and influencing policy take-up and structures in this field. The platform has two separate strands for asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking, as well as one common strand. This allows for exploring the specifics of each of the target groups, while at the same time highlighting synergies and commonalities. Advice, education and vocational training are the main themes under the asylum seeker strand. As part of the human trafficking strand, focus is placed on prevention, support and (re)integration assistance, for both victims of forced labour and sexual exploitation. Across both strands is the need to collect information to 'make the case' and to raise awareness and understanding.

### Who we are:

SaviAV is a thematic Learning Network, co-financed by the European Commission (DG Employment and Social Affairs) under the transnational cooperation budget of the European Social Fund 3007-2013. The network consists of various ESF and non-ESF partners.

ESF-partners: Germany (federal level), Belgium (region Flanders), Greece, Italy (regions – Calabria, Emilia Romagna, Lazio, Lombardy, Piedmont, Sicily), Spain, Sweden.

Non-ESF Partners: Oravais Flyktingförläggning Finland (Oravais Reception Center for Refugees), Germany (regions Hamburg and Berlin), Tecnostruttura Italy, MTÜ Eesti Pagulasabi Estonia (Estonian Refugee Council)

### Activities

The network had the Kick off meeting and the first study visit on 15-17 September 2010 in Berlin. More than 30 participants from all participating countries had visited projects focusing on the labour market integration in the strand of asylum seekers. Furthermore the participants took the chance to join a conference from a project that focuses on the labour market strategies for victims of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour. This project, "The Berlin Alliance against Trafficking", had presented a study, giving an overview on the situation in Germany and the recent developments. Please follow the link to an executive summary of the study: [http://www.gegen-menschenhandel.de/Downloads/100915%20BBGM%20Studie%20Zusammenfassung%20EN\\_Final.pdf](http://www.gegen-menschenhandel.de/Downloads/100915%20BBGM%20Studie%20Zusammenfassung%20EN_Final.pdf)

On 5-6 October 2010, 25 participants (partners and stakeholders) participated in a study visit in Sicily, Italy. Participants took the opportunity to visit projects dealing with the integration of asylum seekers in Palermo, Trapani and Agrigento. The visit focused on the reception system for asylum seekers and approaches regarding unaccompanied minors.

The Piedmont region hosted a study visit on 2-3 December 2010. More than 40 participants were informed on the regional promising practices on the integration of victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.



On 9-11 February 2011, 20 representatives of the SaviAV network visited the Oravais Refugee Center in Finland. A quality management project, run in the Finnish Reception Centres, was presented to the participants. Preparatory courses to the regular school system provided to children with migrant background and services to unaccompanied minors were identified as good practices.

Emilia-Romagna hosted a study visit on 16 - 17 June 2011. More than 30 participants gained an insight into the public-private partnerships and cooperation established by the Emilia Romagna Region. The visit of the project "Beyond the street" stood at the core of the visit. The model includes social and health-related actions and a free toll number to reach potential victims of human trafficking as well as offers interventions related to reception, social protection and temporary assistance for a better inclusion of victims of human trafficking.

On 12 - 13 October 2011, 35 partners and stakeholders were hosted by the Calabria Region. During the first day, projects which aim at enhancing social and labour inclusion of victims of human trafficking were presented to the participants, highlighting the importance of receiving victims of human trafficking in tailored structures and elaborating individual pathways to guarantee a successful transition to further education, training or secure employment. On the second day, participants visited Riace, a municipality of not more than 1,500 inhabitants, which has developed an interesting model of reception and insertion for asylum seekers and/or refugees, contributing both to the revitalization of the rural area and to the rehabilitation of the beneficiaries, hosting them in abandoned houses that have been restored and involving them into craft workshops. Micro-credits opportunities for migrants and asylum seekers were also showcased, providing solutions to fight poverty and contribute to social integration.

### ***Planned activities during the implementation phase (July 2010 – December 2013)***

#### *Overall activities of SaviAV:*

- Study visits (projects, institutions) in all core partner regions
- Learning seminars to capture the main lessons and good practices emerging from the study visits
- Individual practical trainings/internships of 3 - 4 weeks, to allow practitioners to learn about the different contexts and approaches in other Member States.

#### *Planned activities in Asylum Seekers Strand: study visits & themes*

- Labour market integration in Greece, unaccompanied minors (23 - 24 Nov. 2011)
- Welcoming and integrating "newcomers", Belgium Flanders (end of January 2012)
- The Ariadna network, integration measures, including vocational training and labour market insertion, Spain (February 2012)
- Health care provision for asylum seekers and international healthcare advisors, Sweden (June 2012).

#### *Planned activities in Victims of trafficking strand: study visits & themes*

- The transfer of results concerning improved services for victims of human trafficking, Lombardy, Italy (March/April 2012)
- Best practice interventions by operators working with victims of human trafficking, Lazio, Italy (July 2012).



### *Learning seminars*

- Transferability of models and systems for victims of trafficking and asylum seekers (regional and national practices), Berlin, Germany, 13 - 14 December 2011
- Implementing integration concepts and strategies for asylum seekers at the regional level, Hamburg, Germany, 5 - 7 September 2012.

The good practices and lessons learnt, identified on the basis of the activities above, will be fed into the **Policy Forum**, which will be SaviAV's final, EU-wide event planned in December 2012.

### **Products:**

The SaviAV learning network is expected to develop a "Labour market information system" and an "Awareness-raising campaign".

### **1. Labour market information system "Labourpedia" (Preparation starts in November 2011)**

Too often case workers have no idea whether an asylum seeker or victim of trafficking with a certain profession could a) actually work in the Member State, b) whether and which part of his qualifications could be recognised, c) what would need to be done to get these recognised and d) what the labour market in the country of origin looks like. Several Member States have in the past, sought to create a database or knowledge bank to include information on education and training systems and qualification levels in third countries as well as the labour market situation in these countries. SaviAV will first undertake a feasibility study, aimed at mapping the approaches already undertaken in this thematic area and at avoiding duplications and overlaps between different national systems and address current information gaps. The purpose of the database would be to provide information on the education and training system in third countries, on their labour markets, etc, which should ultimately contribute to improved recognition and validation of the qualifications, skills and competences of asylum seekers and victims of trafficking. As a second step, a prototype of the database would be developed and tested.



## **2. Awareness-raising campaign (Preparation starts in November 2011)**

SaviAV plans the development and organisation of a campaign aimed at raising awareness of the problems faced by the target groups and the benefits they can bring to society, in order to increase public acceptance.

Development: Based on the first study visits and learning seminars, the network partners will review the need to develop awareness-raising campaigns on the target groups addressed by the network. Whilst addressing the specific needs of each Member State, the campaigns should follow a common format (e.g. a video, a poster campaign, advertisements, etc), which is to be developed, and start on the same date (e.g. human rights day). The implementation of the campaign will be contracted through public procurement. Other Member States will also be approached in order to convince them to join the campaign. Implementation: The awareness campaign will be launched in all countries that have an interest (also outside from SaviAV). Ideally the campaign should be launched by the European Commission – it is to be explored whether any potentially appropriate EU events are planned in this period.

### 3. Vademecum for the integration of asylum seekers and victims of trafficking into ESF-actions

The Vademecum aims at stimulating learning, by providing checklists, good practice examples, etc. The document will reflect new good practices and knowledge emerging from the study visits and learning seminars in the recent funding period. The vademecum is focusing on ESF Programme Managers, project promoters, decision makers etc who are in need of practical advice and good practice on designing and implementing actions/projects targeting asylum seekers and victims of trafficking.

#### **Contact information:**

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