

TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES FROM EASTERN EUROPE TO WESTERN EUROPE

An exploratory research in
eight Western European
receiving countries

edited by

Annemieke Wolthuis
Mirjam Blaak

ECPAT EUROPE LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUP

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BELGIUM

Frank Hutsebaut
Imad Bounouch
Katlijn Declercq
Paul de Herdt
Danielle van Kerckhoven
Sophie Wirtz

FINLAND

Elina Virmasalo
Helena Molander

FRANCE

Florence Tamerlo
Karine Pidery
Nadine Benichou

GERMANY

Birgit Thoma
Rebecca Stefula
Mechtild Maurer

ITALY

Alessia Altamura
Françoise Barner

NORWAY

Astrid Renland
Turid Heiberg

THE NETHERLANDS

Annemieke Wolthuis
Mirjam Blaak
Stan Meuwese

UNITED KINGDOM

Carron Somerset
Helen Veitch

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With special contributions of:

- Muireann O'Briain, executive director ECPAT International, Bangkok.
- Regula Turtschi, ECPAT Switzerland

Edited by:

- Mirjam Blaak
- Annemieke Wolthuis

Contributions to editing by:

- Marlene Hinselwood
- Mary Matheson

Lay out by:

- Marja van de Pavert

Printed by:

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ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group

Stan Meuwese, coordinator
c/o Defence for Children International The Netherlands
P.O. Box 75297
1070 AG Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 20 420 3771
Fax: +31 20 420 3832
www.defenceforchildren.nl

Preface

This study is not the first one¹ and most likely will not be the last on trafficking in children for sexual purposes. But for a couple of reasons this study is a special one.

First it is a study which includes various European States and provides an assessment of the impact of recent developments in Eastern Europe on the phenomenon of trafficking in children for sexual exploitation. This attempt to present the phenomenon at the European level is a necessary and most welcome contribution to the development of a European policy.

Secondly the study is comprehensive on covering the various aspects of the prevention and combating of trafficking in children for sexual purposes. This comprehensive approach is reflected in the concrete and specific conclusions dealing with such different issues as the need for enhancing international standards by ratifying protocols to international conventions, strengthening of the enforcement of the law (harmonisation, cooperation), prevention campaigns, training for professionals and also the need for special protection and for special attention for the (possibilities of) repatriation.

Trafficking in children for sexual - or other - purposes is by its nature a problem that cannot be dealt with only at the national level. This study provides the EU with enough tools for the development and the effective implementation of a policy aimed at the prevention and elimination of trafficking in children.

Furthermore, all EU-member-states and in fact all European States are Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). That Convention clearly calls for a fight against trafficking (articles 34 35 CRC) not only at the national level, but also through all appropriate bilateral and multilateral measures within the framework of international cooperation (article 4 CRC jo 34 and 35 CRC).

Further research may be necessary but is an excuse for suspension of action. Now the EU can and should give a follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of this study by taking very concrete measures on the basis of a comprehensive policy and strategy aimed at elimination of trafficking in children.

Jaap E. Doek
Chairperson UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

¹ Campagna, Daniel S. and Poffenberger, Donald L., *The Sexual Trafficking in Children. An Investigation of the Child Sex Trade*, Dover (Massachusetts): Auburn House Publishing Company, 1988.

Introduction

1. BACKGROUND

This final report is the result of a first orientation study done by the ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group. The research project into the trafficking of children for sexual purposes to European Union Member States started in July 2000. The main focus is on trafficking from Eastern to Western Europe, but the report also contains information on other countries of origin. The project is largely funded by the STOP Programme of the European Commission and the Oak Foundation.

The idea was to research comprehensively the extent to which children are trafficked for sexual purposes to the European Union Member States ('EUMS'); how they get here; what happens to them next; and what can be done to help them. We looked at existing research into the general issue of trafficking. It showed us that trafficking is a growing problem. This is particularly the case with regard to prostituted women and children from Central and Eastern Europe as a result of the complex, sometimes chaotic and uncontrolled transition from a strongly controlled society to an open market economy, but also from third countries such as Nigeria and China. Limitations were that those studies were mainly focused on 'women', ignoring the specific issues of trafficking in *children* and in *boys*; they usually dealt with the 'sending', rather than 'receiving' countries; and, some of the very interesting research is becoming out of date. The research that does deal with the trafficking of children into the EU confirmed that we had cause for concern.

From research in certain newspaper reports as well as *ad hoc* police investigations, we know that there is a growing number of often young prostitutes held in the EU against their will and often locked up. Their abusers are also in the EU and may well be EU citizens. However, we need to know more so that we can find concrete ways to help the victims. That is why we started an exploratory research in eight Western European, 'destination' or 'receiving countries'. The countries involved are seven European Union Member States: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and the UK. Norway joined the group later. Norway obtained funding from the Norwegian Children and Family Department and Redd Barna (Save the Children Fund Norway).

ECPAT

The ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group is responsible for developing the Trafficking Project, which is coordinated by Defence for Children International Section The Netherlands. The ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group is part of the wider ECPAT network, a worldwide organisation established in 1990, initially to fight to end child prostitution in Asian tourism.

In 1996, the organisation extended its remit to include fighting against child pornography and trafficking in children for sexual purposes. ECPAT is a well-known and respected organisation in this field. Its international headquarters are in Bangkok and it has local offices across the European Union and in other parts of the world. In 1999 the ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group finalised a project researching the extraterritorial application of national laws aimed at preventing child sex tourism. On the basis of this extraterritorial legislation study, the British author Jeremy Seabrook wrote the book 'No Hiding Place', where the stories of offenders and victims can be read with a sharp analysis and legal information (2000).

Coordination

Defence for Children International Section The Netherlands coordinates the research at the international level. Defence for Children International is an independent international organisation with sections in more than 60 countries. Its main focus is on the promotion of children's rights and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Participation

Partners in the project are eight ECPAT Europe sections in Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway and the UK. ECPAT Switzerland, who is part of the ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group, also contributed to the research in the preparatory stage. The partners selected their own researchers and coordinators.

Researchers

The researchers and coordinators involved are listed below.

Belgium:	Frank Hutsebaut, Imad Bounouch, Katlijn Declercq, Paul de Herdt, Danielle van Kerckhoven, Sophie Wirtz
Finland:	Elina Virmasalo, Helena Molander
France:	Florence Tamerlo, Karine Pidery, Nadine Benichou
Germany:	Birgit Thoma, Rebecca Stefula, Mechtild Maurer
Italy:	Alessia Altamura, Françoise Barner
Norway:	Astrid Renland, Turid Heiberg
The Netherlands:	Annemieke Wolthuis, Mirjam Blaak, Sabine Brand, Stan Meuwese
United Kingdom:	Carron Somerset, Helen Veitch

Objective

The Trafficking Project's objective is to build on existing, but often piecemeal research, to set forth a comprehensive account of the extent to which children are trafficked to the European Union; how they get there and what happens to them once they arrive in the European Union. The Project's results will be used to formulate specific policy recommendations as well as practical ideas for training and cooperation. The aim is to progress from rumours to facts and to obtain information about children trafficked to European Union Member States in order to know how to react and prevent the phenomenon.

Methodology

All researchers did desk research on the subject, supplemented by interviews with people working in the field (5 officials (key persons dealing with trafficking for sexual purposes), 5 child care workers, 5 observers (advocacy)). The specific people and/or organisations to be interviewed were selected by the researchers. The DCI-office in Amsterdam worked on a list of relevant organisations in Eastern European countries. Many were already part of the ECPAT International's list of contacts. It is expected that in the next stage of the programme greater co-operation with partners in Eastern Europe will follow. The questionnaire was drafted during the first meeting. During the second meeting the questionnaire was discussed and some small changes were added to the list. These can be found attached. Case studies, personal stories to illustrate the situation, were collected and added to the report. The results were eight country reports.

Long term planning

The project is regarded as the first stage of a longer-term programme which comprises the following stages:

- stage 1: exploratory research 2000-2001;
- stage 2: more in depth studies;
- stage 3: recommendations, campaigning, training.

Meetings

Several meetings were held during this part of the programme:

1. Preparatory meeting, 6 and 7 July 2000, Brussels.
2. Law Enforcement Workshop during the ECPAT Europe Meeting
10 November and 11 November 2000 in Utrecht, The Netherlands.
3. Researchers meeting on 9 and 10 March 2001, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
During this meeting the draft country reports were presented and decisions were made on the

finalisation of the project and the continuation of the programme.

4. Expert meeting on 18 May 2001, Brussels, Belgium, to present first results country reports and to discuss the outcomes and draft recommendations.

Terminology

We use different terms throughout the text when we talk about children or young people such as: trafficked children, sexually exploited children, prostituted children. We would like to stress that in all these cases we deal with commercial sexual exploitation.

The definitions used for the research were:

Trafficking: Any behaviour which facilitates the entry into, transit through, residence in or exit from any territory for exploitation. It is irrelevant whether force is used or the child has been misled.

Child: A person under the age of 18. Children are all human beings under 18 conform the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol.

Sexual exploitation: The use of a child in prostitution or the exploitative use of a child in other sexual practices, including use of a child in pornography and forced marriage.

Trafficker: Any person who facilitates the entry into, transit through, residence in or exit from any territory. This includes any one who contributes to the traffic at any stage or by any means.

Exploiter: Any person who facilitates the sexual exploitation of a child. This includes a pimp, brothel-owner, taxi-driver, client.

Sending country: The country of a child's nationality or permanent residence.

Receiving country: Any country where the child is sexually exploited.

2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND POLITICAL FRAME WORK

Violation of human rights

Trafficking is any behaviour which facilitates the entry into, transit through, residence in or exit from any territory for exploitation. It is irrelevant whether force is used or the child has been misled. Sexual exploitation of children (under 18) is the use of a child in prostitution or the exploitative use of a child in other sexual practices, including use of a child in pornography and forced marriage. It is a gross violation of human rights and considered as a modern form of slavery.

The Definitions given by Europol on trafficking and smuggling indicate that in the case of the trafficking of human beings, the final aim of the criminal act is the exploitation of a person. This happens against the will of the person exploited. The person trafficked is not the *buyer* of a service offered by an organisation who can assist in entering and staying in a foreign country, but a *victim* of an organisation which aims at forcing the will to satisfy the demand of a market such as prostitution or cheap labour (Europol, 1999). Trafficking in human beings thus constitutes a crime against a person and involves an exploitative purpose.

Trafficking in children for sexual purposes is not a new phenomenon. It has always existed and is taking place everywhere. It may take place within national borders as well as across borders. As trade and migration takes place across borders, so also does criminal activity. In the last decade trafficking in human beings has been met with increased attention from the international community both at governmental levels as well as amongst NGO-organisations. Since the beginning of the 1990s there has also been an increased international focus on all levels of exploitation for sexual purposes.

Routes

Partly due to this increase of attention, trafficking is seen as a growing problem in Europe, particularly with regard to prostituted women and children from Central and Eastern Europe, but also from third

countries such as Nigeria and China. The trafficking routes in the world of today are from Latin America via the middle East to Europe; from South East Asia to Northern Europe and the middle East; from Eastern Europe and West Africa to Western Europe; from Burma to Thailand, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, the Philippines and other countries in the region to Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan. (ECPAT-NL information map, Ron O'Grady, Rape of the innocent.) The main countries of origin are based in central and Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. The same country can function as a sending, receiving and transit country since international trafficking has no simple one way pattern (Wijers, 1997, p.48-50).

Causes

Trafficking in human beings is closely linked to the movements of people in search of employment and better life opportunities elsewhere, or of people driven away from their native regions due to war or other national disputes. Restrictive migration, refugee- and asylum politics has resulted in an increase in illegal migration, making it profitable for others to smuggle or traffic human beings across borders. The catastrophic economic situation in most of the countries of origin of the victims is the main reason pushing and encouraging people to migrate or to fall into the trap of traffickers. On a short-term basis, very often leaving the country is seen as the only solution to economic problems. This is equally true for the unaccompanied minors arriving in Europe. A lot of the victims also flee the social instability of the country of origin, violent situations, civil war, war (Kosovo, Bosnia, Montenegro, Macedonia, ...), insecurity and oppressive political situations. Other reasons can be promises of work, a better standard of living, a better future, wedding promises, 'kidnappings', illegal adoptions, re-consolidation of families and fleeing harmful traditional practices.

Poverty is one of the main reasons why children become vulnerable to trafficking. Poverty can even force parents to sell their children to traffickers. One in seven children worldwide receives no education and lacks opportunities. Of these children 70% are girls. The unequal position and treatment of women and girls is shown clearly in their having less education, heavier workloads and less influence. This lack of opportunities and low status makes girls and women extra vulnerable to abuse (Ayotte, 2000).

The young age of these girls can also be explained by the declining political and economic situations in the country of origin. The countries have slid from a centralised Communist regime to a free market economy. Their social networks have been weakened or completely disappeared. Many of these girls come from broken homes with parents facing many social problems (alcohol abuse, unemployment, ...). Therefore they are easy prey for traffickers in all kinds of businesses, as they are desperately seeking for a better or supposedly better life. It is hard to pinpoint the exact relationship between supply and demand. It is clear that in the different Western European countries, there is a demand for young prostitutes and that prostitution is lucrative. However, these girls do not spontaneously respond to this demand but are rather pushed by poverty and a shattered social life in their home country, which forces them to try their luck abroad. The fact is that supply and demand mutually re-enforce each other.

In Western countries there is a demand for cheap labour and migrants, including minors, are often willing to do all kinds of work to earn money to be able to survive. On the prostitution market there seems to be an increasing demand for girls and boys. This also has to do with the fact that some clients prefer young prostitutes, because they believe that young people are less likely to be infected by HIV. Education on this point is lacking.

Technology has made the world smaller and human beings more mobile. One result of this has been the growth of sex tourism. The growth of information technology has increased the possibilities in connecting people with similar interests in sexual exploitation of children such as child pornography (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sweden, 2001). It is also said that the trafficking in persons presents a safer option to criminal organisations than trafficking in drugs, because the legal sanctions are far less and the 'merchandise' can be trafficked several times.

Political background

International and European concern about sexual exploitation increased in the early nineties, especially with such cases as that of Dutroux in Belgium. The First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Stockholm in 1996 was an important international step to make the topic a priority issue on national and international agendas. The Agenda for Action adopted at the world congress has enabled states to plan and co ordinate their activities at the national level. Most signatory countries have such a plan by now. It is important that the Second world Congress in Yokohama in December 2001 improves action and cooperation in the implementation of these action plans in order to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children.

International instruments

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its additional protocol on Sexual Exploitation are important instruments. The main articles of the CRC are 34 and 35. Article 34 concerns the child's right to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography and article 35 gives a clear State obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.

At the same time the general principles such as making decisions in the best interests of the child, non-discrimination and taking the child's opinion seriously are also important in this respect.

Article 34

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- a. the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- b. the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- c. the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

Article 35

States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

Optional Protocol CRC

The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography of 25 May 2000 also stresses the concern at the increasing international traffic in children for sale, child prostitution and child pornography. The protocol has not yet entered into force. It states the importance of a holistic approach in the actions to be undertaken to address the contributing factors such as underdevelopment, poverty, economic disparities, inequitable socio-economic structures, armed conflicts and trafficking in children.

ILO Convention C182

The new ILO Convention C182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour of 1999 which entered into force on 19 November 2000, considers the sale and trafficking of children among the worst forms of child labour (article 3 (a)). Effective elimination of the worst forms of child labour is seen as the main priority for national and international action. It requires immediate and comprehensive action, the need to remove the children concerned from all such work and to provide for their rehabilitation and social integration (preamble).

United Nations

At the UN level we have the Convention on the Rights of the Child as mentioned above, but to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children there is the Palermo Convention of 2000 and its supplementary protocol.

1949 Convention

As long ago as 1895 an international conference on the prevention of traffic in women took place in Paris, followed by a few other meetings. In 1904 an agreement on White Slavery was the result, which focused on the procuring of women and girls for immoral purposes abroad, followed in 1910 by a Convention. An additional Convention was drafted in 1921 and included the traffic in boys. In 1933 a new international agreement was signed in Geneva which removed the condition of constraint, but only with regard to the international traffic in women. In 1949 a new convention superseded all previous conventions: the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in persons and of the Exploitation by Prostitution of Others (2 December 1949). It recommended punishment for the procurement, enticement or leading away of another person for prostitution, even with that person's consent. Furthermore countries were required to take preventive measures and to provide temporary care for victims of trafficking.

Special rapporteur

A UN Special rapporteur on the sale of children was appointed in 1990. In the last ten years the rapporteur has visited different regions, collected materials on the issue and produced reports and recommendations for improvement. The current special rapporteur is Mr. Juan Miguel Petite from Paraguay.

Palermo Convention and Protocol

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime was signed in New York on 15 November 2000. Of the 124 states present, 121 signed the new Convention and over 80 states signed one of its supplementary protocols.

The purpose of the Convention is to promote cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organised crime (article 1).

The Convention shall apply, except as otherwise stated herein, to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of: serious crime; where the offence is transnational in nature and involves an organised criminal group (article 3). More specific is the protocol on trafficking in persons supplemented to the Convention.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime

In the preamble it is already stated that effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, requires a comprehensive international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination. The purpose of the Protocol is thus to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, to protect and assist victims of it and to promote cooperation between states to tackle the problem.

This document represents a wide-ranging international agreement to address on a transnational level the crime of trafficking in persons, especially women and children. It creates global definitions and legislation to define trafficking in persons. Assistance of victims and prevention of trafficking in persons are other important elements.

The UN Convention and its supplementary protocol on trafficking in persons needs to be ratified by 40 countries before they become instruments of international law.

The protocol proposed to contest the world's organised crime networks and combat the trade in human beings and transnational prostitution.

Since recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt are all considered to be trafficking as far as a child is concerned, even if none of the means in 3(a) are used, anyone who even receives or harbours a child can be guilty of trafficking. This could even include the taxi driver or the apartment owner. It also means that consent where a child is concerned is completely irrelevant. Any child who is recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received is a trafficking victim. They can no longer be illegal immigrants if they are not in the custody of their parents; they are classified as trafficked

victims.

Article 2

Statement of purpose

The purposes of this protocol are:

- a. To prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children;
- b. To protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect of their human rights; and
- c. To promote cooperation among States Parties in order to meet those objectives.

Article 3

Use of terms:

- (a) "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purposes of exploitation.
Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;
- (b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;
- (c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;
- (d) "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.

Europe

The European Union has developed several actions and recommendations in the field of trafficking in human beings, especially since 1996. For example in November 1996, the creation of the STOP programme and in 1999 the DAPHNE programme. These were followed by the Joint Action adopted by the Council in February 1997, aimed at improving the member states' penal provisions and their judicial cooperation in the context of combating trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children.

The definition used in the joint action was: "any behaviour that facilitates the entry into, transit through, residence in, or exit from, the territory of a member state, for the purpose (of) sexual exploitation in relation to a child".

Further impetus was given by article 29 of the Amsterdam Treaty, which contains an explicit reference to trafficking in human beings and offenses against children. The Vienna Action Plan and the Tampere European Council made a call for further legislative action against trafficking.

In December 2000 the European Commission put forward a Proposal for a Council Framework Decision (an instrument introduced by the Amsterdam Treaty) on combating trafficking in human beings (Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, Combating trafficking in human beings and combating the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, Brussels, 21 December 2000, COM (2000) 854 final). The aim of the framework decision is to address more precisely issues such as criminalisation, penalties and other sanctions, aggravating circumstances, jurisdiction and extradition. The idea is that the use of the framework decision will reinforce a common approach within the European Union in this area and fill gaps in existing legislation. It concerns the approximation of the laws of the member states at the police and judicial cooperation levels in criminal matters. Furthermore it concerns the "minimum rules relating to the constituent elements of criminal acts and to penalties in the field of organised crime". Article 2 puts an obligation on member states to ensure that trafficking in human beings for the purposes of sexual exploitation is punishable.

European Forum

In May 2001 a European Forum on the Prevention of Organised Crime was set up. Trafficking in human beings is part of this Forum. According to the first discussion paper on the prevention of trafficking in human beings, the general objective is "to encourage new partnerships and to reinforce networks that are already in place in the area of prevention of trafficking of human beings". Support with NGOs was seen as an important way to tackle the problem.

STOP and DAPHNE programmes

Financial support for projects in the area is possible through the programmes STOP and DAPHNE. STOP is concerned with countering the trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children and DAPHNE with all forms of violence against children, adolescents and women.

Cooperation by NGOs:

NGOs have also linked up to combat the trafficking in children for sexual purposes. Below we state a few initiatives that have a links with our research.

As mentioned before ECPAT has initiatives world wide to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including trafficking.

Separated Children in Europe Programme

The Separated Children in Europe Programme was set up in 1997 by Save the Children and UNHCR with partners in 28 European countries as a result of the steady rise of the numbers of separated children arriving in European countries and their needs.

The programme aims to promote the realisation of rights of separated children by ensuring that principles and standards concerning the rights of separated children are upheld through the promotion of a common policy and commitment to good practices at national and European levels. This involves capacity building and advocacy among staff members and partners and policy-makers and also in taking remedial action where the rights of separated children are not duly respected. In all partner countries national studies have been made on the situation of separated children, This research has been combined in the report: Separated children Seeking Asylum in Europe: A Programme for Action by Sandy Ruxton (2000 Save the children and UNHCR).

Net-Enforce

Net-Enforce on Law Enforcement Cooperation on the Internet against Child Sexual Exploitation. This is an initiative of the Centre for Europe's children based at the University of Glasgow. A first meeting was held in March 2001 with 50 participants from key law enforcement agencies and NGOs working to combat the sexual exploitation of children. The Agenda for Action of the First World Congress in 1996 was the basis for the Net-Enforce project which promotes transnational and inter agency information sharing between law enforcement, political, non-governmental and research organisations on the internet. For this purpose it tries to establish appropriate tools and rules of communication.

Focal Point

The Focal Point on Sexual Exploitation of the NGO-Group on the Convention of the Rights of the Child was set up after the Stockholm Congress in order to facilitate the support group (all initial partners: the Gov. of Sweden, UNICEF, ECPAT and the NGO-Group for the CRC, and all other relevant actors) to ensure good coordination with global monitoring mechanisms, UN organs, specialist agencies and other governmental bodies as well as effective information sharing among all members. Its aim is to increase the number of participants and to ensure coordinated implementation and monitoring of the Agenda for Action. Activities are consultations, technical support, information and networking and monitoring sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Police action

In the last few years Europol and Interpol have also paid more attention to the trafficking of human

beings. Since December 1996 Europol has included trafficking in human beings in its mandate. In its General Situation Report of 1999, Europol stated that Trafficking in Human Beings is a growing area of criminality. This is particularly the case when looking at the number of victims, the volume of illicit profits generated, the transnational dimension and the links with other areas of criminality. It was also stated that trafficking poses one of the most dangerous threats in the European Union. Furthermore, a common information mechanism is to be utilised in order to prevent and combat this phenomenon. In 1989 Interpol established an Organised Crime Branch with the aim of creating an extensive data base of organised criminal enterprises and persons engaged in continued, illegal activity for the generation of illegal profits. Particularly since the Marco Polo study came out in 1997 there has been an increased interest in the smuggling of and trafficking in persons by organised crime groups in order to identify the memberships of such groups, their means of operation and the criminal activities with which illegal migrants engage in upon arrival.

The report

The country reports from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway and the UK will be found in the following chapters. General guidelines were drafted on how to set up the research, but different situations, information access and input resulted in different reports. This means that the order of the presented results can differ and a variation in the attention given to elements of trafficking. Some reports for example provide detailed information on legal provisions, while others focus more on social aspects.

The country reports will be followed by conclusions and recommendations drawn from the different country reports. A bibliography and some annexes, can be found in the back of the report.