

# MATRIX: Multiagency Approach to Trafficking Recognition and Identification for labour Exploitation

Project proposal in response to “Call for proposals on assistance, support and integration of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings” (AMIF-2024-TF2-AG-THB)

- DG HOME - European Commission -

**Application closure: 30 July 2024**

## CONCEPT NOTE

The EU Strategy on combatting trafficking in human beings (2021-2025)<sup>5</sup> emphasises that third-country national victims of trafficking face additional difficulties, including barriers to identification. The situation of the victims requires specific consideration, as victims can become accessible to traffickers and be exposed to risks of being re-trafficked. This call aims at strengthening the actions of relevant stakeholders in the context of the implementation of the revised Anti-trafficking Directives<sup>6</sup> and the Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025, in particular, in relation to victims.

The project MATRIX is expected to contribute to enhanced identification and referral of third-country nationals victims of trafficking in human beings in the partner countries. MATRIX also aims at contributing to prevent trafficking connected to labour exploitation of third-country nationals by raising the awareness of TCNs – both in the reception countries and in their origin countries – on the hidden dynamics of trafficking (such as fake job offers and the risks of labour exploitation) and the demand that fosters trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation. In particular, MATRIX will address **male TCNs who have been or are at risk of being, victims of trafficking for labour exploitation**.

Such objective is in line with the current trends of trafficking (EC Report on trafficking 2024) which reports an increase in the number of detected victims of trafficking for labour exploitation (41%) so as to equal the number of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation (41%).

- The European Commission welcomes proposals that include **cooperation with, and involvement**

Local and regional authorities, law enforcement, labour inspectorates, civil society organisations and social partners will be involved in the project activities so as to promote multi-agency cooperation, strengthen dissemination, and ensure the sustainability of project results beyond project closure.

Built on the above premises, MATRIX specific objective are to:

- ✓ Build the overall capacities to enhance the identification and referral of TCN victims of trafficking for labour exploitation in the partner countries;
- ✓ Strengthen multi-agency cooperation at local/regional level;
- ✓ Promote practice exchange and mutual learning at local/regional and transnational level;
- ✓ Raise the awareness of public bodies, NGOs, third-country nationals and the general public, on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation and related risks

Methodology: MATRIX will adopt a qualitative comprehensive, victim-centred, human rights-based approach and will pay specific attention to the online aspect of trafficking so as to contribute to counter the recruitment and exploitation of victims by carrying out online awareness-raising and dissemination activities aimed at providing counter-narrative information to third-country nationals at risk of being trafficked.

## PROJECT DURATION:

Project duration will be 24 months. Estimated project start is January 2025.

## PARTNERSHIP:

- **CONFIRMED PARTNERS:**
  - ✓ Christliches Jugenddorfwerk Deutschlands – CJD (Germany) - COORDINATOR
  - ✓ Psychoanalytic Institute for Social Research - IPRS (Italy)

- ✓ LULE (Italy)
- ✓ Catholic University of Porto – UCP (Portugal)
- ✓ University of Tartu (Estonia)
- ✓ University of Timisoara (Romania)
- ✓ ADPARE (Romania)
- ✓ National NGO on Trafficking (Portugal) - TBC

- **ASSOCIATE PARTNERS TO BE CONFIRMED:**

- ✓ 2 Municipalities in Northern Italy
- ✓ Labour Inspectorate, Northern Italy
- ✓ High Commission on Gender and Citizenship, Romania
- ✓ National Agency in charge of Trafficking, Portugal
- ✓ Minister of Social Affairs, Estonia
- ✓ Minister of Social Affairs, Schleswig Holstein, Germany

- **VICTIMS ADVISORY PANEL:**

Victims of trafficking will be actively involved in the project design and implementation and a Transnational Victims Advisory Panel (VAP) will be established in order to ensure that the Victims' perspective is taken into prior account. The VAP will meet regularly with all project partners and will have the following functions: monitor the project progress, revise the project outputs, and provide consultancy on specific activities. One representative of the VAP will participate in all partners' meetings.

#### PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Assessment of critical issues in the selected areas of intervention (*individual and group interviews; SWOT analysis*) – LOCAL/REGIONAL
- ✓ Establishment of a project Victims' Advisory Panel (enabling victims or ex-victims to have a say in the project implementation) – TRANSNATIONAL
- ✓ Training of practitioners (*Public bodies, e.g., local authorities, ministries, law enforcement, reception centres for asylum seekers and refugees*) - LOCAL/REGIONAL
- ✓ Multi-agency cooperation and awareness raising (*including the above agencies jointly with employment agencies and sectoral labour agencies e.g., agriculture, building, other*) - LOCAL/REGIONAL
- ✓ Modelling of procedures for the DETECTION (Identification and referral) of victims of trafficking – LOCAL/REGIONAL AND TRANSNATIONAL
- ✓ Strengthening of anti-trafficking platforms – LOCAL/REGIONAL AND TRANSNATIONAL
- ✓ Transnational exchange: Summer school (4 days) to promote transnational mutual learning and exchange of experiences and best practices among relevant actors from partner countries (2-3 experts/participants from each partner country, *e.g., law enforcement, judiciary, migration and asylum authorities, social workers, labour inspectors, civil society organisations, other services...*) – TRANSNATIONAL
- ✓ National Awareness-raising and dissemination (video-pills with testimonies, multi-lingual booklet, public seminars, theatre installation). It will target, in addition to public and private practitioners working with TCNs: Third-country nationals, both in the reception centers and in their origin countries and the general public, in particular young people; students and academics; journalists; local and regional authorities and policy-makers - LOCAL/REGIONAL/NATIONAL

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- ✓ Country reports of state-of-the-art (qualitative)
- ✓ Practitioners of public bodies' and NGOs (including reception centers, law enforcement, social services etc) have enhanced their knowledge on trafficking and are more capable to identify potential victims as well as refer victims of trafficking for labour exploitation

- ✓ Third Country Nationals (TCN) are sensitized over the risks of being trafficked for labour exploitation through a) face-to-face awareness-raising events (e.g., in reception centers); and b) through social media (eg., making of a video) in order to ensure to reach out to TCNs still in their origin countries
- ✓ Main public agencies related to trafficking for purpose of labour exploitation sensitized and cooperation among them strengthened through practice exchange and mutual learning
- ✓ Anti-trafficking platforms focused on men's labour exploitation strengthened at regional, national and EU levels; transnational platform created based on lesson learnts from the existing ones.
- ✓ Improved awareness over the risks connected to trafficking for labour exploitation of the following target groups:
  - victims of trafficking for labour purposes (TCN);
  - employment agencies and sectoral labour agencies/mediators;
  - public bodies at local/regional levels and their practitioners (including law enforcement, migration and asylum authorities and reception centres, social workers, labour inspectors)
  - civil society organisations including ethnic associations
  - the general public and particularly the young