

PEOPLE IN PROSTITUTION

Preliminary findings from practitioner-led research

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AUTHOR:

Sabine Kallauch, Social worker, Trauma counselor and Lobbyist
Working with people in prostitution for 15 years.

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ABSTRACT

The most common form of human trafficking in Europe is sexual exploitation, comprising 79% of human trafficking cases (European Commission, 2018). This study aimed to explore the types of services and motivations held by European anti-trafficking organisations.

This research collected input from 63 NGOs from 18 European countries that work with people in prostitution/human trafficking. The main reason for this research is to develop a better functioning network among stakeholders and to gain a better understanding of the people they are working with. The general experience is that the network of the trafficker functions very well nationally and across borders.

The aim of the researcher was to give these organisations a voice. The term “people in prostitution” is used to show the holistic approach preferred by the researcher and also the participants in the study. Thirty-two organisations regularly engage in street work or go into brothels and night clubs. Twenty-nine of them run shelters and five offer different aftercare programmes throughout Europe in the effort to fight human trafficking more effectively. The research analyses the work and activities of the diverse groups and exposes best practice models.

A further section of the paper is devoted to people in prostitution themselves, where they come from, where they have been before, whether they have children, and examines a range of indicators for risk in their lives. This is followed by various aspects regarding shelter, reasons for entry into a shelter, length of stay and reasons for premature departure, and so on. Also factors that favour an integration back into society are considered. The research includes a comparative study of the implementation of prostitution law in the different countries. In Europe there are four models of prostitution laws: self-employed prostitution, legal prostitution, illegal prostitution and the so-called Nordic Model. The final section of the paper presents a discussion of the Nordic Model.

*Keywords: People in prostitution,
social services, resources,
indicators, implementation
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1. INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is a huge problem in Europe. It is a violation of fundamental human rights and a highly lucrative form of transnational organised crime. According to the European Commission, the most common form of human trafficking in Europe is sexual exploitation, comprising 79% of incidents investigated (European Commission, 2018).

The victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly women and girls. Most of the women started to work in prostitution at a very young age, either as minors or officially registered from the age of eighteen years onwards.

The traffickers work within a very well-functioning network. This can be observed in the case of Nigerian women, who first make the long journey from Nigeria to Libya, sometimes requiring several months, where they normally stay for an extended period of time. They then travel by sea to Malta, Italy or Spain, with final destinations in Italy, Germany, Austria or other countries in Europe. The traffickers and the madams are able to contact the victims as soon as they arrive in the refugee camps and then put them to work in prostitution. This means they followed them all the long way through the desert, to Libya, over the sea and then to the camp in Europe – a well-functioning network fuelled by considerable amounts of money.

The researcher heard the term “people in prostitution” for the first time when meeting with Patricia Green, the founder of Rahab Ministries in Thailand and Alabaster Jar in Germany. This wonderful person was her first mentor and she learned a lot from her.

Patricia Green was from New Zealand. She was an ordained Minister and a Mission Partner with World Outreach International and a social worker with a Master’s degree in Community Psychology. She was passionate about creating awareness of the problem of human trafficking and encouraging people to speak out on behalf of, and reach out to, commercially sexually exploited women and children and victims of sexual trafficking with the goal of giving them the chance to start a new life. In 2011 Patricia received the ‘Hope for Europe Award’ for her work in combatting human trafficking in Europe. She died of cancer in March, 2015 at the age of 77 (Eriksson & Green, 2014).

On a three-months trip through Europe the researcher visited 63 NGOs working in eighteen countries in Europe. The main focus was on getting to know them better with the purpose of building a stronger network and knowing whom to refer to whom. On the other hand, the researcher was looking for an overview of the situation of people in prostitution all over Europe in order to identify their specific needs, problems and challenges. Some of these organisations had two different departments, like street work and shelter and/or aftercare programmes. All of them are registered organisations, but eight of them are operated only by

volunteers. The other 55 NGOs work with employed staff including a group of volunteers, helping them especially with translation.

The importance of a better network is grounded in the fact that women and men in prostitution tend to travel because of the prospect of better earnings in another country. Therefore, they migrate to a new country or commute back and forth from their own country. Most of the women and men with whom the researcher has been working during the last 15 years came from Eastern European countries. It seems to be part of their culture, to move from country to country earning as much as possible for themselves and their families. The reasons are low possibilities for work and a high level of poverty in their home countries. Victims of trafficking, especially sexually exploited people, are also moved from country to country, either because the money and work are better at the new destination or because it is too dangerous for the traffickers to let them stay in one place for too long.

In some countries, especially in Scandinavia, the legislation for asylum seekers has tightened and often people get deported or suddenly are sent back to the European country where they first entered.

The purpose of this Regulation, adopted in 2003, is to determine which State is responsible for examining an asylum application – normally the State where the asylum seeker first entered the EU – and to make sure that each claim gets a fair examination in one Member State. (Dublin Regulation, 2003)

The call for emergency help is loud and some NGOs, especially from Scandinavia, contacted the researcher already on her journey because one of their clients was suddenly put into deportation proceedings or was in danger of being deported very quickly. As the researcher also worked together with shelters and service providers in Nigeria, she was able to provide the necessary help. Others needed contacts in other countries where their clients worked previously. The research will give an overview and useful advice so that NGOs in the future will be much better linked together and well acquainted with each other's work.

The research is presented in three parts, one consisting of an overview of the NGOs themselves, another detailing the lives of the people in prostitution and the last part comprising an analysis of the implementation of the prostitution laws in the countries covered by the study.

The researcher wanted to understand and measure the work of the NGOs, how they approach people and what they are able to offer. For this it was necessary to take a deeper look into their mission statements, ethics, resources, strengths as well as areas that need improvement. The national and international network was another important topic. The willingness and the trust of the participants to answer even very personal questions was very high and profoundly appreciated by the researcher.

In the second part of the study, the researcher asked questions about the people in prostitution: nationalities, countries where they worked in prostitution before coming to the target country, children in the home country, reason for entering a shelter or for premature departure. Furthermore, the research analyses perceived different indicators which mainly harm the people working in prostitution as well as important factors for successful integration.

The analysis of the people with whom organisations are working will help in understanding the specific needs of people in prostitution and strengthen the efforts for better support.

In Europe there are four different models of prostitution law and the perception of NGOs of the implementation of the national laws on prostitution in their countries was of interest.

This research was initiated by a practitioner and the target group for the research are practitioners. Through the various statements, their experiences and also best practice models, ways shall be pointed out which will enable NGOs to gain a better understanding of numerous correlations and connections in the lives of the people group they are working with and also the effectiveness of the available tools.

It was interesting that almost no one could answer the question about demand. This is not in the mind of most of these NGOs; it is more by accident that they hear fragmentary accounts from the women themselves, but they do not deliberately seek information or observe consciously.

2. METHODOLOGY

DEMOGRAPHICS OF STUDY

For this study of predominately faith-based anti-trafficking organisations (n: 63), interviews and surveys were collected across European countries (n: 18). The organisations were classified by the types of services they provide for people in prostitution through shelter programmes (n: 29) and street-work programmes (n: 32). Additional services through medical help (n: 39), employment skills and social business (n: 39), lobbying (n: 13) and aftercare (n: 11) were also reported by NGOs. Interviews were conducted from April to July 2018.

The study used guided interviews based on two questionnaires for two participant groups – organisations involved in street outreach and organisations running shelters and aftercare programmes. The analysis was performed using content and thematic analysis. The interviews were conducted by the primary researcher in either English or German. Only 9 partners were native English speakers. Seventeen of the participants submitted filled-in questionnaires and were not interviewed. The aim of the researcher was to interview at least three different NGOs in every country in order to gain a better overview of the national situation, but this was not always possible due to a low response rate by organisations. In Denmark only one completed a questionnaire, another did not respond and in Latvia, Finland, Norway and Hungary only two NGOs in each country took part. The highest number of participants was in Romania with seven NGOs, followed by Germany with six participants. In Italy five NGOs contributed interviews and in Bulgaria, Greece, Switzerland, France, Spain and the Netherlands four NGOs in each country took part. In Belgium, Sweden, Austria and Czech Republic, three NGOs from each country participated.

Data protection is a primary concern, because some questions are very sensitive. As prostitution takes place in a criminal environment, this is another reason that the responses will be kept confidential. Only results of countries, and no names of any organisations or workers, will be published.

To simplify matters, people in prostitution will be called “women” and not “girls”, which is a term used by many social workers who work with this people group. The term “women” also includes minors or men who work in prostitution.

Quotes of participants are highly edited, because one aim of the research is to provide practical advice for people working in the field. Sometimes quotes just stand for themselves and will not be interpreted.

3. PRESENTATION OF NGOS

CHART 1: Countries and Activities

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	ACTIVITY
Austria	3	Street work, shelter, language class, aftercare, lobbying
Belgium	3	Street work shelter, aftercare, lobbying
Bulgaria	4	Street work, shelter, aftercare, lobbying
Czech Republic	3	Street work, shelter, lobbying
Denmark	1	Street work, drop-in
Finland	2	Shelter, aftercare, counselling, lobbying
France	4	Street work, aftercare
Germany	6	Street work, shelter, aftercare, lobbying
Greece	4	Street work, shelter, aftercare, lobbying
Hungary	2	Street work, shelter, aftercare, lobbying
Italy	5	Street work shelter, aftercare, lobbying
Latvia		Street work
Latvia	2	Street work, shelter
Netherlands	4	Street work, shelter, aftercare, lobbying
Norway	2	Street work, shelter, lobbying
Romania	7	Street work, shelter, aftercare, lobbying only one
Spain	4	Street work, shelter, lobbying
Sweden	3	Street work, shelter
Switzerland	4	Street work, lobbying

All NGOs are officially registered as associations. Eight organisations are run only by volunteers. These are the ones that mainly do street work and refer cases to other organisations when specific social services are needed to support and help the clients. Nevertheless, there

is a huge need for volunteers everywhere, especially for those who speak the language of the clients to support with translation.

3.1. MISSION STATEMENT AND ACTIVITIES

A mission statement explains the goals as well as the identity of an organisation. It is the foundation on which everything is built and expresses their desires and their purposes. It is also a public statement by the organisation which shows what they stand for. The mission statements of the sixty-three organisations had several keywords in common.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Nineteen organisations emphasised the fight against human trafficking and engaged in raising awareness about human trafficking. Working with people in prostitution means constantly being confronted with human trafficking. This is very important to acknowledge in societies of countries where prostitution is seen as a “normal job”. But a normal job does not include human trafficking. To identify and to fight human trafficking was of paramount importance to all organisations.

SUPPORT

For ten NGOs, supporting the women was very important and that means that it is necessary to identify the obvious needs of each individual. Sometimes it is perhaps medical care or a place to sleep or any number of possible needs that must be met. Normally the support for people in prostitution is very diverse and wide-ranging.

PREVENTION

Eight organisations had prevention in their mission statement with the focus on teenage girls and some operate prevention programmes in orphanages. Especially in Eastern European countries the standard for good social care for orphans is not very high in general and such institutions are home to highly endangered vulnerable people groups, especially young girls. Awareness raising was an important function to be carried out in society as well as in churches.

Romania

Later it will be observed that the highest number of people in prostitution in Europe are from Romania and there is an urgent need to put more emphasis on prevention.

This quote is representative of the mission statements of the NGOs:

The overall mission is to fight against sexual exploitation in Romania. And so, we have four points, which is on the website of our organization. The first will be prevention, general awareness of the population. But first of all, it is reaching out to women who have been sexually exploited, we say basically women, because most of them are women. We have once in a while a man. And then offering alternatives for a living with dignity, for a change of life. And then it is preventing vulnerable target groups and general awareness.

HOPE, FREEDOM AND DIGNITY

Helping to gain freedom was mentioned seven times, restoring dignity six times and giving hope five times. These have been the main goals and values the organisations also represent in their encounters with people in prostitution. The system of prostitution has robbed people of these values. Some of the NGOs work with people who are illegal residents and they try to remove them from this status and bring them to “legality”. This is also a part of giving back dignity and restoration. Additionally, assistance for unaccompanied minors is included in services offered by some organisations.

A quote of one organisation speaks for itself:

Our main objective is to restore dignity to women working in prostitution. To give each one personal attention, listen to her interests and problems. To open up a conversation about Jesus Christ and show her the love of God. To bring basic material items that she may need and to provide the resources necessary, should she choose to leave prostitution.

CHRIST

Four organisations mentioned showing the love of Jesus Christ to this people group. Seeking justice for the oppressed and freedom for captives as well as bringing the transforming and liberating power of Christ’s love and Gospel into the lives of the victims as well as the victimisers was very important for some NGOs.

ACTIVITIES

The activities were separated into different categories namely: Street work/Indoor visit, home visit, hospital visits, prison visits, meeting outside work at a coffeehouse, drop-in centre, shelter, aftercare programme, lobbying/political work and prevention.

Thirty-two of the NGOs do street work or go into brothels and night clubs. Twenty-nine of them run a shelter and five offer different aftercare programmes, while twenty-six of them meet in a coffeehouse and twenty-two conduct house visits.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

All these different ways to meet a person in prostitution such as home, hospital and prison visits, or meeting outside of work in a coffeehouse show the importance of building a relationship with a person in prostitution. In social work it is always the relationship with the clients that is central. This is often the main tool as most of the women have experienced an abuse of trust from relatives, friends or lover-boys, who promised them a better future or a good job abroad and then they ended up in prostitution. A quote of a woman who stepped out of prostitution to the researcher who supported her, was: *"It took me two years to trust you"*.

LOBBYING

Sixteen of the NGOs undertake lobbying and political work. From the researcher's point of view, in some of the countries more of the public should be engaged in lobbying because she sees a high responsibility in this area. It seems to be that particularly in countries of Eastern Europe, it is not usual to become a public voice. The culture in these countries is male dominated and there is a high rigidity in laws as well as cultural behaviour and social guidelines.

PREVENTION

Fourteen organisations have a focus on prevention. The highest number of organisations operating preventative programmes was found in Romania, where four organisations are engaged in this work. This is important because of the high number of vulnerable people groups in this country.

3.2. RESOURCES

It was very important for the researcher to receive information on the resources available to organisations working with people in prostitution. The various means of support for case workers provide the essential backup that makes a ministry among broken people possible. Without personal and team resources there is no prospect of working on goals with a long-term perspective. They are the main factor that gives strength and perseverance in difficult surroundings and conditions.

RESOURCES, STRENGTHS AND NEEDS

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

In every profession involving work with vulnerable people the danger of secondary trauma is very high. Listening to their stories makes it impossible not to feel anger or compassion or to cut oneself off from the bad feelings that rise up. Next to continuous reflections alone and within the team, it is necessary to develop sound boundaries and take care of oneself.

Trauma

Burn-out often occurs in helping professions and people need to be aware of this and take care of themselves and their co-workers in a sensitive and professional way. Especially working with people in prostitution means that someone must be able to deal with her/his own sexuality in a good way, because the case worker is always confronted with sex in an unhealthy way. Workers in the red-light district must be able to handle the confrontation with violence, sexual abuse and pornography. A number of research papers discuss the high rate of violence and abuse in a prostitute's life.

People in prostitution themselves have a very high rate of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, at similar levels to those experienced by war. (Farley & Barkan, 2013)

Secondary trauma

“To work in this field has an impact in your life. And it doesn't matter if you are single or married.”

This was a quote of a woman who has been working in this field for many years. Social workers have to deal with what they hear and experience and therefore supervision, team

meetings and reflection constitute a major part of the work. Some people who start to work in this field become triggered from the environment, the stories they hear, and their own unresolved trauma starts to rise to the surface. Then it is time for therapy or a break. The danger of compassion fatigue is very high because of the confrontation with so many unbelievable horror stories, and consequently one tries to protect oneself and becomes indifferent.

Take a Deep Breath

To look on the resources and further on to strengths and weaknesses gives an insight not only into the effectiveness of a ministry and work with people in prostitution, but also shows from where workers draw their endurance and perseverance. Social work is never focussed on numerically measurable success, because the work involves people and not objects. Workers need to accept their helplessness and their inability to solve all problems and need to empower their clients to take responsibility for themselves. Workers must never be disappointed when desired outcomes do not seem to happen. For these reasons the researcher wanted to investigate the resources that empower the staff and try to analyse these support systems from an external view.

RESOURCES

The resources have been divided into eight categories:

Spirituality/ethics and values, team, supervision, retreats, training, network, lobbying, volunteers. In the following, the highest rating for each category was identified for each NGO.

ETHICS, VALUES AND SPIRITUALITY

ETHICS

In working with people in prostitution the case worker participates with her whole being. Ethics, values and spirituality exert a strong force and provide empowerment to continue this kind of work.

A person whose morality is reflected in his willingness to do the right thing – even if it is hard or dangerous – is ethical. Ethics are moral values in action. Being ethical is an imperative because morality protects life and is respectful of others – all others.

(Hoban, 2012)

Of the organisations surveyed, 78% gave the highest rating to spirituality, ethics and values, that are the core strengths in everyone's life.

SPIRITUALITY

In her article, Sharon Smith calls spirituality

a catchword that embraces how we make sense of life. It is a resource for meaningful contribution, balance, routine and connection with others. (Smith, 2013)

Spirituality, ethics and values are the foundations on which a person's life is built. From there she takes her inner beliefs and also strength to continue to work with difficult people in difficult life circumstances. A personal relationship with God can be the source of the main strengths in a person's life.

VALUES

Values are the embodiment of what an organisation stands for, and should be the basis for the behaviour of its members. Values provide the basis for judgments about what is important for the organisation to succeed in its core business. (Gupta, 2013)

Every human being is influenced by her/his values and ethics. The behaviour, the working style, everything is determined by these attributes.

THE TEAM

EFFECTIVENESS

The team as a resource was given a high evaluation from 59% of the participants. No one will doubt the importance of teamwork. This enlarged the effectiveness of work and is also a prevention for experiencing burn-out.

Because a team has a common goal or set of objectives, its whole process of work becomes more efficient than one person working alone. As problems come up, there are

multiple people (meaning, skills and perspectives) to solve the problem. Shared responsibilities can help plough through the work. (Counselling Connection, 2017)

PROTECTION

“Working as a team allows team members to take more risks”, is what Dave Mattson says in his article (2015).

It is quite risky to work with people in prostitution. Practitioners need protection and security. Working together in a team helps to prevent practitioners from taking wrong decisions, for example, as members of the team keep an eye on one another and support each other in their personal struggles with this difficult, stressful work. Team work is an invaluable resource.

VOLUNTEERS

SOURCE OF STRENGTH

Of the interviewees and NGOs in the study, 51% rated volunteers as a source of strength. Meanwhile nearly every organisation works with volunteers; even major institutions such as Caritas, Diakonia or the Red Cross are dependent on the support of volunteers.

Volunteering offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and the community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer. Volunteering and helping others can help you reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day. Giving in even simple ways can help others those in need and improve your health and happiness. (Robinson & Segal, 2018)

PERSONAL PROFIT

Volunteering benefits not only the organisations with which a volunteer is working, but also the volunteer her/himself, because she will have experiences to which she normally would not be exposed.

TRAINING AND NETWORKING

TRAINING

A high rating for training and networking was given by 30% of the sample. Training sessions are always needed to empower oneself, to learn more and keep oneself updated with developments. In this sensitive environment it is absolutely necessary to be well-trained and to work in a professional manner. Also, specific topics that are confronted when working with people in prostitution need individual attention from the case worker.

NETWORK

Networking is necessary in the fight against human trafficking and exploitation, not only at the national level but it is also very important internationally as human trafficking is a cross-border business. Also because of the wide range of challenges confronting workers when meeting the needs of people in distress, a strong national network and cooperation with different stakeholders is vital.

SUPERVISION

The importance of supervision was acknowledged by 25% of the participants in the study. Supervision helps frontline workers to see things and situations from a different perspective and to reframe difficulties in the light of more helpful solutions. Some admit that they see the importance of supervision, but did not yet take the time or did not have the money for it.

*A supervisor should offer support and explore with the supervisee how the act of doing social work affects and influences the supervisee. Help the supervisee to explore the meaning of the experience of doing social work, touch on emotional hurdles faced by a supervisee that relate to issues emanating from his/her immediate work.
(Social Work Supervisor.com)*

A total of 11% of respondents said that lobbying is a resource for them.

From the researcher's point of view, lobbying is also associated with a responsibility to speak out for the voiceless. People from the sex-workers lobby have a very strong and loud voice in countries where prostitution is legalised, but exploited people in prostitution – and the majority

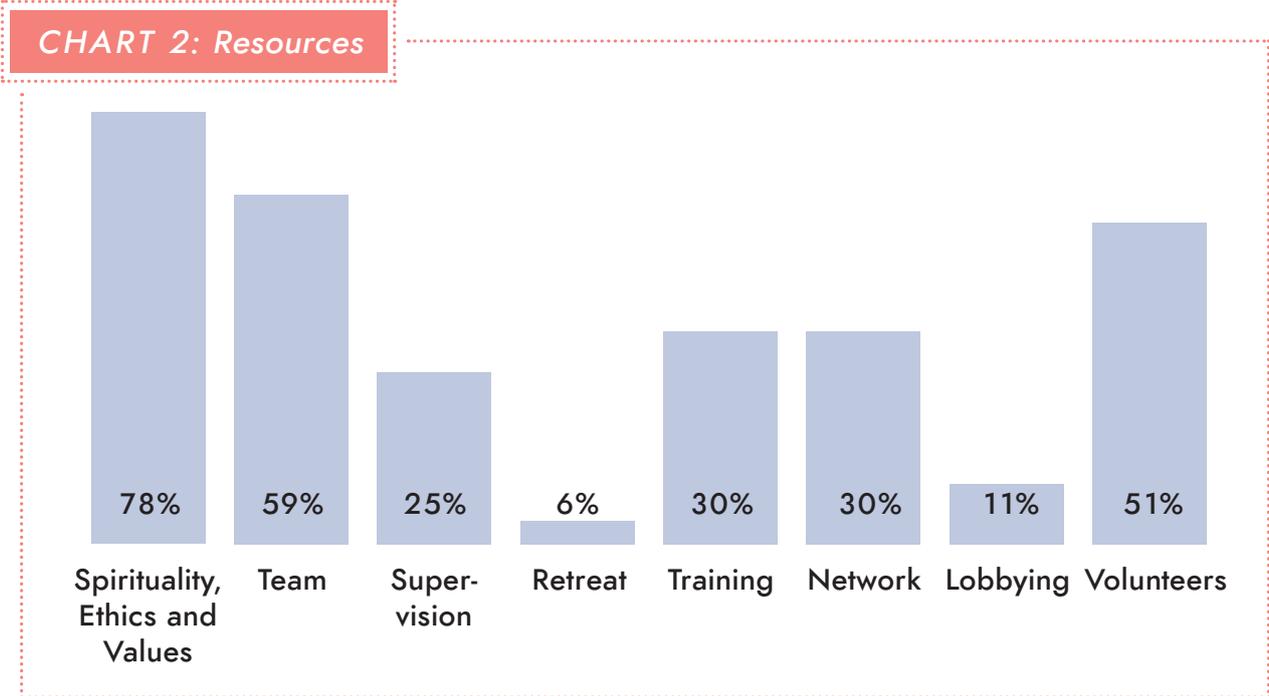
is exploited in this area – are not able to speak out for themselves. It gives strength to the practitioners to fight human trafficking also from this point of view and to become a voice for the voiceless. In a way this is also managing an individual’s own anger about injustice in a healthy way.

RETREATS

The lowest number of respondents, 6%, saw retreats as an important resource.

OTHERS

Other resources were identified as the following: one participant mentioned a greater emphasis on sensitisation of the media, as they need communications professionals in their team. Another saw the beneficiaries themselves as a resource, as case workers see improvements in their clients’ quality of life. One partner was very practical - for him the rooms that churches provide for people in prostitution and also the money supplied in support of the work are a very valuable resource.



STRENGTHS

There was a specific question about the strengths and areas that need improvement in the respective organisations. The analysis of the strengths showed the following traits and characteristics that are needed in the work with vulnerable people. These strengths relate to the

individuals in the team and also the strengths that are shown in this particular team.

It was obvious that the main strength comes from the team and the network.

CHARACTERISTICS

Some strengths are actually characteristics needing to be found in the lives of the co-workers in the team. These characteristics are for example unconditional love and passion, perseverance, consistency, and the capacity to be persistent. Without these characteristics it is not possible to work with broken people. They have such an unstable lifestyle that they cannot be relied upon. They will disappoint case workers, and the danger of becoming stressed or burn-out is increased without these qualities. Case workers need to pause and take a deep breath in order to work long term with these people groups.

NETWORK

Other strengths noted have been the network with different partners and also support from churches. The network is so important because of the plurality of needs and challenges presented by the people seeking assistance.

TRAINING

Regular training for the team, including the volunteers, was mentioned by participants in the study. Responses to the questionnaire do not reveal whether the NGOs really took time for training sessions or if they just see the need for it, but for a variety of reasons do not offer it.

OTHERS

There was also a very strong emphasis on teamwork and the contributions of volunteers, as mentioned above. Some respondents also confirmed the importance of professional care in social work that was offered.

Another interesting point was that as they work with people from different nationalities, the multiculturalism in the team was another important factor. For some NGOs, the individual work with children in the shelters is an important support they can offer. Some mentioned the independence they have from the government. On one hand this means that they do not re-

ceive government money, but on the other hand they are free in what they want to do and not want to do, so this is a significant advantage.

AREAS IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT

TRAINING

Forty-eight organisations mentioned a need for an expanded provision of training in different areas, mainly in the field of trauma. This included also the volunteers. Even during this research, the researcher herself offered various training sessions for practitioners.

FINANCES

Thirty-eight organisations reported a need for increased financing for running programmes or for more possibilities to support the people with whom they work. Twenty-seven respondents needed more people on the staff, either full-time or volunteers. This is mainly a matter of lack of finances.

NETWORK

Other NGOs indicated how important it is to know about each other. If a case arises where a person wants to go home, but home means danger, what is to be done? If the organisations would know about each other, about the support systems in the different countries, it is possible to connect with others in the network and facilitate the required authorisation quickly. In some countries the need for a better functioning national network was quite high.

SPIRITUALITY

For another person the spiritual dimension was the main need.

It needs breakthrough in a spiritual area, that the darkest place of the darkness is changed by the light. That the atmosphere of these places is changed through love. That there is like an implosion, not an explosion. From love changing the system from inside.

And it is about prayer and spiritual changes that make a difference in reality.

SHELTER FOR FAMILIES

Another respondent shared the need to have a shelter for whole families, mainly from the Roma background.

The children of the women who work in prostitution have very bad conditions for a normal life, also in school, they teacher take care very badly with these children and they are angry with them. And these children have no normal pattern, the mother is working in prostitution, the teacher is always angry with them. Father or uncle, no one knows. They have no chance for a normal life.

To be able to offer this specific kind of help to a whole family would mean a great success in dealing with the root problems and serve to prevent the children from becoming trapped in prostitution themselves.

BURN-OUT

The weaknesses that were mentioned, mainly concerning the team, were too much work and a poor work/life balance, that includes the danger of suffering a burn-out. This also is related to the lack of full-time staff and a need for more volunteers.

OTHERS

Since many participants worked in a multicultural team, the danger of miscommunication was quite high. Some missed the holistic approach to people in prostitution that is connected to more training.

SUPPORT MOST NEEDED AT THE PRESENT TIME

The participants were asked to list support needs under the following categories:

- (A) training – if training is required, the form that it should take
- (B) finances – if increased financing is necessary, to which areas this would be directed
- (C) other needs – to be specified

TRAINING

Most of the NGOs agreed that they need to offer training and most of all in the area of trauma.

Training is needed every time on how to better interact, how to better communicate, how to go with traumas, how to it appropriately, you feel every time you learn something, things are changing and then you experience a new situation and you think, oh, how do I do that. A quote from one NGO.

But also, more specific topics were of high interest, for example, training on working with transgenders, finances, starting a business, counselling and ritual abuse. For many of the organisations it was also important that volunteers receive training.

FINANCES

Finances are a great need everywhere. Most of the NGOs obtain their money from donations, and a continuous flow of funding cannot always be relied upon. Finances were needed to employ co-workers and to continue running projects requiring, for example, the rent for offices or shelters. On the other hand, finances were needed to extend services so that more could be done for their clients.

3.3. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

The network, national and international, is very important for maximum effectiveness when working with people in prostitution. They have varied needs and requirements that no single NGO is able to fulfil. It is important to be able to refer cases to alternative sources of support.

As mentioned above, people in prostitution travel a lot themselves, are sent into another country by their pimps or are deported to the first country they entered upon arrival in Europe (Dublin protocol). For these reasons it is necessary to network with partners all over Europe.

The survey questions were divided into national and international networks and the participants were asked to rank the quality of cooperation with various organisations as 1: very good, 2: ok, 3: need for improvement, 0: no involvement with networks. The results of the survey are presented in chart 3.

NATIONAL NETWORK

The highest ranking nationally was reported for cooperation with faith-based NGOs. Fifty-six percent of the participants ranked collaboration with these organisations as very good and only 16% saw a need for improvement.

Thirty-three percent ranked the network with churches as very good and 25% saw a need for improvement. Fourteen percent gave a high ranking to the network with doctors and therapists and 17% saw a need for improvement.

The highest ranking on the need for improvement in the national network was for cooperation with the National Referral Mechanism. Some NGOs did not feel sufficiently accepted by staff responding to referrals. Only 10% of respondents experienced very good cooperation.

Thirty-five percent of participants saw a need for improvement in the network with police and 11% had a very good network with police. The factors behind the ranking of the networks were not identified in the questionnaire and only the results are presented here.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

The highest ranking for successful interactions with the international network was 41% for cooperation with faith-based NGOs and 30% for partnering with churches. The network with EFN, which is a partner in this research, was assessed by 24% of respondents as very good, with 19% seeing a need for improvement. Some of the NGOs were not yet familiar with EFN.

Within Europe there is a variety of European networks, which will be itemised individually as follows:

SALVATION ARMY

Salvation Army is an international movement, [and] an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. The network of the Salvation Army has different organizations all over Europe, and on other continents as well. (Salvation Army)

In this research, representatives from the Salvation Army in five countries took part in the survey.

EFN

EFN Network, European Freedom Network exists to help the body of Christ in Europe work together effectively to prevent and combat human trafficking and commercial exploitation of women, men and children and to seek the restoration of its victims. (European Freedom Network)

SHINE-YWAM EUROPE HUMAN TRAFFICKING NETWORK

Shine Network is a Youth with a Mission (YWAM) Europe network engaged in combating human trafficking in Europe. They offer regular conferences for all members of YWAM in Europe who are a part of the fight against human trafficking and modern-day slavery, and for those involved in areas that intersect (Shine-YWAM Europe).

EBF ANTI-TRAFFICKING NETWORK

The European Baptist Federation (EBF) has a working group dealing with human trafficking and trying to get the church involved in the fight against human trafficking. They propose that churches look into this special kind of marketing of human lives which is operating both here in Europe and globally, and work to overcome the general indifference of many Christians and churches (Hobson, 2013).

It will be a sad but necessary look.

RENATE NETWORK

The RENATE Network is committed to:

Working tirelessly to rehabilitate victims, to free the world of sexual and labour exploitation, slavery and forced organ harvesting. Addressing the root causes of systemic injustice that creates and sustains this vile trade in human lives. Providing opportunities for the full reintegration of victims which can include protection in a safe home, acquisition of proper documents and training for meaningful work so that victims can regain and be enabled to live life to the full. Challenging judicial and civil authorities to adopt

and enforce legislation that protects victims, provides them with adequate compensation, punishes clients and buyers and seizes the assets of perpetrators. (RENATE)

ECPAT

ECPAT is a worldwide network of organizations working to end the sexual exploitation of children. We work at all levels, supporting shelters for survivors, training and supporting law enforcement, influencing governments and conducting a wide range of research. At the heart of all our work is every child's right to live free from sexual exploitation and abuse. ECPAT's mandate is to end sexual exploitation of children through prostitution, trafficking, online and in the travel and tourism sector. We advocate change with governments and the international community. (ECPAT)

SUMMARY

The highest ranking for very good international networking was given to the Salvation Army with 16% of respondents assessing the organisation positively. Only 6% gave a favourable rating to the RENATE network and 8% rated other European networks positively. Twenty-two percent of respondents saw a need for improvement in cooperation among European networks. Many respondents had never heard about the various European networks. The researcher was able to introduce the European Freedom Network to all of the organisations participating in the study.

CHART 3: National and International Network

NATIONAL NETWORK	VERY GOOD	NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT
Faith-based NGOs	56%	16%
Churches	33%	25%
Secular NGOs	17%	27%
Doctors, therapists	14%	17%
Government agencies	13%	40%
Police	11%	35%
National Referral Mechanism	10%	37%
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK	VERY GOOD	NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT
Faith-based NGOs	41%	19%
EFN	24%	19%
Renate	6%	5%
Salvation Army	16%	14%
Churches	30%	25%
Secular NGOs	10%	19%
Europe-wide networks	8%	22%

3.4. FINANCES

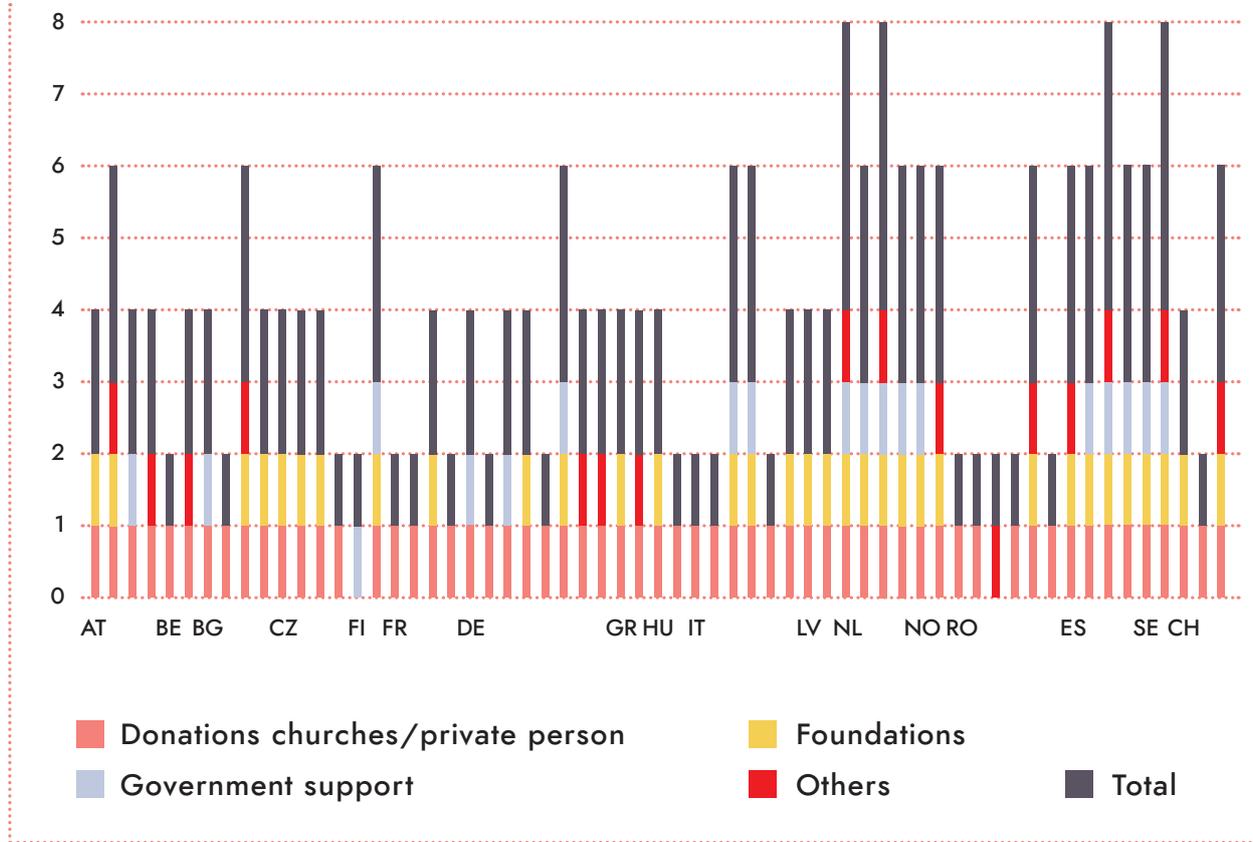
For the purposes of the study, sources of financing have been differentiated in various sectors:

- ⊗ Donations from Churches or Private Persons
- ⊗ Foundations
- ⊗ Government support
- ⊗ Others

Ninety-five percent of all NGOs received money from donations from churches and private donors. Thirty percent obtained their money only from donations from churches or private persons. Fifty-four percent received support from foundations and only 30% received Government support. Twenty-five percent had other sources, like business or proceeds

from the sale of their own products. Six percent of the NGOs procured their support from all of the available sources. It is very interesting to see how many ministries and professional services are sponsored by churches or people from the private sector. This supports the conclusion that they have done a good job in raising public awareness and that there have been a lot of churches and private people who took these topics very seriously. Awareness raising must continue to be a focus, with the purpose of getting civil society more broadly involved.

CHART 4: Finances



4. PEOPLE IN PROSTITUTION

The term that is used in this research when talking about the target group is “people in prostitution” as mentioned above. To call them this shows the holistic approach that all of the 63 NGOs have in common. They see the one who is working in prostitution as a whole person, together with everything that belongs to her. A lot of other organisations call them prostitutes or sex workers. The focus of these people is on what the women are doing as a prostitute and supporting them in their work. Calling them sex workers shows the political philosophy behind the assumption that prostitution is a job like any other.

On the following pages a closer look is taken at the nationalities, where the people in prostitution come from and where they have worked before entering the target country. The number of third-country nationalities (TCN) will also be considered. The reasons for best-attended programmes will be a focus. Of special interest was whether the women have children with them or in the country of origin. Another question in the interview concerned estimated indicators of a range of risk factors like human trafficking, violence, exploitation and others. There were extra questions for shelters identifying reasons for moving or leaving the shelter and length of stay. Also, the most important factors for successful integration will be investigated.

4.1. NATIONALITIES AND COUNTRIES OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT, THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALITIES (TCN)

NATIONALITIES

Romanians

European wide, the largest number of people working in prostitution was found to be women from Romania. Concerning the nationalities most frequently encountered by NGOs, 63% of Romanians have been in place number one. On the second place, 46% Nigerians was the largest group and in third place 35% Bulgarians have been the major group. In fourth place, a smaller proportion, 19%, recorded Hungarians as their main people group. In some places, the number of Chinese clients is quite high, however these nationals were mentioned by only 2% of participants in the study. The relative numbers differ from country to country. For example, in Austria the number of Chinese is much higher than in the other countries. In one statistical analysis, Chinese had been placed at number 3 in the ranking of the highest populations in

prostitution in Austria, next to Hungarians at number 2 and Romanians at number 1. However, the current study is in agreement with the statement that

Romanian women are the group most at risk for sex trafficking by criminal networks not only due to poverty and lack of government focus, but also because of a culture that blames women, who knew what they were getting into. According to experts, Romania has been Europe's sex trafficking hub for many years already. Female sex workers in most European capitals are primarily Romanian despite numerous information campaigns by the government and efforts by law enforcement to dismantle trafficking rings the situation continues and no one knows why. (Luca, 2018)

It is obvious that these women often come from rural and marginalised areas and some of them have a low level of education. Others enter prostitution immediately after completing 12 years of schooling and start at the age of 18. Unlike in other countries, in Romania the majority of victims are not abducted or kidnapped. The traffickers often offer them a seemingly well-paid job, an education, or they use the “lover-boy method” and start a love relationship in order to persuade the women to move abroad. In many cases, once abroad their papers are taken and they are forced into prostitution, pornography or other contemporary forms of slavery. Sometimes the driving force is that there are simply no other options to pay back the money the trafficker apparently used for the transport to the country or to earn the money the woman needs to provide for her family back home. Sometimes the women know beforehand what the job involves, but they probably have no idea of the reality of such work and the toll it will take on them personally. Some others work in prostitution just because they love their pimps and are willing to do anything to please them.

Nigerians

The second largest group of people in prostitution in Europe comes from Nigeria. This is not a new phenomenon, as since the 1980s women from Nigeria working in Italy at local markets started to bring “human goods” to the European market. In Edo State, Nigeria, up to 70% of the youth are unemployed and without any prospective job opportunities. For this reason, they are potential victims for traffickers, who trap them into travelling to Europe with the promise of a good job. The countries where the Nigerians first enter Europe are mainly Italy and also Spain, which is where, next to Italy and Greece, the main group of Nigerians is to be found. To the researcher's surprise there are also large numbers of Nigerian women in some of the Northern European countries, although it is illegal for asylum seekers to work in prostitution in some of these countries, like the Netherlands and Denmark for example. A Nigerian NGO, MeCAHT (Media Campaign against Human Trafficking), produced the film “Europe in my

heart” with Anne Abok. The film aims to warn Nigerian girls, women, parents, teachers, and villagers to get involved in the fight against human trafficking. The film was recorded in Nigeria and in the area around Istedgade, a street in Copenhagen. It was shown in 30 Nigerian villages as part of a two-day campaign where a team of 4-5 people showed the movie and provided information on what might happen when “Mr. Dollar” visits the village to offer jobs, education and good money in Europe. These traffickers are organised across borders, and the women usually end up living as prostitutes, for example, on Istedgade in Copenhagen. During the period March 2015 to August 2016, the film was screened in 30 Nigerian villages while at the same time being featured at three heads of state conferences. The conferences included state leaders, officials, politicians, media interpreters, priests and leaders of NGOs and churches (Abok, 2014).

Another filmmaker, Sudabeh Mortezaei, produced the movie “Joy” in 2018 that won many awards in Europe.

I chose this subject matter when I became aware of this system of human trafficking in Nigeria and how it works”. The Madams who exploit the women who come from Nigeria, were once former trafficking victims themselves. Women become enemies and rivals of each other. “This was very shocking for me, but as a filmmaker, it was very intriguing. This was the main reason why I wanted to make a film, because of the power dynamics. My goal is to humanise these women, to create a feeling of empathy within the audience, so the audience will understand where these women come from and why they do what they do. Cinema is a very powerful tool to do this; to build a human relationship this way.” The whole film is filmed through the perspective of these women. And so we, the viewers, also get to see Europe through the eyes of these Nigerian women. And then Europe is a strange place, very unwelcoming. Not the Europe that we know. It was important for me to have this shift of perspective. “ Near the end of the film, there is a powerful scene in which Joy and Precious – the young girl Joy has to take care of – warm themselves up in a café near the border of Italy, during the festival of Saint Nicholas. Several people are dressed up as Krampus, a demon-like character from Austro-Bavarian folklore, acting as animals, with huge masks. Through the eyes of Joy and Precious, it feels as if we are witnessing an exotic ritual. We come to realise, that we also have our irrational beliefs, our strange traditions that are almost like rituals.” (Mortezaei, 2018)

One of the ways in which the traffickers try to control the women is by means of Juju magic rituals. These rituals are often terrifying to undergo and are there to control the women.

“These rituals are a big part of the trafficking system. The women – before going to Europe – are brought to a doctor by their traffickers to swear an oath to pay off their debts and to not go to the police. It is a very powerful control mechanism, where the women strongly believe in.” (Mortezai, 2018)

CHART 5: Nationalities

NATIONALITIES	PER CENT	NATIONALITIES	PER CENT
Romania	63	Hungary	19
Nigeria	46	South America	16
Bulgaria	35	China	2

COUNTRIES OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

In connection with nationalities, the question was asked about the countries where the people worked before entering the target country.

The country where the largest number of women had previously worked in prostitution was Italy. Most of the Nigerians continue to enter Europe through Italy and get registered there first. Many come by boat from Libya to Italy or initially Malta and then Italy. There is also a new tendency of coming to Europe through Spain. But also, many of the Romanians worked in Italy or Spain before moving on to another country.

The country in second place on the list of countries where women had worked in the past was Germany, popularly named the “brothel of Europe”! (Save Our Sisters, 2017)

CHART 6: Countries of previous employment

COUNTRIES OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT	PER CENT
Italy	49
Germany	41
Spain	27
France	13
Austria	11
Africa	13
Switzerland	5

THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALITIES (TCN)

Another question for shelters and aftercare programmes concerned the presence of third-country nationalities in their programmes.

Third Country National is a term often used in the context of migration, referring to individuals who are in transit and/or applying for visas in countries that are not their country of origin (i.e. country of transit), in order to go to a destination country that is likewise not their country of origin. In the European Union, the term is often used, together with „foreign national“ and „non-EU foreign national“, to refer to individuals who are neither from the EU country in which they are currently living or staying, nor from other member states of the European Union. (Wikipedia, Third Country National)

In Eastern European countries like Romania and Bulgaria practitioners work mainly with nationals, minority groups or gypsies. There was one city in each of Finland, Italy and Netherlands where the NGOs worked with 100% third-country nationalities. There was also a high number of 80% third-country nationals in two locations in Spain.

Belgium, Greece and Sweden had between 40% and 58% at one place in each country. Most of the third-country nationals came from Nigeria.

In Austria there has been a growing number of Chinese women in recent years. Some of them were lured by false job promises for babysitting or working in a household and as soon as they arrived were put into prostitution with different forms of pressure. The police have placed a strong focus on the Chinese women in recent years and many raids have taken place in studios and brothels employing Chinese women in Austria.

4.2. SOCIAL SERVICES

The main social services that every organisation offers and where the questionnaire asked for the level of attendance are the following:

- ⊗ Medical help
- ⊗ Language class
- ⊗ Advocacy support
- ⊗ Crisis intervention/Counselling
- ⊗ Accommodation services
- ⊗ Employment services
- ⊗ Work skills training
- ⊗ Debt counselling
- ⊗ Food bank

The attendance is graded between zero to highest attendance.

CRISIS INTERVENTION AND COUNSELLING

Crisis intervention and counselling is the service most frequently attended in every country, no matter if it takes place in the red-light district directly or at the drop-in centre, aftercare programme or shelter. The lowest number for attendance is in Sweden and Norway. There are some NGOs that offer a 24/7 hotline number so that people can call anytime. The researcher was responsible for a hotline number for eleven years and three times she received a phone call, always on a Sunday when a normal office is not open or available, and the people have been in a crisis situation of danger or the pimp was just gone for an hour so that the researcher could organise everything for the rescue.

MEDICAL SUPPORT

Health Care

Medical support was rated number two of the social services people attended. The highest number of clients receiving medical support is in Greece and Romania, and the lowest in Czech Republic. A relatively high average demand for medical support is found in Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, France and Spain. Many people in prostitution suffer from sexually transmitted diseases (see more information under sickness and physical pain) and numerous other sicknesses because of the uniquely risky circumstances in which they are working. Some of the NGOs offer the medical support themselves or network with other individuals or organisations providing this assistance. In Austria, for example, there is one catholic hospital that has an ambulance, where people who have no health insurance can seek medical support for free, and a clinic operated by Diakonia where doctors work voluntarily for the same people group. The NGO the researcher worked with for many years cooperated with a gynaecologist who helped the women cost-free. Many people working in prostitution have no health insurance. In some countries these services are provided without charge for uninsured people.

Sicknesses and Physical Pain

In trauma therapy it is well known that as soon as someone is in safety, the trauma is allowed to rise to the surface, and the same occurs with physical problems. As long as women are working in prostitution, they dissociate in order to function and are in a survival mode. They either take pain-killers or ignore the pain. They mainly ask for gynaecologists for accruing problems in this area. Or they often suffer from after effects of poorly performed abortions. As soon as they are in a safe place, the problems are allowed to surface because now they can be taken care of. The risk of being infected with sexual diseases like bacterial vaginosis,

gonorrhoea, herpes simplex, HIV, lymphadenopathy, non-gonococcal urethritis, syphilis, just to mention a few, is very high in prostitution (Hall, 2016).

Hepatitis and HIV are also quite common among people in prostitution.

The number of HIV infected people living in Austria is estimated [at] 9.000 by the Ministry of Health about two third[s] men and one third women. According to the Department of Virology (Medical University of Vienna) 70% of the new infections are diagnosed in Austrian citizens and 30% in migrants from other regions. More than half of the new infections are diagnosed in Vienna the capital of Austria. (Country Progress Report, 2011)

However, the threats are not limited to the above diseases; many suffer from gynaecological problems, for example cystitis, because of standing in the cold the whole night. Also, back problems occur quite often, due to standing in high heels for many hours.

ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

Provision of accommodation is actually needed for everyone stepping out of prostitution and is broadly offered in Germany and Romania. This is necessary because a person who steps out of prostitution needs at once not only safety, and this is especially the case with victims of human trafficking, but also a new social environment to have the possibility of being able to start a new life outside of prostitution. Often a woman in prostitution lives together with colleagues, so that when she steps out it is not possible to stay with them any longer. It was not possible to interview every organisation working with people in prostitution, however it is known that there are many more groups in different countries that offer shelters in addition to the ones that have been interviewed for this study.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Employment services are available on a high level in Romania and on a lower level in other countries. There is a notably low level of provision in Finland, Norway, Hungary and Bulgaria. Access to employment services offers the opportunity to work in a sufficiently well-paid job, which is absolutely essential for the women to become integrated in society and to earn a normal living. There are some initiatives proceeding in Europe to train organisations in best practices for starting a business, but more needs to be done.

Work skills training

Work skills training, which is connected to employment services, is widely provided in the Netherlands, followed by Romania and Bulgaria. Often a person who worked in prostitution has only worked in the nights, which is one of the factors making it very difficult to start a normal job directly after stepping out of prostitution. The women need to learn a day routine. Prostitution is a largely solitary occupation and the women are not accustomed to working with others or in a team. In a work skills programme, people learn to adapt to normal working conditions such as being on time and fulfilling the employer's expectations. Also working with others, learning how to deal with conflicts, is absolutely essential and by acquiring such skills they become empowered to adjust to life in the workplace outside of prostitution.

ADVOCACY SUPPORT

There is a high rate of people in prostitution who are victims of human trafficking and the need for advocacy is there as soon as someone is ready to testify against her perpetrator. A very sensitive approach which includes process support is needed. Some women work with undocumented refugees and face the same challenges as the asylum seekers, who are looking for asylum but are not willing or able to testify against their traffickers.

Countries

The highest level of advocacy support is provided in Germany and the Netherlands. It is interesting that the lowest levels of advocacy support are found in Switzerland, Norway, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Italy. There are a number of possible explanations for the lesser necessity for advocacy in these countries: perhaps the NGOs do not offer this service or do not network with others offering such support or they may not have many cases of human trafficking that go to court.

LANGUAGE CLASSES

Language classes generally have high levels of utilisation except in countries like Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. This is understandable because in these countries the women work mainly with their own nationals as well as nationals coming from a Roma background. In some countries, language classes are provided free of charge until a specific age. Some NGOs offer language classes for free for people in prostitution.

DEBT COUNSELLING

Debt counselling is a difficult topic. Except in Germany where it is a standard service, the degree to which counselling is available is either low or not provided in other countries. Many of the people working in prostitution have a considerable level of debt. There are many cases known by the researcher where the woman signed a contract for a man for a particular item, for example a car or a mobile phone contract in her name and then when the man leaves the woman she still has to bear the costs. The researcher knows cases where the man started a business in the name of the woman and never paid taxes. After he left her she faced an enormous debt mountain.

FOOD BANK

Food bank is most widely offered in France and Bulgaria. In addition to this, many NGOs give out gifts, clothes and food from time to time.

CHALLENGES

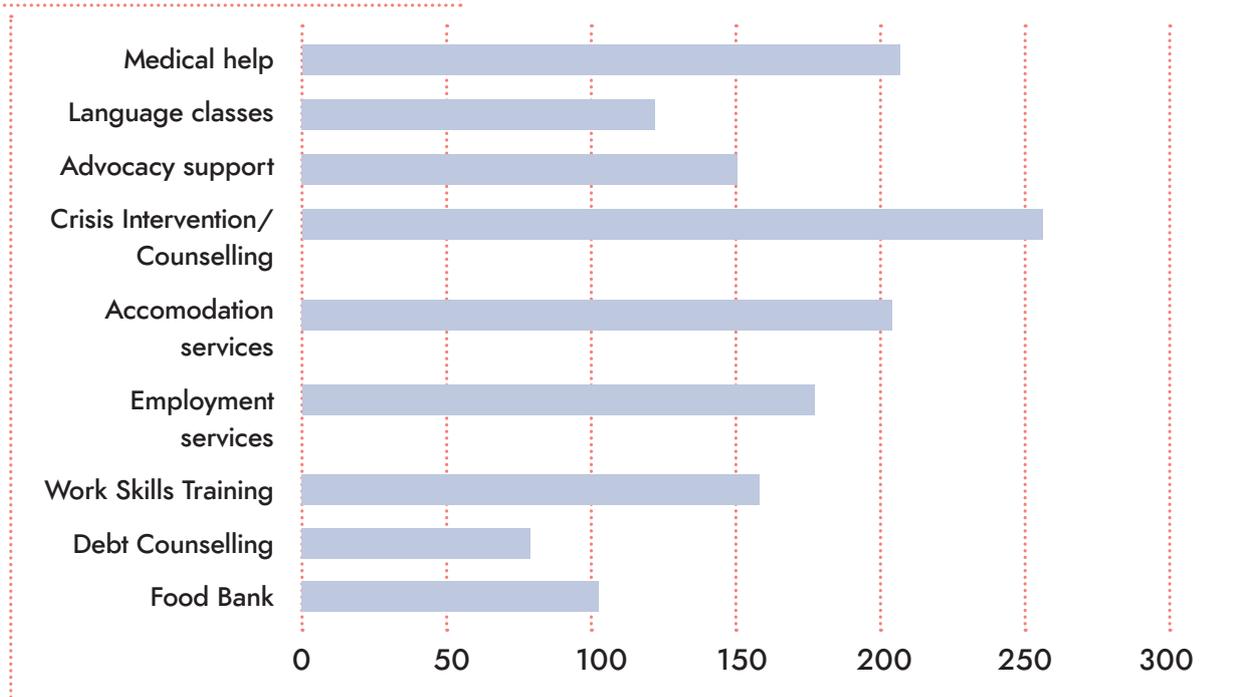
The researcher is familiar with the police complaining about the fact that it is so difficult to convince a person who is a victim of trafficking to submit a report to the police. Often the police know the facts of trafficking, but without a testimony from a victim they can do very little. As there is a high rate of posttraumatic stress disorder in people in prostitution as mentioned above, the phenomenon of trauma bonding is always present. This means that the person, the victim, is manipulated and influenced by a perpetrator and experiences an introjection of the beliefs of the perpetrator. She denies reality and believes that she is engaging in prostitution voluntarily. She develops the Stockholm Syndrome and is totally dependent on the offender.

In the Eastern European countries, it is probably a matter of family background or society background as in some countries with strong patriarchal society systems, women normally do not fight for their rights or initiate a legal proceeding. Often the perpetrators have threatened the person and she fears for her life or the safety of the family.

Patriarchal (adj.) describes a general structure in which men have power over women. Society (n.) is the entirety of relations of a community. A patriarchal society consists of a male-dominated power structure throughout organized society and in individual relationships. Power is related to privilege. In a system in which men have more power than women, men have some level of privilege to which women are not entitled. (Napikoski, 2019)

Also, the family or the boyfriend, lover-boy, may be involved in the exploitation in prostitution. This means that the victim is in a dysfunctional love relationship with the perpetrator. Very often the trafficker and the victims come from the same area, with the result that the trafficker knows the woman's family and this makes it more difficult to stand up and do something against the exploitation.

CHART 7: Social Services



4.3. CHILDREN AND FEMINISATION OF POVERTY

This part of the research deals with the fact that most of the women working in prostitution have children at home. What are the consequences and challenges which arise from these circumstances?

ROMA

A lot of quite young women, especially from Romania and also especially with a Roma background, report that they have children at home. Some became pregnant as minors. Generally, the child is with the woman's mother, in some cases with the mother-in-law or a sister or aunt. In Roma culture it is common practice that a daughter will be married by her parents as a minor. The family wants to get rid of a female family member who does not contribute to the finances of the household. The researcher knows women who have been married at the age of 15, one case even

at 12 years old. They become pregnant very quickly and frequently at the age of 18 they “divorce” their often much older husbands. At this point they are responsible for taking care of the family.

ROMANIANS

Romanian young women are in a similar situation. Often after falling in love with a man, they become pregnant, perhaps because of their dreams of a better life and having a family. Due to financial reasons, they leave their children behind with their mother and go abroad, either with their boyfriends or as a single mother, and work in prostitution. The researcher knows of one woman who became pregnant at the age of 18 and it seemed that she was really looking forward to stopping her involvement in prostitution and staying at home with her baby. At the end she stayed on the street until her eighth month of pregnancy and then went home. This was a relief, but regrettably after three months, when the baby was two months old, the woman was standing on the streets again accompanied by her boyfriend and continuing to work in prostitution. When the researcher met her, she was aware of her very sad-looking eyes.

WHERE ARE THE FATHERS?

After meeting with thousands of women, the researcher unfortunately knows of no cases where the fathers take care of the children or pay alimony. How is this possible, that the fathers just disappear and do not care for their children anymore? In nearly all cases families are headed by a single mother and the fathers do not have any contact with their children at all. This is hard to understand. In this culture, men have dominion over women; they have no empathy for their needs, simply do not care and are only looking out for themselves. The man is only interested in his own satisfaction. In patriarchal communities it is also not common that a woman goes to court to claim her rights.

So, ultimately again the woman is responsible for taking care of the needs of the family.

GENDER EQUALITY

UN Women

The phenomenon is known as the “feminisation of poverty”. This describes a female-headed household with no support from male earners. The following observation from a UN Women article provides a good comment on the feminisation of poverty where it is explained that

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Unfortunately, at the current time, 1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15-49 have reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period and 49 countries currently have no laws protecting women from domestic violence. (United Nations Sustainable Development)

NO SUPPORT

It is so sad that women in many countries, especially in Eastern Europe, get no support from officials or from the government such as child benefit or social care. And the family is often also not able to support a young woman with her children. Her parents are usually unemployed or only receive a very low wage.

COLLECTIVE SOCIETY

Women who work in prostitution mainly come from collective societies, characterised by the fact that the good of individuals is subordinate to the good of the family and society (extended family). The well-being of the individual is waived in favour of the well-being and profit of the collective, the family. The person sacrifices herself for the sake of others - the children or the rest of the family. These women are mostly accompanied by men, sometimes even family members such as brothers, uncles, cousins or boyfriends, lover-boys. Also, the police are very aware of the fact of lover-boys but their hands are tied.

RISK

At the same time, countries like Romania with a high rate of unemployment, corruption, no job opportunities, and major gender inequality provide ideal conditions for human trafficking. These different factors of vulnerability open the door for traffickers and lover-boys. Some of them use the method of false job promises. The young woman leaves her country, believing she will get a job in a household or taking care of children in Western Europe. When she arrives, her papers are taken away, she will be threatened and has to work in prostitution. She has to pay back her debts for the journey. This also happens with women from Nigeria. They have to pay back the costs that are unrealistically high. When they are told to pay back €50,000, they have no idea what that means. Actually, in Nigeria, they have the belief that

there are “Golden Streets” in Europe and work and money are easy to find. In addition to this, the dysfunctional family background of the women is a major risk factor for exploitation. However, it is also possible that the women know beforehand what they will have to do, but a lack of alternatives in the home situation forces the decision to enter prostitution.

A CHOICE?

Some countries talk about a free choice to work in prostitution. When consumers in the developed world go shopping, they stand in front of the shelves and choose what kind of food they wish to buy. Is it possible to talk about a choice when only poverty or prostitution is an option? There is a coercion behind this “choice”. This is called “survival sex”! This is sex performed under duress in order to survive and take care of the rent, the money for a woman’s financial expenses, the expenses of her mother who takes care of her child.

MIGRANT ORPHANS

In Romania, many children have grown up without their parents who are working abroad. They are called “migrant orphans”. In his article in The New York Times, Dan Bilefsky points out

that children with parents abroad were more likely to abuse alcohol and cigarettes, have problems with the police and underperform in school. Conversely, some children who blame themselves for their parents’ departure become straight-A students in the hope of luring them back. (2009)

Very often the mother working abroad feels guilty and tries to compensate for this by buying presents. Love and care are given through materialistic things and this has an impact on the growing up of a child. When the mother is at home, she spoils the child and the children are even expecting her to bring presents and better things the next time she visits. Usually the mothers go home between two and three times a year, not more. Visits are made predominantly at Easter or Christmas and occasionally one time in summer.

„Children growing up without parents is not a new phenomenon in Romania – it happens a lot,“ says Cristian Badi, a psychologist who runs a children’s centre.

„But the real harm is the lack of emotional security in the children - not knowing when their parents might reappear, and for how long.“ (Thorpe, 2014)

It is distressing to think about the future of children who are missing the essential values in their early childhood provided by parental care. It is possible that vulnerability to being trafficked like their mothers or being lured into prostitution is quite high for girls, and the boys who grow up without a healthy example of a man can also become men with a patriarchal attitude and themselves exploit women when they are adults.

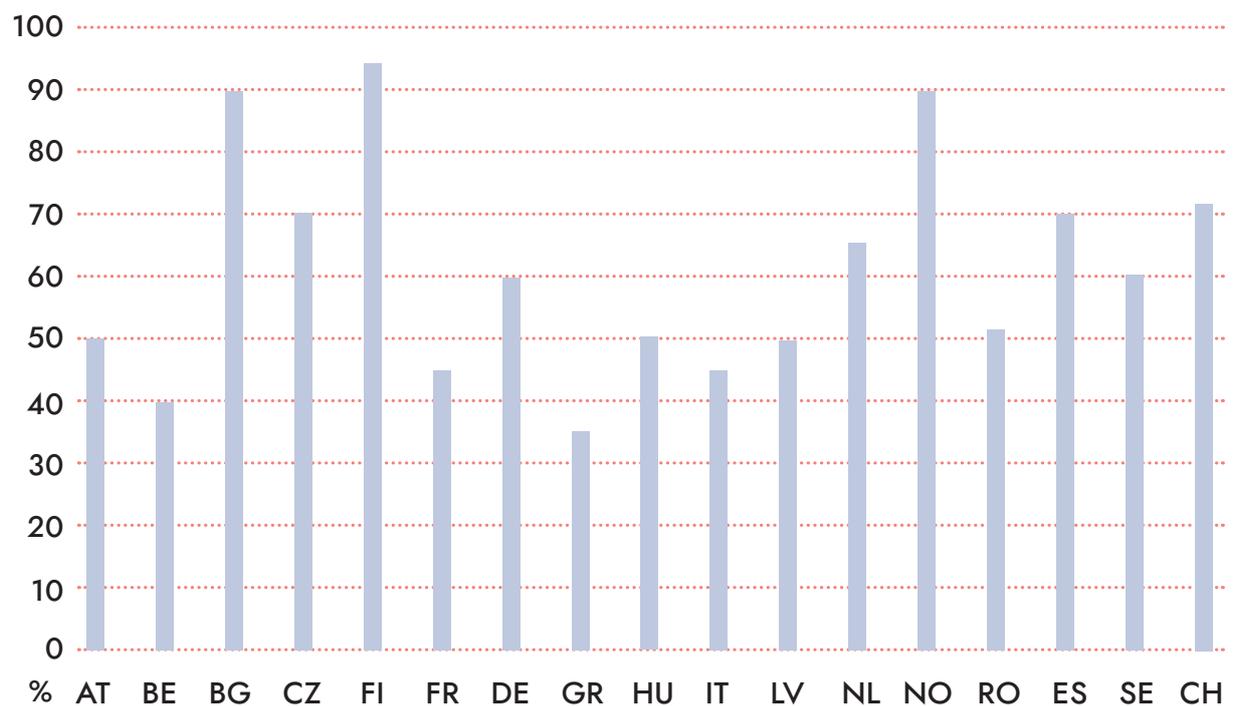
It is different with Nigerians; some become pregnant because they have been raped on the journey or they fall pregnant in Europe, often because they believe that with children, they will not be sent back or be deported. Most of them are also single mothers and the fathers are mainly Nigerians as well.

DATA

The highest rate of women with children was counted at one place in Finland at 100% followed by one city in Bulgaria at 99%. In Norway there were two places and one each in Romania, Germany and Switzerland where 90% of the women were accompanied by their children. In at least one place in eleven countries – Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Switzerland – the rate was between 70% and 85%. In Denmark the organisation working exclusively with Nigerians had no information about children.

The average proportion of mothers accompanied by children for all of Europe was 54%.

CHART 8: Children



4.4. SHELTER

The following survey questions deal with a number of factors concerning shelter: reasons for moving into the shelter, length of stay and reasons for leaving the shelter prematurely, not finishing the programme. At the end of the section, various influences on integration will be considered to show best practice for a successful integration into the community. The research includes 28 organisations in 15 countries which run a shelter and/or an aftercare programme. These countries are Austria – two organisations, Belgium – one organisation, Bulgaria – two organisations, Czech Republic – one organisation, Finland – two organisations, Germany – three organisations, Greece – two organisations, Hungary – one organisation, Italy – one organisation, Spain - two organisations, Netherlands – three organisations, Sweden – two organisations, Norway – one organisation, Latvia – one organisation, Romania – four organisations.

REASONS FOR MOVING INTO A SHELTER

The reasons why a person may want to move into a shelter are categorised into eight topics:

- ❖ Danger from pimp and/or trafficker
- ❖ Rescue by the police
- ❖ No chance to go back to their home, family
- ❖ Wanting to start a new life
- ❖ Health issues/Psychological problems
- ❖ No documents/Legal support
- ❖ Material support
- ❖ Need for counselling.

The reasons were listed by the organisations in order from main reason to least relevant reason. Only Denmark, France and Switzerland did not respond to these questions because in these countries none of the participants run a shelter or aftercare programme.

DANGER FROM PIMP OR TRAFFICKER

The most-cited reason to move into a shelter was “danger from pimp and/or trafficker”. This reason is connected to the fact that most of the women working in prostitution are accompanied by a man; sometimes it is their pimp and sometimes it is a man with whom they are in a relationship who is exploiting her. These men are called lover-boys, which means that they manipulate the woman and start a love relationship with her, until she is completely dependent on him and he then sends her into prostitution. The name lover-boy should not give a wrong

impression simply because it includes the word “lover”. These men are the same as traffickers and pimps. A pimp does not have any kind of empathy for his victim; it is all about power, manipulation and often brutal violence. The woman is beaten, forced to do things she does not want to do and threatened if she refuses to comply.

START A NEW LIFE

The motivation to “start a new life” was ranked in second place as a reason for entering a shelter. In this case the person is highly motivated and has come to a point where she really wants to see a change in her life. With this motivation it is easier to accept the rules in a shelter and to go through even more difficult times.

NO CHANCE OF RETURN TO HOME AND FAMILY

No chance to go back to their home, family, was listed in third place. One obvious reason for this result is that some of the people in the shelters have an asylum status and are not able to go home. Others perhaps have been trafficked by family members and have no contact any longer, or there was never a good relationship with the family. It is also possible that it is too dangerous for the family when the person comes back home. When there is no way to return to their home this also means there is no back door open. It could also be that the economic conditions in the home country are just so bad that there is no incentive to return.

MATERIAL SUPPORT

Material support was rated in place four among reasons for entering a shelter. The researcher does not believe that this is a fundamental reason, but rather is incidental because of the whole situation in which the person finds herself at the moment.

NO DOCUMENTS AND LEGAL SUPPORT

Lack of documents and a need for legal support were in place five. For people in this position, the shelter is a safe place and the possibility of being granted asylum and papers is much high-

er than if the person is on her own. Furthermore, in cases of human trafficking the person who is willing to testify against the trafficker needs support during the whole procedure and also protection through a lawyer.

HEALTH ISSUES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Health issues and psychological problems were ranked in place six as motivations for relocating to a shelter. Facing this type of adversity could bring someone to the point where she wants a new beginning. Normally because the women are in a constant survival modus, they are not aware of their bodies and do not realise their need to get help for physical or psychological problems. This awareness often only occurs after they are in a safe place.

RESCUE BY POLICE

Rescue by the police was in place seven on the list of reasons for seeking a shelter. In some countries, police and shelters work closely together and the cooperation is quite good. It is important for every organisation that starts to work with people in prostitution to go to the police and for staff to introduce themselves. The police need to know about their work and about their intentions. Also, in cases of danger it is important to have contact with the police. In the event that a person wants to leave prostitution, it is wise that the NGO social worker first tells her about the procedure, leaves her and calls the police, so that they will come and rescue the person and not personnel from the NGO who could be observed and possibly targeted by the traffickers.

COUNSELLING

In last place among reasons for seeking refuge in a shelter was “counselling”. Many organisations report that often the people they are taking care of do not see their need for counselling, for the same reasons as with health and psychological problems: they do not realise they are in need. Often the awareness of their own needs begins to come to the surface only after they have entered the shelter.

CHART 9: Reasons for moving into a Shelter

REASONS FOR MOVING TO A SHELTER	RATING (1 HIGHEST, 8 LOWEST)
Danger from pimp and/or trafficker	1
Wanting to start a new life	2
No chance to go back to their home, family	3
Material support	4
No documents/Legal support	5
Health issues/Psychological problems	6
Rescue by the police	7
Need for counselling	8

LENGTH OF STAY

The length of stay was measured in the categories of less than three months, less than six months, less than one year and more than one year.

CHART 10: Average Length of Stay

LENGTH OF STAY	less than three months	less than six months	less than one year	more than one year
%	15	9	18	51

Most of the people needed more than one year of stay in a shelter. People who have worked in prostitution for a time have a high rate of trauma and PTSD. Also, physical problems start to emerge after stepping away from prostitution. The researcher knows of one woman who stayed in a shelter for two years; most of this time she was sick, either with chronic diseases or with infections.

Given the extent of violence in their lives, and the presence of dissociative symptoms, we predicted that people who worked as prostitutes would also experience PTSD. Fifty percent of these respondents stated that they had a physical health problem. (Farley & Barkan, 2013)

Violence that takes place in the lives of people in prostitution is one source of trauma, while another factor is that many of them already experienced abuse in their childhood. This process of healing takes a long time. Co-workers reported that even after leaving the shelter, many of the former clients stay in contact with the people from the organisation. In some cases, the stay in the shelter was mainly concerned with crisis intervention and the people left after their needs were met.

REASONS FOR LEAVING THE SHELTER

The outcomes of this survey question have been very revelatory. The reasons given for leaving a shelter involved going back to family, back to boyfriend, lover-boy, pimp, going back to prostitution, financial reasons, and problems in the shelter and others. This question focusses on leaving the shelter prematurely, and not finishing the recovery process.

GOING BACK TO THE PIMP/BOYFRIEND, LOVER-BOY

The most highly ranked reason for leaving a shelter was going back to the boyfriend or pimp. This confirms the reality of the strong dependence on the men in the dysfunctional relationships in which the women remain trapped. The lover-boy manages to make the woman believe that he loves her and she needs to help him. Also, he promises to become a better person and change his behaviour. And because she is so much in need of feeling loved and accepted by him, she is ready to sacrifice her own well-being. As many of the people working in prostitution had already experienced sexual abuse or violence in their past, they have the “voice of the perpetrator” in their head telling them that they have no worth and deserve this kind of life, that they need “him” and he needs her. The women suffer from the “Stockholm Syndrome”, where people develop a love relationship with their captors. Normally in a shelter the woman has to hand over her sim card for the first weeks, but either the pimp or she herself manages to come in contact again and then she goes back to him.

RETURN TO FAMILY

The second most cited reason for departure was going back to the family. Again, relationships are the driving force; sometimes the family is in need of the woman to the extent that she is

not prepared to take the time for her own healing process and goes back to help her family. This is also a cultural problem because in many cultures it is not usual that someone looks for professional help outside of the family context. It is shameful to go to therapy, rehab or shelter, and people who utilise these services are stigmatised. In Western cultures this is more accepted by the society, but there is a huge difference between East and West. Perhaps the woman misses her children and wants to see them, not aware of the danger it could mean to go back to her country.

PROBLEMS IN THE SHELTER

The third most frequently acknowledged reason for leaving are problems in the shelter. These arise because people do not learn how to deal with conflicts and how to solve relationship problems on a healthy level. Women in prostitution are used to being on their own and not trusting anyone. They are suspicious of the other residents in the shelter and they have had no experiences of trust relationships. So, to deny, to escape when involved in a conflict is what they learned and how they deal with this kind of stress. Many different factors influence this type of behaviour, among them probably also the culture from which they come. Especially in Eastern Europe they have a long history of communism behind them, where open communication and controversial discussions were not allowed, under threat of punishment, and that is not very long ago.

FINANCIAL REASONS

The fourth most frequently mentioned reason was financial concerns. In the shelter, the women normally have the accommodation free of charge and are given pocket money and money for food. They are used to a different lifestyle, although very often the “money seems to just run through their hands”. It can also be that the family has contacted the woman and needs money.

RETURN TO PROSTITUTION

The fifth reason given for departure was going back to prostitution, that is mainly connected with the wish for more money and/or the relationship with the former pimp. This is also associated with a low self-esteem. Some believe they deserve this kind of life because they are

“bad people”. One woman who was in prostitution for more than 30 years told the researcher, “I cannot do anything else, I do this since I am 15.” She started as a drug addict after being sexually abused and for her it was normal because her mother was also working in prostitution. Later she managed to step out and she lives a normal life now.

OTHERS

DRUG ADDICTION

Another reason given for leaving a shelter was drug addiction; this was surprisingly only reported in Czech Republic. Most of the shelters would not accept people who were still on drugs. They have to undergo the withdrawal process first.

DEPORTATION

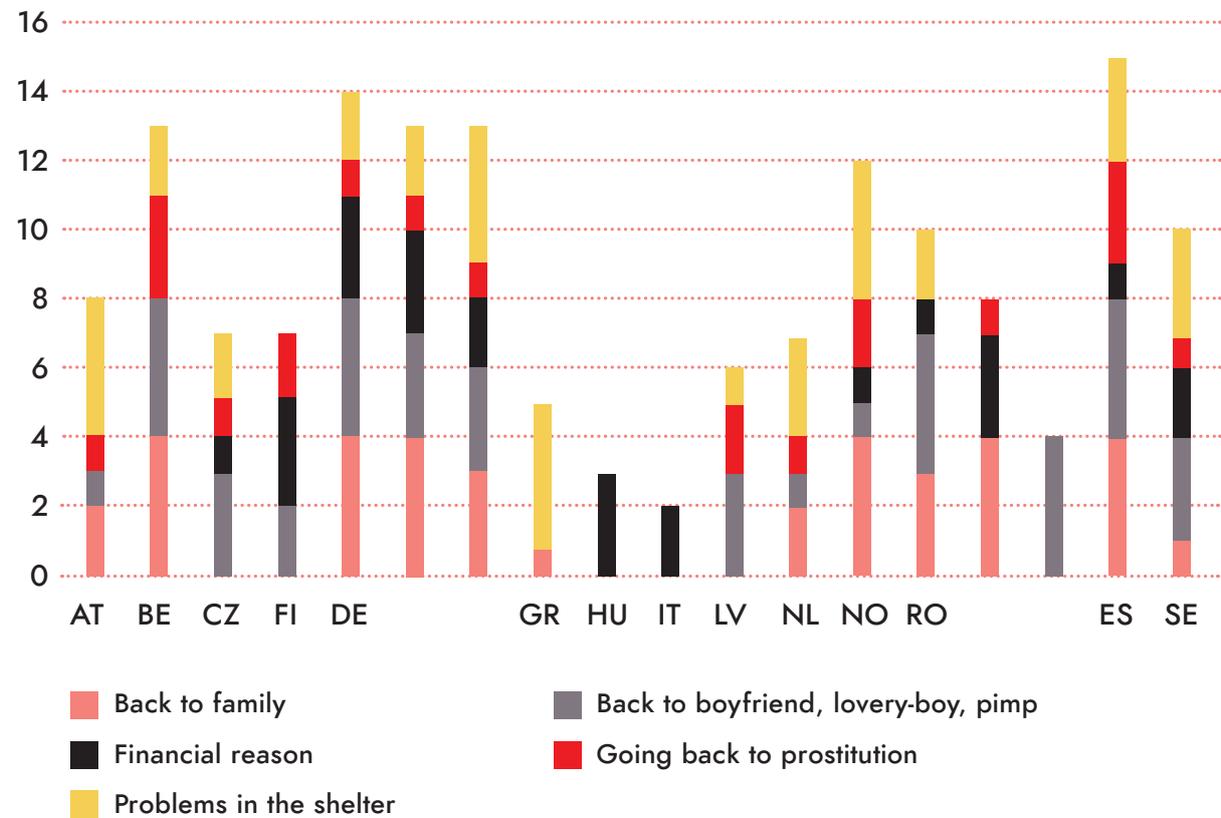
Deportation was a problem related to the women’s legal status and the asylum procedure and was observed in Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands. This sadly happens again and again. A person who took steps, went into a shelter, is in the care of professionals and often in a legal procedure is suddenly deported. In the Netherlands, NGO staff also said that sometimes people just disappear and the reason is never known.

DEBTS

Fear because of debts as the impetus for departing a shelter was only mentioned in Spain.

INTEGRATION

In Sweden there was one positive reason for leaving the shelter, which was new housing for integration provided by the government, a situation applying specifically to asylum seekers.

CHART 11: Reasons for leaving a shelter


4.5. SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION

When a person in prostitution accomplishes successful integration in the country where she received help, this represents an amazing success. Someone was able to leave prostitution behind, often connected to a system of violence and/or human trafficking, and now lives a “normal life” in society. She has an apartment, has a job and is integrated in society. How is this possible? The organisations were asked their opinions on the following factors as facilitators of successful integration:

- ⊗ Unconditional love
- ⊗ New friendship
- ⊗ New social environment
- ⊗ Therapeutic intervention
- ⊗ Language class
- ⊗ Access to faith
- ⊗ Learning new skills
- ⊗ Getting a job
- ⊗ Legal assistance
- ⊗ Support from own network

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

A New Name

The main factor mentioned by all NGOs for successful integration was first of all a very simple human ethical resource: unconditional love! When society thinks about people in prostitution and how they are addressed, the names which are given to them, it is not difficult to believe that unconditional love makes a difference. Many professionals call them “sex workers”, especially in countries where prostitution is legalised, or “prostitutes”; this means they are defined by what they are doing, the “sex work”. There is a big difference when they are approached from a holistic point of view. They are seen for who they are: “people”. In society, prostitutes are marginalised and often rejected, although society uses them for “sexual services”. Names like “bitch”, “whore” or worse are often used. And this person has a lot of shame in her life. A comparison can be made to the main factor which drives a person to leave a shelter too early: the relationship with her former boyfriend and pimp. This shows her need for acceptance, attention and the desire to be loved. New and healthy relationships in the shelter can fill this need.

“We See You”

Here is a very beautiful quote from one organisation that mainly works with undocumented refugees working in prostitution.

I think what we do differently than the authorities, through which they often go through their procedures, like immigration procedures or police procedures. What we do differently is that we want to see them as a person, they are not the victim. We see them as a woman or a man and a child of God. And we want them to feel they are seen. It is very important for us, that they feel you are important to us. So, you could call it unconditional love, but we call it: We see you! It is about seeing that person and seeing them as not being a file or as somebody being in procedure or whatever. No, it is that person! I see you and for there on, what is that you need to set the next step. Seeing them and empowering them to get ownership of their process, that is really a critical success factor, integrating.

By calling them people in prostitution, the same change in attitude takes place. A woman is seen as a whole person and the way she is treated has a great impact on her. This is also part of her embracing a new identity that can be developed in the shelter.

Trust

Unconditional love needs time until the person really believes her caregivers and that what they are telling her is the truth. Through this constancy, trust can be built up and then after a time the person is able to manage her life again.

NEW SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

A new social environment was ranked in second place among indicators for successful integration. As mentioned before, prostitution works in a criminal environment and to step out and start a new life also means to break any contact with colleagues, brothel owners and pimps, with everyone who was part of this lifestyle. Often as women are in a foreign country, they have no good contact with their family or old friends from their home country.

A new social environment provided mainly through the NGO helping them, and new contacts they find in a shelter or an aftercare programme, helps them to gain strength and manage their lives in a good way.

GETTING A JOB

Getting a job ranked in third place as a factor promoting integration. Finding a job is existentially important for everyone to build her own future, but often suitable employment is not easy to find. It would be very supporting if churches would start to play a role in this and help women or men to obtain a job after prostitution.

Not For Sale

Perhaps NGOs should think more about social businesses. There is a large organisation, “Not For Sale”, that is a forerunner in this area with best practice models.

In 2000, David Batstone discovered that there was a human trafficking ring at a neighbourhood restaurant, and began writing a book about human trafficking, called Not For Sale. About five years into this effort, Not For Sale was a successful non-profit. But something was missing — when we opened our heart, we had shut off our brains. The strength of our organization was in building scalable enterprises using technology, capital, and talent. Why was it that when we focused on social good, we didn't rely on those strengths — and instead focused only on non-sustainable, non-recurring donations? So Not For Sale changed the model. Instead of continuing to operate as a traditional

charity, we developed a methodology to create economic opportunities in vulnerable communities. Not For Sale builds viable, successful companies and bakes into the very DNA of the company our Not For Sale values throughout the whole process — from the sourcing of the goods, to the manufacturing of product, to the way it is sold — and returns the profits back to the community. We create Enterprises, born out of a Mission. (Batstone, 2005)

In the meantime, Not For Sale has eight direct service projects in eight countries: the United States, Thailand, Vietnam, Netherlands, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Romania, and Peru. They train and employ former victims of human trafficking and help them to get a professional education.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Legal assistance is necessary for victims of human trafficking and was rated number four of listed factors easing integration. The NGOs or government supporters accompany women during legal proceedings, offering strong process support as it is very difficult to be confronted with their perpetrators again. It can take a long time until the criminal proceeding comes to an end and unfortunately too often it does not reach a judgement because of lack of evidence. Legal assistance is essential for asylum seekers. In some countries like Austria it is possible that after being in the country for five years people can apply for humanitarian residence, a process also requiring legal advice in navigating the bureaucratic pathways.

LEARNING NEW SKILL

As an element contributing to smooth integration, “learning new skill” was ranked in place five. Many of the people in prostitution had little opportunity in their past to go to school and particularly to university or to get proper job training. Many Nigerians have only attended school for three to five years. Even some of the Eastern European citizens did not go to school for the whole compulsory school attendance period. Some, especially from the Roma background, are illiterate. Many of them started working in prostitution directly after school at the age of 18, some even as minors. Learning new skills enables them to get a better job and with this they can build a better future. And above this, the achievement strengthens their self-image and acts as a source of empowerment.

ACCESS TO FAITH

Access to faith was number six in the evaluation of the determinants of successful integration. Access to faith is a strong stabilisation factor to become empowered and manage life. Believers can draw on another power and thereby find support and security in their lives.

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION

At place seven in the integration rankings was therapeutic intervention. From the perspective of another person, it seems indispensable to process and work through all the traumatic experiences a person in prostitution has suffered. But the reality shows that it takes a long time until someone is able and ready to work through past trauma. First a woman's basic needs have to be met and she must feel safe before facing a painful situation again.

NEW FRIENDSHIPS, LANGUAGE CLASS, FAMILY SUPPORT

Three factors shared place eight on the list of aids facilitating integration namely, new friendships, language class, and support through the woman's own network, meaning family and friends back home. Every factor is another means to empower a person and raise her self-esteem.

Friendship

Friendships are essential for everyone and sometimes women find them in the shelter where the new social environment offers scope for meeting others from similar backgrounds, leading to formation of strong personal bonds.

Language Class

Language class is necessary when searching for a new job in a foreign country. Only in countries like Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria where the women work mainly with nationals is this not important.

Family

The relationship with family members is often very problematic. Many women in prostitution come from a dysfunctional family background; either the family was involved in her working in prostitution or she had to lie to the family and feign that she has a good job and for example works as a waitress. But for some women the family is supportive.

CHART 12: Indicators for Successful Integration

Unconditional love	1	A personal access to faith	5
New social environment	2	Therapeutic intervention	6
Getting a job	3	New friendship	7
Learning new skills	4	Support from own network	7
Legal assistance	4	Language class	7

4.6. RISK INDICATORS

This survey question was related to a number of indicators of risk that the NGOs could identify in the lives of people in prostitution. These indicators have also been confirmed by the respondents themselves, especially those who run shelters. The questions did not include how they identified the following indicators:

- ❖ Lover-boy relationship
- ❖ Human trafficking
- ❖ Violence
- ❖ Financial need of the family
- ❖ Wish to build a house
- ❖ Disability
- ❖ Drug abuse
- ❖ Alcohol abuse.

The interview partners were asked to rank the frequency of observing the risk indicators according to the following scale: very high, often, sometimes, almost never, never.

CHART 13: Indicators of Risk

RANKING	INDICATORS
Financial Need of the Family	Very High
Human Trafficking	Very High
Violence	Very High to Often
Exploitation	Very High to Often
Building a House	Often to Sometimes
Alcohol Abuse	Often to Sometimes
Drug Abuse	Often to Sometimes
Disability	Sometimes to Never

FINANCIAL NEED OF THE FAMILY

Feminisation of Poverty/Eastern Europeans

The financial need of the family was the most highly ranked indicator of risk in every country in the study. This leads back to the feminisation of poverty as described above. All the women are working to support their families and this concerns women from Nigeria as well as those from Eastern European countries. Especially Romanian women and women from other Eastern European countries often have children at home, so they do not only feel very responsible, but they are obligated to support them and the caretakers, mainly their own mothers or sisters. There is the ability to sacrifice one's own well-being for the sake of the family.

Feminisation of Poverty/Nigerians

For Nigerians it is rare that they have children back in Nigeria; some become pregnant on the journey to Europe, sometimes through rape. In Nigerian culture the girl is there to sacrifice herself for the sake of the whole family; it is not the individual who counts but the collective, the family. Because she sends the money her siblings, usually a brother, can go to school or sick family members can pay the doctors. Families start to build houses in the villages and everyone believes now the family is rich because one daughter works in Europe.

Economics

In general, people in Eastern European countries do not earn the same amount of money for the same job as in Western Europe. The average monthly salary in Hungary or Romania is around €300.00 and at the same time the prices are rising more and more to Western levels. There is often a problem with corruption, even in the government. There is also a high rate of unemployment in Romania, particularly in rural areas. The economic situation in the countries of origin is very bad, with not many jobs and no possibility of securing a regular income.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Definition

Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines

Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of 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 purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC])

In other words, trafficking is a process of enslaving vulnerable people, coercing them into a situation with no way out, threatening and exploiting them. According to the UNODC report on human trafficking which exposes this modern form of slavery, the most common form of human trafficking is sexual exploitation, comprising 79% of cases. The victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly women and girls.

HIGH RATING OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The rating of the risk indicator of human trafficking was on a very high level in every country participating in the study. How did organisations reach this conclusion; how is it possible to recognise human trafficking in a person's life?

Signs of Human Trafficking

There are many typical signs which indicate that a person is observed and controlled. Sometimes her phone rings all the time when an NGO staff member is visiting her. Often the pimp is present on the streets where she works or comes around in the brothels and takes her money. She does not live on her own, but frequently with the pimp or with other women or another man. Also, other women with whom she lives can have a control function. Some speak very openly about their pimps; it seems to be normal for her to have a pimp or she just does not care very much. It must also be kept in mind that this question was asked of all NGOs, and the ones who run a shelter have the specific information on trafficking status anyway.

VIOLENCE

Another very shocking result was the high rate of identification of physical violence as an indicator of risk in the women's lives, ranked in third place by the participating organisations. There are two kinds of violence, the one that is visible and the one that cannot be seen because it is hidden under clothes. Unfortunately, the researcher failed to ask for sources of violence. This would have been of considerable interest to differentiate whether the source

is the lover-boy, the trafficker, the brothel owner or a client, but this could be a topic for further research.

Many women in prostitution experience violence from clients – one research project found that 61% of the women they interviewed had been on the receiving end of violent behaviour by buyers of sexual services. (Gleich, 2017)

Prostitution is a system with a high level of violence. People are often fighting one another. There are different Mafia groups, sometimes fighting each other for territory and profits. This can take place even in public on the streets. The women sometimes beat up another woman who dares to stand on a spot on the street that is not hers. Clients are very much influenced by pornography and are often very violent towards the women. In one year, the researcher was told about numerous cases of rape from clients on one street.

A NORMAL JOB?

If one compares the general assumption in many countries that prostitution is a job as any others, the findings of the present study should bring one to another conclusion. A normal job never shows such a high rate of violence. It reminds of an interview with a brothel owner in Amsterdam in the documentary *Nefarious: Merchant of Souls*, a hard-hitting documentary that exposes the disturbing trends of modern-day sex slavery. He speaks about the panic button in his apartments, that a woman can hit in a situation of danger with clients (Nefarious, 2011). The researcher knows of many stories, where women told her about beatings and rape.

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR SEX WORKERS

The following was on a website devoted to safety for sex workers:

Wear comfortable shoes that come off easily but allow you to run. It's best to make sure you can run in whatever shoes you wear to work. Avoid tight skirts as these will slow you down.

Wear trousers with easy access especially if you go with clients in cars. If you are wearing trousers/jeans and need to take them off for business, remove them completely if possible. You can't run with them around your knees, and they will slow you down.

It's best to avoid jewellery, but if you choose to wear necklaces or earrings make sure they are small, come off easily and that you don't mind losing them in an emergency or if the client tries to rip you off. Avoid large hoop or dangling earrings which someone could grab and pull off (unless they are clip-ons). Avoid heavy or thick necklaces. Be careful of crosses or charms which could be used as weapons if taken from you. Avoid sharp jewellery which can damage condoms. Remove body piercings before meeting with clients: the jewellery can be grabbed and ripped out

Don't wear a scarf or other item round your neck as someone could grab it, possibly from a car, and choke you. That feather boa may look great but... Be aware that over-the-shoulder bags and backpacks are a risk. Their straps can be used to hold or choke you, and can also get trapped in car doors. (National Ugly Mugs [NUM])

This organisation campaigns for the full decriminalisation of sex buyers and pimps and mainly wants to improve the safety of sex workers. The author of this study uses the term “people in prostitution” and not sex workers and is against the full decriminalisation of sex buyers and pimps.

When compared to guidelines for normal jobs this list seems very abstruse and shows the high possibility of violent clients. The researcher read another quote which states that if the person is wearing high heels and finds herself in a dangerous situation, she should put off the shoes at once and run.

EXPLOITATION

Exploitation, also ranked in third place by the participating organisations, was also rated very highly as an indicator of risk for people in prostitution. The women are susceptible to this form of abuse in almost every area of their lives, from the rents they are charged for accommodation and work spaces to the fraction of their earnings they are allowed to keep.

High Rent

The researcher knows that the rent in brothels is between three and eight hundred euros a week and more. And it is not seldom that the person working in a brothel also lives in the same room in which she works because she cannot afford to pay for an apartment. Another point is that many “landlords” put eight to ten people from different nations in one apartment, some in every room, with only one bathroom and kitchen and everyone pays several hundred euros. The researcher herself has been in apartments like this, often in a horrible condition and not renovated.

Exploitation in the Workplace

In smaller so-called studios the agreement in Austria is 50/50, which means that the owner gets half of whatever a woman earns. No one would give his boss half of his income, but in this place, this is the agreement. In “older days” the agreement was a fixed price, like €10.00 to rent a room for prostitution.

Exploitation through a second person

As one assumes that most of the women are together with a man, he is the one who mainly exploits the woman. He often does not work and she must pay for everything, for the daily needs, but also for new cars and for the money he considers he is owed. In working with women in prostitution who work on the streets, the researcher often sees the pimp driving in very expensive, new cars. Normally the woman herself can keep an amount of money, so that her family is satisfied and she has just enough for herself, but nothing to save.

As mentioned before, there are streets where the women have to pay protection money to someone behind the scenes. Sometimes a man will start a business or buy a car and use the woman’s name for the purchase. In most cases, when they separate, the woman has to pay a substantial amount of costs or fines because the man did not pay taxes for the company, or when he bought a car she has to pay fines for speeding and other violations of the law.

VULNERABILITY

Who can be exploited is a question that will arise. Why does someone tolerate this behaviour? It is a vulnerable person, who depends in different aspects on the benevolence of another. Often, she comes from a background of abuse and had these experiences before in her childhood. In dysfunctional families where the person grew up, she never learned about healthy boundaries or experienced healthy relationships.

In Anna Salter’s book “Transforming Trauma” is a quote from a pimp, who was asked for the criteria he looks for in a new woman:

Beauty, yes! Sexual expertise, I can teach her. The most important thing is obedience. You find this in girls who already had sex with their father, uncle or brother, you know, with someone they love and whom they were afraid to lose, so that they never defended themselves. And now you just have to be a little more friendly and a little more dangerous. They will do everything to satisfy you and make you happy. (Salter, 1995, p.187)

What a horrible statement. This clearly shows the “footprints of the perpetrator” in the lives of people in prostitution, as the researcher calls this phenomenon.

The vulnerable person shows all the signs of the so-called “Stockholm Syndrome”. This is a psychological phenomenon described in 1973 in Stockholm. During a hostage taking, the victims became emotionally attached to their captors, rejected assistance from government officials at one point, and even defended their captors after they were freed from their six-day ordeal. One paid the offender’s lawyer, the other fell in love with one of the criminals.

Today this phrase is also used where a person is in an abusive and exploitative relationship and defends and even identifies with her own abuser or captor. These feelings are generally considered irrational in light of the danger or risk endured by the victims, who essentially mistake even a lack of abuse from their violators for an act of kindness. This is called “a carrot and a stick”.

LOVER-BOY

The phenomenon of lover-boys as previously described has been very well-known for a number of years. There are countless documentaries on the subject in the media and on the news. These individuals are also observed operating in Western European countries, where young teenage girls have been recruited by a lover-boy who after a period of grooming, manipulation and isolation from family will send her into prostitution. But mainly it takes place with vulnerable girls from poor countries, where the girls do not have any options.

In the documentary “Nefarious” there is also a director of an orphanage who is involved in the recruiting process with lover-boys. She told the young girls to go out with the young men waiting in front of the orphanage because the girls do not have any other people who would take care of them.

Lover-boys form romantic relationships with their victims. But this relationship quickly turns into an emotionally and psychologically abusive one. Lover-boys use blackmail and violence to intimidate their victims into compliance. Other tactics include painting a picture of a wonderful life together abroad or elsewhere in a country. They aim to isolate the victim from their family or community and in some cases force them to end up in a country where they can't speak the common language. Using romance makes it easier for Lover-boys to move their victims across borders because when victims are deceived, they go willingly and often pay associated transport fees. When they arrive, they fall into the hands of traffickers. And it is only a matter of time before they discover the true nature of their Lover-boy. (Spruce, 2017)

Booklet on lover-boys

The researcher published a booklet about lover-boys, translated into Hungarian, Romanian, Czech, Bulgarian, English, Chinese and German, and distributed it on one occasion to more than three hundred young women. Every one of them told her that she either had a relationship with a lover-boy or still is in a relationship with one. The brochure can be found on the

following website of OM EurAsia Support Team, Herzwerk, *A Crime in the Name of Love*, (April, 2015). One time the researcher witnessed how a lover-boy put a girl on the street for the first time. They arrived like lovers; she was dressed normally, then he put her to the side of the street, showed her exactly how close she should stand there and then left her alone and went away to where he could observe her from a distance.

Shortly after this the researcher met her again and now she was barely clothed and totally under stress working almost day and night. One day the researcher met her and invited her into her van for a coffee. Then this girl told her story, how much she was in love with the man and did everything for him. Later she went to prison because of unpaid fines. In the same prison cell she met another girl and it came out that this girl had the same boyfriend. “Now my heart is dead”, she told the researcher and left after a short while. The researcher never met this woman again.

Nigerians and Lover-boys

Organisations which mainly worked with Nigerian women did not have confrontations with lover-boys, but at the same time dealt with a very high rate of human trafficking. Often people from a woman’s neighbourhood or her relatives are involved and frequently the pimp is a woman, called “Madam”. Sometimes this person is a former prostitute.

BUILDING A HOUSE

Building a house was ranked in place 4 among the indicators of risk in the lives of people in prostitution. For Romanian young women it is one of the major reasons driving them to work in prostitution. For other nationalities owning a house is not a priority.

Romanians

Building a house is very typical for young Romanian women. It is a kind of a status symbol if they own a house and it is also cheaper on a long-term view than to pay rent. Most of those working in prostitution in Western Europe have already started to build a house in Romania. When travelling through this country one often sees houses that are half finished; sometimes the roof is not even finished, but the first floor appears already damaged. The houses are generally very expensive looking houses, like small villas. This is very typical for Roma people; they admire this style of house very much. At the same time, building a house is a hope the women are holding onto, that one day they will live there with their families.

Nigerians

For other nationals it is not typical to build a house for themselves. In the case of the Nigerians it is the family in the village that is able to build a better house when the daughter sends money from the West. And this raises their prestige in the neighbourhood.

ALCOHOL/DRUGS

The second lowest rating among risk factors, place 5, was for drug and alcohol abuse. This was very untypical for the researcher as she observes at least some of the people using drugs or specifically alcohol when working on the streets.

Night Clubs

The use of alcohol also depends on the place where the women are working. In night clubs, for example, the women must encourage the men to order alcohol and have to drink it with them. Often, they use cocaine in combination with alcohol because this keeps them awake in the nights and makes it easier to drink more alcohol.

On the Street

In some areas the women working on the streets drink a lot of vodka in order to be more relaxed. At some locations drug dealing takes place at the same establishment where the women prostitute themselves. One organisation in Czech Republic witnessed a very high rate of drug use. The researcher herself went for many years to an area where drug-addicted women, who were nationals, prostituted themselves. The researcher has heard many comments from women who say that only with alcohol are they able to look happy and do what they have to do.

Some of the NGOs also mentioned that they have no clue how much alcohol or drugs are used, as they are not in a position to observe such consumption.

Nigerians

The rate of drug and alcohol use was low to non-existent with Nigerians. It is not part of their culture to take drugs. Some drink alcohol at parties than at the place where they prostitute themselves.

DISABILITY

At place 6, disability was the lowest-ranked indicator of risk assessed by the organisations, although there is a need for clarification of the precise meaning of disability. Women who are highly traumatised and not able to concentrate or are always acting in a crazy manner also show some kind of disability, as some of the participants reported. But the rate of genuinely handicapped people working in the red-light district was very low. To exploit handicapped people in prostitution would show an even greater level of wickedness and abuse than is already in evidence. Although in Austria there was one case some years ago where the Bulgarian Mafia exploited also some handicapped people for prostitution, this was an exception rather than the norm. Disabled people are mainly observed begging, where there is often human trafficking behind the scenes.

SUMMARY OF RATINGS

The indicator of risk that was the most highly ranked by respondents was the financial need of the family, which again leads back to the factor of feminisation of poverty in all its tragedy. This is about “survival sex” for supplying the need of the family and has nothing to do with free choice. It is the strongest force standing behind prostitution and this is called poverty. The researcher’s experiences are completely in agreement with the results of the study. Nearly every person she has spoken to reports that she is working to earn money for the family. Sometimes it is for the daily needs and often for special expenses like operations in a hospital, a new car and so on. From her many years of experience, the researcher also knows that only a few women are working without being accompanied by a man, either the lover-boy or a watchman or pimp. Most of them are in some kind of dysfunctional relationship which makes it very difficult for this person to step out of prostitution and to receive help.

CHART 14: Risk Indicators in Europe

	LOVERBOY RELATIONSHIP	HUMAN TRAFFICKING	VIOLENCE	EXPLOITATION	FINANCIAL NEED OF FAMILY	BUILDING A HOUSE	DISABILITY	DRUG ABUSE	ALCOHOL ABUSE
AT	often	very high	very high	very high	often	often	never	often	often
	often	sometimes	often	alm. never		never	alm. never	sometimes	sometimes
BE	often	often	often	very high	often	very high	alm. never	sometimes	sometimes
	very high	very high	very high	very high	often	alm. never	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes
BG	very high	very high	often		very high	often			
	sometimes	sometimes	often	very high	very high	often	alm. never	sometimes	sometimes
	often	often	very high	sometimes	very high	very high	never	alm. never	alm. never
CZ	very high	very high	often	very high	very high	alm. never	alm. never	sometimes	sometimes
	very high	sometimes	sometimes	very high	very high	often	never	alm. never	sometimes
	often	alm. never	often	often	often		alm. never	often	
DK	often	often	very high	often	often	never	sometimes	often	sometimes
	often	very high	sometimes	very high	very high		often	never	never
	often	very high	very high	very high	very high	never	sometimes	alm. never	alm. never
FI	very high	very high	very high	very high	very high	never	sometimes	alm. never	alm. never
	sometimes	very high	very high	very high	often	sometimes	often	alm. never	alm. never
	alm. never	very high	very high	very high	very high	very high	never	alm. never	alm. never
FR	very high	very high	very high		sometimes	very high	never	alm. never	alm. never
	very high	very high	often	very high	very high	often	alm. never	alm. never	
	sometimes	very high	very high	often	very high	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes	often
DE	very high	often	sometimes	very high	very high	alm. never	alm. never	often	sometimes
	very high	often	often	very high	very high	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes

	LOVERBOY RELATION- SHIP	HUMAN TRAFFICK- ING	VIOLENCE	EXPLOITA- TION	FINANCIAL NEED OF FAMILY	BUILDING A HOUSE	DISABILITY	DRUG ABUSE	ALCOHOL ABUSE
DE	very high	sometimes	very high	very high	very high	sometimes	alm. never	often	very high
	sometimes	often	very high	very high	often	sometimes	alm. never	often	often
	often	often	very high	very high	very high	alm. never	sometimes	alm. never	often
	often	often	very high	very high	very high	often	sometimes	often	sometimes
GR	sometimes	often	often		often	alm. never	never	alm. never	alm. never
	often	often	sometimes		never	never	never	never	never
		very high	very high	very high	very high	sometimes	never	never	never
		very high	very high	very high	very high		often	often	often
HU	often	sometimes	sometimes						
IT	often	often	alm. never	alm. never	often	very high	never	never	never
	very high	very high	often	very high	very high	very high	alm. never	sometimes	sometimes
	alm. never	very high	very high	sometimes	very high	never	never	never	sometimes
	alm. never	very high	very high	very high	very high	often	alm. never	sometimes	sometimes
LV	often	sometimes	very high	alm. never	often	never	sometimes	very high	very high
NE	never	very high	very high	very high	sometimes	sometimes	alm. never	sometimes	never
	often	very high	very high	very high	very high	very high	sometimes	often	often
	never	very high	very high	often	often	never	sometimes	never	never
	often	often	very high	very high	very high	sometimes	never	never	sometimes
	often	often	very high	often	very high	very high	alm. never	alm. never	sometimes
RO	often	very high	sometimes	sometimes	very high	often	alm. never	never	alm. never
	very high	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes	very high	sometimes	alm. never	sometimes	alm. never
	very high	very high	often	very high	very high	very high	alm. never	very high	very high
	often	very high	often	very high	often	alm. never	sometimes	often	often
	very high	very high	very high	sometimes		sometimes	never	never	never
	very high	very high	often		very high	sometimes	alm. never	sometimes	sometimes
	often	often	sometimes	sometimes	often	sometimes	sometimes	alm. never	sometimes
ES	often	often	often	often	very high	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes
	very high	very high	very high	very high	very high	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes	often
	very high	very high	very high	very high	very high	sometimes	never	never	never
	very high	very high	often	often	very high	alm. never	alm. never	often	often
SE	often	often	sometimes		very high			sometimes	alm. never
	very high	very high	very high	often	often	never	never	never	alm. never
	often	often	often	often	very high	often	sometimes	never	never
CH	sometimes	sometimes	often	very high	very high	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes
	sometimes	often	sometimes	very high	very high	often	never	alm. never	alm. never
	often	very high	very high	very high	very high	alm. never	sometimes	sometimes	often
	sometimes	very high	very high	very high	very high	sometimes	alm. never	often	often

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROSTITUTION LAW

The survey questionnaire starts with a question about the law governing prostitution in each country. In Europe there are four different models of prostitution laws: legal and regulated prostitution, self-employed prostitution, grey zone prostitution and the Nordic Model. The statements of the NGOs are derived from their personal experience and the researcher has added some official statements to their accounts. First of all, it was important to look at the precise meaning of the different laws and what they expect from people working in prostitution. Then it was necessary to closely examine regulation of locations where working in prostitution is either allowed or not allowed. Also, indicators of human trafficking are dealt with as they relate to the respective laws as well as some regulations which address the obligations of clients.

MODELS OF LAWS IN EUROPE

CHART 15: Prostitution Laws in Europe

SELF-EMPLOYED PROSTITUTION	LEGAL PROSTITUTION	GREY ZONE PROSTITUTION, NOT CLEAR	NORDIC MODEL
Austria	Germany	Denmark	Sweden
Germany	Netherlands	Romania	Norway
Netherlands	Greece	Bulgaria	France
	Italy		
	Spain		
	Latvia		
	Switzerland		
	Finland		
	Hungary		
	Czech Republic		
	Belgium		

SELF-EMPLOYED AND LEGAL PROSTITUTION

In Austria, Germany and the Netherlands, prostitution is legally regulated. In Austria, people in prostitution are only allowed to work in prostitution as self-employed, meaning that they are not allowed to be employed by another party. In Germany and the Netherlands, both terms are used.

Although since 2001 in Austria people in prostitution have had to work as self-employed, until 2012 prostitution was considered as an unconscionable contract, therefore a prostitute had no legal right to make a claim against a customer who refused to pay, but in 2012 this designation was lifted. The pro-prostitution lobby fought this double moral standard and their success constituted a great step forward in bringing prostitution out of immorality status.

Asylum seekers

In Austria, asylum seekers are not allowed to have a steady job, but they are permitted to work as “self-employed” which means they may not even undertake any menial job like cleaning, but are able to work in any non-staff capacity. They could open a business, but most of them do not have the money to do so. They may legally work in prostitution at any time. Some lobbyists call this a “red carpet” for the traffickers.

Registration

In these three countries, a woman in prostitution has to be an adult and needs to register with the police. Brothels need to have a permit. The women must go for health checks from time to time.

In the Netherlands, a woman must be from the Netherlands or the European Union to be allowed to work and if not, she is not permitted to work in prostitution. This means that migrants are prohibited from working in prostitution in contrast to the situation in Austria where for all practical purposes, prostitution is the only employment possibility for most poor migrant women. The city of Amsterdam however raised the age for working in prostitution to twenty-one to tackle widespread abuse, including human trafficking (Dutch Amsterdam, 2018).

Clients

In Germany, an addition has recently been made to the prostitution laws that clients have to use condoms, which normally, as the researcher knows from her long-time experience, is refused by the clients. The question is who will enforce this? In all three countries a client who knows, by indicators, that the person in prostitution is a victim of trafficking is guilty of an offence if he does not report this fact to the police.

LEGAL PROSTITUTION

In the following countries prostitution is legal: Germany, Netherlands, Greece, Italy, Spain, Latvia, Switzerland, Finland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Belgium and Denmark.

The NGOs brought up very different statements that “prove” in a way how difficult it seems to be to regulate legal prostitution. There are various quotes confirming this fact, among them the following from the Netherlands:

Prostitution is legalized, it is not regulated, but it is legalized. So according to certain criteria, which differ per city, women and men are allowed to work in prostitution if they apply with certain criteria.

It is interesting that they say it is legalised but not regulated; this is a contradiction in itself.

Criminal activities

One quote from Switzerland states that

Everything is legal... We have in... for example about ten different criminal organization, that are international working. The government tries to do their best, but with the legal law the possibility to change the system from inside... it is like a cat without teeth, that can't take the rats.

This shows that there is an awareness of criminal activities, and such knowledge is possessed not only by the police. The complexity of this problem, and now the criminal network which is in operation, seems to be out of the control of the government. This could be because the authorities do not have enough testimonies or evidence to prove the cases.

Not covered by law

Some NGOs had the impression that prostitution is not illegal and it is not legal, so it is in an ambiguous position and depends on location. This is one quote, that others confirmed:

In Switzerland prostitution is a legal and registered profession, you are allowed to work. In some cities you are allowed to work on the street, in some cities you can't, but prostitution is legal.

In Switzerland even pimping is legal, as long as it is proved that the woman is not forced. *And that's the problem, you can't just say at the court, he has forced me, it is not allowed to force the people, but which lady is able to say I am forced.*

This quote also speaks to the insecurity that emerges with the way in which laws are implemented. The women are the ones who suffer from this uncertainty and this grey zone leaves them in positions of considerable danger.

The following quote is from Finland from one organisation explaining that

It is legal to buy sex and it is legal to sell sex, although it is illegal to show. But here they sell sex, yeah. So, brothel is illegal and pimping is illegal and any kind of hustling is illegal. It is allowed in apartments, it is.

In other European countries it is exactly this activity which is not allowed: sale of sex in apartments is forbidden in many countries. When it happens in this setting there is no longer any control mechanism from the police because the apartments are not registered and this is in a way very dangerous for the women; they are at the mercy of anyone who would choose to do them harm.

Third-Country Nationalities

In Denmark, people from third countries are illegal residents. A quote: “Since prostitution is defined as a work in Denmark, they don’t have a working license.”

Many of these women are very afraid of the police, and Denmark now is deporting a lot of Nigerians back to Nigeria. According to a report from 2012, large numbers of Nigerian women in prostitution have already been deported (West, 2018, 160-163).

NORDIC MODEL

Three countries, Sweden, Norway and France, follow the so-called “Nordic Model”, which criminalises the clients and not the people selling prostitution.

In Sweden, it is understood that any society that claims to defend principles of legal, political, economic, and social equality for women and girls must reject the idea that women and children, mostly girls, are commodities that can be bought, sold, and sexually exploited by men. To do otherwise is to allow that a separate class of female human beings, especially women and girls who are economically and racially marginalized, is excluded from these measures, as well as from the universal protection of human dignity enshrined in the body of international human rights instruments developed during the past 50 years. (Ekberg, 2004)

Another report, presented to the European Parliament, had a huge impact on the discussion about the Nordic Model in Europe: the Honeyball Report from Mary Honeyball, a member of the European Parliament since 2000. It states that:

Given the strong and growing evidence that legalizing prostitution and procuring does nothing to promote gender equality or reduce human trafficking, this report concludes that the essential difference between the two models of gender equality outlined above is that viewing prostitution as simply “work” helps to keep women in prostitution. Viewing prostitution as a violation of women’s human rights helps keep women out of prostitution. The experience in Sweden, Finland and non-EU Norway where the “Nordic Model” of dealing with prostitution operates supports this point of view. Sweden changed its prostitution laws in 1999 to prohibit the purchase of sex and decriminalize the prostituted person. In other words, the person buying sex – virtually always the man – is committing a criminal offence not the prostituted women. Sweden introduced this law as part of a general initiative to end all barriers to the equality of women in Sweden. The impact of this legislation in Sweden has been dramatic. The evidence of the effectiveness of the Nordic Model in reducing prostitution and trafficking of women and girls and thereby promoting gender equality is growing all the time.
(Honeyball, 2014)

France is the final country that adopted the Nordic Model, in 2016, and France has adopted the Nordic Model because the Nordic Model works.

On April 6th 2016, the French National Assembly recognized prostitution as one of the worst forms of violence against women and voted the criminalization of the purchase of sex. Under this law, prostituted women, children and men will not be criminalized. They will receive social support and benefits to exit prostitution while men buying sex will be fined and liable to prosecution. (Ressources Prostitution, 2016)

However, in the midst of all the good intentions this is what one NGO experienced:

They have the Nordic Model, they follow the Nordic Model, in which the clients are penalized, but we have seen the police sweep the areas, but we have not seen them go after the clients. So, it is in theory a Nordic Model, but we have not seen, like stop clients. We only heard about the police controlling the girls, one girl told me, I got my papers checked. The clients are allowed to come and go, but they send the trucks away, where the women sit in the cabin with the drivers and they send them back.

It shows that still a lot of energy and good will are necessary to implement the Nordic Model in France. Another problem can be too little financial investment in the police from the government.

PROSTITUTION: GREY ZONE

Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Czech Republic have legal prostitution, but the boundaries are very unclear. In two of the countries, Bulgaria and Romania, the prostitution laws are very ambiguous and the implementation occurs in a grey zone.

Different statements from Romania show the confusion about the law: prostitution seems to be illegal and legal at the same time. Places are forbidden, the women receive fines, not because of prostitution but because they are in prohibited areas, or they are soliciting clients. The legal status of the prostitution activities is not clear.

Romania

One respondent states:

It's illegal, but it's been decriminalizing, since 2014 when they had a changing in the legal code, so it is not anymore seen as a crime, they are not criminalized, but it's contravention, so they still get fine for it. Yeah, basically it is not legalized, but it is just the penalty for the girls, but not such high as it used to be.

The comment from Lena Reinschmidt makes the point:

To put this together, prostitution is at one hand not criminalized, but there are no clear rules, where it is allowed to do it and the women get fines, because of illegal places. Romania therefore continues to be one of the few European states in which the provision of sexual services is punished. However, this is no longer a criminal act, but an administrative offence. If the fine is not paid, the persons concerned must fulfill community service or an alternative term of imprisonment. (Reinschmidt, 2016)

Bulgaria

The same problem and confusion arise in Bulgaria: nothing is clear and really regulated. One NGO says: "Prostitution is illegal, not 100% sure, but it is a mixture."

Again, the following quote emphasises the uncertainty surrounding the law:

Prostitution itself is kind of in the grey area, we don't have a specific law about it. There is something in the law that it is forbidden to earn money through perverted activity, but

usually prostitution doesn't go into this. There are laws about trafficking, this is different from smuggling, but there is nothing about prostitution itself.

Not only the NGOs are confused, but undeniably also the women and the clients. The legal situation also differs in relation to areas and cities.

Prostitution has been legal in Bulgaria since 1990, but is not subject to any further regulation. Prostitution is neither expressly permitted nor banned under Bulgarian law. In accordance to this political approach, however, all third-party activities are a criminal offence. This includes all third-party activities which aim to facilitate or organize the provision or purchase of sexual services. (Reinschmidt, 2016)

The same conditions are observed in Hungary and Czech Republic; the laws state that prostitution is legal at specific places, but in fact there are no places where it is legal and then the women are fined, but have no real idea why this happened. It seems to be a grey zone, an issue that needs to be dealt with in the political arena and requires urgent reforms.

Czech Republic

This is the situation in Czech Republic:

Since 1990 prostitution is no longer banned, but takes place within a legally grey area. For a long time, prostitution was not subject to Czech law. In 2010 prostitution was reincorporated as part of criminal law in the context of endangering the moral development of children. No further regulation on the basis of legal requirements occurs. Prostitution is legal, but unregulated. (Reinschmidt, 2016)

Again, nearly every NGO in these three countries reports this grey zone. How the laws are implemented depends on a variety of factors. These laws are not designed to criminalise the person who works in prostitution, but she is ensnared by the various conditions that she is unable to fulfil, such as rules concerning locations for example. The situation is very confusing for everybody.

ZONE: LEGAL – A-LEGAL

In the three Southern European countries, Greece, Italy and Spain, organisations put forward similar comments. In two countries, Italy and Spain, a new term came up: “A-legal”!

Greece

In Greece, statements from NGOs described rather more specific regulations. One quote explains the legal status:

It's legal, prostitution is legal in Greece. Provided a form that you are registered, registered as a prostitute and the brothels registered also. Also, they have to have a health-book, which means that they have to go to the hospital for checks for HIV and all diseases, I think it is every ten days. Yeah, they supposed to be checked, but very few have done it. And very few brothels are registered. There are more than 300.

Italy

The situation in Italy has a different tone: on one hand brothels are illegal, while indoors prostitution is common. Street prostitution is legal.

In some house's prostitution is committed in an organized way. This is illegal: you can practice prostitution but there cannot be a "mediator" that "organizes" or "coordinates" this activity. Whoever that promotes or "drives" this kind of activities is committing a crime. Being a client is fined: This depends on a Regional Law from the Town Hall.

Spain

The situation in Spain seems to be the most confusing concerning the implementation of prostitution law or the dealing with prostitution in general.

This is confirmed by two NGOs:

"No, here in Spain, the situation of the prostitution is very strange, because in Spain it is not legal, but it is not illegal. The word in Spain is a-legal."

"It is illegal, it is a-legal, not legal, not illegal, a person can prostitute voluntarily but it is not allowed to take money from this person. It is a grey zone."

SUMMARY

The regulation of prostitution in the countries covered by the study differs from region to region, from city to city, but there is often not a national regulation that is valid for every region. The researcher's own experience of thirteen years of working in the red-light district

shows that even different policemen in different areas of the same city do not follow the same regulations, but decide for example in the case of fines, differently all the time. Looking back over the many quotes from eighteen countries and sixty-three organisations it is obvious that prostitution law is not implemented very well in the different countries and in some it is even very chaotic, so that no one can rely on any regulations.

SYSTEM OF PROSTITUTION

In any consideration of the legalities surrounding prostitution, it must be realised that prostitution is a system with its own regulations and laws. It differs according to location and has its own controllers who ensure that the system is working. A woman in prostitution is never on her own, never alone - either she is controlled by a pimp or she is under the eyes of her colleagues and the people who are in charge of the place where she is working. She is observed by her colleagues, who compare the number of her clients with the number of clients they have had. Or it will be noticed if she goes with a man who has asked if she is ready to offer sexual services without a condom. The clients are watching her and also people who are just passing by watch her, sometimes making jokes in poor taste. Meanwhile, in her mind she always carries her family, her children with her. They are the driving force that enables her to continue the work in defiance of intense scrutiny and incalculable pressure.

Locations

Prostitution therefore, is a system in itself. It has official laws, but at the same time unofficial, unseen laws, that regulate locations, like street prostitution and indoor prostitution as well. There is an enormous amount of exploitation taking place, for example the horrendous rents charged in brothels. In smaller brothels in Austria called studios the 50/50 commitment with brothel owners is in force. Also, protection money on the street is not unusual; the researcher recognised this in a civilised Western European capital city. There is always a lot of criminal energy involved.

Dependencies

Very often, people who work in prostitution are in an emotional relationship with their exploiter. The police must constantly struggle with the fact that not many victims of human trafficking are willing or able to testify against their traffickers. Often, they are from the same community, they are relatives or they are in a love relationship with the perpetrator. These facts make it nearly impossible for them to take the step and testify against the traffickers. In the penal code another focus to protect the victims must be included, for example the implementation of objective indicators for criminal liability and measures that relieve victims who are witnesses.

Furthermore there are, for example, women who are the watchwomen over others. Normally the person working in prostitution is not in a trust relationship with her colleagues.

Clients

Most of the clients do not want to use condoms and often the woman relents because she needs the money. This obviously influences the health conditions of the women as well as those of the clients, and as a result the health of the families of the women and the clients is also at risk. It is known that there is a lot of violence occurring from the clients' side: beatings, rape, things they want the women to do without agreement beforehand and so on. Also, pornography consumption has a considerable influence on the behaviour of the clients and brings a high level of violence to encounters with the women. Clients communicate with each other on clients' platforms on the internet, sometimes promoting a specific woman, and this often takes place using very ugly street language.

Regulation

Ingeborg Kraus, a German psychotherapist who works with victims of trafficking and people who have been traumatised in prostitution, makes a very strong statement. She says that:

“Prostitution cannot be regulated; it has to be abolished!” (Kraus 2017)

Why is it so difficult to follow the regulations of prostitution laws? They are written on paper in black and white, signed by officials, and the police are the ones who oversee street-level activities and are responsible for ensuring that everyone follows the laws. Is it because although everyone talks about legal prostitution, at the same time there is an impulse to ban it for its associations with immorality? Or is it because no one really wants to become involved with such a topic? It seems that it is nearly impossible to regulate prostitution in a constructive way. And the key question in all of these discussions is whether prostitution can be considered to be a normal job or a violation of female rights.

5.1. DISCUSSION OF THE NORDIC MODEL

Meanwhile there are nine countries - Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Northern Ireland, Lithuania, France, Ireland, Israel and Canada - that have adopted the so-called Nordic Model. Previously it was called the Swedish Model, named for where it started twenty years ago. In other European countries, laws mandate legal, illegal and self-employed prostitution, as outlined above in the examination of the implementation of prostitution law.

For the present study, NGOs were asked for their assessment of pro-prostitution versus the Nordic Model, and then to make a comparison with illegal prostitution. Furthermore, they were asked how they would defend their position as well as if they would have any suggestions for how the Nordic Model could be improved. It would go beyond the scope of the paper to mention every comment, but the researcher has tried to gather together the most relevant responses and the ones that were often repeated in order to show an overall picture of the results.

SOCIETY

Starting with the influence of the Nordic Model on society, all the NGOs agreed on the point that prostitution is misogynistic and misanthropic. Adoption of the Nordic Model can change the perspective of a society, helping people to see each other and sex in a healthy way.

*A law has been put down that shows that a human being is not for sale and that our children don't grow up with this implicitness. It's also a strong signal to men that they can't buy woman for their own satisfaction. It also affects men's relational abilities.
A quote from a participant.*

AWARENESS

Laws educate society. When boys grow up with the thought that buying sex is not tolerated according to the law, a generation is growing up for whom the red-light district is something suspicious and strange. Men and women need to be educated from a young age that it is not acceptable to feed their every unbridled sexual urge. Some respondents also emphasised that it is important to have more open conversations in schools, churches, the workplace, and in the home about sexuality in general. Also, unemployment and poverty are topics that need to be addressed by society, churches, governments and citizens as they are some of the main root causes for a person to start working in prostitution.

Another quote:

Prostitution is an offence to the equal rights of men and women and an expression of patriarchal oppression in society. The Nordic Model sets the standard for what kind of society we want.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Many NGOs agreed that legal prostitution is like a “red carpet for the trafficker”. In countries where prostitution is legalised, it is very easy for the trafficker to register the women and then send them to work in prostitution. Because a woman is intimidated and under pressure to earn money for the family, she will be willing to endure all the horrific things happening in prostitution and continue to work; it is legal!

The Nordic Model is the best opportunity to confine human trafficking. The only possibility to reduce human trafficking is to reduce the demand. Sweden has recorded a reduction in human trafficking. Additionally, it is true that in countries where prostitution is legal, the market for human trafficking has expanded as observed in Germany.

NORDIC MODEL – NOT THE BEST

WEAKNESSES

The study also documented a considerable number of voices that did not believe the Nordic Model to be the best law or they saw too many weaknesses in it. Some said that they think it is not the best solution, but better than pro-prostitution. Others made the point that

“The strongest argument against it is that you cannot find the people anymore, it is all happening in grey zone and the girls getting no help.”

“I think if it would be the Nordic Model, it will push people to other countries and not solve the problem.”

No Eradication

Some even mentioned the Bible, where prostitution is a fact, and therefore they believe that prostitution cannot be eradicated; it is there and will stay.

More Danger

Some participants are very concerned that the Nordic Model will put the women in more danger. Clients take risks to come, so when they come, they will ask for more. For example, they may not want to use condoms or they may take the women to secret places. And because there is less work for the women, they accept the risks.

Relocation Abroad

Other respondents also believe that when one country is closed, human trafficking goes into another country; they consider the Nordic Model to be too idealistic.

Confusion

And others still have no idea of the reality of the model - prostitution is not forbidden, but buying it is forbidden? This sounds strange and contradictory.

Grey Zone

Again, the strongest argument against the Nordic Model is that the people tasked with protecting prostitutes cannot find the women anymore; it is all happening in a grey zone and the women are getting no help. However, there is an argument from Sweden that says that as long as the clients find the women, the police will also find them. A fundamental principle of the Nordic Model is that social services are offered to women in prostitution.

SUMMARY

To summarise, it can be said that the concern of the NGOs is mainly for the security of the women who still work in an environment where the clients, from whom they need the money, are taking a lot of risks and therefore can demand more from the woman thereby putting her in danger. This is an argument which can only be met by many well-functioning social services for the people in prostitution that will enable them to step out of prostitution. And at the same time the need for multi-agency cooperation has become urgent. A network with NGOs, foreign affairs ministers, UNODC, police and prosecutors who work together with shelters and social workers who go into the scene is the best foundation for the Nordic Model.

PRO NORDIC MODEL

The Nordic Model includes more support for leaving prostitution and gives support for the women that they need so much. The Nordic Model is built on the principle that prostitution is a violation of human rights and women's rights to equality. Prostitution multiplies when it is legalized and we see the results in the countries where it is legal.

The Nordic Model addresses the root of the problem of trafficking by targeting the demand that drives it. By criminalizing buyers and penalizing for that act, it discourages

the behavior that drives the demand for the commercial sex industry. It reorients the cultural norms so that the rights of victims of trafficking are upheld and society is discouraged from taking part as a buyer or getting swept up as a victim.

These are two very common viewpoints of NGOs and it is also a general opinion. Demand is a root cause of human trafficking and prostitution. It is necessary to look to the roots, as that is where the effort must be made to stop the demand. The public response has to start with a rethinking about sexuality, about women and gender equality in society. In addition, the ones who are doing harm to the women must be penalised. There needs to be a proper definition of prostitution, which means defining precisely what it is and including a statement specifying its consequences and after-effects.

THE PERSON IN PROSTITUTION

The focus of all NGOs was on the welfare of the people in prostitution; they will support any law that helps the women. The following are some quotes which confirm this point of view:

It is important to provide a way for girls to be able to leave and not going to the street I would say that I never came across a woman, that was free and voluntarily, and that I never experienced a woman without problems or abuse in the background, that drove her into prostitution.

We are concentrating on the people. We don't think about the laws, just about the reality.

SPACE INTERNATIONAL

The researcher also wanted to give a voice to the survivors who have come out of prostitution. They are the ones who went through the ordeal and had all kinds of distressing experiences; they need to be heard. All of the representatives of SPACE International have lived experience of the sex trade, and many of them have extensive first-hand knowledge of frontline work in combatting prostitution and offering exit services to prostituted women and girls. The organisation started with the purpose of changing social attitudes towards prostitution and pressing for its recognition as a sexually exploitative human rights violation, goals incorporated in the full name of the group: Survivors of Prostitution Abuse Calling for Enlightenment.

In 2013 they expanded the group internationally from its origins in Ireland and took on representatives from all corners of the globe. The members are outspoken public abolitionist activists, pressing for the Abolitionist (Nordic) Model of prostitution legislation in their own regions of the world.

As “survivors” of unspeakable traumas, members freely share their experiences in prostitution.

My body, mind, and spirit survived so many things for so many years. The sexual exploitation and violence I endured was almost like something that happened to someone else. If I had told myself the truth about what was being done to me, my psyche would have splintered into a million pieces. (Autumn Burris, Denver, USA)

Many people ask me, how did I get into prostitution, was I “trafficked” or was I a willing participant? What many don’t understand is - however we entered - what the act of prostitution does to us; how it slowly strips us of any semblance of ourselves, as we try to sell part of our bodies, while keeping our soul intact. Prostitution preys on the most vulnerable; it takes us places we never intended to go, all driven by those who feel entitled to pay for our bodies. (Cherie Jimenez, Boston, USA)

At the tender age of fifteen I was coerced into the brutal world of prostitution; I immediately lost my identity. I liken my day to day life to being on the front lines of a battlefield. I spent the next eleven years shut down and disassociated. I suppressed feelings of shame and disgust constantly, by telling myself that this was a job like any other. (Fiona Broadfoot, Bradford, UK)

When I look back now, I see that prostitution lured and consumed those of us who were already marginalized in society. If you were poor, if you were disadvantaged, if you had come from a broken home or had vulnerabilities connected to prior cycles of abuse, especially sexual abuse, prostitution was there waiting for you. Prostitution is a trap, and it’s not a coincidence that all over the world it ensnares those who are already struggling to survive. (Rachel Moran, Dublin, Ireland: Founder) (SPACE International)

At this point the researcher wants to make a recommendation for people who wants to do further work on analysis and myths about prostitution. It is Julie Bindel’s book “The Pimping of Prostitution”, Abolishing the Sex Work Myth. In The Pimping of Prostitution, renowned investigative journalist and feminist activist Julie Bindel takes the debate on prostitution legislation head-on, exposing the lived realities of women in contrast with the dominant discourse in current academic and liberal feminist debates.

Based on more than 250 interviews with the people involved in and affected by prostitution around the world – from trafficked women to legal brothel owners to the men who drive demand – this book uncovers the lies, mythology and criminality that shroud this global trade, and suggests a way forward for the activists seeking to abolish ‘the oldest oppression’. (palgrave macmillan, 2017)

Society connotes that prostitution has a feminist, self-determined image, but the fact is that most of the people in prostitution live in total misery. That prostitutes supposedly act voluntarily does not change the fact that they are degraded to the position of an object and are exposed to permanent humiliation and dehumanisation. This is also one reason why they stay in prostitution. Their will is broken and their dignity is taken. A Professor for Christian Social Ethics, Elke Mack, demanded at the third World Congress against the sexual exploitation of women and girls in Mainz, Germany, that because the German laws regulating prostitution do not work, the personal security of the women needs to have priority over the freedom of the customers (World Congress, 2019).

PRO PROSTITUTION

LEGALISATION

Some of the NGOs were pro-prostitution and here is one argument:

I think prostitution should be legalized, but our team has mixed view point. I think, if it is legalized it is easier to reach the women. In Czech Republic the women are not receiving benefits from the government. And I think if it would be the Nordic Model, it will push people to other countries and not solve the problem.

The following argument has also to be taken into account in any considerations of how to improve the Nordic Model:

For me the best is that prostitution has to be legal, but exploitation has to be persecuted. I don't like too much the Nordic Model. It is very simple. Nordic Model, they look the customer as the evil. For me it is the trafficker that is the evil. They spend time to follow stupid client, but it has to be a big, big, stronger investigation to catch the big Mafia, this is my point of view.

Perhaps this can become a danger, that police are more focussed on clients than on the trafficker, although with proper implementation, hopefully this situation could be avoided.

IMPOSSIBILITIES

Here in Bulgaria, the system here is so corrupt. And so, for us, feels like an impossible thing.

If you do prostitution you are not free, someone else is using you. The politicians in Greece thought about it, if this would be an idea, but it wouldn't work in Greece from the culture.

These two quotes show that in some cultures and societies the Nordic Model would not work. Why? Because these are male-dominated cultures and they would never penalise a man for buying sex. It is an accepted fact that a prostitute can be bought. The predominant patriarchal culture makes it impossible to accept a law like this because gender equality is not an issue in these societies.

THE NGOS

The workers from the NGOs did not make it easy for themselves when answering the survey questions on the relative merits of prostitution laws. They took the subject very seriously, always with the focus on the well-being of the person in prostitution. Although some voted for the pro-prostitution model, at the same time it was not acceptable to them that a man can buy a woman's body. In this everyone agreed. The main content of the Nordic Model, that prostitution is a violation of women's and human rights providing nothing that is good or healthy for the person doing this, was accepted by all participants in the study. Prostitution harms a person in many different aspects. Also, of secondary importance to criminalising the clients was the offering of a wide range of social services free of charge for people who want to leave prostitution. It was a generally accepted conclusion that the Nordic Model has to be adapted to the cultural context of every country.

6. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OF NGOS

The additional comments show what is on the hearts of the NGO staff members and what are their concerns.

The researcher has collected some of the comments together without any further remarks, to let these frontline workers speak for themselves and give them a voice to communicate their opinions.

Network

More information about what others are doing. A better international network.

Connection

Forced prostitution and prostitution cannot be disconnected, special in Germany they say, this is one topic and that is another, but 23 years of work in this area showed me that this is absolutely not possible to disconnect this. The same as you cannot disconnect prostitution from children to adult prostitution. It is a fluid transition, because often prostitution offer their children for prostitution, because they learned it themselves in their childhood. It is difficult that today, they want to separate everything, although it is connected so much.

Support in Nigeria

I don't think that I have any additional thing, but I am so convinced that the Nigerian survivors should go back to their country and we can support them with everything, there is not one thing they can mention we cannot help them with, because we have good safe-houses, we have good people and they will also have a good rehabilitation-program and coming up, we are not there yet. But I am so sure, that we can do all the survivors would need, when it comes to therapy and psychology, counselling and leadership and job-training and education and everything in their home-country. It is where they belong and that's where we can help them.

The government of this country started support programmes for returned victims of trafficking in Nigeria.

Problem of short-term volunteers

Well it is not easy to have people to come and work for a short term, because you need long term trust building. This is one of the questions, what to do with people to come for a week, we accept sometimes. What is their motivation to come, one girl helped for one month and this was good, but it is very difficult with someone coming from America, they don't know how the system works in France. They don't speak French, we have to decide from case

to case. We don't want to discourage people, but you cannot expect everyone and from the beginning of our work we wanted the churches to be involved and have a heart for this, we wanted the ordinary Christians to be involved.

Theory

No, as you said before many times we talk about theory, especially when I go to government it is just theory, but nothing happens, it is just theory. Because we are in the matter, in the brothels, down to earth doing the work, theory for us is waste of time. But as you said, this is not just theory, you have a purpose, to improve after all this research, looking what is missing, you want to touch this to do something about it.

Faith

Believe in God, that God is higher than the giants.

Support

A lot of conferences take place, a lot of talking. But I think that these organization and people should support the ones working on the ground, giving finances to frontline workers and dealing with ladies who escaped from sexual exploitation. Everyone should take her place, supporting financially.

Multi-agency

UNODC for example, we have to work in multi-agency, prosecutor, NGO, forced labour, foreign affair minister, there all be one group, they have to work together. I can work in the shelter and the same time the police and prosecutor persecuted people. And the police cannot persecute the people without the victim. We have multi-level agency; we have to do.

Prevention

I am happy about our prevention program; it is a big part of our organization. It is for the young, victims of human trafficking, but also to prevent and you could even do more, perhaps with EFN on the prevention side. We are very experienced in this already, we have programs for schools and maybe we can change a little for other organization in other countries, because I think Romania, Bulgarian girls have to be aware what is happening here.

This quote came from an NGO in the Netherlands that has run very well-functioning prevention programmes in schools for many years.

Prayer

Prayer is very important.

Countries of Origin

I think we should really more focus on helping to create impact in those countries and invest in those countries.

Network in Romania

Why is it so impossible to work together in Romania? Because we have a government that uses the old Russian methods to divide and conquer.

Spiritual Change

So that's my main issue, that we need a spiritual change.

Ethics

We don't want to sell stories. You know, this is the ethical debate. Because you need funds, you need a lot of funds to do that, but we cannot exploit again, what they've been through, even when it is for a good cause. That is a struggle every time we have. I don't come to a conclusion about it. We need the support, but how do you do it in an ethical way, because you need funds, but you don't want to exploit them again. That's a big struggle.

Balance

How do I balance of what I do with what people know, how do I balance with my own safety and the safety of my family? So, the main weakness is about balance. Balancing all this. When you talk about the organization, when you talk about community knowing what your organization is doing is also promoting yourself as a person. What are you doing? What is your experience and it also going a lot to your person? How do you balance the need of your work as an organization being known with your need as a person to be protected, your privacy, not so much for myself, because I choose to do that, but privacy for my family, they are dragged into this by me? So how do you balance this.

7. CONCLUSION

The three aims of this study were to expand the current body of knowledge regarding the work of anti-trafficking NGOs and NGOs working with people in prostitution in Europe; to give an overview of the situation of people working in prostitution; and to report on the experiences of NGOs in relation to the implementation of prostitution laws, particularly the pros and cons associated with adoption of the Nordic Model. The quantitative and qualitative data contained in this study appear to be the first of their kind, as no other research has been found that directly investigates the holistic work NGOs are offering for this people group in Europe. The data compiled on the subject of people in prostitution showed important risk factors that need to be further explored in the future. The weaknesses of the implementation of prostitution laws is another factor that calls for more consideration.

Working in such a sensitive and at the same time criminal environment requires considerable dedication, perseverance and at times pausing to take a deep breath. The transparency of the organisations was clothed in data protection and confidentiality. It showed their credibility and engendered a high level of trust between the NGO and the researcher. To give these people working on the front lines a voice was very important in this research.

According to the qualitative results of this research, improving one's self-care, self-awareness and emotional intelligence; having a quality and diverse support network that can help one process and provide the necessary help; holding realistic expectations of one's clients and self; and setting and maintaining good boundaries are all necessary for developing and cultivating resilience in anti-sex trafficking workers. If an NGO staff member is able to accomplish these things, they will be more likely to remain healthy while being fully engaged in serving sexually exploited individuals. Additionally, organisations which do their part in providing adequate resources; providing knowledgeable, supportive and positive supervision; promoting strong and supportive team dynamics and providing adequate preparatory and ongoing training will not only ensure they are doing everything they can to empower and support their staff, but should also see a reduction in their turnover rate and an improvement in the quality of the care they are able to provide.

In the present study, the most-attended social service was crisis intervention. Because of outreach work, the NGOs are able to meet the women in different life circumstances and often the crisis intervention is in connection with problems occurring in the workplace, for example with colleagues, with police or health problems, problems concerning their asylum status, but also personal problems. The second most-attended social service was medical help. Very often the women need help for gynaecological problems. In some cities medical help is provided free of charge and the women just need the contact information or sometimes someone who

accompanies them or helps with translation. In Finland for example, everybody has a permit and access to health insurance. All the public services are provided cost-free there.

The organisation the researcher worked with had a gynaecologist who offered his help for free for women who had no health insurance. This was a valuable tool that was taken advantage of by many women. Perhaps organisations should try to win doctors for voluntary help and medical assistance.

The answer to the survey question relating to the most important factor for successful integration back into the community was at the same time very simple and also very profound. Unconditional love, what a gift! Frequently there was an abuse of trust in the lives of people in prostitution; either they had been betrayed by a friend, or by someone they trusted. "There was always a break in a person's life before she ends up in prostitution", is what Ingeborg Kraus, a German psychotherapist, has observed. Coming from a dysfunctional family background or already having experienced abuse in different forms in childhood has broken the ability to trust. Through the caring attitude of well-equipped helpers who expect nothing in return, and the consistent offering of a relationship, trust can be built up again and people helped to gain back their self-esteem and confidence.

The main concerns of the practitioners are always how to improve the social services they provide and to realise the basic needs of their clients in order to be able to offer appropriate support and assistance. For these reasons it was of great importance to have a closer look at the people with whom the organisations are working, their backgrounds and needs and areas where they received best support, and then to present these together with relevant results.

It was crucial to identify the sources which drove the women into prostitution, and to gain knowledge about their main needs.

The first findings of the study on people in prostitution in Europe have been data specifying their nationality namely, that 63% of NGOs report that the majority of those in their care come from Romania. This large number of people coming from Romania raises many questions. There is a high degree of responsibility, not only for the governments in the countries which have lost "their daughters" to prostitution. The issue also requires attention from compatriots living abroad. For example, Romanian women would benefit from the involvement of Romanian churches all over Western Europe whose congregants are often from good middle-class backgrounds, own small businesses, and could provide jobs for these vulnerable people if they would be able to not look away and instead begin to care for their own nationals.

The results of the present study indicate that the main root cause for someone entering into prostitution is poverty. People work to support the family back home, which was the most highly ranked reason for women to begin working in prostitution revealed in this research. The background knowledge behind this fact is that in the societies from which the people come the individual has very little worth. The highest priority is given to the community and

it is perfectly normal for a person who grew up with this background not to care for her own well-being but rather for the benefit of the community and her family.

It is a very severe problem and the solution is found in improving the economics in the countries of origin. This should also concern Western companies which have started doing business in these countries but do not pay regular salaries as in the West, choosing rather to exploit the vulnerable situation of the people there and only paying minimum local wages.

Feminisation of poverty is another factor identified by the research. This does not offer an equal opportunity environment with the same possibilities for women as for men. Women are the weakest members in these kinds of societies, where the patriarchy has all power and dominates and oppresses women. Women need access to education, job training and adequately-paid jobs. Gender equality would make a huge difference, but some of the European countries are still very far from this. The media could play a role in changing societal attitudes and through awareness raising, affect the thinking and behaviour of people in society.

Also, in these societies, men are not forced by stronger laws to accept responsibility to take care of their children and to pay alimony, so the whole financial burden stays with the women.

Looking to the risk indicators the NGOs could observe in the lives of people in prostitution, there was a high rating for identification of human trafficking and violence. How is it possible that in some countries, prostitution is officially called a “normal job” and at the same time indicators like these are undeniably observed? Summing up, it is evident that prostitution is harmful to a person’s body, soul and spirit. It crosses people’s borders and destroys human dignity and value. In many cases it exploits people in vulnerable situations for the profit of a third party: one is the client and the other is the pimp. There is no outcome in this research that could justify calling prostitution a “normal job”. The facts demonstrate that prostitution is not a normal job! It takes part in a system of violence and exploitation and harms the people involved. And there is no question that even the women who are engaging in this occupation voluntarily are influenced by these destructive factors. Andrea Gisler, the president of the Zürich Centre for Women, states in the Swiss newspaper Blick that

It is not a moral issue with prostitution. It is about human dignity. In a society with equal rights, prostitution has no place. As long as prostitution is accepted in society we will have no gender-equality. (Gisler, 2018)

The researcher has the same opinion as the many victims and survivors with whom she talked; all told her about the practices or demands the clients wanted from them which were primarily about power control and perversion, but not sexual intimacy. After meeting with

thousands of women working in prostitution, only a handful told the researcher that they liked what they were doing. All the others spoke of some kind of force or pressure behind their entry into prostitution and that they would like to change to another job at once.

Is prostitution primarily a gender problem? In a way, yes, because prostitution consists mainly of domination of women by men who expect them to be available and who use them as a commodity. It is a matter of gender inequality. On one occasion the researcher asked a group of young Hungarians for their response to the fact that just the day before a man had struck his fiancée. The reaction was rather shocking. They said things like “What did she do to earn this?” and “This happens to women from time to time”. This shows the imprint on these young women of their own dysfunctional family backgrounds and also the society in which they grew up. It is a scandal and it needs a revolutionary change in communal attitudes. In societies like Sweden it is not normal to buy a woman, to exert domination over a female person. There is respect between genders and no tolerance of exploitative behaviour.

As laws try to regulate prostitution it was also important to examine the implementation of these laws from the perspective of the NGOs working in the field and to have a discussion about the different models of prostitution laws. The main conflict surrounding these laws in Europe is the debate between the pro-prostitution lobby and the abolitionists. One side believes that prostitution is a job like any other, while the other side maintains that prostitution is harmful and violates human and women’s rights in a very cruel way. Activists for the Nordic Model confirm that human trafficking decreases in countries which have adopted this model because they are no longer attractive for the traffickers. Critics believe that the Nordic Model will lead the people in prostitution into illegality and make the business more dangerous for them because clients who take the risk to go to a person in prostitution will demand more of them, perhaps taking them to underground establishments inaccessible to the authorities. However, the police in Sweden, for example, state that if the clients will find the women, so will they. And they always offer social services with exit aids.

It was mentioned that for example in Greece or Bulgaria, the Nordic Model that criminalises the men, the clients, would never work. It is believed that in a male-dominated society, men cannot be treated like this.

Many of the pro-prostitution lobby insist on not putting prostitution on the same level as human trafficking, and without doubt the two are in no way comparable. But at the same time, activists should take a deeper look at the reasons and sources which drive someone to “voluntarily” work in prostitution and accept so many distressing circumstances and accompanying indignities. Again, the discussion returns to the question of choices – poverty or prostitution - which can never be called a “free choice”. The objective would never be to victimise self-determined sex-workers, but even with them it would be interesting to know the reasons why they choose to work in prostitution. There is no doubt that the group of people working

voluntarily in prostitution is and will continue to be a minority. And as the Nordic Model does not criminalise the person working in prostitution, this group could freely continue in their chosen occupation.

With all its weaknesses and areas that need improvement, the Nordic Model is certainly the only means found to reduce human trafficking so far, in contrast to legal prostitution where human trafficking increases. Why? Because it is easy for the pimp to get his women registered with legal conditions, as no one really examines if a woman is performing the work voluntarily without any force acting behind her. From her point of view, it is confusing; she experiences pressure in different ways and at the same time she is in a country where the act she is offering is legalised and is even called a “normal job”.

In spite of all the regulations and the law, the street-level implementation that takes place for most of the NGOs occupies a grey zone. So, the question must be asked whether it is possible to regulate prostitution or if it is better to abolish it and take a firm stand against it.

The survivors who had a chance to speak in this research said that prostitution was something that harmed them deeply and they experienced high levels of torture during the time they engaged in it.

The question that remains at the end is a question of action: what can be done to improve the situation of vulnerable people who are exploited in prostitution?

NGOs working in this field need financial support to continue their work and have the capacity to employ enough staff. They should receive government support in order to be able to carry out this extremely important work.

Awareness raising, lobbying, is something everybody can do. There are numerous organisations where one can become involved and start helping voluntarily. There are many possibilities in everyday life where one can become a voice for the voiceless. Knowledge brings a high level of responsibility and no one should be too afraid to speak out.

The documentation of the research will end with one story of a recent occurrence in Sweden.

The police raided an apartment and fined the client who was there. They talked to the woman and offered her a great deal of help and possibilities to step out of prostitution. The woman told them that she would continue and that she was doing this work voluntarily. The police informed an NGO and they visited her the next day. She gave the same statement. The next day they came again and had an agreeable talk. On the fifth day, the woman suddenly opened up and told them that she was forced into the work and had to give all her money to her pimp. At once they could help and rescued her and brought her to a safe place.

This is the reality in which the NGOs are working. They need to be persistent and again and again visit the people and build this trust relationship, so that hopefully one day the person will open up and tell the truth.

The researcher would like to honour and thank every organisation that was willing to participate in this research.

We will continue!

*For further information about
the NGOs from this research,
contact the researcher,*

*Sabine Kallauch
kavod.office@gmail.com*

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9. APPENDIX

9.1. QUESTIONNAIRE 1 FOR STREETWORK

What is the Country(is) in which you work?

What is the Name of your Organization?

What is the Legal position of prostitution in the country(is) in which you work?

1. What is Your overall Mission?

2. What are your key Working strategies? (circle all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Massage parlors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street work | <input type="checkbox"/> Night-Clubs/Bars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | <input type="checkbox"/> Home visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal | <input type="checkbox"/> Prison visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor visits | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brothels | <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings outside work at a coffeehouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Studios | <input type="checkbox"/> Drop-In Center |

3. What are your Working Methodologies?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building trust relationship
through continuity | <input type="checkbox"/> Debt Counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offering social services | <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical help | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Language classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Crisis Intervention/Emergency Help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Different programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Food bank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal support | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Working skills training |

4. Nationalities, you work with, the first three

The five numerically strongest nationalities you work with.

5. In which (three) countries have they already worked in prostitution before they entered your country?

6. How many women you meet have told you that they have children at home?

7. How many women you meet have children with them here?

8. What is the Estimated average for Indicators, you recognize in the life of people in prostitution? 1 – very high, 2 – often, 3 – sometimes, 4 – almost never, 5 – never

- | | |
|--|--|
| ⊗ Lover-boy relationship | ⊗ Sickness of family members that need money for medical treatment |
| ⊗ Human trafficking | ⊗ Future plans of building a house |
| ⊗ Violence | ⊗ Disability |
| ⊗ Exploitation, (high rents in brothels, apartments) | ⊗ Drug abuse |
| ⊗ Financial need of the family | ⊗ Alcohol abuse |

9. Describe your national network

List of your partners, who are they?

Rank the quality of cooperation: 1 – very good, 2 – Ok, 3 – need for improvement, 0 – no involvement

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ⊗ Faith based NGOs | ⊗ Government agencies |
| ⊗ Churches | ⊗ Police |
| ⊗ Secular NGOs | ⊗ National Referral Mechanism |
| ⊗ Doctors, therapists | |

10. International network

List of your partners, who are they?

Rank the quality of cooperation: 1 – very good, 2 – Ok, 3 – need for improvement, 0 – no involvement

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| ⊗ Faith based NGOs | ⊗ Churches |
| ⊗ EFN | ⊗ Secular NGOs |
| ⊗ Renata | ⊗ European wide networks |
| ⊗ Salvation Army | |

11. Resources of your ministry, for yourself as a coworker in this ministry. Indicate the three most important from 1 – most important to 3 – least important, (circle all that apply)

- Spirituality/ Ethics and Values
- Team
- Supervision
- Retreats
- Training
- Network
- Lobbying
- Volunteers
- Others

12. List three of your main strengths

13. List three of your main weaknesses, areas, that need improvement

14. What support do you need most at the present time?

- Training Y/N If so what training?
- Finances Y/N If so to do what?
- Other? What?

15. Do you have a way to measure the impact of your program?

16. Finances

- Donations from churches
or private persons
- Foundations
- Government support
- Others

17. Demand: Do you have any data about demand?

- Research
- Observations
- Information that you got from the
people working in prostitution?

18. Pro Prostitution vs Nordic Model, illegal prostitution

- What is your position on this?
- Pro-Prostitution
- Nordic Model
- Don't know about it
- Do you have any suggestions as to how
the Nordic Model could be improved?

19. What do you wish from EFN?

20. Additional comments

9.2. QUESTIONNAIRE 2 FOR SHELTER AND/OR AFTERCARE-PROGRAM

What is the Country(is) in which you work?

What is the Name of your Organization?

What is the Legal position of prostitution in the country(is) in which you work?

1. What is Your overall Mission?

2. What is your Work Description?

- Shelter
- Aftercare Program
- Drop-In Centre
- Lobbying, political work
- Prevention

3. Nationalities, you work with, the first five

The five numerically strongest nationalities you work with.

4. In which (three) countries have they already worked in prostitution before they entered your country?

5. Numbers and gender of people in the program in

- 2016 F: M:
- 2017 F: M:

6. How many women in your program have told you that they have children at home?

7. How many women in your program have children with them here?

8. What is the Estimated average for Indicators, you recognize in the life of people in prostitution? 1 – very high, 2 – often, 3 – sometimes, 4 – almost never, 5 – never

- Lover-boy relationship
- Human trafficking
- Violence
- Exploitation, (high rents in brothels, apartments)
- Exploitation, (high rents in brothels, apartments)
- Financial need of the family
- Sickness of family members that need money for medical treatment
- Future plans of building a house
- Disability
- Drug abuse
- Alcohol abuse

9. Social services in the aftercare program, list the six best-attended aftercare programs you offer (1 to 6)

- ⊗ Medical help
- ⊗ Language classes
- ⊗ Advocacy support
- ⊗ Debt Counseling
- ⊗ Accommodation services
- ⊗ Employment services
- ⊗ Crisis Intervention/Emergency Help
- ⊗ Food bank
- ⊗ Counselling
- ⊗ Working skills training

10. Where do you refer to, when you cannot provide these services?

11. Reasons why a person may want to move into the shelter, list from 1, main reason to 3 smallest reason

- ⊗ Danger from pimp and/or trafficker
- ⊗ Rescue from the police
- ⊗ No chance to go back to their home, family
- ⊗ Wanting to start a new life
- ⊗ Health issues/Psychological problems
- ⊗ No documents/Legal support
- ⊗ Material support
- ⊗ Need for counselling

12. What is the Length of stay in percent or numbers of most of your clients?

- ⊗ Less than three months
- ⊗ Less than six months
- ⊗ Less than one year:
- ⊗ More than one year:

13. Reason for leaving the shelter?

List from 1, main reason to 4, smallest reason

- ⊗ Back to family
- ⊗ Back to boyfriend, Lover-boy, pimp
- ⊗ Financial reason, looking for another job
- ⊗ Going back to prostitution
- ⊗ Problems in the shelter, with coworkers or with other women
- ⊗ Other reasons

14. Number of those returning to the family

- ⊗ 2016
- ⊗ 2017

15. Number successfully reintegrated into the country of origin

- ⊗ 2016
- ⊗ 2017

16. How many people in your program successfully integrated into your country?

- ⊗ 2016
- ⊗ 2017

17. How many third-country nationals did go through your program?

18. What was the most important factor for successful integration in your country from your point of view? List from 1, main reason to 4, smallest reason

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ⊗ Unconditional love | ⊗ Learning new skills |
| ⊗ New friendships | ⊗ Getting a job |
| ⊗ New social environment | ⊗ Legal assistance |
| ⊗ Therapeutic intervention | ⊗ Support from their own network,
family, friends |
| ⊗ Language classes | |
| ⊗ A personal access to faith | |

19. Describe your national network

List of your partners, who are they?

Rank the quality of cooperation 1 – very good, 2 – Ok,

3 – need for improvement, 0 – no involvement

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ⊗ Faith based NGOs | ⊗ Government agencies |
| ⊗ Churches | ⊗ Police |
| ⊗ Secular NGOs | ⊗ National Referral Mechanism |
| ⊗ Doctors, therapists | |

20. International network

List of your partners, who are they?

Rank the quality of cooperation 1 – very good, 2 – Ok,

3 – need for improvement, 0 – no involvement

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| ⊗ Faith based NGOs | ⊗ Churches |
| ⊗ EFN | ⊗ Secular NGOs |
| ⊗ Renata | ⊗ European wide networks |
| ⊗ Salvation Army | |

21. What are the main Resources of your ministry/ of yourself as a coworker in this ministry?

Indicate the five most important from (circle all that apply) 1 to 5

- Spirituality/ Ethics and Values
- Team
- Supervision
- Retreats
- Training
- Network
- Lobbying
- Volunteers
- Others

22. List three of your main strengths

23. List three of your main weaknesses, areas where you need improvement

24. What support do you need most at the present time?

- Training Y/N If so what training?
- Finances Y/N If so to do what?
- Other? What?

25. Do you have a way to measure the impact of your program?

26. Finances

- Donations from churches
or private persons
- Foundations
- Government support
- Others

27. Pro Prostitution vs Nordic Model, prostitution is illegal

What is your position on this?

- Pro-Prostitution
- Nordic Model
- Don't know about it

How would you talk with someone who is pro prostitution, pro Nordic Model?

What are your main arguments?

Do you have any suggestions as to how the Nordic Model could be improved?

28. What do you wish personally from EFN?

29. Additional comments

List of Indicators

© *Sabine Kallauch*

kavod.office@gmail.com