

Focus group discussion with stakeholders who work with children and young people involved or at risk of being involved into commercial sexual exploitation

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Organizational issues

- Focus group was conducted on 24 April, 2014
- 7 experts took part
 - Social Service of Riga municipality
 - State Children's Right Protection Inspection
 - Children Crisis Center
 - NGO working with the target group
 - Ombudsman
- 3 additional interviews were conducted (29.04., 9.05., and 10.05.2014)
 - NGO working with the target group
 - State Police
 - Crisis center
- Everyone received a gift card from a bookshop (EUR 25)



Reflections about the focus group guide & group composition

- It is difficult to speak about statistical data during the focus group discussion
- It is almost impossible to find 10 experts who would be able to attend the focus group discussion at particular time/ date
 - The solution might be to use in-depth interviews or combine both techniques but then more time should be given for transcription and translation
 - 10 persons per group is too much
- Usually only one or two persons are experts in a specific field
 - It is a challenge to find free time for interviews/ discussion
 - If somebody is missing, it is difficult to get the “whole picture”

Results

- Different services are available
 - Social rehabilitation: consultations of social worker, psychologist, health care specialist, lawyer
 - Coverage of travel expenses for victims of human trafficking (for 24 persons per year)
 - Crisis center: residence, consultations of psychologist, health care specialist, school
 - Day care centers: consultations, group therapy
 - Hotline
 - Social service is looking for the support persons
 - Primary prevention program for 7 – 8 years old children
 - Lectures at schools, orphanages, boarding schools
 - Treatment of HIV/AIDS, Tb, hepatitis C and some STI is partly or fully covered by the state in accordance with national clinical guidelines

Results

- Services are more available in Riga than in other parts of Latvia
- There are almost no services available for children for treatment of alcohol, drug and tobacco addiction
- It is often difficult to prove the fact of sexual exploitation
 - Victims are afraid
 - Victims do not know that they have been sexually exploited
 - Victims have agreed to sexual exploitation
 - Not every policeman is qualified to investigate such crimes
- Services are fragmented



Development of HIV & AI prevention programs

- It should be a part of comprehensive strategy
- Experts from different fields should be involved



Thank you for attention!

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