

**Raport on focus groups with
stakeholders who work with
children and young people
involved or at high risk or being
involved into commercial sexual
exploitation**

Helsinki June 2014

Respondents

The group participants were NGOs representatives who are currently or in the past dealt with the prevention of HIV among people aged 15-24 years. Some of them are involved in the HIV prevention programmes among those who provide sexual services; some of them work in schools with youth at increased risk, while others implement ad hoc projects aimed at wide-ranging prevention.

Date of focus group was conducted: 14 April 2014

We have invited 10 experts from different
ngo:

„Stacja” Programm

Social AIDS Committee

Centre for Sociotherapy „Kąt”

„MONAR” Association – Centre for Harm
Reduction

Brief feedback on focus group guide – what worked well and what should be improved

- The guide was working well, however would need segmentation. We would need to divide youth from young adults. Below and over 18 years old.
- Questions should be more qualitative not quantitative. Asking more about reasons of the situation instead of numbers. Why ? What? Instead of how often? How many?

Target group

- Generally, it is difficult to estimate the size of the sexual services of persons aged 15-18 years in Poland, by virtue of the fact that it is illegal behaviour. People that work at schools have met with several such cases among students, but these are isolated cases. Because they have a direct contact with those students, they keep on trying to educate the students regarding risky behaviour on an on-going basis.
- The situation of people aged 18-24 years looks different. There is no quantitative data that would reflect a proper, real demographic profile of the sexual workers in Poland. However, it seems that women are more likely to provide sexual services on the street and escort agencies, while men (gays) deal with this as frequently as women in the night clubs and disco clubs.

OUTCOMES

There are no clear differences when it comes to education of sex workers. Rather, the provision of sexual services is correlated with emotional deficiencies or psychological disorders such persons learned in childhood. Additionally, low financial status of parents seems to be an important driver of the risky behaviours.

Resources

As for the Polish resources to prevention work with young people providing sexual services, there is a significant group of highly specialized and very well educated experts dealing with issues of HIV prevention in Poland. They see a big need for the HIV prevention and would like to undertake a wide spectrum of activities, but they constantly struggle with having funds.

Barriers

Due to the political, philosophical and financial reasons the prevention activities are kept to an absolute minimum, and often are taken for non-profit. They are limited to big cities, where NGOs are placed. Moreover, according to all participants, there is a lack of systemic solutions in Poland to educate young people in schools, and the prevention of people who already provide sexual services.

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Thank you!