



Executive Summary Report

Regional Training on Protection and Care of Trafficked/Sexually Exploited Children and Youth

**Organized by
Ecumenical Network for Youth Action and
ECPAT International
16-22 September, 2007, Belgrade, Serbia**

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Training was held in Belgrade from 17-21st September 2007 through the collaborated efforts of the Ecumenical Network for Youth Action, the ECPAT International and the local host organization Beosupport in Serbia. There were total of 17 participants from many countries in the Eastern Europe and few others such as Serbia, Russia, Ukraine, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Austria, Czech Republic, Belarus and Albania, Germany and Thailand. The Regional Training facilitation team comprised of two youth representatives Ms. Milica Petrovic and Ms. Mariana Ysykova and two experts Ms. Junita Upadhyay, Child and Youth Participation Officer from ECPAT International and Doi Germann of FAKT Germany. There was also participation of a youth (of ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee) from Austria as an observer to the meeting.

The main objectives of this regional training were:

- To report back on the progress since last meeting in April 2006.
- To share experiences and good practices on care and protection of trafficking/sexually exploited children and youth.
- To learn from innovative approaches and strategies on children and youth mobilization against CSEC.
- To build capacities on developing and integrating “Programme Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) Systems”.
- To develop a Regional Action Plan and funding strategies to support follow-up activities.
- Discuss 3rd World Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and opportunities for young people’s meaningful participation.

After the welcome and introductions, the participants divided into teams and agreed to take responsibility to monitor time and conduct daily evaluation of the training sessions which would then be reported at the beginning of the next day. Ground rules were also agreed upon for the smooth functioning of the training.

Presentations on their work on CSEC and Trafficking from participating organizations

First day was dedicated to presentations of all participants on protection and care of trafficked and sexually exploited children and youth in the region. As some participants

were participating in this regional training for the first time, there was a request that presenters should not only focus on activities during the last year, but also give broader overview of their youth organizations. This provided an opportunity to learn from various good and bad experiences/existing practices and approaches against CSEC in the region.

Tartu Child Support Center: Estonia presented by Ms. Riina Roomeldi

The participants were very interested hearing about their innovative project 'Big Brother Big Sister' Peer Support Program with University Students against Trafficking and CSEC and also their 'Mothers and Daughters' programme with teenage young girls which provides counselling to at-risk families and arranges fun activities with an aim to improve relationships and bonding between mothers and daughters and strengthen their coping mechanisms for emotional and other crisis in their lives; and prevent from engaging in other anti social activities. Their Peer Support Program on prevention of school violence also provides counselling and awareness raising lectures. It was shared that despite their efforts, Estonia is still struggling to accept existing problem of child sex abuses and the reported cases are very low.

Beosupport, Serbia presented by Mr. Marko Grahovac

Beosupport's work on trafficking mainly focuses on Prevention, Advocacy and Strengthening Regional Network and working closely with the government. They have successfully integrated young people's participation in all aspects of their work. Young people are involved in the planning and implementation of all projects. They have a strong network of approximately 80 youth who have been involved with Beosupport for the last 4 years. Presentation focused on their new campaign on raising the age limit of sexual consent from 14 to 16 years by through various activities led by youth such as media activities, street displays and awareness raising activities in school and in public places.

Pan Ukrainian Alliance and La Strada-Ukraine presented by Ms. Mariana Yevsyukova

Pan Ukraine Alliance consists of 22 NGOs and focuses on trafficking, exploited and abused children and youth and both on international trafficking within Ukraine and externally. They have a strong youth volunteer network- 23 volunteers in 2006 and 18 volunteers in 2007, who are mostly high school students. They do prevention work by raising awareness and conducting lectures and educational sessions in schools, developing IEC materials and working on various measures to counter trafficking. Their

work also focuses on legal protection, running a hot-line and other innovative approaches led by youth on peer prevention and rehabilitation effort.

ACTSEC Albania presented by Ms. Ermira Lofca

This is the newest ECPAT youth group which shared their work on youth project to create awareness among young people on child sexual exploitation and child pornography, as well as their experience in conducting the Make IT safe campaign.

Children - Not for Abuse: Belarus by Katerina Kovrova.

This NGO started as a small operation but now has a club of 19 young people mostly at-risk girls. Their project "Don't fall into a net of slavery" raises awareness among young girls about trafficking and CSEC, and recently, with the Micro Project grant from ECPAT, they visited the Equal Opportunity NGO in Kiev, Ukraine to learn about their interactive theatre program with young people to raise awareness against CSEC/trafficking.

Regional NGO Stellit in Russia by Olga Kolpakova

Stellit focuses on social research, preventive programs, rehabilitation, social work, organizational consultancy and government relations. They have a total of 30 people and out of that 8 are youth. It is also the Russian Alliance against CSEC which carries out various program and research against CSEC. Their experience in conducting round tables discussions with government representatives and other stakeholders in each regions of Russia has been successful in mobilizing the interest and commitment from the communities in addressing this issue.

Crisis Center „Care in Kazakhstan by Ms. Yuliya Seraya

Presented information on projects such as prevention of human trafficking, shelters for children suffered from domestic violence and combating child prostitution and child pornography currently being implemented within the Crisis Center.

ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC) Representative for the Eastern Europe and the CIS: Ms. Milica Petrovic

The EICYAC representative provided a progress report since the last meeting and invited ideas for future regional cooperation among youth in the region. She highlighted the outcomes of the EICYAC annual meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal which focused on improving the work of EICYAC in each region. The visit to Nepal also provided an

opportunity to learn from ECPAT's Youth Partnership Project (YPP) which is currently ongoing in Bangladesh, India and Nepal and works to empower young victims of CSEC through participation in various activities ranging from prevention, advocacy, project design and implementation etc. Milica also shared the EICYAC Regional Action Plan for comments. It was also agreed that the participating youth would help develop the speech for the OCSE Conference happening in Vienna next month which will be delivered by Milica as it was a good advocacy opportunity to get their messages against trafficking heard.

ECPAT International, Child and Youth Participation Officer, Ms. Junita Upadhyay

She shared the findings and the recommendations of the Child and Youth Participation Survey for the Eastern Europe and the CIS region. Mainly, the region is still recovering from the impact of unresolved ethnic conflict and increasing social and economic polarization with regional trends of large number of children in institutional care, increasing number of trafficking of young women and the stagnating indicators of adolescent health. However, increasingly young people's participation is emerging as a key development strategy with the help of child rights NGOs, UN Agencies and in some cases the governments. The young people are involved in various activities in prevention, protection, advocacy, research and programming against CSEC. They are playing important roles in raising awareness through media and the theatre, campaigns, peer to peer approach. However, there is also a need to move away from one time projects and initiate sustainable youth led programs and link these initiatives with those of the governments, communities and other similar organizations to share resources and expertise.

After the presentation, the participants were divided into groups and asked to discuss and share their analysis on the strengths, challenges and opportunities for strengthening child and youth participation against CSEC in the region.

Sharing experiences and good practices on care and protection of trafficking/sexually exploited children and youth

On the 2nd day, each group was asked to share on good practice within their organization on care and protection of trafficked and exploited children and youth within their organizations.

There was presentation of Olga Kolpakova on conducting “Round Table Discussions” on CSEC issues in North-West Russia, showing it is an effective way of developing network and working with experts in region, but noting that inviting Universities to round tables is not the good experience. Round tables are cheap and easier to organize since responsibilities on organization/coordination are shared among all participants.

Seraya Yuliya presented on experience of Kazakhstan on Hot Lines emphasizing the problem of lack of facility to call outside of the city. The participants shared their experiences on their approaches to popularizing Hot lines in Kazakhstan, Albania and Ukraine and what worked and what did not.

Presentation from Belarus focused on mobilization girls against CSEC, starting with informal gathering (e.g. Dance lessons) and then introducing (later on) subject of CSEC.

Riina Roomeldi talked about prevention programs and on conducting training with teachers and school Principals to provide the specialized knowledge on preventing human trafficking.

Mariana Yevsyukova made presentation on improving legislation for better protection of children rights emphasizing the role of the young people who conducted research on legislative articles that needed to be changed. Drafts on new laws were also created by the young people and they also lobbied strongly for its adoption.

Dina Patarcic of Beosupport presented on youth campaign for social change as a good experience from Serbia on their campaign of change the age limit of sexual consent from the age 14 to 16.

Junita Upadhyay presented ECPAT's experience on Micro Project as an empowering tool with examples of successful implementation of Micro Project against CSEC by young people in various regions and its positive impact on the personal level of the participants such as increased confidence, empowerment etc. and also on the supporting organization which become more open and supportive of child and youth participation. She encouraged the youth participants to plan for a Micro Project against CSEC in their own countries and contact their EICYAC representative for any support.

At the end of this presentation, participants were divided into groups and were asked to reflect on the previous presentations and come up with elements of good practices while working with youth on CSEC focusing on the all aspects of the program including planning, implementation and evaluation. They discussed what are the qualities of a good practices on involving child and youth in activities against CSEC.

Youth Network Development Strategy for E. Europe and CIS Region

Third day focused on developing the strategy for an active youth network against CSEC in the Eastern Europe. The session started with understanding of the concepts and finally drafting the mission statements and objectives of the network in line with the broader objectives of the ECPAT International's Child and Youth Advisory Committee.

Doi, the Expert Consultant from FAKT, facilitated the session and worked the participants through the critical steps in developing the vision, mission, objectives and aims using pictures as discussion tools. The participants at the end of the session came up with list of possible objectives on collaboration, capacity building, promotion, involving, sharing and exchanging, monitoring and evaluation, representation. It was agreed that Milica will work further with Junita on finalizing mission and vision and share it with Network post the regional training.

Regional Action-Plan

Next session on Regional Action-Plan reviewed the accomplishments and made changes to the existing plan by revising/adding activities. Activities in the Action-Plan include:

- A leaflet on "How to initiate child and youth participation against CSEC in a community/country";
- Guide to successful implementation of the Micro Projects;
- Providing regular inputs into the ECPAT International E-Bulletin;
- Completion of the Child and Youth Database for each region;
- Draft statement of good practices on working closely together with board member from eastern Europe,
- Work on child and youth participation for 3rd World Congress,
- Develop regional youth project for next few years such as campaigns etc. such as conducting regional activities on the International Day of Children's Rights and also issue a general Press Release against CSEC in the region.
- Each organization to submit quarterly reports for monitor work progress. Reporting format and time –frame to be circulated later.
- Linking of organizational web pages with EICYAC web page.

Impact Oriented Program Monitoring and Evaluation (PME)

Doi from FAKT conducted a session on Impact Oriented Program Monitoring and Evaluation. Session started with the participants working their way through the value line and indicating their current knowledge on PME. The Project Cycle was introduced followed by discussions the differences and similarities between Monitoring and Evaluation. Third part of this session focused on developing indicators for defined objectives by distinguishing between and action and the outcome of the action. The participants were also introduced to the Logical Framework and its planning steps including the impact chain.

These sessions were very interactive and using many visual tools such as cartoons, pictures to clarify theoretical concepts and questions such as why to plan, what to plan, what are different types of planning, what are the influencing factors on planning/problems and limitations, what are the planning steps; - where to start and how to define goals and set objectives etc. The session also discussed challenges and negative risks and managing these risks and ensuring that the plan is on track by using the monitoring and evaluation tools/indicators.

Initial inputs into the 3rd World Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Last day started with session on 3rd World Congress and child and youth participation in the preparation process. Young people were divided into groups and were asked to answer following questions:

- 1) How do you think youth should participate before and at the congress?
- 2) What you think EICYAC representative can do to maximize input from youth?
- 3) What topics would you like to see being discussed at 3 WC and what outcomes would you like to see?

The feedback from this sessions were very helpful with many concrete ideas on involving children and youth before, during the after the Congress. They said that it would be important to firstly widely share information about the 3rd World Congress within their own countries and let the young people know how they can get involved either by visiting the ECPAT website to respond to a questionnaire, or by organizing activities in their

schools, shelters and communities. They suggested EICYAC members to share information on the past Congresses, coordinate the exchange of information and good practices on child and youth participation in the region, represent youth in their region in other international and regional platforms and communicate their ideas to policy makers/decision makers etc. Among the many topics for suggestions, some of the main ones included Peer Support Programs, Micro Projects, Internet Safety, Prevention Programs and Youth Mobilization etc.

These recommendations have been forwarded to the ECPAT International Secretariat for their consideration during the Congress planning meetings.

Follow-UP

The following ideas were shared in applying the knowledge and skills from this Regional Training to the participants on –going work/within organizations:

- ➔ Serbia: Peer to Peer Education Course: Improving monitoring and evaluation
- ➔ Albania : Open Forum with Students , Apply monitoring and evaluation, Write final reports from the meeting and future activities and disseminate to stakeholders of the project
- ➔ Kazakhstan: Organize youth group, contribute to Kazakhstan's process of joining ECPAT network
- ➔ Belarus: organize meeting with young groups and discuss ideas on initiating programs against CSEC and maybe write a proposal and implement a Micro Project,
- ➔ Russia: share knowledge with adults and youth, implement a Micro Project, contribute towards the regional project, take active part in the preparation of the 3rd World Congress
- ➔ Estonia: training has motivated to start activities in organizing a youth group in collaboration with other NGOs; find out who is doing what; continue with awareness raising programs but attract more volunteers to run these programs; involve in the Trafficking IV project,
- ➔ Ukraine: implement a Micro Project, strengthen monitoring and evaluation, within their programs and develop indicators, meeting with youth groups of pan Ukrainian alliance, share experience for leaflet, continue to conduct youth led advocacy and lobbying activities such as writing letters to the government etc.

➔ Austria: participate in regional Micro Project

During the discussion on the follow-up, the participants also proposed ideas to improve regional cooperation and communication among the youth participants/organizations in the region by conducting annual regional meetings; invite participation from wider networks in the region; invite specialists/experts for capacity building sessions, experience sharing and exchange of good practices during the meetings, develop common informational materials (translate into different languages and print them), visit host organization – field trip to learn more about their work in the field, contribute to the preparation and planning of the 3rd World Congress, strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation systems within their programmes; Capacity Building: Fundraising, to have deeper understanding of various issues such as the pornography and Internet safety, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of CSEC, methods of preventive work, communication skills, leading the group (leadership skills), facilitation and moderation skills and work with media.

There was a general agreement among participating organizations to introduce Monitoring and Evaluation in their action- plans and activities. There was an agreement to include the following in Workshops/Meetings Reports- Evaluations (e.g. Degree of satisfaction of participants); Relevant Changes mainly induced by the participation in a workshop at: personal level (new insights, skills, attitudes, contacts....) and at organizational level (ideas taken over by adults, enriching campaigns, new collaboration/initiatives resulting from their participation at these meetings; improved knowledge and skills and the transfer of knowledge within their organizations; innovative interventions and the number of target groups reached through these intervention, relevant changes within the target group, mainly induced by these interventions. (case- studies, life stories; photos) etc.

Agreed on establishing a reporting system so that all youth organizations submit quarterly reports on their activities to their EICYAC Representative which then be forwarded to the ECPAT Secretariat and also to ENYA representative in Prague. These reports will be useful not only in monitoring the work progress, sharing and learning experiences and expertise in the region but will also be forwarded to the donors who fund these regional trainings such as Diakonisches Werk/ Bread for the World.

The Monitoring and Evaluation will be revisited in the next annual regional meeting to see, if any changes or improvements are needed to be made.

Workshop Evaluation

At the end of the meeting, all the participants filled in the same questionnaire that they had responded to at the beginning of the regional training, so that gained knowledge and experience can be reflected and measured. Comparing the value line at the beginning and at the end of the regional training, there was significant positive change among all participants in their knowledge and skills on the topics of the workshop.