

# PROTECTION FIRST

IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN  
AT RISK OF TRAFFICKING  
AND EXPLOITATION IN ITALY:  
A TOOL FOR SOCIAL WORKERS



*With the financial support of the Prevention of and Fight against  
Crime Programme, European Commission - Directorate-General Home Affairs*





# ***PROTECTION FIRST***

IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN  
AT RISK OF TRAFFICKING  
AND EXPLOITATION IN ITALY:  
A TOOL FOR SOCIAL WORKERS



*Project Manager:* Viviana Coppola

*Authors:* Sarah Di Giglio, Fabio Sorgoni, Andrea Morniroli, Paola Di Martino.

*With the contribution of:* Viviana Valastro, Niccolò Gargaglia, Enrica Di Nanni, Luca Oliviero, Michela Manente.

This publication was produced within the European Project **“Early identification, protection and assistance of child victims and at risk of trafficking and exploitation”**, funded by the European Commission – Directorate General Home Affairs, 2014.

*Project Partners:* Save the Children Italia, Associazione On the Road Onlus, Dedalus Cooperativa Sociale



## INTRODUCTION AND READING GUIDE

Human trafficking, which takes the form of sexual exploitation, forced labour, exploitation in begging and in illegal activities, is a complex phenomenon. The range of professionals involved to various degree in the prevention of human trafficking and in the protection of the rights and safety of trafficked persons encounter an increasing number of hidden and intricate critical situations, where several overlapping interests, circumstances and actors are involved.

An additional hindrance in addressing the problem is that the victims, especially children, are often unaware of their situation and do not perceive themselves as trafficked individuals. The root causes of this may be cultural (as in the case of a number of young women from rural areas of Eastern Europe, where women's subaltern and occasionally servile status is customary and gender violence is tolerated), but may also concern a determination to prioritise the commitments and duties towards families in the country of origin (primarily sending remittances home) over one's own rights. Besides, a negligible wage in spite of excessive working hours is considered a normal experience for many, as confirmed by a migrant child during a workshop:

*“Once I arrived in Italy I started working in a small factory. I was paid 450 Euros a month to work 12 hours a day. I was very happy. In my home country I would have worked more to earn less”.*

These critical issues put a strain to the expertise and competence of specialists in the field, and may become overwhelming for service providers that do not primarily work with victims of human trafficking. As the key beneficiaries of the present project, social workers in residential facilities or in

the foster care system are a case in point. These professionals have indeed a rather short experience in working with migrant children and are certainly not sufficiently prepared or trained to identify and assume responsibility of these situations without further assistance.

It is on these grounds that this “working tool” has been developed with the intention of supporting social service providers in the difficult task of understanding and identifying signs of children being (or having been) trafficked, or at risk of trafficking. It will also provide useful recommendations on how to ensure the best interests of children, facilitating the formal identification of their status and the activation of the protection measures available to those who are trafficked or at risk of being trafficked and exploited.

This tool was designed by drawing upon the expertise of practitioners and cultural and linguistic mediators that have been working for years on these issues. Easy to use, it offers a variety of indicators and guidelines for the identification and early referral of trafficked individuals.

This tool must be combined by practitioners with their specific competencies and skills, taking into account the “relation of trust” they build with minors hosted in the centre.

The implementation of the present tool for identification and early referral entails and promotes the integration of children's residential care centres in the local networking system of prevention of human trafficking and protection of trafficked persons. This system is based on the cooperation between public bodies, private institutions and civil society organizations. It is essential that children's residential facilities occupy an integral place within local networks; this can be obtained with the support of practitioners and mediators that

took part in the experimental implementation of this tool.

Apart from increasing the knowledge on the phenomena at stake, this tool provides social care workers with practical guidelines to respond promptly to specific signs and to facilitate the identification and early referral of child victims of trafficking and/or exploitation.

Paragraph 1 defines the key concepts used in the document. A knowledge of these terms is fundamental for practitioners to understand the problem and to appropriately address the different issues that may arise in their daily practice and in developing a relationship with child victims.

Paragraph 2 introduces a number of “indicators”, that is typical elements associated with human trafficking and exploitation that practitioners may identify in a child’s history and behaviour. Of these, some are general, some are specific to national origin and other aspects of a child’s profile (e.g. gender, type of exploitation).

Paragraph 3 contains a set of practical guidelines to facilitate the identification and early referral of child victims of trafficking, including:

- I. Information on what are – and how to find – the institutions in charge of the formal identification and referral of trafficked individuals; recommendations on the importance for children’s residential care centres to be included in existing networks/systems or to work in partnership with other local actors to promote their creation;

- II. A list of actions to be taken in the presence of child victims (or presumed victims, or at risk) of trafficking and/or exploitation;

- III. A description of what happens after a child is referred to the appropriate child welfare authorities in charge of the identification of victims of trafficking.

Finally, in the Annex, contact details of qualified institutions and organizations working in the local networking systems of the administrative regions of Marche, Abruzzo and Campania, where the present project is being pilot tested, are provided.

This project is also intended to raise awareness on the risks of trafficking and exploitation among children in residential care, and to improve their ability to perceive themselves and others as victims of crime. For this purpose, two child-friendly tools have been developed, designed by their peers using a participatory methodology.<sup>1</sup>

It is therefore important that practitioners be also acquainted with these instruments, in order to guide and support children’s self-evaluation and potential identification of themselves or others as victims of trafficking and/or exploitation.

---

#### Note

<sup>1</sup> When this document was printed, the two child-friendly tools were still being tested. Upon completion of the project, these documents will be made available online at [http://www.savethechildren.it/IT/Page/t01/view\\_html?idp=337](http://www.savethechildren.it/IT/Page/t01/view_html?idp=337).

## I. KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

The purpose of this paragraph is to establish a common vocabulary in order to create a shared understanding of the conceptual framework of this publication among practitioners implicated in the identification and referral of child victims of trafficking.

### **Exploitation**

Child exploitation refers to the use of children for someone else's advantage (including but not limited to economic profit) by means of "imposed" activities or actions, leveraging on a diminished capacity for self-determination to the detriment of their individual purpose.<sup>2</sup>

Exploitation can be more or less severe according to varying degrees of coercion: most of the exploitative situations fall on a continuum ranging from most severe, i.e. forms of slavery (when a child is powerless and completely subjugated) to least severe, i.e. consensual forms of exploitation (when victims accept to be exploited).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>3</sup> specifically recognises the right of children to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be harmful (see CRC, Art. 32, and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography)<sup>4</sup>. Child exploitation may include:<sup>5</sup>

- Sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, such as pornography and forced marriage;
- Labour exploitation or exploitation in criminal activities, including profiting from theft and other illicit activities;

- Forced labour or services, including profiting from involvement in illegal labour trade and in begging;
- Slavery or practices similar to slavery;
- Illegal adoptions;
- The removal of organs.

### **Trafficking**

Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights. The international definition of trafficking is found in international treaties such as the Palermo Protocol.<sup>6</sup> According to international law, a child victim of trafficking is any person below the age of 18 years that is recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received for the specific purpose of exploitation, whether within or outside national boundaries, even by means other than the threat or use of coercion, deception, abuse of power or other forms of abuse.<sup>7</sup>

Exploitation is the core element of the definition of trafficking, and for an individual to be considered a victim of trafficking an exploitative purpose must be present, although this may not necessarily be fulfilled.

### **The best interest of the child**

Decisions and actions undertaken for children or affecting them must follow a child-rights methodology. The best interest of the child is indeed the primary consideration in all actions concerning children.<sup>8</sup> A determination of the child's best interest must be based on the individual circumstances of each child and must consider their family situation, their mental and physical health, their particular vulnerabilities, the situation in their country of origin and the risks they are exposed to there, their protection needs,

their safety, and their level of integration in the host country.

The evaluation must consider:

- the protection measures to be adopted;
- the identification of durable solutions;
- the appointment of a suitable legal guardian and the provision of the most appropriate care arrangements, especially for the most vulnerable children (for instance, children that have been identified as victims of trafficking);
- possible separation of a child from parents, even against his or her will.

### Working definitions

<b>CHILD</b>	A person under below the legal age of majority (18 in Italy)
<b>CHILD VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION</b>	A child who has been formally assessed and identified as a victim of trafficking in accordance with art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998 (see paragraph 3).
<b>CHILD AT RISK OF TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION</b>	A child who has not been trafficked or exploited yet but, given his/her profile or the appearance of certain indicators (see paragraph 2), faces a possibility of being trafficked or exploited in the future.
<b>LOCAL REFERRAL SYSTEM</b>	A mechanism or system on a local level which is in place to identify, assist, and protect victims of trafficking and exploitation by way of cooperation between public authorities, private institutions and civil society organizations (see paragraph 3).
<b>PROFILES OF CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING</b>	Description of the characteristics of a certain group of children victims of trafficking or exploitation, including their age, gender, nationality, probability of being trafficked, purpose of exploitation, methods of recruitment and exploitation, family status and potential responsibility, and living conditions in the country of destination.
<b>INDICATORS OF CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING</b>	Elements in the history of a child, or arising from a child's condition and behaviour, that fall within one or more of the profiles of victims of trafficking and that may raise suspicion that a child is a victim or is at risk of trafficking or exploitation (see paragraph 2).

---

**Note**

<sup>2</sup> Save The Children, *Protocollo di identificazione e supporto dei minori vittime di tratta e di sfruttamento*, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> *The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (hereinafter cited as CRC), adopted on 20 November 1989 and in force since 2 September 1990.

<sup>4</sup> *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, adopted on 25 May 2000 and in force since 18 January 2002.

<sup>5</sup> For more detailed definitions of the different forms of exploitations, see the following international laws: *International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 182 – Worst Forms of Child Labours, 1999*; *ILO Convention No. 29 – Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1932*; *the Geneva Slavery Convention*, signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926 and amended by the New York Protocol of 7 December 1953. *the UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery*, adopted on 7 September 1956 and in force since 30 April 1957; European Commission of Human Rights Report, *Van Droogenbroeck case*, 9 July 1980, Series B, Vol. 44, p. 30, §§ 78-80.

<sup>6</sup> Trafficking is defined as per Article 3 of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol): a) “Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduc-

tion, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a 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. (b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used; (c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article.

<sup>7</sup> This definition of trafficking was developed by the Separated Children in Europe Programme (SCEP) network in the Position Paper on Preventing and Responding to Trafficking of Children in Europe (p. 6) and then incorporated into the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, CETS 197, which, at article 2, defines its scope to include both transnational and national (internal) trafficking.

<sup>8</sup> See the SCEP (Separated Children in Europe Programme) Statement of Good Practices (2004), the UNICEF Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking (2006) and Reference Guide on Protecting the Rights of Child Victims of Trafficking in Europe (2006), the OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking (2002), and the UNHCR Guidelines on Determining the Best Interests of the Child.

## 2. INDICATORS OF CHILD VICTIMS AND AT RISK OF TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION THAT SOCIAL WORKERS MUST IDENTIFY

Social workers in children's residential facilities may detect indicators of actual or potential trafficking or exploitative situations during regular interaction and interviews with unaccompanied children, or when examining their history and observing their behaviour. This is not the formal identification, but an early recognition of elements and information that are sufficient to raise suspicion, in the mind of those who notice them, that one (or more) of the children in their care is a victim of trafficking or exploitation.

It is not the responsibility of social workers in residential care centres to investigate the case and formally identify a child victim of trafficking; however, they should be able to recognize, gather and report to specialised services the elements and information that may indicate that a child is being, has been or is at risk of being trafficked and exploited.

General indicators of vulnerability serve the purpose of identifying unaccompanied children at risk of trafficking or exploitation.

They include:

**1. Age:** the younger the age, the more vulnerable the child is. However, unaccompanied children may be vulnerable and at risk of exploitation even if they are returning 18, especially when it is not sure that they meet the conditions of legal stay in Italy.

**2. Nationality:** Egyptian, Bangladeshi, Nigerian and other sub-Saharan African children are most likely at risk of forced labour and exploitation in illegal activities. Nigerian, Romanian and other Eastern European girls are at risk of sexual exploitation. Victims of forced begging are predominantly Romani children, who are also engaged in other forms of illegal activities and may be sexually exploited. More detailed information on the profiles of child victims and children at risk of trafficking and exploitation can be found in the tables of profiles and indicators developed for the present project.

**3. Length of stay in Italy:** the shortest a child's permanence in the country, the lesser is their ability to understand the social dynamics of the place where they live, including a knowledge of services available and the rights they are entitled to.

**4. Knowledge of Italian and level of education:** children with a low level of education and a low proficiency in the Italian language may be more easily deceived and exploited.

**5. Lack of friends; friendship with adults and/or persons with a longer presence in the country:** the lack of a network of friends, or exclusive relationships with people more senior and of questionable character, who may have been in Italy for a longer period of time and have developed suspicious associations, are considered general indicators of vulnerability.

**6. Lack of communication with the family:** difficulty in maintaining contact with families in the country of origin and to receive moral and material support, undercutting the possibility to return home, is a major factor of vulnerability.

**7. Requirement to repay debts or send money home:** children who have arrived in Italy to send remittances home and

whose families have been asked for payment towards the service provided by traffickers are at greater vulnerability.

**8. Health conditions and psychophysical well-being:** a precarious state of health hinders the achievement of personal goals and security. This indicator gains in importance in the case of children turning 18, which are at risk of living in shelters or on the streets.

**9. Earlier involvement in illegal activities:** children who have engaged in illegal activities as a survival strategy may come into contact and be exploited by criminal organizations.

Further elements may raise suspicion that a child is being exploited in illegal activities, either in the form of forced labour or sexual exploitation. They may be observed by social workers in the behaviour of children in their care, and require special attention when they appear in combination with any of the indicators of vulnerability listed above. These are:

- possession of money or material goods (e.g. clothes, mobile phones) not proportionate to the source of funding: this circumstance may indicate that the child is being paid for his/her engagement in profitable but illegal activities or for being sexually exploited.
- association with adults from outside the residential community and/or unknown to social workers, and that collect the child from the care facilities: this circumstance may be an indicator of the control exercised by an adult exploiter and is likely to anticipate the forced (or initially voluntary) removal of a child from the residential facility. It may also anticipate the enticement of a child into sexual exploitation.

It is important to note that these elements may simply reveal that a minor is working outside the community. If legally

employed, they should have no restraint in discussing their job with social workers. On the contrary, a failure or refusal to discuss their occupation may be considered a further sign of danger. In addition to these general indicators of vulnerability, a set of more specific ones are classified according to the different forms of exploitation in which unaccompanied children are involved.

### **General indicators of labour exploitation**

Social workers may suspect that a child hosted in a residential facility is a victim of labour exploitation by paying attention to specific elements. The nationality of the child is often a key indicator to consider.

Egyptian and Bangladeshi children are the most likely to become victims of labour exploitation, especially if the child (or their family) has contracted a large debt to pay for the journey to Italy.

Other useful indicators are:

#### **1. Child's behaviour and presence of unrelated adults**

- The child declares to have no job, but:
  - » leaves and returns to the residential facility at unusual times
  - » does not attend school regularly
  - » associates with adults that allegedly help, but in fact distract him/her from their individualized educational or job-placement programme

#### **2. Working conditions**

- The child declares to have a job, but:
  - » has no contract, or has not adequate employment contract

- » the job interferes with school attendance (or with other activities in the individualized educational programme)
- » the job has a negative impact on his/her health

### 3. Psychophysical condition of the child:

- » the child is suspicious of social workers: this behaviour may be connected to psychological pressure exerted by adults (such as exploitative employers or patrons)
- » appears to be increasingly anxious, but refuses to share his/her worries
- » shows signs of fatigue, which may be due to excessively long hours of work
- » shows signs of injuries, which may result from heavy or harmful work

### 4. Entry into Italy

- An examination of the child's history reveals that:
  - » he/she arrived illegally in Italy
  - » the journey was highly expensive

### **General indicators of exploitation in illegal activities and in begging**

Children exploited in criminal activities and in begging are more likely to live with their exploiter or fellow nationals, rather than in residential facilities. This is, for instance, the case of Roma children, often residing in camps or under strict control of their exploiter. Other groups of unaccompanied children, particularly those that have recently arrived in Italy, often rely on fellow nationals for primary support, such as accommodation. Under these conditions, involvement in illegal activities in exchange for support is likely to occur. Being ac-

quainted with the risk factors for child exploitation is crucial, particularly in the case of minors that are unable to find a job and have a primary need to earn money. Indicators for children involved in illegal activities and in begging relate to both the exploitative situation and the possible existence of an illegal network that manages it.

Children involved in exploitative activities are reluctant to speak up, knowing that these are illegal or that their relatives are also involved, or due to the fear of repercussions from their exploiters. Besides, children involved in begging do not always realize that they are victims of exploitation, but rather engage in it as a contribution to their family's income.

#### 1. Presence of adults

- the child receives phone calls and/or meets an adult that persuades him/her to leave the residential facility.

#### 2. Health conditions of the child

- the child shows marks on the body such as bruises, burns, scars or injuries: they may be signs of violence experienced before or during the journey as a way for the exploiter to assert and maintain control.

#### 3. Behavioural aspects

- questions asked by social workers are answered in brief, as if they were a well-rehearsed script written by the exploiter;
- habitual substance abuse, especially hard drugs: the child may be involved in drug dealing or may develop a drug addiction to endure exploitation;
- the child has a volatile behaviour, with an increasingly aggressive tendency to outdo others and impose on them. The youngest children within the residential community are scared and unwilling to bond;

- the child exhibits extreme behaviour: he/she refuses to engage in dialogue (resorting to mutism, keeping their distance, etc.) or interacts with others in a provocative/aggressive manner (defiant and hostile behaviour, both verbal and non-verbal, as seen in the world of adult crime).

### **General indicators of sexual exploitation**

In order to identify a victim of trafficking and sexual exploitation, the gender of the child is among the first indicators to be considered, together with nationality.

The majority of child victims of sexual exploitation are girls, although the phenomenon is becoming widespread among male children as well. Unaccompanied children may become victims of sexual exploitation due to their precarious situation and vulnerability, particularly if they are close to the age of majority and have limited possibility of achieving legal stay in Italy. The instances of male children trafficked to Italy for the sole purpose of sexual exploitation are relatively few.

With regard to nationality, sexual exploitation of Nigerian girls usually occurs within debt bondage, often associated with religious rituals that seal a girl's loyalty to the exploiter. Few Nigerian girls are placed within residential facilities before being identified as victims of trafficking, unless they are referred as unaccompanied minors when they reach Italy. Even in this case, they may have been sexually exploited during the journey. The sooner these girls are identified, the better they can be protected from traffickers based in Italy ready to exploit them.

Girls from Eastern Europe are recruited as sex workers in their country of origin in a variety of methods, often through the establishment of an emotional bond with the exploiter who later accompanies them

to Italy. For this reason, they usually leave residential care facilities when placed there by social services.

#### **1. Relocation to other cities**

- when trafficking involves border crossing, smuggled children are usually redirected towards northern Italy, transiting through Naples
- the major hubs for Nigerian trafficking across the southern Italian sea route are Naples and Caserta (particularly Castelvolturno), Turin and the Adriatic coast
- exploited children are regularly rotated among different cities, losing a clear sense of their geographical position

#### **2. Presence of adults**

- adults may exercise control over children through phone surveillance, loitering outside their school and place of residence, and collecting them from the residential facilities

#### **3. Psychological control**

- control may involve direct threats, emotional attachments to exploiters, or ritual oaths of loyalty

#### **4. Signs of physical violence**

- sexually transmitted diseases, or complications from illegal abortions that were performed through traditional methods or improvised techniques
- neglected health conditions due to lack of access to health services
- state of neglect and little care for personal hygiene may be indicators of heavy control, coercive forms of exploitation, or a reaction to the excessive importance placed by exploiters on body appearance

## 2. INDICATORS OF CHILD VICTIMS AND AT RISK OF TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION THAT SOCIAL WORKERS MUST IDENTIFY

- in a limited number of cases, a child may show physical signs of violence such as wounds and burns
- extremely sexualized behaviour, inappropriate for the child's age, or complete refusal of emotional interactions and sexuality as a result of trauma

### **5. Behavioural aspects**

- the child presents a different attitude according to his/her interlocutors
- unfriendly behaviour, which may appear at times presumptuous, with frequent outbursts of violence and anger, even in protected environments such as residential facilities
- tendency to impose on others, becoming occasionally aggressive
- during interviews, the child exhibits a defiant behaviour and provides short, ready-made answers

### 3. GUIDELINES TO FACILITATE THE IDENTIFICATION AND EARLY REFERRAL OF CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Social workers in children's residential facilities are required to recognize and collect preliminary elements and information that may indicate that a child is being, has been or is at risk of being trafficked or exploited, in order to refer him/her to the institutions in charge of the formal identification of victims of trafficking and exploitation. Social workers must contact these institutions as soon as indicators of trafficking and exploitation are detected. The section below identifies these specialized institutions, clarifies their role and explains the process that ensues from the referral of a case by a social worker.

#### ***1. Institutions in charge of the formal identification and referral of victims of trafficking***

Projects for the identification and assistance of victims of trafficking are managed by Civil Society Organizations (Associations, Social Cooperatives, Foundations), with or without the collaboration of Local Authorities.

In Italy, a number of ongoing projects are engaged in the creation and development of a local networking system for the identification and referral of trafficked persons, which may involve Local Authorities, Law Enforcement Agencies, Judicial Authorities, Regional Authorities and other projects under art. 13 of Law 228/2003 (Measures against trafficking in persons) and art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998 (Social protection programmes for victims of trafficking and exploitation). These

projects, selected by tender, are also funded under art. 13 of Law 228/2003 and art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998, and co-funded by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic. Protocols or Memoranda of Understanding are often signed between the lead agency of a project and members of the network to agree on roles and functions of each institution, common operational guidelines and cooperation procedures (e.g. Teramo Protocol).

Projects under art. 13 of Law 228/2003 develop services for the detection and identification of victims, such as outreach activities and low-threshold services (street units and drop-in centres), whereas interventions funded under art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998 focus on the provision of meals, accommodation, health assistance, legal aid (including assistance in trials), psychological support, personal development opportunities (Italian language courses, training courses, workshops, cultural activities), social inclusion and professional support (vocational training, job placement). Both types of projects provide socio-legal support for the formal identification of trafficked individuals, which is an essential precondition for access. The identification procedure is described below.

A National Anti-Trafficking Toll-Free Number (800.290.290) provides information on current projects, contact details of the organizations involved in the identification and referral of victims of trafficking, and a means to create networking opportunities, develop common intervention procedures and report alleged cases of trafficking and exploitation.

The Marche, Abruzzo and Campania regions are pilot testing the present tool in the framework of the European project "Protection First". Contact details are

annexed of the local organizations that manage projects under art. 13 of Law 228/2003 and/or art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998 and carry out identification and social protection of victims of trafficking.

Residential facilities for children are recommended to locate and collaborate with these institutions even before, and independent of, the informal identification of potential victims of trafficking.

**GOOD PRACTICE: INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES IN LOCAL MULTIAGENCY NETWORKS**

Children's residential facilities (or the services in charge of unaccompanied foreign minors) should get in contact with the institutions that manage projects under art. 13 of Law 228/2003 and art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998 in the same geographical area for the purpose of establishing collaborative operating procedures to facilitate the identification process of child victims of trafficking and expedite the provision of social, psychological and legal assistance.

These procedures include: common standard policies for case management; participation of representatives of children's care centres to meetings and training events organized within the local multiagency network; signing of local collaboration agreements.

**2. Steps to support the identification of victims of trafficking and exploitation**

The definitions, indicators and guidelines provided by the present document, in addition to the experience and knowledge of the social worker and coupled with the information gathered on a child's personal history, should lead to the preliminary identification of cases of trafficking and exploitation concerning children in residential care. In the event of a suspected case of trafficking or exploitation, social workers in children's residential facilities (or any other professional responsible for unaccompanied minors within local institutions and/or child welfare services) should follow the steps below:

- Contact the local institution that manages projects under art. 13 of Law 228/2003 and/or art. 18 of Legislative Decree 268/1998 (and that has an established collaboration with the residential facility).
- Ensure sharing of the information and data gathered on the case of children victim or at risk of trafficking, to the social and legal workers of the institution.
- Consider the conditions and procedures for an initial interview that will allow professionals from the institution to gather additional information on the child's experience of trafficking and exploitation. In order to minimise further trauma and prevent re-victimization, the number of interviews should be limited.

**3. After-effects of the formal identification of trafficked child victims**

The after-effects of the formal identification of child victims of trafficking and exploitation by relevant qualified institutions vary according to the premises where the child will be accommodated and the provisions concerning residence documents

- The social care worker, assisted by the child's legal guardian and practitioners from the relevant qualified institution, examines the most suitable actions to undertake in the best interest of the child.
- The child may be enrolled in a social protection programme (as per projects under art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998), undergo a rehabilitation process (inclusive of specialized psychological support for victims of violence) and access social inclusion and job placement schemes. Social protection programmes may be carried out in the premises where the child is being accommodated, or elsewhere should there be location concerns.

- The enrolment of a child within a project funded under art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998 is communicated to the Department for Equal Opportunities by the appointed specialized institution through an online system (SIRIT). As a result of enrolment, the child will receive safe accommodation, meals, health assistance, legal aid (including assistance in trials), psychological support, personal development opportunities (Italian language courses, training courses, workshops, cultural activities), social inclusion and professional support (vocational training, job placement).
- Whether a child remains in the original residential facility or is enrolled in an alternative protection programme, it is important to decide on the most appropriate type of residence permit to apply for on his/her behalf. In accordance with art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998, any victim of trafficking is entitled to a special residence permit, be they involved in a legal procedure against their exploiter or simply enrolled in a programme of social integration (in fact, a permit is issued even in cases where victims are not willing to bring charges against their exploiter for any reason, such as fear of retaliation towards them or their family). The special residency permit for trafficked individuals (with no age limits) may become instrumental to ensure continued protection and assistance to a child on a minor age permit who is reaching the age of majority.
- The decision to press charges against exploiters must be carefully considered on a case-by-case approach, and the child's opinion must be heard and taken into consideration. In the impossibility of reaching a shared decision, the district/ordinary prosecutor will be called upon.
- On the basis of recent regulatory developments (Directive 36/11/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and Legislative Decree 24/14), children identified as victims of trafficking and exploitation could alternatively apply for international protection.

## KEY CONTACTS IN THE MARCHE AND ABRUZZO REGIONS

The names and contact information of the organizations that manage projects under art. 13 of Law 228/2003 and art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998 and are involved in the identification and inclusion of child victims of trafficking in social protection services in the regions of Marche and Abruzzo are listed below.

### **Associazione On the Road Onlus**

Via delle Lancette, 27 /A  
**64014 Martinsicuro – TE**  
Website: [www.ontheroadonlus.it](http://www.ontheroadonlus.it)

#### Head Office in Martinsicuro

- Tel: 0861.796666 / 762327
- Fax: 0861.765112
- Email [info@ontheroadonlus.it](mailto:info@ontheroadonlus.it)

#### Marche-Abruzzo Mobile Unit

- Tel: 348.8215150
- Email [uds@ontheroadonlus.it](mailto:uds@ontheroadonlus.it)

#### Pescara Mobile Unit

- Mobile: 347.1525400

#### Drop-in Centre in Porto Sant'Elpidio

- Tel: 0861.796666 / 762327
- Mobile: 348.8516943
- Email [dropin@ontheroadonlus.it](mailto:dropin@ontheroadonlus.it)

#### Drop-in Centre in Martinsicuro

- Tel: 0861.796666 / 762327
- Mobile: 348.8516943
- Email [dropin@ontheroadonlus.it](mailto:dropin@ontheroadonlus.it)

#### Drop-in Centre in Pescara

- Tel: 085.4429908
- Mobile: 348.8516947
- Email: [dropinpescara@ontheroadonlus.it](mailto:dropinpescara@ontheroadonlus.it)

## KEY CONTACTS IN THE CAMPANIA REGION

The names and contact information of the organizations that manage projects under art. 13 of Law 228/2003 and art. 18 of Legislative Decree 286/1998 and are involved in the identification and inclusion of child victims of trafficking in social protection services in the Campania region are listed below.

### **Cooperativa Sociale Dedalus**

Via Vicinale S. Maria del Pianto  
Centro Polifunzionale INAIL Torre 1  
**80143 Napoli**  
Website: [www.coopdedalus.it](http://www.coopdedalus.it)

#### Head Office

- Tel: 081 7877333
- Fax: 081 19569518
- Email: [tratta@coopdedalus.it](mailto:tratta@coopdedalus.it)

#### Mobile Unit for Naples and its province

- Tel: 333 38 32 969
- Email: [tratta@coopdedalus.it](mailto:tratta@coopdedalus.it)

### **ARCI Associazione di promozione sociale**

Via Porta Catena, 62  
84121 **Salerno**  
Website: [www.arci.it](http://www.arci.it)

#### Head Office

- Tel: 089 254790
- Fax: 089 254790
- Email: [cavaliere.arci@katamail.com](mailto:cavaliere.arci@katamail.com)

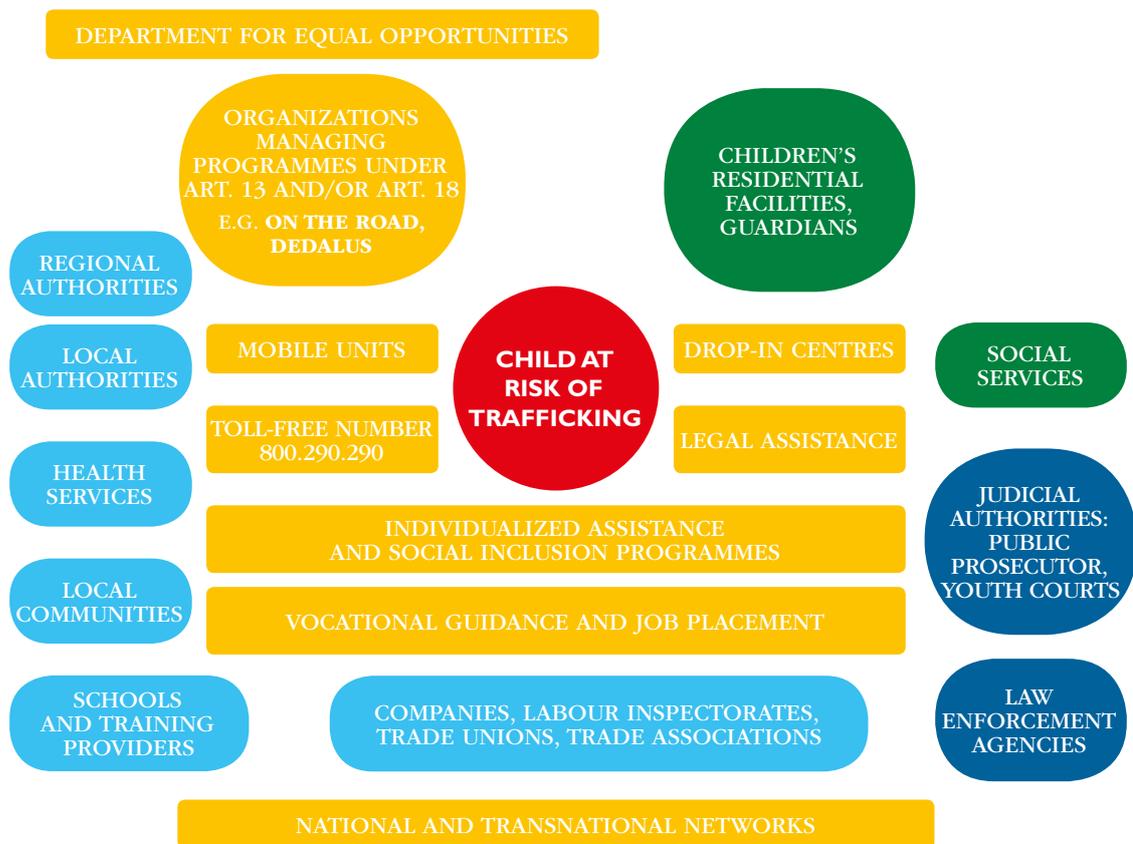
#### Mobile Unit for Salerno and its province

- Tel: 351 06 51 627
- Email: [cavaliere.arci@katamail.com](mailto:cavaliere.arci@katamail.com)

### **Comunità Rut Congregazione Suore Orsoline SCM**

Corso Trieste, 192  
81100 **Caserta**  
• Tel: 0823 278078  
• Fax: 0823 278078  
• Email: [rut@orsolinescm.it](mailto:rut@orsolinescm.it)

# LOCAL MULTI-AGENCY SYSTEM FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING



**Yellow box:** Institutions, organizations and services within the anti-trafficking system based on projects under art. 13 and/or art. 18

**Green circle:** Institutions, organizations and services in charge of unaccompanied foreign minors

**Light blue circle:** Institutions, organizations and services within the Local Multi-Agency network

**Dark blue circle:** Institutions within the network involved in the identification of child victims of trafficking and in the ensuing actions (accusations and prosecutions of exploiters, inclusion of children who have reached adult age into protection programmes, etc.)



Save the Children is an international NGO and the world's leading independent charity for children in need. Since 1919 it has been fighting for children's rights, with courage, passion and professionalism, saving their lives and providing hope for brighter futures worldwide. It works in 119 countries to ensure that every child has access to health services, protection, education, livelihood development, food security and attains the right to participation. It also responds to emergencies caused by manmade crisis or natural disasters.

Save the Children Italia Onlus was founded in 1998 and started its activity in 1999. It is now an NGO recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Apart from its commitment to protecting children worldwide, Save the Children Italia has been implementing programs benefiting children in Italy for over 10 years, with a specific focus on child poverty, protection of children at risk of exploitation (e.g. unaccompanied foreign minors), education, new media and child protection in emergencies.



Dedalus has been active since 1981 to protect and defend the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups, with a specific focus on migrants living and working in Italy.

Since its transformation into a social cooperative in 1999, Dedalus has been promoting and supporting individual paths to citizenship, acceptance and career guidance through the provision of a wide range of social services: day care and residential centres; legal assistance and protection of victims of trafficking, abuse and violence; health information and prevention, with a strong focus on harm reduction services; job counselling and placement; support to integration processes and multicultural dialogue. The main beneficiaries of its interventions are: victims of trafficking and exploitation; unaccompanied minors; unemployed adolescents and young migrants; marginalized and vulnerable groups; victims of gender violence. Dedalus also carries out an intensive research activity on social issues and is an accredited training provider of the Campania region, offering training opportunities to students, professionals, executives and practitioners in the social and health care services.



Associazione On the Road ONLUS has been operating since 1990 with interventions against trafficking of human beings and sexual and labour exploitation. The Association was established in 1994 as a Voluntary Organisation and was registered as ONLUS in 2010. On the Road has a long experience in support of the most vulnerable and socially marginalized, especially migrants, but has also widened its fields of action to other and more recent issues: refugees and asylum seekers, homeless individuals, people affected by extreme poverty, substance and alcohol abuse, mental disorders, gender violence. The services offered in the Marche, Abruzzo and Molise regions are: outreach work and harm reduction, social and psychological counselling, legal assistance and support, sheltering, social protection and job placement. On the Road was accredited by the Marche Region for the provision of job-related services and training activities. In a local, national and transnational perspective, On the Road ONLUS has significantly contributed to the promotion of policies in the field and to the elaboration of models of intervention, implementing social projects, research and training opportunities, social communication and awareness-raising activities.



Save the Children Italia Onlus  
Via Volturmo 58 - 00185 Roma  
tel. +39 06 4807001  
fax +39 06 48070039  
info@savethechildren.org  
www.savethechildren.it