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STOPdem
Frauenhandel
ökumenische gGmbH

Individual Risks and Needs Assessment



TIATAS

Transnational Initiative Against
Trafficking in the Context of
European Asylum Systems

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Recommendations on using this tool

The *Risks & Needs Assessment Tool* has been developed to support the design of specifically tailored and victim centred support services dedicated to victims of human trafficking, as defined within Art.2 of the European Directive¹.

It has been developed as a response to the identified needs, by specialised service providers, of ensuring safe, dignifying and trauma informed transnational referrals. Also, it addresses one of the highlighted gaps

by the European Commission, within the European Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021- 2025², regarding the need of developing a European transnational referral mechanism, given the cross-border characteristic of human trafficking.

The tool provides a backbone for the counselling sessions conducted by professionals and specialised counsellors in assisting victims of human trafficking. It has been developed based on extensive grass root level expertise and it has been tested and adapted to the feedbacks offered both by victims of human trafficking and experts working in victim support and law enforcement.

The themes approached within the tool have been designed in such a way that they can be applied in cases of various forms of exploitation (sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, forced begging, forced criminal activities, forced marriage) but represent a minimum standard.

Art.2. Offences concerning trafficking in human beings

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those 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 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.

¹ Directive 2011/36 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA,

<https://eurlex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0036&from=EN>

² EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021- 2025,

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0171>

Within the TIATAS Project, more than 200 persons have received support and referral. The listed risks, needs and possible mitigation measures have been identified to be the most common, from a sampled group of 72 victims of human trafficking. The risks, needs, measures implemented, evaluations and lessons learned are the result of an in depth analysis, followed by a testing phase conducted during September 2022 – February 2024.

However, given the complexity of each human trafficking case and the individuality of each human being, it is strongly recommended to avoid using the tool as an exhaustive checkbox.

Furthermore, the tool should be used to assess the risks and needs for adult victims of human trafficking and is not aimed to be applied in cases of child exploitation. When children are indirect victims, further evaluation is needed to ensure the best interest of the child.

While the main direct beneficiaries of the TIATAS project were, on one hand specialists working with victims and, on the other hand, victims of human trafficking seeking protection on the territory of the European Union, the tools can be easily adapted to the transnational repatriations of EU citizens willing to return to their home countries.

The *Risks & Needs Assessment Tool* has been made up on seven essential and interconnected pillars as seen in the figure below.



To decrease the risk of secondary victimisation and facilitate the development of the specialised services provided, evaluations must be implemented at least at short, and mid-term and lessons learned have to be monitored, adapted and transposed into the current practices of the service providers.

The tool is complemented by Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) and a Guideline to safe referrals of human trafficking victims. Therefore, the Risks and Needs Assessment is aimed to be corroborated with the above-mentioned tools when being used. To facilitate the cooperation in transnational repatriations, the TIATAS partnership has also implemented an extensive mapping of specialised service providers to victims of human trafficking based both in EU and third countries. When conducting transnational repatriations, in order to ensure common policies on victim support and data protection, referring and receiving service providers are encouraged to sign a memorandum of understanding. All these documents are freely accessible and ready to be downloaded from the website of the project.³

³ Transnational Initiative Against Trafficking in the Context of European Asylum System, <https://tiatas.net/resources/>

1. Individual push and pull factors which facilitated entry into trafficking

As emerged from the assessment of cases identified within the TIATAS project, the factors that determine or facilitate the entry of vulnerable persons in the chain of human trafficking tend to differ based on the form of exploitation and the method of recruitment.

In general, the main "push and pull" factors identified within the TIATAS project have been: very limited financial possibilities, low level of employability, high level of corruption in the source country, unequal opportunities between women and men, marginal social status, social exclusion based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion VS. the prospect of a new beginning in an economically developed country, with a low level of corruption, where human rights are respected, women have equal opportunities and rights with men, where there is a tolerant and inclusive civil society.

These identified factors can be corroborated with those highlighted by Europol⁴, including: "family problems, reduced opportunities or lack of education; violent and abusive situation, systematic violations of human rights, armed conflicts or war⁵ vs. High living standards, good quality of life, employment opportunities, high salaries, good working conditions, large diaspora." Further on UNODC⁶ also draws attention of environmental disaster as being possible push factors, where else the prospect of family reunifications can constitute very strong pull factors, especially for potential victims and victims coming from non-EU countries.

Per a contrario, in the cases where victims have been recruited through the "lover boy method", the reasons for leaving the source country are essentially different. They tend to leave the source country mainly to be with their loved ones and the prospect of living in a country that seems to offer a better future only strengthens the resolution to leave the family and the country of origin.

⁴ Europol (2016), Report on human trafficking in the European Union https://ec.europa.eu/antitrafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/situational_report_trafficking_in_human_beings_europol.pdf, Accessed 02.2023

⁵ ODIHR survey on the safety and security of women refugees from Ukraine, 2023, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/b/a/535383.pdf>, Accessed 02.2023

⁶ UNODC, Migration and migrant smuggling, <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/zh/tip-and-som/module-5/key-issues/Migration-and-migrant-smuggling.html>, Accessed 02.2023

Based on these considerations, financial or social reasons can influence the decision-making process but are only on a secondary level.

The identification of the individual push and pull factors which determined or facilitated the entry into exploitation constitutes the fundamental part in individual needs and risk assessment. This outcome of this assessment will not only influence the impact of any rehabilitation and psychosocial stabilisation, but it will also fundamentally determine whether a safe, victim centred and trauma informed repatriation is organisable, possible and realistic to be implemented.

Also, it will influence the development of a possible multidisciplinary approach in assisting the victim in the country of exploitation or identification and, even more so, if the victim wishes to return to the source country, in assisting and protecting the victim after the repatriation to the source country. Not only will the latter contribute to lowering the risk of secondary victimisation, but it also has the potential to steer the process of (re)integration, particularly because often a lack of effective integration lead to the pathway of exploitation.

For conducting the risks and needs assessment it is highly recommended that the specialist analyses, prior to the assessment conducted with the victim of human trafficking, the living and existential conditions in the source country⁷, alongside of the situation of trafficking⁸.

This will facilitate the understanding of critical aspects to which the victim is referring and will ensure that appropriate preparation measures have been taken when organising and conducting the assessment and the repatriation (if that is a final decision taken by the victim).

For conducting the assessment, the table below can be used, as a minimum standard, which then needs to be adapted to the individual context of each victim identified and supplemented with specifically tailored mitigation measures.

⁷ Country information, <https://www.returningfromgermany.de/en/countries>, Accessed 02.2023

⁸ Trafficking in Persons Report (2022) <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-trafficking-in-persons-report/>, Accessed 02.2023

GRETA, Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/country-monitoring-work>, Accessed 02.2023

Risks ⁹	Needs	Measures implemented
Unemployment	appropriate employment which ensures financial independence	Cooperation with employment agency, support in creating a CV and applying for jobs, preparation interview.
Lack of access to education	support in entering formal education, recognition of certificates, adult education pathways.	Support in applying to social benefits and study grants. Support in accessing appropriate accommodation during study phase. Financial support for the acquiring the first learning materials needed.
Health problems	support in entering a legal or private health insurance scheme, support in accessing to medical care.	Assessment for accessing EU Health Insurance Card. Until entry into health insurance scheme, accessing health care programs for persons who do not have a health insurance.
Family problems	support in family (re)integration, support in mediation with family members	Family conferencing before repatriation. Online counselling sessions for family members and common online counselling sessions for victim and family members.
Social marginalisation	support in repatriation to another town where segregation is less likely to occur.	Repatriation to the capital city, based on the wish of the client, organise safe accommodation in protected shelter and psycho-social support.
Discrimination based on gender, sexual identity, or sexual orientation	support in accessing empowerment courses, support in accessing specialised service providers and specifically tailored programs for LGBTQ+	Develop a multidisciplinary approach alongside of other counselling centres and ensure common validation and mutual reinforcement of the services provided.
Discrimination based on race or ethnicity	support in accessing integration courses, support in accessing specialised service providers for victims of racism and xenophobia.	Develop a multidisciplinary approach alongside of other counselling centres and ensure common validation and mutual reinforcement of the services provided.
War	Psychological support Integration course	Long term psychotherapy, facilitate access to part time integration courses in order to avoid overlaps with counselling.
Armed conflict	Psychological support Integration course Development of parenting skills	Facilitate access to psychotherapy, facilitate access to specialised counselling sessions and courses in order to avoid forced marriage and FGM practices carried out on daughter.

⁹ The examples listed in the table are the results of the testing phase carried out within the TIATAS project. During this phase the tool developed has been tested, updated, and adapted based on the needs identified and the feedbacks offered by the victims. Please consider the information listed just as examples and always proceed to an individual assessment of each case.

1.1. Measures to be taken, evaluation, lessons learned

Given the complexity of each human trafficking case, it is strongly recommended to ensure the development of a multidisciplinary approach and assess, from a holistic perspective, the risks and needs identifiable, which can be associate to the individual push and pull factors. This way, the synergies created can complement each other and reinforce each other, rather than act one against another (please see case 1). After having conducted the needs and risk assessment, it is advisable to conduct an evaluation session, where the measures developed and implemented can be assessed. Based on the results of the tests conducted with the present tool, at least 2 evaluation sessions are needed. It has proved to be efficient for the first evaluation session to be organised by the end of the first month of intervention. This way, measures which do not prove to be effective, appropriate or are not desired anymore by the victim can receive a timely adjustment. The second evaluation should take place by the end of the reflection period¹⁰ or no later than 6 months after identification, if the victim is not benefitting of the reflection period. In case the victim wishes to return to her home country sooner than in 6 months period, the evaluation needs to be conducted prior to leaving the country and after leaving the country (for further information please see chapter 7). During this time span, the victim has time to get adjusted to the new daily routine, the new environment, to the new social workers and their responsibilities and is reflecting, both in the counselling sessions and in the therapy sessions upon the existing situation prior to entering exploitation. In order to ensure that the internal practices of the service providers are continuously updated and adapted to current tendencies, it is strongly recommended to develop a “lessons learned” tool to be used only internally by the specialists of the service provider, which is constantly updated with the main lessons learned, as resulted through the evaluation sessions.

Case 1

Precious has been identified as a victim of human trafficking on the territory of Uganda. She has been jailed and tortured in Uganda because of her sexual orientation. A friend offered help to come to Europe and continue a safe and dignified life here. The friend organised her passport and her transportation to Italy. However, after she arrived in Italy, Precious was forced to prostitution. A few months later, Precious managed to escape and went to Germany where she has asked for asylum. Throughout the TIATAS outreach activities, Precious was identified within a camp. She has been referred to specialised service providers for victims of trafficking, specialised service providers for LGBTQ and is regularly attending psychotherapy to overcome the challenges faced during the past years. With the consent of precious, the social workers alongside of the psychotherapist meet regularly to adapt the intervention plan, to assess the progress made and take common decisions regarding further steps.*

¹⁰ Reflection and recovery period pursuant to Directive 2004/81/EC, and information on the possibility of granting international protection

2. Risks and needs associated with recruitment

As highlighted within the recent Europol report on human trafficking¹¹, “the THB process has largely moved online, with recruitment, contacts, the advertising of services, and much more taking place in the online realm. Nowadays most victims are identified and recruited via the internet, particularly on social media platforms. The digitalisation of the crime area has also driven an increased flexibility in rotating the victims from one location to another and has allowed the leadership of the criminal networks to coordinate their operations remotely, thus reducing risks while maintaining profits.”

The newly identified tendencies have also been confirmed through the TIATAS Project, particularly in the cases of victims recruited in Vietnam and China for the purpose of labour exploitation and in East European countries (please see Case 6) for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Nevertheless, recruitment is still extensively taking care in person. This is the situation in most of the cases where women are recruited in African countries with promises of a better life in Europe. The recruiters know the families of the victims. In many cases they have been friends for quite some time prior to the recruitment. Also, traffickers recruiting women, particularly from Nigeria “use the native justice system which relies on oaths and lucky charms/fetishes (juju) to seal the debt agreement with trafficking victims before departure.”¹²

These all enable traffickers to exercise control over the victims as they want to protect their families and they are afraid of the rituals made prior to leaving the source country. Furthermore, the recruitment often takes place through family members. This can be often identified also in clan structures¹³. The victims share the same ethnicity, often they come from the same villages or the same families. They tend to be mainly recruited for exploitation through bagging, forced

¹¹ Europol (2022), European Migrant Smuggling Centre - 6th Annual Report, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

¹² EASO (2021), Nigeria Trafficking in Human Beings, https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/publications/2021_04_EASO_Nigeria_Trafficking_in_Human_Beings.pdf, Accessed 02.2023

¹³ Clan criminality (2022), <https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/germany-crime-ocindex/>, Accessed 02.2023

criminal activities, forced marriage but also cases of sexual exploitation. In such situations it is particularly difficult for victims to exist exploitations due to the strong ties.

Risks ¹⁴	Needs	Measures implemented
Tracking through digital devices	Safe location, safe and secure conversations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change phone number and inform only few trusted persons. - Until smartphone is reset to factory settings and is checked for possible mal/spyware, use mobile/cell phone. - Access the internet from public libraries or other public places without leaving personal digital traits (e.g. saved passwords, log in details etc.) - Not post anything on social media as small clues can be corroborated and location traced - Change passwords for social media accounts, apps, email accounts, online banking accounts. - Avoid paying with credit cards until situation stabilises - Block suspicious calls, avoid accessing suspicious messages
Threats against victim	Safe accommodation and support service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organise accommodation in a safe house located in another city - request data lock at the local authorities, including health insurance company - correspondence received in a post-box, not at shelter - consider self-defence course for protection and empowerment - avoid certain streets, areas, locations (e.g. train station are, streets with clubs and terraces) - ensure intervention/rescue plan measures
Realistic threats against family members	Safety measures for family in home country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - family conferencing together with the victim and the family members in a digital format - information and counselling session for family members on human trafficking, sexual exploitation, delimitations to prostitution - safety tips and safe behaviour - referral to specialised service providers in home country, support for indirect victims - develop and intervention plan in case of an emergency

¹⁴ The examples listed in the table are the results of the testing phase carried out within the TIATAS project. During this phase the tool developed has been tested, updated, and adapted based on the needs identified and the feedbacks offered by the victims. Please consider the information listed just as examples and always proceed to an individual assessment of each case.

2.1. Measures to be taken, evaluation, lessons learned

Trafficking in human beings has proven to be one of, if not the, most prolific form of organised crime. “The effects of globalisation in society and business have facilitated the emergence of significant new variations in criminal activity”¹⁵, and have given endless possibilities to recruiters, transporters, and exploiters to perfect the 21st century organised crime. To abuse the position of vulnerability. To benefit of distress. To turn exiting paths from violence, poverty, gender discrimination, neglect of human rights or war into entering paths towards exploitation.

Given the unprecedented nature of criminal networking and of the increased frequency of hybrid criminality, the services provided to victims can only be efficient if developed proportionately to the identifiable threats. This implies the necessity of transnational services and support measures (see Case 2), alongside of transnational standard operation procedures (see SOPs TIATAS) and standardised services throughout the European Union for victims of crime¹⁶.

Evaluation should be put in place involving not only the service providers in the country of identification but also in the country of recruitment if risks and needs have been collaboratively addressed. Furthermore, both the evaluation and the lessons learned should involve not only the direct victims but also the indirect victims affected by the crime.

Case 2

Maria was 19 years old when she was recruited. She was living in a Romanian village at her parents. During her youth she suffered a series of abuses from her father. Through social media she fell in love with Marcel. He was a very handsome man, who promised Maria a better life in Germany. This was for Maria the perfect exit from her very difficult situation. Marcel came to Romania, spoke with her parents and picked her up from home to bring her to Germany. After having arrived in Germany, Maria was forced into prostitution. She was afraid to ask for help because Marcel was threatening her with her family. He knew her parents and he knew where they were living. With the help of service providers from Romania and the local law enforcement, the parents received protection and support. Then Maria has taken the next step and cooperated with the law enforcement to stop Marcel from exploiting other girls.

¹⁵ Europol (2022), EU SOCTA, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publication-events/main-reports/european-union-serious-and-organised-crime-threat-assessment-socta-2021>, Accessed 02.2023

¹⁶ Protecting Victims’ Rights (2022), <https://www.protectingvictimsrights.eu/downloads/>, Accessed 02.2023

3. Risks and needs associated with transportation and transfer

Victims arriving from third countries into the European Union are transported, based on the information provided by Frontex¹⁷ and confirmed by the interviews carried out within the TIATAS Project, through seven essential routes: Western African Route, Western Mediterranean Route, Central Mediterranean Route, Eastern Mediterranean Route, Western Balkan Route, Eastern Borders Route and the Channel Route. While the since 2014¹⁸ the Mediterranean Route proved to be the one with the highest rate of deadly accidents¹⁹, particularly since the Corona Pandemic the so-called Balkan Route has flourished with persons being smuggled through Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Hungary towards West European Countries. Furthermore, the migratory route from the European Continent to the United Kingdom has exponentially increased after the withdrawal of UK from the European Union. Finally, since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine during 2022, the Eastern Borders Route, used previously by smugglers has been then used by mainly women and children fleeing from war, leaving them particularly vulnerable to recruitment and exploitation.²⁰

Generally, during the recruitment phase, the victims are promised to have the transportation organised from their home country to the destination country. The costs tend to be covered, at least partially by the recruiters. After having arrived in the destination country, the victim needs to pay off her debts. This is the moment the exploitation phase starts. However, the longer the route from the source to the destination country, the higher the likelihood of exploitation in one or more transit countries. Also, the transportation phase paves often the way to committing a series of other crimes against the persons recruited (eg. rape, battering, thefts etc.) leading to severe traumatising even before the exploitation phase starts.

¹⁷ Frontex (2023), Migratory Routes, <https://frontex.europa.eu/we-know/migratory-routes/western-african-route/>, Accessed 02.2023

¹⁸ Statista (2023), <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1082077/deaths-of-migrants-in-the-mediterranean-sea/>, Accessed 02.2023

¹⁹ BBC (2023), Italy migrant boat shipwreck: Nearly 60 killed off Calabria coast, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64776621>, Accessed 02.2023

²⁰ European Commission (2022), A Common Anti-Trafficking Plan to address the risks of trafficking in human beings and support potential victims among those fleeing the war in Ukraine, https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-05/Anti-Trafficking%20Plan_en.pdf, Accessed 02.2023

Risks ²¹	Needs	Measures implemented
Paying back debts occurred through transportation	Safety and fair working conditions for developing an independent life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - file criminal complaint against recruiter, transporters, exploiters in more European countries - support in integration on the labour market - support in having diplomas / certificates recognised on the territory of Europe
Searched for by persons organising transportations and smugglings	Safe accommodation and support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - request transfer to another asylum camp; avoid camps with a great number of nationals coming from the same source country as the victim to lower the likelihood of identification - avoid going to certain churches and attend certain religious gatherings - avoid shopping in shops selling traditional food from home country
Physical health problems	Medical intervention and long-term treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organise appointment at female medical doctor for a general check-up; accompany to appointment - organise appointment to a gynaecologist and test for sexually transmissible diseases - organise support services from a specialised counselling centre for HIV infected persons and develop a common cooperation and intervention plan
Psychological health problems, including suicidal thoughts	Psycho-social support and psychiatric intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organise first evaluation and medical intervention - organise stationary psychiatric intervention to reduce the risk of self-harm -organise psychotherapy in <u>mother tongue</u>
Theft of documents and identity	Identity clearing and obtaining identification documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organise and accompany to appointment at the diplomatic mission of the source country to obtain identity document - report misuse of identity document and various contracts signed with false identity

²¹ The examples listed in the table are the results of the testing phase carried out within the TIATAS project. During this phase the tool developed has been tested, updated, and adapted based on the needs identified and the feedbacks offered by the victims. Please consider the information listed just as examples and always proceed to an individual assessment of each case.

3.1. Measures to be taken, evaluation, lessons learned

“Migrant smuggling and human trafficking networks are highly dynamic and use any crisis as an opportunity to increase their illegal profits. More digitalised than ever, they abuse social media platforms, mobile applications, and encrypted communication tools to offer their illegal services, organise their logistics and secure their profits.”²²

Victims of human trafficking recruited in third countries face a long path of violent and often inhuman behaviour caused by smugglers prior to even entering exploitation. The fear they feel towards these perpetrators are at least comparable to what they feel towards the traffickers. It is the legislative and procedural gaps of Member States which allow the development of migrant smuggling. Nevertheless, Member States do not take sufficient measures to compensate the victims for the crimes suffered. Moreover, Member States parties do not facilitate the entry of smuggled migrants into “witness protection programmes, in order to encourage their cooperation and testimony and to facilitate investigations, prosecutions and convictions of criminals.”²³ This way, victims smuggled into Europe and trafficked on the territory

Case 3

Xuan is from Vietnam. Her parents were very sick and struggle with financial difficulties. Xuan was offered the great opportunity to work and earn a fair amount of money in Europe. With this, Xuan could help her family. Her Visa, transportation, and transfer, from one country to another was all taken care of for Xuan by the transporters. Once arrived in Europe, Xuan needed to work long hours without receiving payment for more than two years in order to pay back her continuously increasing debts. Eventually she was also subjected to forced marriage on the territory of Europe. It was only when Xuan got to the hospital that her situation has been identified as a possible case of human trafficking. Xuan’s dream is to return to her home country to see her parents once again. Through a transnational cooperation, a safe and trauma informed referral is being organized for Xuan, alongside of a financial support in the form of a start-up, which is intended to facilitate her reintegration in the home country.

of the European Union (see Case 3) leave the continent without having been given any reparation or remedies and without leaving any traces to facilitate the identification of criminal networks.

²² Europol (2022), <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/migrant-smugglers-and-human-traffickers-more-digital-and-highly-adaptable>, Accessed 02.2023

²³ UNODC (2021), Smuggling of Migrants: Compendium and Thematic Index of Recommendations, Resolutions and Decisions, https://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/CompendiumCop/English_Smuggling.pdf, Accessed 02.2023

4. Risks and needs associated with receipt and harbouring

“Harbouring may be understood differently in different jurisdictions and may refer, for instance, to accommodating a person at the point of departure, transit, or destination, before or at the place of exploitation, or it may refer to steps take to conceal a person’s whereabouts. Harbouring can also be understood to mean holding a person,”²⁴ although, “the act of ‘harbouring’ does not necessarily require the physical presence of the harbourer. It is sufficient that the trafficker exerts control over the place of harbouring, such as where a trafficker owns, but is not on, a fishing vessel where exploitation takes places (and knows this). It should be noted that, in contrast, the question of control over the victim at the place of harbouring, whether or not the trafficker is physically present, is referable to the means element.”²⁵

During the harbouring phase, taking place within transit countries, victims generally face exploitation and other forms of violent crimes, including sexual violence (eg. Nigerian women harboured in Libya before being trafficked into Europe²⁶). Generally, this is the phase in which victims realise, if having been recruited through falls promises, that the expectations set back home do not coincide with the reality and that they have been trapped. Depending on the physical and psychological state in which the victims are (they might have been injured during transportation or while being harboured) and depending on the means of coercion used (rituals made before leaving, threats against family members, threats against other victims living in the same place, threats against self) the victims might organise now the first attempt to escape the situation in which they find themselves to be. However, the attempt to break the chain of trafficking was not rarely identified as being the first step into another form of exploitation as persons offering help (e.g. clients of sexually exploited victims) might turn into exploiters (e.g. sexual exploitation, drug trafficking, domestic exploitation, forced marriage, child trafficking).

²⁴ UNDOC (2020), Legislative Guide for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/legislative-guide.html>, Accessed 02.2023

²⁵ UNDOC (2021), The Concept of ‘Harbouring’ in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/The_Concept_of_Harbouring_Issue_Paper.pdf, Accessed 02.2023

²⁶ U.S. Department of State (2022), Trafficking in Persons Report: Libya, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-trafficking-in-persons-report/libya/>, Accessed 02.2023

Risks ²⁷	Needs	Measures implemented
Attempt of child trafficking	Protection of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - file a criminal complaint against perpetrator - psychosocial support and intervention - specialised intervention of child protection services - inform school and kindergarten regarding the persons allowed to pick up the children - avoid letting the children alone in the courtyard of the refugee camp and on the streets until situation is cleared - avoid using social media or making any kind of post through communication apps with pictures of the children
Child abuse	Specialised intervention for sexual abuse on children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - involve specialised service providers for children who have suffered sexual abuse - develop common intervention plan and multidisciplinary approach - involve child protection services and school social worker to monitor the integration of the child and individual needs - organise psychotherapy for mother and child - organise and facilitate the access to leisure and free time activities as an intervention method
Forced marriage	Separation from perpetrator and safe accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal advice and representation for cross border divorce - Specialized counselling for victims of forced marriage - Accommodation is a safe house, temporarily
Threats regarding the victims left behind in the harbouring place	Protection for the victims left behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Criminal complaint – cross border cooperation of law enforcement officers in identifying potential victims at the mentioned locations.

²⁷ The examples listed in the table are the results of the testing phase carried out within the TIATAS project. During this phase the tool developed has been tested, updated, and adapted based on the needs identified and the feedbacks offered by the victims. Please consider the information listed just as examples and always proceed to an individual assessment of each case.

4.1. Measures to be taken, evaluation, lessons learned

The harbouring phase often represents one of the most critical phases in the chain of human trafficking. It is frequently the moment victims realise that they have been trapped into exploitation. They might at first experience shock, then denial and then turn into self-blame and shame, alongside of helplessness and humiliation. Being in one of the most vulnerable phases, traffickers use this in their advantage and induce the feeling of responsibility towards the other victims. They attempt to extend their power also above other persons being dependent of the victims (e.g. children, vulnerable relatives). “Whilst being trafficked, many victims suffer harms of physical violence, sexual violence, and threats. Although law enforcement and efforts at coordination may be taking place, the access of the victim to services is unlikely to take place. Victims suffer losses to their quality of life.”²⁸ Given their psychological condition in this phase and often their lack of mobility or access to sources of information, victims do not manage to gather information on where they are or who the persons surrounding them are. When managing to escape, they are not able to provide enough evidence on the events occurred and are forced to return to the countries or cities of exploitation, based on the Dublin III Regulations. Therefore, “a review of the Dublin procedure is necessary to prevent the return of victims to the country where they first applied for asylum, but where they would be re-trafficked.”²⁹ Preventing their return to “Dublin Countries” is often one of the fundamental measures which need to be taken when considering the harbouring phase (see Case 4 vs. Case 6), alongside of an ongoing evaluation given the very dynamic situations which may arise linked to this phase.

Case 4

Happiness has been taking care of her two children and her aunt with disabilities in Zambia. She has struggled for long with keeping her children at school and ensuring the necessary medication for her aunt. A friend of Happiness offered her the opportunity of working in Europe and having paid leave every three weeks, when she could go back home to her family in Zambia for one week. Happiness grabbed the opportunity. When she arrived in Netherlands, Happiness was locked up in a small house alongside of other girls. She was forced to prostitution for several months, without having had the possibility to contact her family. She was not even given the perspective to leave after paying off her debts because she has seen all the other victims, the perpetrators and she knew the address where she was held. Happiness managed to leave with the help of a client and fled to Germany. During the outreach activities organized in asylum camps, Happiness was identified as a victim of human trafficking. Given the danger of secondary victimization, Happiness was allowed to remain in Germany and not return to the Netherlands through the Dublin III Regulations.

²⁸ European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (2020), *Study on the economic, social and human costs of trafficking in human beings within the EU*, Publications Office, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2837/3428>, Accessed 02.2023

²⁹ EU Agency for Asylum (2021), <https://euaa.europa.eu/easo-asylum-report-2021/54-victims-human-trafficking>, Accessed 02.2023

5. Risks and needs associated to exploitation

The final part of human trafficking is the exploitation phase. This can take several forms as sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, slavery and slavery similar practices, domestic servitude, forced criminal activities (eg. drug trafficking, petty crimes, thefts, frauds related to bank operations, frauds related to social benefits etc.), illegal organ harvesting etc. Within the European Union, the most frequent form of exploitation identified (which can mean that there are various other forms too but unidentified) is that of sexual exploitation.³⁰ “Europol highlighted that exploitative sexual services are advertised on escort and dating website, as well as on social media platforms. *Sex tours*, during which victims travel to different cities to meet clients in rental apartments and hotel rooms, are increasingly reported. Member States also confirmed that technology is widely used as a means to recruit, advertise and sexually exploit the victims. Moreover, Europol reported that traffickers lure victims to enter voluntary business agreements, as part of which they accept to engage in prostitution and hand over a share of their earnings in exchange for protection and support with administrative issues. Persons in this type of arrangement do not necessarily perceive themselves as victims, which makes it easier for traffickers to exploit them.”³¹

Given the constant changes in the identifiable modus operandi of traffickers since 2011, when the European Directive on fighting against trafficking entered into force, the Member States are now analysing the most appropriate modalities to align the directive to the actual realities at grass root level. At this stage, proposals of change include adding forced marriage and illegal adoption among the forms of exploitation explicitly covered by the Anti-trafficking Directive and referring explicitly to trafficking offences committed by means of information technologies, as the internet, particularly social media and online platforms are being increasingly used by traffickers.

The risks and needs associated with exploitation are usually the most complex and can be grouped in immediate (acute), mid-term and long-term risks and needs. Besides aspects related to the security of the direct victim and that of the indirect victims (e.g. family members, dependants), most common risks and need arise in the field of health, be it physical and/or mental.³²

³⁰ UNODC (2008), An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact and Action, https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/An_Introduction_to_Human_Trafficking_-_Background_Paper.pdf, Accessed 02.2023

³¹ European Commission (2022), Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (Fourth Report), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0736&from=EN> , Accessed 02.2023

³² IOM, Trafficking in human beings and health implications, https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmz_bdl486/files/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/microsites/IDM/workshops/Health_and_Migration_09110604/related%20docs/background.pdf, Accessed 02.2023

Risks ³³	Needs	Measures implemented
Physical health problems	Medical intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organise and accompany to medical service providers for persons without health insurance - financial support for medication
Psychological health problems	Intervention in case of PTSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Psychotherapy in mother tongue - trauma informed care - support in developing resilience
Forced criminal activities	Clarify status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Criminal complaint - Cancel fraudulently signed contracts
Addiction to illegal drugs	Specialised intervention for drug abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop intervention plan for drug addiction alongside of specialised service provider - focus on trauma informed care and protection - organise accommodation in appropriate shelter
Registration in the national system as a sex worker	Delete existing data at the local registration authority and at the financial authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organise and accompany to local authority in order to cancel the registration - announce the local financial authority of the fact that the case one of sexual exploitation therefore no financial benefits gained – avoid decision of taxation
Unpaid wages	Recovery of unpaid wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - referral and common intervention with counselling centre specialised in assisting migrant workers, - document the days and hours worked - change the access to bank account as password for online banking known by trafficker
Illegal status	Legalisation of residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - counselling sessions on options of obtaining a legal status: reflection period (benefits and challenges), asking for international protection (benefits and challenges) - support in filing the request

³³ The examples listed in the table are the results of the testing phase carried out within the TIATAS project. During this phase the tool developed has been tested, updated, and adapted based on the needs identified and the feedbacks offered by the victims. Please consider the information listed just as examples and always proceed to an individual assessment of each case.

5.1. Measures to be taken, evaluation, lessons learned

As highlighted by the European Commission, “the Covid-19 pandemic has considerably accelerated the shift of criminal activities into the digital space, in particular for trafficking for sexual exploitation, but also for other forms. Traffickers use technology and the internet (both the surface web and the dark web) for every phase of the offence, including the recruitment of the victims (which often takes place via social media platforms), communication between the traffickers, victims and clients, the advertising of services, organising the transportation of the victims, as well as proceeding with payments. The use of technology to commit trafficking offences created significant challenges for law enforcement and judicial authorities as it allows criminals to reach out to more potential victims as well as clients, to move victims from one location to another more easily and to carry out their operations remotely.” Also, an increased risk of intersectional vulnerability can be identified, as Europe is being faced with

continuously increasing crisis situations, which prove to be particularly challenging for the most vulnerable of the vulnerable persons, including women.³⁴ Service providers are encouraged to increase the off and online outreach measures, to meet the current modus operandi.

Furthermore, interagency cooperation ensuring a holistic and multidisciplinary approach in *a)* early stage identification, *b)* individualised victim support and protection and *c)* prevention of secondary victimisation has become the prerequisite of effective support services.

Case 5

Anna is an 18-year-old girl from Hungary. She grew up in an orphanage. When she became 18, she left Hungary together with her boyfriend Norbi. They came to Germany, where Norbi was having a luxurious life. She felt loved, protected, and appreciated by him. Something she did not receive from her parents or from her environment in the orphanage. After having arrived in Germany, Norbi took Anna to his daily business meetings – drug dealing. Step by step he forced Anna to also engage in selling illegal drugs. Then, he forced her to use drugs. Eventually he forced her into prostitution. Anna was threatened that if she does anything against Norbi, he will inform the police regarding her drug dealing situation, which he has also documented. Anna had no home, nowhere to go, did not speak German and was afraid of being arrested herself. Because of her drug consume, Anna was hospitalized and identified as a potential victim of human trafficking by a well-trained social worker. Anna wished to return to Hungary. Through an effective transnational cooperation, Anna could travel back to Hungary, alongside of a Hungarian social worker, received long term therapy and is now managing her life independently.

³⁴ European Commission (2023), Study to support the Impact Assessment on Preventing and Combatting Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, <https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/Study%20to%20support%20the%20impact%20assessment%20on%20preventing%20and%20combatting%20violence%20against%20women%20and%20domestic%20violence.pdf>, Accessed 03.2023

6. Risks and needs associate with exit from exploitation

Exiting exploitation is the first and usually the most dangerous³⁵ step done towards rehabilitation. The methods used can generally be classified in two categories. The active situation, when the victim has actively tried to escape from exploitation and the passive situation when the victim was freed from exploitation.

Especially if victims do not speak the language of the country in which they are exploited, even if they have access to a mobile phone, they do not call the police because they cannot explain what they need, where they are and are not aware of the technological possibilities the police have to identify them. Furthermore, if the victims have been forced to commit any kind of criminal activities, they are threatened by traffickers to expose these, so victims obey. Frequently, the identity documents are taken away from them, and victims obey in the hope that they will get the documents back once the debt has been paid back, without knowing that they have the possibility to ask for such document at the Diplomatic missions of their source countries. The debt bondage practiced by exploiters effectively contributes to keeping victims in the state of exploitation as they work towards paying back the debt and earning back their freedom. Threats made by exploiters against the victims, or third parties prevent proactively exiting exploitation, as victims want to protect themselves and/or other persons and prefer to sacrifice themselves. Particularly in cases of sexual exploitation, labour exploitation or forced marriage it often happens that victims do not perceive themselves as such. “They have been so expertly manipulated or “groomed” that they believe they are making their own choice to engage in commercial sex.”³⁶ Or, the little they earn is more than they would have earned in their home countries, so they accept what they are offered. Or, the entry into exploitation was facilitated by cultural beliefs or practices which are not recognised as forms of exploitation.

Generally, exiting exploitation is more dangerous than being in exploitation. The risks and needs associated are very complex if the exist is a current or very new situation, both for the direct victims and for the indirect victims. This is usually associate with crisis intervention measures, aimed, on one hand to secure and safeguard the direct and indirect victim(s), possible other victims or beneficiaries of the service provider, assess and ensure psycho-social stability including the risk of self-harm, address acute or chronicle diseases, lay the grounds for developing a safe and trustful relationship with the victim, offer trauma informed protection and victim centered care.

³⁵ Safety Planning Information, <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/safety-planning-information>, Accessed 02.2023

³⁶ Polaris, Sex Trafficking: The basics, <https://polarisproject.org/understanding-human-trafficking/>, Accessed 02.2023

Risks ³⁷	Needs	Measures implemented
Personal safety	Crisis intervention for ensuring immediate safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - picking up from the indicated location - immediate accommodation in safe housing - first counselling session (trauma informed, victim centred, culturally sensitive) informing the victim about the possible support measures, rights, of victims of human trafficking and main responsibilities (eg. not telling anyone the address of the safe house) - main safety measures regarding digital threats
Psychological stability	Crisis intervention for ensuring psychological stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure psycho-social support - facilitate communication with family members and loved ones, which do not endanger the situation of the victim - assess the risk of self-harm - assess and address any possible psychiatric diseases which could endanger the physical health of the victim or of other victim living in the same shelter
Risk of returning to the trafficker	Crisis intervention for ensuring social stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure unconditional support - ensure communication methods if the victim re-enters exploitative situations (particularly high danger in the cases where the lover boy method was used)
Loosing personal belongings	Crisis intervention for offering immediate material support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - offer donations in kind containing basic clothing and hygienic products - offer financial support for buying food and public transportation tickets
Difficult integration into the local community	Intensive support after exiting exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - offer mentoring sessions to steer the integration
Difficulty in adjusting to an independent lifestyle	Intensive support after exiting exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - offer intensive support to steer orientation in the new surrounding - facilitate the adjustment of day-night cycle and the possibility of attending appointments independently.

³⁷ The examples listed in the table are the results of the testing phase carried out within the TIATAS project. During this phase the tool developed has been tested, updated, and adapted based on the needs identified and the feedbacks offered by the victims. Please consider the information listed just as examples and always proceed to an individual assessment of each case.

6.1. Measures to be taken, evaluation, lessons learned

Exiting exploitation can take place in various forms and gives rise to needs and intervention measure, based also on the modality of exiting. If a victim can manage to escape on her own or together with other victims. In this last case, it should be assessed if all the persons are being victims of human trafficking and eliminate the risk of having a collaborator of the trafficking group infiltrated. If the exit from exploitation was facilitated by the intervention of third parties (e.g. clients) victims might fear to speak about what happened to them with law enforcement representatives or victim support service providers in order to protect any other potential victims left behind or to protect their families. Also, victims might not identify themselves as such ³⁸ particularly if recruitment was based on an intimate relationship with the perpetrator. Among immediate measures which need to be implemented is to set the grounds of a trustful relationship between victims and service providers. This involves reassuring the victim about the confidentiality of the counselling sessions, non-disclosure policies and data protection policies. Further on, a first information session on the rights and support measures for victims of human trafficking has to be delivered without further delay, ensuring that victims can take informed decisions.

Case 6

Glory is a Nigerian woman. She was sexually exploited on the territory of Italy for almost 6 months. Eventually, a client helped her to escape while being in street prostitution. He offered her accommodation for a few days and then put her in a friend's truck, who was driving to Germany. After having arrived in Germany, Glory could leave the truck and ask for asylum in a refugee camp close to the border. Glory told the authorities what happened to her. She filed also a complain but because she did not know any names of the persons who exploited her, nor the city in which this took place, the investigation was stopped after some time. Glory was sent back to Italy based on the Dublin III regulation. She ended up on the street and was identified by the "Madame" who exploited her. He beat her, filmed her, and sent the video to all the other women who have escaped, to make sure they know what was going to happen to them. None of the women who have received the video have file a complaint against the "Madame". There is no further information available about Glory.

³⁸ HO Government (2023), Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales and Non-Statutory Guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland, Version 3.1., https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1139341/Modern_Slavery_Statutory_Guidance_EW_Non-Statutory_Guidance_SNI_v3.1.pdf, Accessed 03.2023

7. Risks and needs associated to the transnational referral

The decision of returning to the source country or to voluntarily return to another EU country within the Dublin III Regulation framework is as impactful for the victim and possibly for her family as entering exploitation has been. The referral needs to be planned in great detail and thoughtfully assessed.³⁹

The risks and needs which may arise can be classified in pre departure, departure, post departure. However, they might naturally be interconnected and/or affect each other reciprocally (please see example of assessments).

Also, it has to be clarified if the victim has to or wishes to return in the country of exploitation in the close future. On one hand, he/she might need to return if a criminal complaint has been filed in the country of exploitation or identification. If a criminal complaint was filed, it is likely that further criminal proceedings will enquire either her presence or the on-going communication with the victim, service providers and/or other witnesses. If, by the end of the criminal proceedings, a criminal and/or civil (e.g. compensations) trial is going to follow, the victim might need to return to the country where this is taking place. In case a return is impossible, due to logistical reasons, or because it would represent a too difficult psychological burden, or it would put the victim or the family in a high danger, video conferencing might be taken into consideration, based on the provisions of Art 9 of the Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.⁴⁰

In case the victim does not wish to return to the country of exploitation within the next up to five years, additional support programs can be taken into consideration or accessed⁴¹, prior to the repatriation. Such programs have been developed with the aim of steering or facilitating the process of (re)integration and can consist of financial, social and/or medical benefits.

³⁹ IOM, Risk Assessment Matrix, <http://www.iomfrance.org/sites/default/files/TACT-%20Risk%20assessment%20matrix.pdf>, Accessed, 02.2023

⁴⁰ Council of Europe, Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, <https://rm.coe.int/168008155e>, Accessed, 02.2023

⁴¹ IOM, REAG/GARP, <https://www.returningfromgermany.de/en/programmes>, Accessed, 02.2023

Furthermore, certain EU and non-EU countries support the return of diaspora members and finance small to medium sized start up projects.⁴²

Eventually, it must be assured that the victim is making an informed, conscious and final decision, as, regardless of the decision he/she is making it is her decision which, based on the victim centered approach needs to be accepted, respected and transposed.

7.1. Risks and needs prior to the transnational referral

Risks ⁴³	Needs	Measures implemented
Risk of secondary victimisation	Safe accommodation and social support prior to repatriation	- assess risk of secondary victimisation that can be directly linked to repatriation (e.g. further exploitation, forced marriage, FGM, torture and other similar practices, legal penalties leading to body injuries or death penalties, lists of wanted persons circulated through country specific media, domestic violence etc.)
Lack of valid identity / travel documents	Valid documents or travel permit	- checking expiry date of travel document - checking entry requirements in transit and destination county - checking travel requirements of travel company - organising and accompanying client to diplomatic missions in order to obtain in due time travel documents/permissions
Legal matters preventing leaving the county (in the host country or in the transit country)	Well-ordered and untroubled departure	- assess, together with the immigration office the necessary requirements for the victim to leave the country - in case there has been a criminal investigation, inform prosecutors office about the intent of repatriation in order to prevent procedural overlaps leading to difficulties in investigations - in case the victim decides to cooperate with the responsible law enforcement, assess if there is any information posted in international law enforcement communication systems (e.g. SIRENE ⁴⁴ , SIS

⁴² Start-up Diaspora, <https://start-updiaspora.ro/beneficiari/>, Accessed, 02.2023

⁴³ The examples listed in the table are the results of the testing phase carried out within the TIATAS project. During this phase the tool developed has been tested, updated, and adapted based on the needs identified and the feedbacks offered by the victims. Please consider the information listed just as examples and always proceed to an individual assessment of each case.

⁴⁴ European Commission, https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/schengen-information-system/sirene-cooperation_en, Accessed, 02.2023

<p>Legal matters preventing entering the home / Dublin / destination county</p>	<p>Well-ordered and untroubled arrival</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - checking entry requirements in transit and destination county - check with responsible national authorities if transit or destination countries are not within the EU or Schengen area. - consider and assess possible prohibitions of entering into a certain or some transit country(es) (e.g. the victim has committed or was forced to commit some crimes which lead to issuing a criminal sanction including the prohibition of entering into a certain country) and avoid organising a repatriation via these countries
<p>Lack of financial means to prepare for departure (buying luggage, preparation of small presents for family or children, suitable clothing for weather conditions)</p>	<p>Financial support / in kind donations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess financial needs - consider local or cultural customs when persons return home from abroad (particularly in non-EU countries, developing countries, post-communist countries) - ensure goods which are going to be introduced into the destination country respect the national provisions and, if needed, provide valid justification / certifications - ensure the victim has appropriate luggage, in the shape, weight and size allowed / required by the travel company - avoid using second hand luggage or gifted luggage - possible legal aspects (traces of drugs, hidden illegal goods); possible logistical difficulties (broken zippers etc.)
<p>Lack of financial means to cover the costs of repatriation</p>	<p>Financial support for covering the costs of repatriation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess the most appropriate repatriation program to address the individual needs identified (consider at least aspects like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - duration of procedure vs. urgency of returning home, - means of transportation, - interdictions to return to the country of departure for a certain amount of time, - additional social, medical, financial benefits, - possibility of being accompanied during travel, - place / city of departure, place / city of arrival) - refer the victim to the service provider and support the process of filing request, filling in documents, acquiring certifications etc.
<p>Medical issues that might hinder safe repatriation</p>	<p>Medical support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assessment of physical and psychical medical condition and ensure adequate treatment is provided in due time to avoid impacting the repatriation - consider the appropriateness of travel insurances.

7.2. Risks and needs during the transnational referral

Risks ⁴⁵	Needs	Measures implemented
Late arrival for departure	Support in arriving on due time at the right place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure the departure is prepared in detail and if needed the rout has been rehearsed - arrive 2 hours before departure (in airport set 3 hours instead of 2. The time left can be used for accommodation and psycho-social stabilisation measures. - consider possible accident on the way which may cause travel restrictions, strikes which might lead to disruptions in public transportation, technological issues which might lead to disruptions in public transportation - if the distance is longer than 200 Km, or it is needed more than 3 hours consider arriving the day before departure to the place of departure - prepare for a “plan B” to arrive at the place of departure and apply it without further delay
Travel/transit conditions not fulfilled	Documentation proving the quality of victim and of the process of transnational repatriation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if agreed by the victim, consider providing necessary documentation to prove the quality of victim and the process of repatriation, under Art. 8 of the Palermo Protocol⁴⁶ - include in the documentation contact details of the responsible social worker, prosecutor investigating the case, criminal investigation case number etc. - consider organising the travel through transit countries which offer services to victims of human trafficking, are not listed as main countries of human trafficking and there are counselling centres which are known and trusted, and who can offer immediate support if needed.
Delayed departure	Pre-departure support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organise support and accompany the victim to the departure place, remain there until departure to be able to intervene in case of quick changes of location, time, date.
Cancelled departure	Pre-departure support, psycho-social support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the date of departure is often a very emotional day. Victims might reflect upon the decision made, might be afraid about the travel and might feel very exited (in a positive or negative sense) about meeting the family or returning to the home/Dublin country. Even if the departure was prepared in good detail, the victim might reconsider the decision made and refuse

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⁴⁶ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons>, Accessed 02.2023

		<p>to travel. This can range from physical refusal of departure until self-harm and suicidal attempts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consider having a standardised intervention plan which can be ad hoc adapted to the individual needs and conditions. The plan should at least include health support options, psychological support and intervention measures and accommodation options if the intervention measures did not lead to the stabilisation of the victim.
Cancelled departure due to travel conditions in the country of departure	Pre-departure support, extension of safe accommodation and social support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure access to updated information on travel conditions and departure timetables - consider having a standardised intervention plan which can be ad hoc adapted to the individual needs and conditions. The plan should at least include health support options, psychological support and intervention measures and accommodation options.
Cancelled departure due to travel conditions in the transit country	safe accommodation and social support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - when organising repatriations, consider including only transit countries where there is a collaboration with a specialised counselling centre which can intervene in such situation - depending on the selected repatriation programs the victim might benefit of transit airport assistance - if the repatriation is taking place by plane, consider contacting social workers working in the respective airport, as these have access also in the transit areas.
Lost luggage	Support in obtaining lost luggage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consider insuring lost luggage through travel insurance - advice victim to pack the valuable items, including documents, in the carry-on bag - advice the victim to pack some basic clothing and hygiene products in the carry-on bag until the luggage is found
Disrupted communication	Continuous communication with service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organise access during travelling to appropriate phone charger - ensure roaming is technologically possible and affordable for the victim - ensure methods of communication if the mobile phone gets lost or stolen
Health issues during travel	Medical assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in cases of health issues identified prior departure, if appropriate, considering accessing a medically supported repatriation program - ensure that necessary medication is at hand - ensure that health related documents are at hand and basic information are provided in English language or the language(es) of the transit country(es)
Security issues during travel	Social support; crisis intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop safety measures together with the victim (eg. not to tell her identity to certain persons, not to post anything on the social media regarding her travel, turn off GPS function on the smart phone, not spread the information of her return to the home/Dublin country, avoid taking the same route as when entering trafficking, including same transportation companies) - ensure crisis intervention is possible on the day of departure/ travel.

7.3. Short term risks and needs after the transnational referral

Risks ⁴⁷	Needs	Measures implemented
Difficulties in accessing services	Support upon arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organise the arrival support (family if desired by the victim and safe or specialised service providers) from the moment in which the victim arrives in the home / Dublin country and ensure continuous communication with the team during the repatriation - avoid organising transnational repatriations during weekend, unless specifically agreed with the arrival team
Lack of orientation and/or limited possibilities of transportation	Internal transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if needed, preorganised the internal transportation (check the possibility and safety of using public means of transportation after 22:00 o'clock local time - involve arrival team (if existing) in organising the internal transportation
Homelessness	Safe and appropriate accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure access to safe and appropriate accommodation (eg. child appropriate, with psychiatric support, intensive social support, protected shelter with protected address etc.) bases on the individual risks and needs assessment. - organise a virtual pre departure meeting with pre-departure virtual counselling offered by the shelter (the counselling session should include at least concrete information on the timespan possible to spend there, internal rules and regulations, conditions of accommodation)
Health problems	Medical support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure access to the health care service and the needed medication of health conditions are known in the pre departure phase - consider accessing repatriation programs which ensure medical support during the first months after arrival - if an acute or chronic disease is known, in the pre departure inform the medical doctor about the repatriation and consider medication which is available (or not prohibited) in the country of destination). - translate the medical documents into the language of the destination country or, if not possible, the main information into English language - ensure that the necessary medication is available until the end of the medical treatment, for an acute disease or necessary supply is available for at least the first month after the arrival. - ensure medical prescriptions for the medication are available to avoid any difficulties with the customs

⁴⁷ The examples listed in the table are the results of the testing phase carried out within the TIATAS project. During this phase the tool developed has been tested, updated, and adapted based on the needs identified and the feedbacks offered by the victims. Please consider the information listed just as examples and always proceed to an individual assessment of each case.

		services and facilitate the prescription of further medication.
Stigmatisation and psychological instability	Psychological support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consider mediation with the family members, relatives, or friends prior to repatriation in order to avoid or reduce the risk of stigmatisation - if possible and needed organise psychotherapy sessions before departure in order to reduce the timespan spent from the moment of arrival until the first session - if agreed, provide the contact details of the psychotherapist from the country of exploitation/identification and translate the documents issued - red flag if needed and legally allowed self-harm behaviour
Secondary victimisation	Social support and crisis intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assessment of possible risks prior to repatriation and match them with specifically tailored mitigation measures - develop, together with the victim and the service provider an individualised support and intervention plan prior to the repatriation and assess periodically after repatriation - remain informed on possible criminal proceedings in the country of exploitation/identification; ensure to fulfil necessary legal obligations for remaining informed (e.g. mandate/confidentiality agreement etc.) - inform the victim and the responsible service provider if the perpetrator has been released from jail/arrest or if other procedural measures have been taken, likely to cause a significant impact on the current state.
Unemployment	Integration on the labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess the appropriateness of inclusion on the labour market after repatriation - if needed and possible, assess if inclusion into a social enterprise would be an efficient transit method from unemployment to free labour market - consider developing, together with the victim and the service provider from the home/Dublin country an integration plan, including measures towards labour integration (e.g. writing a CV, collecting awarded proves of qualification etc.) but also methods of relaxation (e.g. sports, yoga, painting, animal supported therapy etc.)
Challenging (re)integration	Support in (re)integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of a strategy to prepare the victim of the new environment, particularly if the victim has been in exploitation (abroad) for a longar time or, the repatriation is taking place towards a Dublin country or the repatriation is taking place to the home country but a different (unknown) city. - ensure smooth and culturally sensitive transition (possible engagement of cultural mediators particularly in the situation of Dublin countries) - ensure that expectations are set to a realistic level in order to avoid disappointment which can lead to abruptly exiting the support service/program.

7.4. Medium term risks and needs after the transnational referral

Risks	Needs	Measures implemented
Homelessness	Transit to long term accommodation facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess in due time accommodation options and support the victim in making an informed decision regarding further accommodation - offer support during the testing phase of transit housing
Addiction (including illegal drugs)	Psycho-social support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - refer the victim to specialised support services if addictive behaviour can be identified before or during exploitation to prevent relapse - develop together with the victim a daily routine and offer support in practicing it - support in the development of individual life management skills - analyse resources and support the development of coping mechanisms
Psychological disorder	Behavioural and emotional disorders ⁴⁸ are addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - address the identified disorder shortly after repatriation and ensure stable contact specialist(s) - access to treatment schemes - appointments - predictability
Unemployment	Stable and appropriate work environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support the integration on the labour market at the earliest stage possible - ensure that the job is proportionate to the skills and capacities of the victim
Secondary victimisation	Transit or long-term support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - refer the victim to specialised support services (e.g. others than support services for victims of human trafficking if exploitation is not the main issue anymore)
Criminal behaviour ⁴⁹	Individualised and undisrupted support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop a stable and sustainable individual life style plan and offer the possibility to keep in contact.

⁴⁸ World Health Organisation (2022), Mental Disorders, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-disorders>, Accessed 02.2023

⁴⁹ UNODC (2020), Female Victims of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation as Defendants, https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2020/final_Female_victims_of_trafficking_for_sexual_exploitation_as_defendants.pdf, Accessed 02.2023

HM Government (2015), Individuals at risk of being drawn into Serious and Organised Crime – a Prevent Guide, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408585/6_1_62_HO_SOC_PI_Guidance_Mar2015_v10_FINAL_270215_WEB_2_.pdf, Accessed 02.2023

7.5. Measures to be taken, evaluation, lessons learned

The measures needed to be implemented vary very much from person to person and they are also influenced by the time span passed since the moment of repatriation. During the testing phase of the tools and based on the feedbacks provided by specialist and victims of human trafficking, at least two evaluation sessions should be conducted after the transnational repatriation.

The first one should take place no later than two months after the repatriation. Within this session, the service providers from the country of identification and the country of return, assess together with the victim the measures implemented prior, during and immediately after the repatriation. They analyse what should be kept, what should be changed and what should be adapted, alongside of possible lessons learned to be implemented in further repatriations of other victims or in case the same victim has the prospective to return to the country of identification during the criminal proceedings.

The second evaluation session analyses the measures implemented on medium term. This should take place on average within six months after the first evaluation, if the victim has stayed in the destination country uninterrupted until the evaluation session (e.g. victim needed to return to the country of identification in order to testify as a witness in the criminal court proceedings). If the stay was interrupted, the six months should be calculated starting from the date of the last return.

After the second evaluation, further steps of intervention assessments can be organised based on the individual needs of each person, the type of interventions and measures needed and the novelty elements included in the intervention plan (e.g. changes in housing, entering/existing psychotherapy, entering/exiting labour market, entering/exiting adult education, end of the criminal trial, end of civil trials, major personal events like giving birth, getting married etc.).

Case 7

Adriana is a 23-year-old girl from an east European country. She was not allowed by her parents to go to school as she was supposed to work on the fields, in agriculture. However, Adriana learned secretly. She went to school either secretly or after a lot of fights. Eventually she graduated the 12th degree and succeeded in her final examination. Adriana was recruited through the "lover boy" method and brought to Germany. She gathered her courage and asked for help when she was forced to get registered as a prostitute. This way, Adriana could prevent the entry into sexual exploitation. She was referred to specialised service providers, both in Germany and in her home country. Through the collaboration of a broad multidisciplinary team, Adriana could fulfil her dream. She wanted to be the first in her family to study at the university. Since then, she has supported the implementation of various prevention campaigns against human trafficking in her home country and has offered very valuable feedback for the development of the present needs and risk assessment tool.

Thank you, Adriana!

Stages of Intervention and Evaluation

