



Preventing Human Trafficking and Sham Marriages: A Multidisciplinary Solution (HESTIA)

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Summary Report of the Training Seminar

**“Preventing Sham Marriages as a Form of Human Trafficking: Training of
Multipliers”**

Seminar venue and time: September - October 2016, in Latvia

Seminar experts:

Sandra Zalcmane, Chairperson of the Board of the Society “Shelter “Safe House””, social worker;

Gita Miruškina, lawyer of the Society “Shelter “Safe House””;

Arturs Vaišļa, Member of the Board of the Society “For Vidzeme Free of Human Trafficking”, lawyer.

1. Institutions/ organisations represented by seminar participants and number of participants from each institution

Employees of social services, employees of orphan’s courts, employees of the municipal police, representatives of the State Police, employees of educational institutions, library workers, employee of a tourist information centre, NGO representative, representatives of a children’s home, employee of the educational administration, employee of the city council, representatives of the prosecutor’s office. Total -187 participants.

2. Expert conclusions regarding the training seminar:

2.1. To describe the knowledge of seminar participants regarding human trafficking and sham marriages as a form of human trafficking, including, what do you think, what does the awareness/unawareness of the participants regarding the subject depend on, for example, represented institution, courses attended, influence of media, or another reason.

Very different institutions were represented at these seminars, wherewith knowledge regarding human trafficking and sham marriages varied significantly. It depended the most on what the work duties of seminars participants were and which possible target groups of human trafficking and exploitative sham marriages they encountered in their everyday work.

Knowledge of **social service employees** regarding human trafficking matters is to be assessed as medium; some of them had encountered human trafficking and participated in training organised by the Society; some of them might not have been able to recognise cases of human trafficking and exploitative sham marriages before due to the lack of knowledge.



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Employees of orphan's courts had already encountered possible cases of human trafficking, approving powers of attorney that allowed young girls to go abroad by themselves and work there, yet previous lack of knowledge in recognising and identifying human trafficking and exploitative sham marriages did not allow them to prevent possible human trafficking or warn about its possibility and risks.

Knowledge of **educational institution employees** regarding human trafficking and exploitative sham marriages was shaped both under the influence of mass media and from personal experience.

Representatives of the prosecutor's office had very good knowledge regarding both human trafficking and sham marriage. The representative of the Bauska Prosecutor's Office in his professional activities had directly encountered sham marriages, since the first case on sham marriage according to Section 285² of the Criminal Law was revealed and investigated in Bauska.

Representatives of the State Police had good knowledge regarding both human trafficking and sham marriages, yet lacked understanding of new concepts "vulnerability" and "exploitative sham marriages".

Knowledge of **municipal police representatives** regarding human trafficking is to be assessed as medium; they had basic knowledge regarding the concept and phenomenon of human trafficking, yet lacked professional knowledge and skills in identifying human trafficking and exploitative sham marriages.

Knowledge and understanding of **library workers** regarding human trafficking and exploitative sham marriage was mostly shaped under the influence of mass media.

2.2. To assess project methodological material and working methods (for example, which themes were the most significant for seminar participants; were proper working methods used for a particular audience, which ones; what shortcomings were noticed during the seminar; how was collaboration organised among the lecturers, etc.)

The methodological material is logically structured, with appropriate signs and examples. Selected working methods corresponded to the perception abilities of the audience.

Participants are interested in the forms of human trafficking and sham marriages, their signs, and legal regulation as well as in the possibilities of inter-institutional cooperation. Also they attribute particular importance to the theme of vulnerability, its types, and risk groups.

Lecturers observed the agenda and order, upon need, even supplemented each other within one slide, mentioning particular examples from their professional activities.

Participants are invited to ask questions in writing to lecturers. Answers to questions convinced them that seminar lecturers are professionals of their field and focused on the topic. They willingly participate in group work, creatively trying to



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find an approach to the given task and use own ideas and additional methods. Several groups had difficulties with observing the set time limits.

The video story as one of working methods certified that several methods should be used during the theoretical part of the seminar, and not just lectures and Q&A sessions. Visualisation helped to perceive the told during the lecture even better.

During the theoretical part of the seminars, some previously developed agenda was observed, of course, including also practical examples from lecturers professional activities during their performance. During the practical part, deviation from the time schedule of the developed agenda was observed.

2.3. What additional questions were discussed with the participants during non-formal conversations; were particular human trafficking cases requiring immediate expert action identified.

During informal conversations, participant informed about the case when human trafficking had possibly taken place, using the vulnerability of the victim. A high-risk case of recruitment was identified for a major boy with mental development disorders, who perceived himself as a woman. Deviant behaviour of young people and their involvement in drug trade, promoting the risk that these young people might become drug carriers also on an international scale. Participants were interested in how safe the services of private recruitment agencies were. They received consultation on further actions for inhabitants of one county to avoid possible labour exploitation abroad.

Also informed about concerning the recognition of sham marriages as invalid from the moment of registration. Some possible cases of labour exploitation was identified.

Social workers wanted to discuss situations in which cases of human trafficking could be identified with experts. Participants were also interested in resources available in the Internet environment — videos and website, as well as in possibilities of organising preventive activities of different format in their municipality in future.

Several cases when sham marriages had already been registered were identified. Participants wanted to find out about the issues of determining the origin of children born in sham marriages in situations when the husband of the child's mother is not the biological father.

2.4. To assess compliance of the seminar with the agenda and presentation material

The seminars were implemented according to the previously prepared programme, the presentation material and the methodology are comprehensive. It was provided a wide insight in themes of human trafficking and exploitative sham marriages.

3. Expert suggestions and/or improvements to be made regarding the content of the seminar and non-formal and formal methods, including, please, specify, which methods should be added to the methodical material



Taking into account the great number of seminar participants, to use only one motivator at the beginning of the practical day of the seminar. Optimise the presentation, placing photo slides immediately after the discussed theme and supplement with information on the legal regulation of prohibition of organ trade and to inform about statistics in identification of victims and legal proceedings. Also pay greater attention to labour exploitation within the context of exploitative sham marriages.

To devote time to reviewing the publicly available information on a person in the middle of the first day of the seminar, as well as to refrain from using this method, if there are over 30 seminar participants. At the beginning of the seminar, to use brainstorming as a working method for participants to answer the question “What is human trafficking?” before the lectures for participant’s knowledge check. Afterword’s to continue with a case study to become participants acquainted with different stories and focus on them on the merits.

During the practical part of the seminar, it is necessary to strictly follow the time devoted for group presentations, as well as to plan the time for preparing presentations. After its presentation, every group should answer the following questions: “what was (would be) the greatest challenge? Where and how will you be able to use newly-gained experience in future?”

The methodology might be supplemented with the method of forum theatre, either a simulating case study or a simple activity, during which participants would have to learn the possibilities of inter-institutional cooperation. To divide in advance either methods to be used for prevention or target groups among lecturers to provide each lecturer with a possibility of giving feedback on group performance.