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European Commission - Directorate-General Home Affairs*



Protection First: early identification, protection and assistance of child victims and at risk of trafficking and exploitation.

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The 24 month project, PROTECTION FIRST, is aimed at improving knowledge preventing and protecting child trafficking and at risk of being trafficked or exploited, including the lesser known forms of exploitation, through research and the use of identification tools.

The project intended to raise child victims and children at risk's awareness and improve their capacity to self assess the risks of being trafficked and exploited. The project sought to address, in a very specific and targeted way, the issue of early identification of child victims of trafficking and exploitation both in countries of origin and in countries of destination.

While indicators have been constantly recommended by EU and International institutions as the most effective tool for identifying victims of trafficking, it has not been equally considered the need for their constant updating to ensure their continued relevance. Furthermore, children have not been consulted on indicators, although it would be the most logical way to ensure their relevance, and allow children themselves to self-assess and realize if they are in the process of trafficking or at risk of exploitation. In order to fill these gaps, through a children participation's oriented approach, practical tools for the identification and referral, and training on their use for relevant actors, were produced.

The project, coordinated by Save the Children Italy, was funded by the European Commission – Directorate General Home Affairs, and implemented together with the following partners:

Italy:

On the Road Association

Dedalus Cooperative

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Associated Partner)

Department of Equal Opportunities, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Associated Partner)

Naples Municipality (Associated Partner)

Union of Vallata del Trento Municipalities (Associated Partner)

The Netherlands:

Stiching Defence for Children International Nederland – ECPAT

Romania:

Save the Children Romania

National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (Associated Partner)

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