

Travel with Care – Care for Children!

Protect Children against Sexual Exploitation in Tourism

International Newsletter No. 1/March 2009

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Editorial information:

The project „Offenders Beware - Raising Awareness, Capacity and Motivation for the Protection of Children from Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Tourism (CST)” is supported by European Commission and other partners like for Austria OEZA (Austrian Development Cooperation) and Ministry for Economy, Family and Youth Newsletter No.1, March 2008

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Editorial

Five European ECPAT groups and six south partners have joint forces and implementing a 3-years project aiming at increasing awareness and knowledge on sexual exploitation of children in tourism and building up the capacity for preventive actions among tourism professionals, students as well as other relevant stakeholders such as law enforcement and governmental authorities. The project „Offenders Beware - Raising Awareness, Capacity and Motivation for the Protection of Children from Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Tourism (CST)” is supported by European Commission and several national partners.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the protection of minors from Commercial Sexual exploitation in travel and Tourism (CST). More specifically, the project aims to make it more difficult for European perpetrators to abuse minors in developing countries and put pressure on them to refrain from this severe human rights perpetration.

The specific objective of the project is to increase the awareness, capacity and motivation to take action for the protection of minors from commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism (CST) among European actors involved in tourism from the public and private sectors, media and individuals.

The main areas of activities are:

- A. Addressing tourism professionals and students through awareness raising measures (including producing materials) for tourism professionals and tourism students in the EU partner countries including an e-learning-course
- B. Addressing key persons and multipliers in private and public sectors through advocacy and sensitization activities as well as European and national parliamentarians and other EU/national key decision-makers and politicians; organizing joint expert meetings with the tourism industry, law enforcement, governmental authorities, NGOs and with South partners
- C. Information of public and media on child sex tourism through press work, tourism fairs, documentation and publications
- D. Train-the-trainer (ToT) seminars and development of training manual and standards for awareness raising measures in the EU partners' countries

This is the first volume of the EU-project newsletter which is focusing on news and activities, carried out by the project partners and worldwide in order to combat child sex tourism. The objective of the newsletter is building up 'community of interested and committed' individuals from the relevant sectors such as: tourism professionals, representatives from tourism training and education sector, students and on-job-trainees, law enforcement and governmental representatives as well as NGOs and IOs.

Child sex tourists are still widely spread in all countries and destinations. However, more and more stakeholders and travelers become active in order to stop this crime and making a difference. Often we, as organizations working in this field, are asked what is being done elsewhere, how about cases, prosecution and convictions. We, the project partners, are convinced that it is relevant to create a tool of effective information sharing. This aim we are trying to achieve through this newsletter. We hope that we will succeed in creating a newsletter which is interesting, concise and informative at the same time.

We would be glad to receive YOUR feedback!

Astrid Winkler

News & Highlights International

Third World Congress against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, Rio de Janeiro

Between 25 and 28 Nov 2008 around 3.000 representatives from all sectors and 300 children and youth attended the Third World Congress, organized by ECPAT, UNICEF, the NGO-Group for the CRC and Government of Brazil. The Code of Conduct was recommended in the outcome document of the World Congress III as a model of good practice for the tourism private sector in the prevention of sexual exploitation and protection of children's rights in tourism.



Reports from the Project Consortium Partners & South Partners

Austria

EU – project “Offenders Beware” was introduced to visitors of the holiday fair “Wiener Ferienmesse”, 15-18 January 2009 in Vienna . The key-message which was communicated through a big sign was: “Offenders on travel?? – Stop CSEC in tourism! “. Another sign was paying credit to the donors: “*Offenders beware*” - *A common EU-project of respect – Institute for integrative tourism and development and ECPAT Austria. With kind support by The European Commission, the Austrian Development Agency and the Federal Ministry of Economy and Labour.* In order to attract people coloured buttons with our message and all relevant logos on it were produced and distributed actively by volunteers to the people.



In addition, a film of 25 minutes was produced and presented on 3 laptops with headphones to the people. Project assistant, Ms Mithra Ansari interviewed important stakeholders who support the work of ECPAT in terms of combating child sex tourism, e.g. Mrs. Christine Marek from Federal Ministry of Economy, the cooperation spokesman of TUI Austria, Mr. Josef Peterleithner and many others.

Visitors and even tourism staff were very interested in the booth and all the information we could provide. Even tour operators approached us for getting in-depth information on the Code of Conduct. All together the presence at the fair turned out has been an excellent opportunity to inform and sensitize people as well as to lobby the Code of Conduct and to advocate for protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism.

In the first project year respect, in cooperation with ECPAT Austria, organized and conducted 10 workshops in tourism schools, 2 trainings for tourism professionals and several advocacy meetings took place.

Joint project activities:

- Development of the Certificates was finalized in summer 2008;
- Awareness raising materials such as buttons and translated leaflets being produced;
- Preparation for the international Train-of-Trainer meeting in July 2009 as well as for the Training Manual is ongoing.

Elizabeth Wanguba from SOLWODI Kenya was invited as the keynote presenter in an advocacy meeting in Vienna on 5 March which was organized by respect and ECPAT in cooperation with the Ministry for Economy, Family and Youth, Department of Tourism. Ms Akinyi pointed out that through the implementation of the Code of Conduct in Kenya by so far 40 hotels awareness on the problem of child sex tourism was increased and Government is much more committed to fight it then before. She further reported that children would rather be exploited and abused by tourists in smaller hotels and guesthouses or so called ‘villas’ than in bigger high quality hotels. Also more attention has to be drawn to boys-prostitution, she said.

Estonia

On February 12th Tartu Child Support Centre organized and conducted training in the Tourism Development Centre, situated in Tallinn, for the tourism authorities on child sexual exploitation issues. Participants showed interest, admitted that this is a fairly unknown subject and suggested that this topic should be reflected in their professional magazine. Child sexual exploitation has not been broadly recognized as a problem. The first meeting of people who handle human trafficking issues in Estonia, took place in Estonia only in the previous summer.

On March 5th there will be a lecture "The commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism and the trafficking of human beings" for the tourism professionals and specialists, hold by Fr Shay Cullen from Philippines, who has been three times nominated for the Nobel Prize for Peace. Fr Shay Cullen has established Preda Centre and has been working for it for 30 years.

At the same day there will be a meeting of Fr Cullen with the representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, of Child Welfare Union and UNICEF to discuss the problems of child sexual exploitation. The next day Fr Shay Cullen will lecture in Tartu, holding one lecture for the students of tourism and other for the tourism professionals and specialists working with children, after this there will be a meeting with the team of Tartu Child Support Centre.

Germany

ECPAT Germany carried out 19 trainings with tourism students, addressing nearly 800 people altogether. The trainings aim at raising awareness and promoting the Code of Conduct. The trainings are usually offered by co-teachers: the ECPAT trainer introducing the issue of Child Sex Tourism, ECPAT and the Code of Conduct, a police officer presenting international law enforcement, extraterritorial legislation and cases. The co-teaching is very effective in order to raise awareness among students and staff of the tourism industry.

ECPAT Germany started to develop an E-learning tool on child protection. The tool addresses mainly tourism stuff and will be offered to the tourism industry as a means to implement the Code of Conduct. A trial version will be ready in Summer 2009. The tool will be put on a platform and will be available in English, German, Dutch, Estonian and Italian.

A review of international criminological literature was carried out.

Italy

EU – project "Offenders Beware" was introduced to visitors of the BIT tourism fair, 19-21 February in Milan. Our presentation was hosted by ASTOI (Association of Italian Tour Operators), signatory of the Code. Roberto Corbella (ASTOI President) opened the conference, in which spoke Michela Brambilla, Italy's Tourism Under-secretary and soon-to-be Ministry of Tourism, Maurizio Davolio (AITR - Italian Association of Responsible Tourism - President), Perla Goseco and Yasmin Abo-Loha from ECPAT-Italy.

It was moderated by Gabriela Jacomella from Corriere della Sera, Italy's leading newspaper.

We assured media coverage with two full pages on Corriere della Sera and widespread press releases. It was the first occasion to distribute the translated leaflet, that remained available to the public at ASTOI stand (with trained signatories' representatives to distribute it) for the whole fair.

We developed a website (www.viaggidanonfare.org) and the brief Flash spot it contains, that we broadcasted in the ASTOI booth for the entire fair.

The public reacted well to our presentation and we were able to sensitize a good number of

participants to the fair. ASTOI helpfulness was useful to lobby the correct implementation of The Code toward other signatories: the whole Italian tourism industry signed it, and now they are confronted with a best practice we hope will lead to a better enforcement.

This presentation triggered a good media response that's not yet exhausted: a RaiDue (second channel of our public television) journalist is willing to come to Berlin Expert Meeting to produce a 40 min. service on it.

The Netherlands

The TV documentary series ZEMBLA did a program (30 minutes) for National Public Television on the role of the Netherlands in combating child sex tourism and the production of child pornography in relation to Brazil. Theo Noten has been interviewed for this program and he has mentioned the Code of Conduct and cooperation with the private sector in countries of origin and destination as essential to provide protection to children against the sexual exploitation. Also issues like the use of extraterritorial legislation and extradition is being discussed. The program has been broadcasted on 26 October 2008.

On 21 October the chief editor of the Quarterly National Geographic Traveler Nederland had an interview with Theo Noten on how to improve the combat of child sex tourism. A two page article has been published in the first issue 2009 that came out in December 2008.

At the occasion of the ECPAT-NL stall at the Dutch Holiday fair (Vakantiebeurs), a press release was sent out on January 11 to announce the joint sustainable tourism activities including the offenders beware project. This has been distributed as part of the Initiative on Sustainable Outbound Tourism (IDUT) in which ECPAT-NL participates. The Fair attracted 132.961 visitors, more than 6,000 luggage tag folders have been handed out to passing guests to the fair.

On 13 January 2009 the day for tourism trade professionals the EU supported leaflet Travel with Care. Care for Children (Dutch version) has been distributed in total 500 copies. At the Holiday Fair Sustainable Tourism Meeting ANVR and IDUT presented the sustainable tourism strategy and sustainable tourism promotion activities for 2009. In the presentations the combat of the sexual exploitation of children in relation to tourism was addressed several times among others as part of the Sustainable Tourism Trade Initiative. The meeting was very much welcomed, about 250 people were present.

ECPAT-NL had a meeting at the ministry of justice with experts from the ministry, the public prosecutors office and the National police on how to improve the combat of child sex tourists, in holiday destinations as well as when back in the Netherlands. This is for a policy document that will be sent to the Dutch Parliament before 1 April 2009. Next to that there was a meeting with the team leader of Kmar the police active at Schiphol airport in preparing the Berlin Expert meeting as well as discussing a police action in February 2009 targeting flights landing at Schiphol Airport coming from so called risk destinations for child sex tourism and looking for child sex tourists carrying child sex abuse images

South partners

All South Partners attended the Expert meeting on the Protection of Children from sexual exploitation in Tourism and the role of tourism professionals, NGOs and law enforcement which took place in Berlin, from 8 to 11 March 09. Prior to the expert meeting south partners are involved in advocacy activities in the consortium partner's countries. They gave profound and deep insight in the problems of their countries. For instance, in India and the Philippines awareness on child sexual exploitation still little and law enforcement is weak. In Costa Rica the Code of Conduct was implemented very successfully over the last years. The representatives from the South countries also attended and reported at the various Advocacy meetings and a press conference at the ITB which were organized by the ECPAT Germany.

Law Enforcement - Cases

12 January 2009:

Canadian national D. L., aged 68, has been arrested today by Cambodian police at Sihanouk Ville, for abusing two underage girls. He has been charged, so far, with indecent act on minor.

15 Jan 2009:

The Sihanouk Ville municipal court conducted the trial of German national O. M. in absentia and sentenced him to 5 years in jail. O. was arrested in Cambodia in February 2007 for abusing 6 under age boys and for travelling under a fake passport. He was later deported to Germany where he was sentenced to six and a half years in prison with life time supervision in 2008 after the boys victims had testified in Germany.

21 Jan 2009:

Russian national A. T. was found guilty in two separate counts of child sex abuse cases which involved 17 girls as victims. Sihanouk ville municipal court, Cambodia, has sentenced him to 11 years in jail. T. is currently serving a 7 years jail sentence in Cambodia, for abusing one under age girls and was sentenced again in November 2008 to an additional 8 years sentence for abusing one more underage girl. However, the last verdict was rejected by T. as he was not present during the November trial. He will serve a total of 18 to 26 years in jail unless the appeal court reduces the sentence later on.

7 Feb 2009:

US national J.L. S., 75 years old, has been charged with indecent acts against minors under 15 years old. Sporich has been detained in the town of Siam Reap after abusing 3 boys.

Source: Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE), www.aplecambodia.org

Upcoming Dates & Events

| Date | Place | Main organizer, Event, Participation |
|--------------|--------|--|
| March, 26-28 | Italy | Globe Tourism Fair, www.globe08.it |
| July | Vienna | Train-the-trainers on exchange of experiences and testing new training materials incl. E-learning tool; organized by: ECPAT/respect Austria (Astrid Winkler) |