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Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy
Ghent University



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Joint Research Centre on Transnational Crime



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Prof. Dr. G. Vermeulen – Montrasec International Experts Meeting – JLS/2007/ISEC/514 - Brussels, 1 October 2009

Monitoring Trafficking in human beings and Sexual Exploitation of Children (MONTRASEC):

Benchmarking for member state and EU reporting, turning the SIAMSECT templates into a user-friendly interface & reporting tool

Prof. Dr. Gert Vermeulen

International Experts Meeting
Brussels, University Foundation – 1 October 2009



Agenda

- > *registration and coffee*
- > welcome & tour de table
- > policy context and objectives of the meeting and the project
- > background to the Montrasec project
- > *break*
- > presentation of Montrasec IT tool
 - > = live demo to test core features wanted
- > *lunch*
- > discussion
- > *coffee*
- > role and function national rapporteur(s)
- > discussion and close



Policy context and objectives

- > indicator identification efforts
 - > acquis
 - > way ahead
- > data collection mechanism
 - > core features
- > legal/political way forward



Indicator identification efforts: Acquis

- > proliferation of initiatives
 - > BMI/IOM
 - > Delphi (Policy Needs Crime Statistics Expert Group)
 - > Siamsect
 - > The Siamsect files. Standardised templates and blueprint for EU-wide collection of statistical information and analysis on missing and sexually exploited children and trafficking in human beings
 - > Vermeulen et al, 2006, 185 p.
- > quite close in terms of results



Indicator identification efforts: Way Ahead

- excellent possibilities & momentum for synergies
 - prevent further proliferation
 - in full awareness of parallel excercises and new/recent EU policy lines
 - Stockholm Programme (Swedish EU Presidency)
 - Belgian EU Presidency
- consequently (infra)
 - conform to EULOCS as new EU offence classification
 - whilst ensuring compatibility with UN, CoE, IOM, ILO, OSCE etc definitions
 - ideally broader than only THB



EULOCS

- EU Level Offence Classification System
 - = generic reference index
 - based on EU criminal law acquis (for all offences)
 - to be completed for use for statistical purposes with
 - variables clustered around author, victim & event
 - 'context fields', such as e.g. THB
 - other offences committed 'in the context of' THB
 - such as e.g. document fraud, smuggling, exploitation prostitution, administration of drugs, etc.
 - high-level statistics by Eurostat
 - in-depth phenomenological statistics by specialised body



Ideally broader than THB

- > through 'context fields' (supra)
- > through systematic parallel monitoring of sexual exploitation of children and missing minors
 - > also other/parallel projects stress importance of identifying child trafficking cases
 - > moreover: EU tradition & reality



Data Collection Mechanism: Core features

- > EU-centered architecture/model
 - > EU monitoring function + MS focal points (cfr Siamsect)
 - > allowing for cross-MS comparisons and EU data
 - > + internal links with Europol, Eurojust, Frontex ...
 - > + open towards the world (EU external policy)
 - > relations with UNODC, CoE, ILO, OSCE, IOM ...
- > integration of data from various data providers
 - > police, prosecution, courts, corrections, NGO's ...
 - > at MS/domestic and cross-MS/EU level
 - > depersonalisation instead of anonymisation of data
- > data protection-proof at the very same time



Legal/political way forward

- Swedish Presidency (Stockholm Programme)
- need for high-level coordinated EU-approach
 - linking in with EULOCS/Eurostat, policy needs for crime statistics expert group, FRA
 - strong(er) European Commission-involvement needed
 - compelling mechanism – establishment monitoring centre
 - 1st pillar-basis possible
 - opinion EDPS requested
 - favourable opinion Belgian Data Protection Supervisor
 - role for Belgian Presidency 2010?



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Montrasec

- Monitoring Trafficking in human beings and Sexual Exploitation of Children:
- Benchmarking for MS and EU reporting, turning the SIAMSECT templates into a user-friendly interface and reporting tool
- Presentation hereafter





Background

- Sound knowledge and judgement in the fight against human trafficking and missing and sexually exploited children is of the highest importance to make facts-based choices on policy level as well as on the yard.
- A lot of useful and relevant information concerning the phenomena is still spread over different departments, services, institutions and organisations.
- Moreover this information is often partial and incomplete.
- ➔ This can lead to loss of information and even to wrong presentation of realities



Montrasec: 2 objectives

- 1) to develop and to deliver a ready-to-use and statistical responsible IT-platform, which builds on the template which was developed in 'the Siamsect Files'
 - which brings together the different spread partial data of the relevant partners in an integrated data collection mechanism
 - which should allow to develop an accurate and correct view of human trafficking and missing and sexually exploited children
- 2) to benchmark the reports of the National Reporters by developing a 'reporting style sheet' of which the integrated data collection mechanism is the kernel



Short term

- to provide the European Commission with a practical and suitable IT-tool, with which the phenomena of human trafficking and missing and sexually exploited children can be described, interpreted and analyzed in an integrated and multidisciplinary way
- to provide the National Reporters or similar mechanisms with a tool to report in a uniform way concerning the trafficking phenomenon (uniform reporting style sheet)



Medium term

- › to permit the European Commission or a future Monitoring Centre on THB to make a horizontal comparison between the reports of the member states



Added value

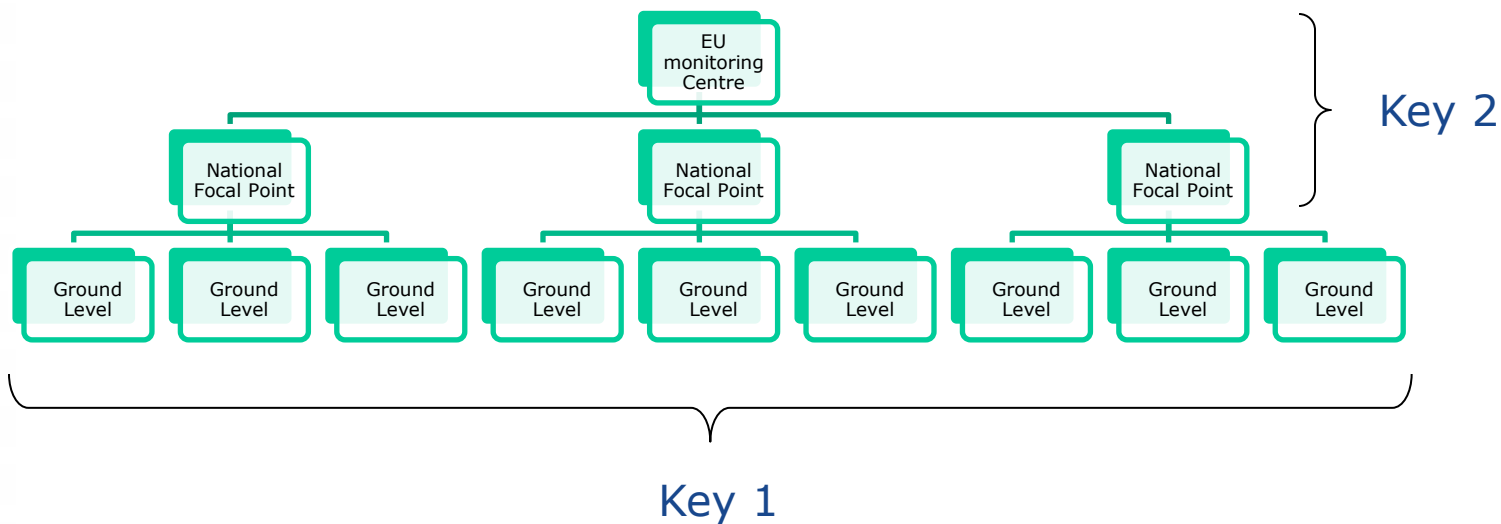
- The results will be sustainable as the development of the IT-platform and the uniform reporting style sheet are essential methodological tools for a sound collection, interpretation, analysis and comparison of data concerning the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, both on the national and the European level
- The uniformity which these tools allows for, will enable to complete the picture of the phenomenon for the years to come
- ➔ This is of paramount importance, as an accurate and correct view of human trafficking is a prerequisite to an evidence-based policy



Beneficiaries

- All actors active in the area of THB or missing and sexually exploited children
- Both at member state level and EU level
- Police services, Europol, Prosecutors, Eurojust, judges, courts, victims, victim reception and assistance centres, authorities, NGO's, hotlines, professionals, policy makers in the EU and the Member states

Structure





Ground Level

- Every partner at Ground Level has an ID and password
- The Ground Level partner can add data into three templates: 1) human trafficking, 2) missing children and 3) sexually exploited children
 - variables are clustered around event, author en victim
- The Ground Level Partner has access to own data and to own data only
- The Ground Level Partner can use an export function to see graphics concerning their own data
- The Ground Level can export their own data to Excel



National Focal Point

- Independent institution!
- Selection of the partners responsible for data input
- Coordination (centralisation and management) of the datacollection
- Analysis of the data



Security of the website

- > Use of a secured website:
 - > https instead of http
- > Use of 'secure sockets layer'
 - > SSL is the standard security technology for establishing an encrypted link between a web server and a browser
 - > This link ensures that all data passed between the web server and browsers remain private and integral
- > Every Ground Level Partner gets an ID and password, can add data, has access to own data and to own data only



HASH functions

- Hashing is the taking of a message and creating a new message in such a way that it cannot be reversed. There is simply no key for it to be unlocked
- <--> Encryption is the process of transforming information using an algorithm to make it unreadable to anyone except those possessing the key. The result of the process is encrypted information. With decryption the encrypted information is readable again
- SHA-1, SHA-224, SHA-256, SHA-384, and SHA-512 are the secure hash algorithms required by law for use in certain U. S. Government applications, including use within other cryptographic algorithms and protocols, for the protection of sensitive unclassified information



Double Key System (1)

- At the first level, data are depersonalised with SHA2
- Name, date of birth and nationality are transformed into a 'digest', an irreversible code
- This digest is cut digitally into two halves and the last part will be deleted
- The recovery of the true identity, even with supercomputers, is impossible
 - For example: John Smith, Belgian, born 01/02/1970 becomes 1e230c8e9aa6068d19d79f58292b643980c9eebc670ec4cf69
- The National Focal Point will only see this digest!



Double Key System (2)

- The data are linked to each other because all the Ground Level Partners use the same key
- The information available at the different National Focal Points goes to the EU Monitoring Centre, using a second key
 - The first digest becomes a new digest through SHA 2
 - For example: *1e230c8e9aa6068d19d79f58292b643980c9eebc670ec4cf69* becomes *c658bda0521021759dafd7d1afbd956d02d486502a4c4570ab*



Double Key System (3)

- The EU Monitoring Centre will draft a strategic report which it sends back to the National Focal Points
- The National Focal Point will add the information to the open database in an anonymised form
- The latter can't recover the identity of the victim or author because they don't have knowledge of the key.
- The data are still comparable because John Smith always becomes 1e230c8e9aa6068d19d79f58292b643980c9eebc670ec4cf69 and subsequently c658bda0521021759dafd7d1afbd956d02d486502a4c4570ab (but not the other way around)



Level of aggregation

- In order to see to what extent a future European data collection mechanism can open the database for the Ground Level Partners in the Member States:
 - we will examine which level of aggregation the database must show in order to exclude personalisation of the data
 - within the framework of the research with the Ground Level Partners
- Filter function to definitions of other organisations (IOM, ILO, ...)



Adjustment of the tool

- › The tool is designed to be intelligent and user-friendly
- › Ground level partners can add comments about the tool inside every template
- › If necessary, the tool will be adjusted



Timing

- > Dry-run (input of data):
 - > Until end of summer 2009
- > Experts seminar
 - > today
- > Final presentation (colloquium)
 - > End October



Website

- > <https://www.montrasec.eu>
 - > English
- > <https://www.montrasec.be>
 - > French
 - > Dutch
- > <https://www.montrasec.it>
 - > Italian