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## **Deliverable D2.1**

### **Common framework (PU)**

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**TABLE OF CONTENT**

- I. INTRODUCTION..... 3
  - Project summary ..... 3
  - Objective of the common framework..... 3
  - Relevant EU texts ..... 4
  - Needs assessment ..... 4
- II. SCOPE OF WORK (SOW) ..... 8
  - A. Objective of the mobile teams..... 8
  - B. Target groups ..... 8
  - C. Mobile teams’ qualifications and composition ..... 8
  - D. Geographic scope and types of facilities/programmes ..... 9
  - E. Key activities of mobile teams ..... 10
    - 1. Expertise and assistance to frontline workers/professionals ..... 10
    - 2. Direct support to victims ..... 10
  - F. Timeframe ..... 11
  - G. Quantitative targets ..... 11
- III. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs)..... 12
  - A. Information and referral ..... 12
  - B. Informed consent, data protection and confidentiality ..... 12
  - C. Planning, scheduling and implementing the activities..... 13
  - D. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the activities ..... 13
  - E. Coordination between the three mobile teams ..... 14

# I. INTRODUCTION

## Project summary

The project REACHing - REinforcing Assistance to viCtims of Human trafficking, coordinated by Forum réfugiés, is implemented in partnership with the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), the International Rescue Committee Italia (IRC Italia) and CESIE ETS (European Centre of Studies and Initiatives, Italy) over a two-year period (July 2025 – June 2027). Two French partners are also associated: MIPROF (Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women against Violence and the Fight against Human Trafficking) and University of Clermont Auvergne (UCA).

The main objective of the REACHing project is to create a European network of mobile teams composed of operational experts on trafficking in human beings (THB) in the asylum systems, who will operate in several territories in France, Italy, and Greece.

Another objective of the REACHing project is to share best practices with a key third country in the field of THB.

This project is a continuation of two European projects coordinated by Forum réfugiés: the [TRACKS](#) project, which focused on identifying the special needs of trafficked asylum seekers, and the [TRIPS](#) project, which focused on identifying the special needs of trafficked beneficiaries of international protection.

## Objective of the common framework

The objective of the common framework is to provide a common approach to the mobile teams' activities and to ensure effective coordination of work and sharing of good practices among partners of the REACHing project.

This common framework, which is a deliverable planned early in the two years' implementation of the REACHing project, will be a flexible instrument, subject to adaptations and developments during implementation of the field activities of the mobile teams in the three partner countries (France, Greece, Italy).

While this framework aims to provide a common approach to the mobile teams' field work, their interventions will be adapted to the specific and evolving needs identified and to the national contexts (legal, regulatory, social, political...) regarding asylum, international protection and trafficking in human beings.

The lessons learned from the implementation of the mobile teams' activities will be developed in a European final report, with recommendations (Deliverable D4.2), which will be presented at final conferences organized in the three partner countries at the end of the REACHing project.

## Relevant EU texts

At European Union (EU) level, the common legal framework regarding asylum and international protection consists of the relevant instruments of the Common European Asylum System (in particular the recast Asylum Procedures Directive<sup>1</sup>, the recast Reception Conditions Directive<sup>2</sup> and the Qualification Directive<sup>3</sup>), as well as the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum<sup>4</sup>, currently being operationalized in EU Member States.

On the other hand, the common legal framework regarding THB consists especially of the recently revised Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims,<sup>5</sup> currently being transposed in EU Member States.

## Needs assessment

To feed into the common framework, online national questionnaires (with common and national context-oriented questions) were distributed mid-September 2025 in France, Greece and Italy.

The objective was to assess current practices and identify operational needs of professionals in supporting victims, potential victims and survivors of human trafficking in the asylum systems of the three partner countries.

The national questionnaires included closed-ended questions with single or multiple-choice options, as well as open-ended questions where appropriate. Anonymous replies were collected in early October 2025.

Please find below a short synthesis of the questionnaires' results in each partner country.

### ➤ France

#### Target and respondents' profile:

The questionnaire targeted professionals working in centres and facilities providing accommodation and support to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international

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<sup>1</sup> [Directive 2013/32/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast)

<sup>2</sup> [Directive 2013/33/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast)

<sup>3</sup> [Directive 2011/95/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (recast)

<sup>4</sup> [Pact on Migration and Asylum - Migration and Home Affairs](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1712](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims

protection, managed by Forum réfugiés and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in France.

A total of 104 professionals replied to the questionnaire, all of them frontline practitioners affiliated with NGOs, most of whom were social workers or managers of accommodation facilities within the French asylum system.

Main needs of victims identified by professionals:

- Legal assistance, including support in completing the asylum application, in requesting a residence permit, in filing a complaint
- Psychological support
- Health care structures, including mental health structures
- Active listening
- Suitable accommodation, including safe shelter, small facilities, single sex accommodation
- Financial resources, including for administrative and legal proceedings

Professionals' main needs:

- Training and capacity building on the identification and support of victims of human trafficking, including specific profiles like unaccompanied minors
- Improving understanding of victims' rights
- Tools (guides, protocols, reporting templates, interview materials, etc.)
- Improving coordination between stakeholders (public authorities, NGOs...)
- Identified THB specialized contact person within each facility/programme

➤ **Greece**

Respondents' profile:

A total of 58 professionals replied to the questionnaire (15 males, 42 females, and one identifying as other). The majority were affiliated with NGOs (44), followed by public authorities (8) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) (6). In terms of professional background, most respondents were lawyers (28), while others included social workers (8), interpreters (6), as well as psychologists and case workers (3).

Main needs of victims identified by professionals:

- Legal assistance, including support with legalization documents and criminal procedures (44)
- Housing in a safe environment (37)
- Healthcare (23)
- Psychosocial support (32)

- Education and vocational training (16)

#### Professionals' main needs:

- Training and regular capacity building on the identification and support of victims of human trafficking
- Establishment of interdisciplinary teams with specialized staff (lawyers, social workers, interpreters) for the immediate referral and support of victims
- Information sessions in accommodation facilities for asylum seekers and detention centres

#### ➤ **Italy**

#### Target and respondents' profile:

The questionnaire targeted professionals working within the asylum and anti-trafficking systems in southern Italy, particularly in Sicily and Calabria.

A total of 53 professionals replied to the questionnaire, most of whom were frontline practitioners with direct experience in protection and case management. The largest professional groups included psychologists (15%), cultural mediators (13%), NGO staff (11%), UN and EU agency personnel (11%), and social workers and case workers (9%). Notably, 83% of participants work directly with potential or formally identified victims of trafficking.

#### Main needs of victims identified by professionals:

- Healthcare services (64%)
- Legal assistance (62%)
- Psychosocial support (58%)
- Access to the labour market (57%)
- Information on rights and available services (49%).

Respondents emphasized that many victims face mental health challenges (26%), have survived violence or GBV (30%), and are exposed to labour (42%) and sexual exploitation (31%). The findings point to the need for survivor-centred, multidisciplinary interventions addressing both protection and long-term integration.

#### Professionals' main needs:

- Improving coordination among services (66%)
- Access to interpretation and cultural mediation (38%)

- Specialized training on trafficking identification and trauma-informed approaches (34%).

Many highlighted limited awareness of trafficking dynamics (29%) and insufficient presence of services in remote areas. Despite 74% having received some form of training, 75% expressed the need for additional and more advanced learning, particularly on referral mechanisms, legal frameworks, and identification tools.

## II. SCOPE OF WORK (SOW)

### A. Objective of the mobile teams

The objective of the mobile teams is twofold:

- To provide **expertise and assistance to frontline workers** in the response to the special needs of victims, potential victims and survivors of human trafficking in the asylum systems
- To provide **direct support to victims, potential victims and survivors of human trafficking** in the asylum systems to better respond to their special needs

### B. Target groups

In line with the mobile teams' twofold objective, their activities target two groups:

- **Professionals** working directly with asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in reception centres, or other facilities, and professionals working directly with victims of human trafficking who are in the asylum systems. These professionals may include, for example, medical staff.
- **Asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection who are identified or presumed to be victims of human trafficking.** The profile of this target population will include, depending on the country, women, men, children (unaccompanied or accompanied), who are nationals of various third countries and who are victims or potential victims of different forms of human trafficking (sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, forced criminality, domestic servitude, forced begging, etc.).

### C. Mobile teams' qualifications and composition

Each mobile team will include two staff members. These staff members should be professionals trained in vulnerability issues, in the specific needs of victims of trafficking and in the asylum/international protection/THB nexus.

- **In France:** A team consisting of two social workers will be dedicated full-time to the implementation of the activities. Since beneficiaries of the direct support interventions are supported and/or accommodated by Forum réfugiés, other needs such as psychological support, employment counselling, etc. will be

covered by the NGO's own resources or through referrals to other services/organizations.

- **In Greece:** A team consisting of a lawyer, social worker and interpreters will be dedicated full-time to the implementation of the activities. Especially for the direct support interventions, other needs of the beneficiaries such as psychological support, educational support, and employment counselling will be covered by GCR's own resources.
- **In Italy:** Two teams will be operational, each composed of a Protection Expert and a Cultural Mediator, and will be deployed in Southern Italy, specifically in the regions of Sicily and Calabria. Other cultural mediators will be involved occasionally according to the language needs of the survivors supported. Each professional will be involved part-time on the project.

## D. Geographic scope and types of facilities/programmes

Mobile teams will operate across specific regions and within specific facilities in the three partner countries:

- **In France:** direct support interventions will take place in Lyon (Rhône, and around if needed) and Marseille (and around if needed) in different types of reception and support facilities/programmes for asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection (SPADA, CADA, HUDA, CAES, CPH, AGIR, etc.) managed by Forum réfugiés. Interventions targeting professionals will also potentially cover reception and support facilities/programmes managed by Forum réfugiés in other territories through remote communications methods, as well as professionals from other stakeholders where relevant.
- **In Greece:** Centres in mainland, accommodation facilities, transitional accommodation, integration centres, Controlled Access Facility for Temporary Accommodation for Asylum seekers (CAFTAAS), and Reception and Identification Centres (RICs). In addition, the programme will maintain a presence in detention centres within some regions. In remote areas, continuous physical presence of legal and social professionals may not be feasible. In such cases, support will be provided through digital communication tools and technology.
- **In Italy:** The primary focus will be on reception centres for asylum seekers (CAS - governmental centres) located in the regions of Calabria and Sicily. Where relevant, the team will also consider interventions in facilities hosting beneficiaries of international protection under the SAI (*Sistema Accoglienza e*

*Integrazione*) system. Additionally, mobile teams will operate in hubs and disembarkation areas, in close coordination with relevant actors, including anti-trafficking organizations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## E. Key activities of mobile teams

### 1. Expertise and assistance to frontline workers/professionals

- ✓ Organize and deliver information/awareness raising/training sessions
- ✓ Offer case consultations and guidance on how to identify victims of trafficking in the asylum systems and their specific needs
- ✓ Offer case consultations and guidance on how to support victims of trafficking in the asylum systems and address their specific needs, where applicable, for example in:
  - requesting adaptation of their reception conditions
  - providing support in their asylum procedure (e.g.: procedural guarantees such as specific interview conditions)
  - providing support for other administrative procedure and for complaint procedure if relevant
  - providing support in their integration process (housing, employment)
  - providing support in their access to health services, in particular mental health
  - referring them to other services/actors
  - strengthening referral pathways and coordination with National Referral Mechanisms (NRM) for Human Trafficking Victims if they are in place
  - etc.

### 2. Direct support to victims

- ✓ Conduct collective information sessions on rights and services
- ✓ Conduct individual needs evaluations
- ✓ Provide individual support to address specific needs, where applicable, for example by:
  - requesting adaptation of their reception conditions
  - providing legal presentation

- providing support in their asylum procedure (e.g.: preparation for asylum interviews; presence during asylum interviews; request for specific interview conditions; submission of legal memos; appeals against negative decisions)
- providing support for other administrative procedure and for complaint procedure if relevant
- providing support in their integration process (housing, employment)
- providing support in their access to health services, in particular mental health
- referring them to other services/actors
- referring them to National Referral Mechanisms (NRM) for Human Trafficking Victims if they are in place
- etc.

## F. Timeframe

As part of a two-year pilot programme cofinanced by the EU, the mobile teams' activities will be implemented during approximately 18 months, from October/November 2025 to March/April 2027.

Given the limited timeframe of these field activities, in particular those targeting victims and potential victims, partners will have to anticipate their gradual phasing out and/or their takeover by other means/resources so as not to harm beneficiaries.

## G. Quantitative targets

The two target groups (professionals and victims) will be targeted through group and individual activities.

In each country, the mobile team will ensure at least 40 field interventions, towards both target groups.

In total, the project aims to target at least 5000 beneficiaries: 2000 beneficiaries in France, 2000 beneficiaries in Greece, 1000 beneficiaries in Italy.

### III. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs)

#### A. Information and referral

The mobile teams' activities and objectives will be presented to the staff of the various relevant facilities/programmes of the three partner countries through emails, meetings, phone calls, etc.

Phone numbers and contact email addresses of the mobile teams, or a dedicated project email address, will be shared with the relevant colleagues/stakeholders to ease the referrals in case of requested support.

Referrals for direct support to victims may be initiated either by the staff of the relevant facilities/programmes or directly by individuals at risk (distribution of flyers during group information sessions, which will include the contact details of the mobile teams for direct outreach).

Existing or new forms for referrals will be used.

#### B. Informed consent, data protection and confidentiality

Mobile teams will conduct their activities in compliance with the professional codes of ethics and conduct applicable to their respective professions (social work, legal services, interpretation services, etc.) and will endeavour to uphold the highest ethical standards.<sup>6</sup>

Data protection and confidentiality will be strictly maintained in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, as well as the other data protection applicable rules.

All files and communications will be securely encrypted.

In line with partners' respective Data protection policies, only information that is useful for the assistance provided to the person justifies the sharing of information and the collection of information in a file. The informed consent of the person is systematically sought and must be explicit. The person must also be informed of the possibility of consulting their file and all information concerning them, and of the possibility of withdrawing their consent at any time if they wish.

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<sup>6</sup> See, for example, [WHO Ethical and safety recommendations for interviewing trafficked women](#), 2003.

## C. Planning, scheduling and implementing the activities

Mobile teams will develop an activity plan and schedule their activities in their respective territories based on identified needs for expertise and assistance to frontline workers/professionals, as well as for direct support to victims.

\* For field interventions targeting frontline workers/professionals, mobile teams will organize and deliver tailored information/awareness raising/training sessions.

They will use existing awareness raising/training materials and tools and/or develop new ones.

\* For field interventions targeting victims, mobile teams will provide group support or individual support.

They will organize collective information sessions on rights and services, disseminate awareness messages (at least 20), distribute leaflets, flyers, etc.

They will also provide individualized support tailored to the needs of the victims, if needed.

## D. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the activities

Mobile teams will use tracking tables to monitor the different types of activities implemented according to the target groups (one for field interventions targeting frontline workers/professionals; one for field interventions targeting victims or potential victims/groups).

In addition, for field interventions targeting frontline workers/professionals, satisfaction surveys/questionnaires will be distributed and completed following these interventions. If it is a one-off session for one structure/centre, the quality of the intervention will be assessed immediately afterwards. If it is part of a programme of sessions for the same structure/centre over a longer period, this will take the form of an (online) questionnaire to be distributed and completed towards the end of the programme/project.

Attendance lists will also be kept for all group activities.

Furthermore, for field interventions targeting individual victims or potential victims, individual reports will also be kept by the mobile teams with more detailed personal data, stored and shared only within the national mobile team in a secured way and in compliance with data protection and confidentiality rules.

In order to ensure consistency across partners and to simplify data aggregation for reporting, templates will be used by the mobile teams.

The collected data will feed the quarterly internal progress reports which will be drafted and sent to the coordinator during the implementation period of the field activities.

The lessons learned from the implementation of the mobile teams' activities will be developed in a European final report, with recommendations (Deliverable D4.2), which will be presented at final conferences organised in the three partner countries at the end of the REACHing project.

## **E. Coordination between the three mobile teams**

Regular exchanges between the three national mobile teams will take place in order to share information, best practices and tools, and to create a community of practice.

A specific Drive will also be created to share relevant tools and materials.

Furthermore, mobile teams will use templates for the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of their activities.

## CONSORTIUM COMPOSITION

Forum réfugiés France		Coordinator (France)
Fondazione International Rescue Committee Italia ETS		Co-beneficiary (Italy)
CESIE ETS (European Centre of Studies and Initiatives)		Co-beneficiary (Italy)
Greek Council for Refugees		Co-beneficiary (Greece)
Mission interministérielle pour la protection des femmes contre les violences et la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains (Miprof)	   <i>Mission interministérielle pour la protection des femmes contre les violences et la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains</i>	Associated partner (France)
Université Clermont- Auvergne		Associated partner (France)