

Terms of reference

LEFÖ-IBF requests the services of a women international expert to undertake an assessment on the legal framework on the access to international protection for trafficked persons, in the framework of the Project REST (Residency Status: Strengthening the Protection of Trafficked Persons).

Country: 6 European Countries

Terms of Appointment: expert's contract for 32 working days until July 2020.

LEFÖ - Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women (acronym LEFÖ-IBF) is a working area of the organization LEFÖ (Beratung, Bildung und Begleitung für Migrantinnen), a self-organized association of political refugees from Latin America. Founded in 1998, LEFÖ-IBF is the recognized victim protection facility, which operates nationwide on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior and the Federal Chancellery – Women's Affairs and Equality.

Background

Trafficking in human beings is a gross violation of human rights. Since a resident status provides victims with a foundation for safety and stability, ensuring it should be indeed considered as an integral part of the access to justice. Contrary to this statement, countries report a low number of permanent residence status and/or international protection offered to trafficked persons, which shows that the strength of the international standards remain limited at a national level.

Project REST

The project aims to strengthen the right to residence and protection of third-country nationals trafficked in Europe, by focusing on the gaps and challenges in their actual access to rights. An in-depth analysis of the implementation of the international standards¹ to the national levels, together with seminars and a guide with promising practices foresees to address the matter of ensuring a long-term protection to victims.

LEFÖ-IBF coordinates the project and cooperates with partner-organisations located in other five European countries: Comité Contre l'esclavage Moderne (CCEM) in France, Proyecto

¹ Project REST's research activity is carried out partially with funding from the Council of Europe.

Esperanza in Spain, CoMensha in the Netherlands, La Strada Moldova in Moldova and Astra in Serbia.

Objectives:

The project seeks to explore other opportunities to residence that might entail a longer-term Protection of trafficked persons by 1) conducting a legal in-depth analysis on the applicable law, internationally, European and nationally; by 2) conducting case-studies to identify gaps and barriers in their effective implementation and the existence of promising practices reached at a national level to overcome these barriers and by 3) providing new skills and knowledge among all relevant stakeholders.

Expected Results:

- Concrete knowledge provided, recommendations and policy papers briefed to relevant stakeholders
- Professionals, legal practitioners and NGOs are equipped and aware on the victim's access to an appropriate residence status and international protection
- New cooperation structures emerged

Assessments of the researcher:

The researcher will work on the 2-year project on activities related to the workpackage Conceptual approach, with a focus on desk research, stakeholders consultations and analysis of provided national studies on international protection for trafficked persons,. Additionally, a second researcher will be employed to conduct a research on residence permit for trafficked persons.

This assessment is part of the lack of systematized and analytical information about grant of international protection to trafficked persons in the countries involved, intending to enforce evidence-based discussions on the importance of a long-term protection of the trafficked persons and the promising practices in the field. At the same time, this, together with the other outputs will set up important standards and provide skills on how to overcome gaps.

The outcome findings will be presented either in the national level in round tables and seminars, as at an international level e.g. European Parliament, European Commission, Council of Europe, and OSCE.

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Specific Tasks:

- To participate in the kick-off meeting in Vienna, Austria
- To conduct desk research related to international protection for trafficked persons to identify existing barriers/gaps as well as to examine promising practices
- To conduct stakeholders consultations in the form of individual interviews
- To analyse data gathered during desk research, stakeholders consultations and provided national case studies
- To submit a draft report
- To present preliminary report at focus group meeting in Paris, France
- To address the feedback at the focus group meeting and revise the draft report
- To submit the revised final version of the report to LEFÖ

The tasks are to be performed according to the timeline specified between LEFÖ and researchers.

Duration:

Important project dates:

- September 2019, 1 ½ days kick-off meeting in Vienna, Austria
- October and November, December 2019: Months for conducting the desk research
- January 2020: Analysing data, including national case studies
- February 2020: first draft of the report
- May 2020: Participation in 1 ½ day-focus group in Paris, France.
- June, July 2020: revision on the basis of the focus group feedback and final version of the report.

In total, 32 working days are estimated.

Deliverables:

- Deliverables for the grant – to be specified during the interview.

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Remuneration:

The researcher will be paid on a daily rate for number of days worked. The researcher will be provided with reimbursement for travel costs and daily subsistence allowance for attending the above mentioned meetings. The daily rate is set at 350 euro a day. In total the researcher will be paid maximum 32 days, making a total of 11.200€. Costs for the project activities will be covered by the project.

Profile & requirements of the researcher

The researcher is expected to demonstrate the following competencies:

- A Master's degree in human rights, law, political science or international relations
- Work experience at the nexus of human trafficking and asylum is a distinct advantage.
- Feminist stance
- Experience of working with governmental authorities, NGOs and/or international organizations.
- Knowledge and understanding of the issue of human trafficking and migration policy in Europe is an asset
- Good writing and reporting skills in English is required
- Good communication, interpersonal and organizational skills
- Ability to co-write reports with another researcher
- Proven high level of discretion and flexibility

Applying candidates should provide a cover letter with their motivation and their curriculum vitae to ibf@lefoe.at for the attention of Evelyn Probst latest 29.08.2019. LEFÖ-IBF will select the consultant, possibly after an interview.

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