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## SAFE HOST Project: European Conference a success

The European Conference of the SAFE HOST project took place on 18 and 19 May 2013 in the "Fortezza da Basso" in Florence during the Terra Futura 2013 event, which every year for the last ten years attracts men and women which are committed daily in the construction of a fair and sustainable economy.

SAFE HOST is the European project lead by FILCAMS-CGIL: a project against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, an initiative born to give those working in the tourism sector, both workers and companies, practical tools to avoid that tourism networks and channels are used with the aim of approaching and sexually abusing children.

National representatives from the Spanish trade unions FECOHT-CCOO and CHTJ-UGT, the Polish NSZZ Solidarnosc, the tourism sector trade union from Montenegro, the Hungarian VISZ, the Italian UILTuCS, many territorial structures of FILCAMS-CGIL, as well as European and global federations: ETUC, EFFAT, ETF, IUF took part in the conference. Also representatives from employers' organisations attended the conference: the Italian FIPE, affiliated to HOTREC, and the British ABTA, affiliated to ECTAA, a partner of this project.

There was a joint welcome, done by the regional secretary of UILTuCS Toscana, on behalf of FISASCAT and FILCAMS representatives as well.

Kristzina Boros, representing the Tourism Unit of DG Enterprise & Industry in the European Commission, expressed appreciation for the initiative and the possibility to continue cooperation on the issue, to make life harder for sex tourists coming and going from Europe.

The Conference had two objectives:

The first objective was to create synergies among networks and associations, organisations and institutions committed at various levels to the prevention and fight of sexual exploitation of children in tourism and to the protection of abused children or children at risk. Participants from various countries presented and shared a wide range of national experiences, e.g. the CEOP program, the Child Exploitation & Online Protection centre, the UNICEF campaigns in Spain in cooperation with "friendly hotels", the Observatory of the Ente Bilaterale Nazionale del Turismo on the enforcement of the code of conduct, the training, information and awareness raising activities of ABTA, the initiatives carried out by the European Commission against sexual exploitation of children in the tourism sector.

The second objective was that of presenting a "toolkit", i.e. a set of tools for operators in the tourism supply chain, guidelines to help recognising and impeding cases of sexual exploitation of children, the project logo to be applied on the sectors' contracts to inform and raise awareness among tourists and travellers. This task was given to "TATA with care", a partner in the project. The research activities, i.e. the defining of characteristics and profiles of this phenomenon were tasked to ECPAT Italia, another technical partner.

The final remarks of this two day meeting were given by Gabriele Guglielmi, project manager.



Supported by DG Employment,  
Social Affairs and Inclusion

*This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union.  
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