
PRESS RELEASE

(Brussels, 21 November 2013)

Trade unions launch tools for European social partners to combat sexual exploitation of children in tourism

To coincide with Universal Children's Day, EFFAT¹, together with FILCAMS CGIL² and other partners³, yesterday launched the SAFE HOST package of training and resources to equip the European tourism industry with innovative and practical tools for the struggle against child sexual exploitation throughout the whole supply chain.

"The launch of this innovative yet practical tool box marks the completion of a year-long project undertaken to map the scope of existing forms of sexual exploitation of children in European tourism, and gather the best practices of Member States in fighting it," said Gabriele Guglielmi, Head of the FILCAMS International Department.

Building upon the EU Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and children pornography adopted in 2011 (2011/92/EU), the SAFE HOST project aims to promote joint actions and a shared responsibility among social partners, as well as relevant NGOs and social tourism stakeholders for protecting children in tourism and travel.

A further objective of SAFE HOST is awareness raising, for which the project team has developed a recognisable trademark to demonstrate a tourism operators' completion of the training.

"Although we are at the end of the project, its aims will live on as long as the trademark continues to be used," said Anna Quartucci, President of TaTa with Care (Association for the training of tourism' operators), which contributed technical knowledge to the project.

"We are all aware of the importance of ensuring the continuity of this project," stressed Kerstin Howald, EFFAT Secretary for the Tourism Sector.

Indeed, the European employers' associations in attendance at the launch – including ECTAA⁴, HOTREC⁵ and ISTO⁶ – demonstrated a strong commitment to dissemination, implementation and follow up of the project, including reporting and monitoring mechanisms.

Surpassed in number only by the trafficking of drugs and weapons, the trafficking of children remains a problem against which all tourism providers – including hotels, restaurants, catering providers, travel agencies, tour operators, transport and tour guides – can play a role.

The SAFE HOST tool box will be available online from 15 December at <http://safehost.filcams.it>

¹ The European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions

² The Italian Commerce, Tourism and Services Workers' Federation

³ Project partners include VISZ (Hungarian Tourism workers' union), FECOHT-CCOO Spanish Commerce and Tourism workers' trade union), EBNT (National Bilateral Authority for tourism), UILTuCS (Italian Commerce tourism and services workers' federation) and FIAVET (Italian tour operators and tourism associations' federation), with technical and scientific contribution by TaTa with Care (Association for the training of tourism' operators), and ECPAT Onlus (Association against child and teenager sexual exploitation).

⁴ The Group of national travel agents' and tour operators' associations within the EU

⁵ The umbrella association of national trade associations representing hotels, restaurants, cafés and similar establishments in Europe

⁶ The International Social Tourism Organisation



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EFFAT represents the interests of more than 2.6 million members, affiliated to 120 national trade unions in 38 European countries in agriculture, food production and tourism.

EFFAT was founded in 2000 when the European Committee of Food, Catering and Allied Workers (ECF) merged with the European Federation of Agricultural Workers' Union (EFA). It is a single umbrella organisation serving trade unions throughout the food-processing chain 'from farm to fork'.

EFFAT is a member of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and a regional organisation within the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF).

More: www.effat.org

FILCAMS CGIL is the Italian Commerce, Tourism and Services Workers' Federation, a professional trade union of CGIL founded in March 1960 from the union FILAM (Italian Federation for Hotel, Canteen and Spa Workers) and FILCEA (Italian Federation of Commerce and Aggregate Workers).

FILCAMS is engaged in the protection of workers at union level by entering into national labour contracts, union meetings, regional and corporate bargaining, management of social security funds and various initiatives. It also offers support to workers through other types of services: contractual and legislative information, checking of pay slips, dismissal of appeal, applications for unemployment benefits, labour disputes or legal assistance of various kinds.

More: <http://www.filcams.cgil.it/>