



Religious in Europe Networking
Against Trafficking and Exploitation

RENA TE ANNUAL REPORT

October 2015 – September 2016



“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (Mt 5:7)

Pope Francis - Jubilee Year of Mercy

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE) has been challenged across Europe during these past months due to the phenomenal increase of migration across the world. This has been particularly painful for thousands of refugees crossing the Mediterranean. This has had an impact on the work at the local level. Nearly all members have been faced with the growing need to care for the migrant. It is in these chaotic situations of poverty and dislocation that the traffickers ply their trade in a most cruel manner, making the most of vulnerable peoples.

The mission of RENATE has encompassed the work of training forty members in the rescue and rehabilitation of victims. This took place in Madrid, Spain. It was a challenging week as we faced the horror of cross-border trafficking amongst people trying to escape war and in particular the poverty of the North African desert and of Morocco. Another challenging project has been the mapping exercise led by Sr. Patricia Mulhall, CSB, a member of RENATE. The research was conducted in 13 countries in which RENATE members are working at the grassroots level. This research included a comment on the European situation in general and recommendations for RENATE into the future. It was completed in September and we are happy to say that it is now uploaded for public reading on the RENATE website, www.renate-europe.net. Another great piece of work is the RENATE film, accomplished during this reporting period, by the film-maker, Sr. Ivica Kúšiková. She has worked tirelessly in many countries to capture the work and the issues around the impact of this modern day slavery. This film is being launched at the 2nd RENATE Assembly taking place in Rome from November 6th – 12th, 2016.

It was good to welcome members of the RENATE Board to Albania this year and much important work was covered in the unfolding of the action plan and the process for the implementation of this plan. It was good to welcome members from new countries who have not long been members of RENATE. These included members from Hungary and Malta. Since this time we have also welcomed new members from the Ukraine, Denmark and Macedonia. All representatives will be present at the 2nd Assembly. Much field work by the core group members and support members ensures that the work of RENATE extends right across Europe.

Campaigns are on-going in every place where we are working. Many of these campaigns and works of advocacy have been recorded on the website by the members and summarised by our highly competent communications person, Anne Kelleher. The former website developer, Aneta Grabowska, has worked closely with Anne Kelleher to ensure that the website is updated and captures the events, issues and campaigns of the day. We are grateful to them for their tireless work. The website is now an important resource for the more than one thousand regular monthly visitors. Due to the massive development of the work on the

RENATE website, and also new developments upcoming for this work, we have appointed a new RENATE website developer, Manushaqe Cypi, who took over this role in July, 2016. We are also pleased that we have the resources to support members in their work through emergency funding, for care of members and for on-going professional development.

16 October 2015 - Ahead of the 9th EU Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October), the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) has warned about the increased risk of human trafficking posed by the current refugee crisis and the urgent need to address the particular vulnerability of unaccompanied children and minors. The extension of the Schengen visa to countries not yet in the E.U. has also raised the risk across Europe of more and more people being trafficked through the growth of porous borders and the growing use of the dark internet to facilitate this criminal activity. RENATE is staying alert to this reality and it is hoped that this report, along with involvement in issues raised in the newly completed RENATE Mapping Exercise, will lead to a growing understanding of the ways in which RENATE is engaging, at the grass roots level, in some of the present day trafficking realities. These realities have led to an increase in the number of vulnerable victims being trafficked every minute on the streets of Europe.

Imelda Poole IBVM, President of RENATE

2. BACKGROUND

RENATE was established in 2009 by a group of religious representing several different Congregations working against Human Trafficking in Europe. In 2007 USMI (Union of Major Religious Superiors in Italy), invited Religious from all over the world to come together to discuss the phenomenon of trafficking and to adopt a way forward for religious in combating this evil. This group, called INRATIP, made the choice to work together to form another international body under the umbrella of UISG (Union of International Female Superiors General). In 2009 this dream was realised and the international group of religious called TALITHA KUM was established. At this gathering some of the members of TALITHA KUM, from Europe, realised that there was no network of religious for Europe. A decision was made to call together sisters from congregations working in Europe who would be interested in establishing such a network. The first gathering of Sisters from Europe took place in The Netherlands at the administration base of Dutch Religious Against Trafficking (SRTV), courtesy of the Dutch religious who founded this organisation.

At this meeting, *Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation* (RENATE) was conceived. RENATE is grateful to SRTV for enabling these first meetings to be realised. This first group, of fifteen sisters and a core group of six sisters, plus the two workers employed by SRTV, established RENATE on a legal footing, with financial support by 2010 under the Dutch law. The mandate for this initial group was to call a conference to launch RENATE, and to invite Religious from Eastern, Central and Western Europe. This 1st Assembly of RENATE was realised in Trzebinia/Poland in September 2011, at which time RENATE was launched as a Network.

3. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of RENATE is to respond, in the light of Gospel values, to the issue of the trafficking in human persons. The main goal will be accomplished by implementing the specific objectives of RENATE which include:

- *Development of awareness-raising activities against Human Trafficking and the growing demand for this within all levels of society in Europe, using all forms of modern technology and communications.*
- *Networking and sharing resources, skills, and knowledge.*
- *Research and implementation actions against the growing demand for such abuse in the countries of origin and destination.*
- *Working, where possible, against the root causes of Human Trafficking.*

The above is the subject for this review, referred to as the OUTCOMES chapter of this report.

4. METHODOLOGY

RENATE has developed a methodology of work which includes a high level of networking processes amongst the members using modern technology and clear communication. This enables resources to be shared and for an implementation of the plan of action to be successfully accomplished at every stage. The work itself includes awareness-raising across Europe through the collaboration of the many members of RENATE. This action is aimed at eliminating, where possible, the crime of human trafficking taking place in our world today.

This particular work, undertaken by the members, involves many creative initiatives across Europe in the field of prevention as well as protection for the most vulnerable in isolated regions, where many innovative projects are sustained. The members are also engaged in direct action with the victims of trafficking. Members work in shelters, refugee services, re-integration centres and on the streets where the victims are being used by pimps and need to be rescued. Finally, the methodology of the Network includes advocacy and research. Some of the members are conducting PhD level research in the field of anti-trafficking and they collaborate with RENATE in this work.

In response to the interest of donors, RENATE undertook to conduct a mapping exercise of the work against trafficking across Europe. Sr. Patricia Mulhall, CSB, led RENATE in this initiative, working with a dynamic and active team across Europe. This was completed in September 2015 and launched on the website. RENATE is aware, through the use of the website, and the communications person, that RENATE can be a key actor in the field of advocacy worldwide. Through the individual members, advocacy is taking place each day at the local level. RENATE is aware of the intensity of the work and therefore a key element for the work's success is the care of the workers. This due care of workers is included as an integral part of the plan of action and methodology. There is also the need for assessment and evaluation of the work, for ensuring the on-going future of the work with the goal of eliminating this crime from society. Fund-raising is an important aspect of the work in order to raise awareness of the needs. This work is tireless and we are grateful to our main funding body in Europe who remains loyal to RENATE and other funding bodies who are slowly becoming involved with us in this work.

List of specific means and methods used by RENATE to conduct its work:

- Monthly conference calls via Skype with the RENATE Core Group, followed by a written feedback from the Secretary
- Ad hoc conference calls via Skype when an urgent need requires immediate action
- An annual meeting of the RENATE Working Board with representatives from member European countries, followed by a written report of the meeting from the Secretary

- An annual training programme for RENATE members on a specific subject related to anti-trafficking, followed by a written report providing feedback on the training from the Communications Person
- An annual meeting of the RENATE Core Group to consider long-term plans and a chance to liaise with each other in more 'informal' settings
- Exchange of information by email, mobile phones
- Cross-cultural visits for capacity building
- Publishing of latest news, projects and trafficking alerts on the website
- Sharing of source materials, toolkits, ideas for prayer via website
- Using Facebook to inform the followers of RENATE about anti-trafficking actions
- Campaigning using the medium of Facebook as well as the RENATE website
- Issuing of a quarterly newsletter, addressed to a wide audience (circulated not only between the members but also on the website)
- Regular E-Bulletins
- Meeting key people involved in anti-trafficking work who represent the Catholic Church and other relevant actors who influence public opinion
- Raising awareness at different levels of society, from local parishes, schools, to reaching larger groups of interested audiences at universities, at conferences and symposiums and such like events
- Providing members with the opportunity to benefit from intensive English courses when needed, or specialised trainings in the field of Human Trafficking or short respite care for workers
- Offering financial support to RENATE members for local projects
- Documentary on the work against trafficking across Europe (film project).

5. OUTCOMES

RENATE has aimed to achieve all the tasks which are divided into three sections, i.e.:

- *awareness raising,*
- *networking,*
- *advocacy and research.*

Awareness Raising involves all activities which enable society to become familiar with human trafficking and its exploitative methods. This awareness-raising includes website development and campaigns.

Networking is essential to make RENATE stronger in its mission. Networking is also the backbone of the Foundation. It is the source of energy which often sustains many of the members in their isolated work against human trafficking in difficult and dangerous grass roots action. Working together makes a difference. All members know they are not alone. They are encouraged and supported with tools to ensure the work is successful and they are cared for no matter what the situation. These tools include one main training

programme each year focusing on a particular area of interest (e.g. social media, catholic social teaching, labour trafficking, intervention and integration of victims of trafficking in human beings, cross-cultural experiences and on-going English language training for members who need it).

Advocacy and Research work takes into account operations required to enable the Network's mission to be visible to other networks and authorities, along with relevant actors who influence public opinion. It includes also a programme of research for RENATE along with the publishing of tool-kits and resource materials. All three sections are underpinned by *Theological Reflection* which accompanies any action of RENATE. This is key to the work of the Network as it maintains a focus on vision and values which are important to RENATE Members.

5.1 AWARENESS RAISING

Communication via Website, Facebook Page, E-Bulletin & Newsletter

The RENATE website completed three years of dynamic activity on the 30 September, 2016. It continues to be a platform of communication for the Membership as well as the wider public. This was possible thanks to a positive response not only from Network members who delivered information from their countries, but also as a result of the external interest of other actors (e.g. journalists), who were keen on sharing their articles with RENATE. This was all realised through the tireless work of the communications person in liaison with the membership and the website manager. This work helped the Website Manager to keep the information updated on a regular basis and offer news European-wide regarding projects and activities carried out by the members. The external interest also allowed for the inclusion of worldwide news and videos. The RENATE Communications Person was the author and editor of many articles which were issued on the RENATE website. Some of the information was shared simultaneously on the RENATE Facebook Page.

Further development of the website together with its 'member only area' is considered and will follow in accordance with an on-going dialogue to make the website more user-friendly. The planned update extended the map of countries in the Network. Information compiled from the new locations will feed into the new pages.

The RENATE Newsletter had four editions from October, 2015 until September, 2016. It is a very successful tool of communication to inform the membership and readers on the activities of the Network. Members who received it by email and non-members who accessed it via the website gave positive feedback about the Newsletter. The eighth issue this year will follow in June. This was also the work of the communications person.

Hub for RENATE

The idea of a *Hub for RENATE* as a comprehensive portal to gather information about Human Trafficking from 300+ websites was presented for the first time at the Board Meeting in Durrës, in March, 2015 and later in Dublin November, 2015. The RENATE Board. After due deliberation and election, RENATE made the decision to drop this project for that time

Two thirds of the Core Group of RENATE did, however, elect to support the Hub Project. The project is being furthered now by a Foundation in the UK in collaboration with RENATE. This Foundation has agreed to take on this initiative. RENATE will be partnered with this Foundation. The core group gave unanimous support to go forward with this project. The lead Foundation is happy to deliver this work. It is a successful conclusion to what was, for RENATE, too daunting a project to lead at this time.

Campaigning at Katholikentag in Germany

RENATE Members were present at the National Assembly of Catholics (Katholikentag) in Leipzig, Germany, 25-29 May, 2016. “Behold the man”, a phrase taken from the words of Pontius Pilate in the Passion of Christ: “Ecce Homo”, was the theme of Katholikentag 2016. Bearing the motto in mind, respect for human dignity and humanity in modern times was the main focus of the event. RENATE displayed its network in an exhibition tent located in the area of ‘Religious Orders Initiatives.’ This was visited by a large number of people throughout the days of the assembly. It afforded an opportunity to spread the message of the Network's mission while addressing the problem of modern-day slavery during this five-day event.



RENATE Members Raising Awareness at Katholikentag in Leipzig

Pope Francis sent a video message. He said this theme, “Ecce Homo”, shows us that it is not exterior success that count in life, but rather the ability to stop, to look and to be attentive to the needs of others. Through contemplation and prayer, the Pope said, we can draw closer to God and see that as he shows love and mercy to us, so we are called to be merciful to each other. So often, he noted, we see people ill-treated and deprived of their dignity – the elderly, the sick, the unemployed and the refugees. Pope Francis concluded his message with a blessing for participants, urging them to find more time in their lives to give a voice to the poor and the oppressed.

On Friday, the 27th of May, RENATE's presence at the information stand was supported by a public presentation, the motto of which was "Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters", (Pope Francis, in a message for World Peace Day, 2015). Pope Francis has made the defense of migrants and workers a core issue of his papacy. "All of us are called (by God) to be free, all are called to be sons and daughters, and each, according to his or her own responsibilities, is called to combat modern forms of enslavement. From every people, culture and religion, let us join our forces," said the Pope. Inspired by these words, Sr. Gabriella Bottani, Talitha Kum, international network against human trafficking, Sr. Monica Chikwe, Religious Conference Italy and Sr. Mabel Mariotti, Solwodi Germany presented their work, shared their experiences and answered questions from the public.



*Sr. Gabriella Bottani,
Sr. Dagmar Plum, Sr.
Monica Chikwe & Sr.
Mabel Mariotti,
RENATE Members
speaking at the panel,
Katholikentag in Leipzig*

After 5 days at Katholikentag in Leipzig, the message is clear: Human trafficking is a deplorable crime. Peoples' rights and freedoms are taken away. Most of the victims suffer physical or sexual violence. Women and children are particularly vulnerable. The criminals responsible are making billions of euros in profits with little chance of being prosecuted for their actions. Governments, employers and consumers need to send a clear signal that trafficking will not be tolerated. For this purpose, all networks and associations must work for a world of brothers and sisters, without slaves.

Raising Awareness at the World Youth Days in Cracow

Cracow, Poland, was the host diocese for 14th international celebration of World Youth Days 2016, which took place from the 26th – 31st July. RENATE member, Adina Balan, CJ, accompanied youth from Romania on pilgrimage to the festival, together with another RENATE member, Sr. Klara Marie Stranikova, SCSC, from the Czech Republic. Their focus was on raising awareness about human trafficking. Both Adina and Klara Marie intended to reach as many people as possible and had prepared fliers for distribution, to ensure that people could be further informed.

The theme of the 31st World Youth Day, Cracow, 2016, was “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Mt 5:7). It was a pleasure to see the young people moving around in groups, learning about the history and culture of the new surroundings. They got to know each other and had a great chance to share their faith and joy, altogether a very promising picture for the future. Adina and Klara Marie experienced a very positive reception to their message. Many people offered to pray in their groups for the victims of human trafficking. We hope that this will be followed up with on going action in their local communities.

The final Mass which was celebrated by Pope Francis was imbued with such a profound spirit. The liturgy brought together so many languages, cultures, ethnicities and nationalities. Although expressed differently in so many ways, faith was the common denominator that brought everyone together at WYD. Everything Adina and Klara Marie experienced in Cracow can be described as an inner feeling of happiness. It was uplifting to see that the message which Jesus brought to the world, preached and lived by John Paul II and Sr. Faustina Kowalska (the patron saint of the gathering) is very much alive in more than 1.5 million young people who attended World Youth day.

5.2 NETWORKING

Internal and External Communication

Communication within RENATE has been shared between the Core Group Members who meet via Skype every month (or more often if the situation requires) together with the Communications Person and the Secretary. Before a decision is taken, the Core Group – of which there are seven – consult together. Since the Board Meeting in March, 2015, another member from Italy has joined the Core Group from Italy. This is due to the preparations for the RENATE Assembly in Rome, in November, 2016.

The RENATE Board is in constant flux as regards numbers. The Board is represented by one person from each member country where RENATE has membership and also by the core group membership and by the President of RENATE. The Board met in Ireland during this reporting year, with 22 working Board members present.

One member of staff based in Poland carries out the varied secretarial duties for the Network and during most of this reporting year up until June, managed the Web. She initiates conference calls, writes reports and minutes of the Core Group and Working Group meetings as well as circulating them. She manages official email addresses of the Network. Her role also extends to Website Management and the on-going update of www.renate-europe.net (including both public and private domains). She co-ordinates requests which arrive via website contact forms under supervision of the President. She supports the logistics and the organisation of RENATE meetings.

Communication within the Membership of RENATE, as well as outside the Network, is the role of the Communications Person who is based in Ireland. She is the editor of the RENATE

Newsletter, responsible for preparing and advising on materials in support of RENATE's awareness raising and campaigning, writing and editing print and online articles, stories and case studies to highlight the situation of Human Trafficking across Europe and the world.

Briefly the role of the communications person in RENATE is:

- Communication within the Membership of RENATE as well as outside the Network.
- Editing of the RENATE Newsletter: responsible for preparing and advising on materials in support of RENATE's awareness raising and campaigning; writing and editing print and online articles, stories and case studies to highlight the situation of Human Trafficking across Europe and the world; promoting RENATE's vision, mission and values in opposing the 'trade' in human trafficking.
- Raising public awareness of the issue of Human Trafficking.
- Making the Network of RENATE known throughout Europe.
- Responding to requests from 'outside' Agencies, including Media.
- Producing publicity materials, including a monthly newsletter for the RENATE Website.

In June, the management of the website was passed on to an Albanian colleague and RENATE member.

Cross Cultural Experience for Capacity Building of Members

RENATE meetings that take place in a different European country each year afford the members a chance to get to know new surroundings, experience a different culture, and understand new ways of working in the field of anti-trafficking, while supporting the sisters and co-workers in the host country to extend RENATE's mission. Every gathering organised by RENATE is an enriching experience for all participants. In the reporting period, from October, 2015 until September, 2016, there were two trainings combined with one-day Board

meetings, which enabled members to learn more about Ireland and Hungary, where these events were organised.



Capacity Building at the Training for Change in Dublin

Training for Transformation for the members of the RENATE Working Board took place in Dublin, Ireland, from 26th till 28th October, 2015. The training was led by Mr. Frank Naughton and Ms. Maureen Sheehy, Partners in the work of Training for Transformation. There were

23 participants from sixteen European countries. The cover photo illustrates one of the training activities in Dublin.

The time in Ireland was an opportunity to experience the work of the Irish organisations working in the field of anti-trafficking and to learn from them of the challenges which they face and the actions being taken. There were:

- RUHAMA: An NGO working with women affected by prostitution and women trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation, represented by Mrs. Sheila Crowley;
- Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT): Inter-congregational group of religious working to combat human trafficking, represented by Sr. Geraldine MacCarthy;
- Mercy Efforts to Counter Child Prostitution and Trafficking in the Hospitality Sector (MECPATH), represented by Sr. Mary Ryan;
- Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI): working with the legal aspect of persons trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation, forced labour, migrants, refugees/asylum seekers, represented by Mrs. Nusha Yonkova;
- Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) in the Department of Justice, represented by Mr. Mick Quinn;
- Conference of Religious in Ireland (CORI), represented by Br. Peter Rodgers, OFM CAP.

Participants had a chance to share their country experiences, news items and challenges during a one hour session of Inter Country Market Place. It was organised around five tables of 4-5 persons each, which were changing in a rota, while one person stayed in his or her original place. This enabled all the Board to meet almost every one during a 10 minutes session.

All enjoyed a cultural day in the SOLAS Bhríde & Hermitages Brigidine Centre and the pilgrimage to St. Brigid's Well. These visits have remained strong in our memories, not forgetting the delicious dinner at Silken Thomas in Kildare with Irish Music & Dance to accompany dessert.

A second visit to a different country included a training in Hungary named: Training on Advocacy & Campaigning. The group had been booked into the beautiful venue of Mater Salvatoris House of Retreat and Conference Centre in Máriabesnyő, close to Budapest.

The time in Hungary was an opportunity to learn about the work of the Hungarian organisations and state agencies working in the field of anti-trafficking. It was interesting to learn about their daily challenges and the actions being taken. These were:

- SÁRA Team, Sr. Judit Knab, CJ
- ERGO – the protection of young people, Mrs. Ilona Ékes
- Hungarian Police Headquarters, Mrs. Ágnes Németh
- Ministry of Interior of Hungary, Department of European Cooperation, Ms. Eszter Gál
- Anonymous Ways Foundation, Ms. Ildikó Doncsecs, Ms. Katalin Radics
- Detention House and Child Hostel, Mr. András Szim, Mrs. Erzsébet Hatvani.

All enjoyed a cultural day in the City of Budapest. The group visited the newly renovated Matthias Church and also St. Stephen's Basilica. The enthusiastic guide took us on a long journey through Hungarian history. The Bus City Tour at night gave everyone a memorable glimpse of Budapest's beauty, with its unique Parliament building and romantic bridges, not to forget the delicious dinner at the Fortuna Restaurant with Hungarian specialities like goulash.

RENATE members were privileged to have the possibility to become exposed to new cultural realities.

In addition to the group activities and learning about new destinations, Imelda Poole IBVM, President of RENATE and Adina Balan CJ, RENATE Board member, travelled to Norway and Denmark from the 3rd of May to the 8th of May, 2016, to meet with Religious, Christian-led NGOs, and other lay and Catholic organisations with a view to heightening awareness about the RENATE Network and to explore possibilities for mutual collaboration in the fight against Human Trafficking. Although there are not many active religious in Norway, Imelda's contacts opened many doors, which led to an immensely interesting and enriching experience for all concerned. Adina, likewise opened the doors to many organisations through her contacts, in Denmark.



Imelda Poole IBVM, Sr Joanna Marie, Adina Balan CJ, Karin Kjaergaard in Copenhagen, Denmark

These days in Scandinavia have strengthened our connections and continued dialogue with people from this part of Europe. At the same time it was a good opportunity for us to understand the Nordic model and the way the different Scandinavian countries understand and apply it in specific contexts. It is very useful for us to have members from these countries and especially for members of RENATE, whose countries are considering applying this model. Overall this visit gave the members of RENATE more than we could have hoped for at this time in our history. A comprehensive report from this visit is available on the website.

Extension of Membership

The Working Board of RENATE agreed that it is important to include all the European countries in the Network. Following this resolution, the Core Group was seeking for ways of extension in the areas unknown to RENATE, e.g. Scandinavia. This region of Northern Europe was visited and explored in May 2016. The fruit of the visit is the first Scandinavian member of RENATE in Denmark.

In the reporting period from October, 2015 until September, 2016, RENATE gained 42 new members included members from the countries which were already represented in the Network, and also from other new countries not previously represented: Albania (3), Austria (4), France (2), Germany (1), Hungary (1), Ireland (5), Italy (2), Lithuania (3), Malta (1), Netherlands (1), Poland (1), Portugal (3), Romania (1), Spain (2), Ukraine (1), United Kingdom (9), and in the new locations: Denmark (1) and Macedonia (1).

There was a verification procedure carried out in spring this year to clarify whether 'old' Memberships are still involved in the field of Human Trafficking and willing to support the Network. A few left due to health conditions. By the end of September 2016 RENATE had 172 members representing 27 European countries from East, Central and West Europe.

Training on Advocacy & Campaigning in Máriabesnyő, Hungary

Following the Action Plan of 2016, RENATE organised Training on Advocacy, Lobbying & Campaigning in Hungary. Thirty-five RENATE members from a total of 18 countries across Europe, gathered together at the Mater Salvatoris Retreat and Conference Centre in Máriabesnyő, Hungary, to follow an excellent, two-day Training Programme led by one of our members, Mrs. Ivonne van de Kar. After this training the membership felt much more prepared to get more involved with this work. The time in Hungary was also an opportunity to learn about the work of Hungarian organisations and state agencies working in the field of anti-trafficking. There were two more days for this. It was interesting to learn about their daily challenges and the actions being taken especially regarding the policy of immigration in Hungary and the impact of this. It was a week of prayer, activities and capacity building, comprising presentations, discussions and active engagement. It provided participants with an opportunity to share best practise, familiarise ourselves with the local context and get to know one another as a community.

In the two-day part of the training, participants learned:

- what advocacy and lobbying is
- how to campaign
- (why) do we need it
- what to do, step by step (10 steps)
- are we SMART
- what SWOT is



Participants of RENATE Training in Hungary at the doorstep of St. Stephen's Basilica in Budapest

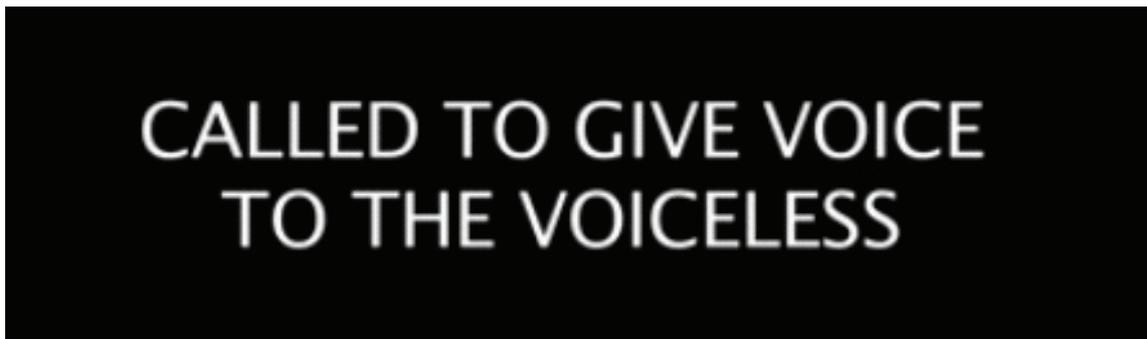
Further on they had a chance to practice what they heard and discussed theoretically the possibilities of the actions proposed. In small groups (language-, organisation- or interest groups) they worked on an advocacy and lobby plan and on a campaign.

These plans were discussed and evaluated with all participants at the end of the training. All participants received certificates which confirmed their active attendance. The supporting documentation was shared by email and is also available for all members in the Member-Only Area of the RENATE website. An overview of the training's work was captured in a report from the Communications Person and published in the public domain of the website.

Completion of the Film on the Work of RENATE

The RENATE film project began officially in Autumn 2014, when contracts were signed between the President of RENATE and the Conference of Religious in Slovakia. Filming had already taken place at the RENATE meetings in 2014, and followed in 2015. At the Board Meeting in Albania, Sr. Ivica Kúšiková, the film-maker, shared her experience with the preparatory work based on the abstract which included four chosen countries for the shooting of the film. Originally these were: Albania, Germany, Italy and Romania. Her idea was to show how the work against human trafficking is carried out by the various members of RENATE in their countries.

Sr. Ivica Kúšiková identified additional locations for filming to show the victim's voice and people in direct action. These were: Lithuania, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The recording was completed before the RENATE Board Meeting in Dublin in October, where the initial results of Iva's work were screened. This was the working version for comments and suggestions from RENATE. Further work continued until the pre-final documentary was shown to the Core Group during the January meeting in Rome. Several remarks were made for improvement which led to the final version screened in Hungary, during the Training and Board meeting in March 2016.



Screenshot of the introduction to the RENATE documentary

Called to Give Voice to the Voiceless is the title of RENATE's documentary. Sr. Iva thanked all who contributed to the film, which allowed her to touch upon so many delicate issues related to this work. She was congratulated for her great piece of work and for her willingness to follow the Board's dream to have the film with subtitles for each member-country in RENATE (which they offered to provide). The completion of transcript translations and production of DVDs was planned to be finalised by the 2nd week of May, 2016. To date this film is now subtitled in 14 European languages.

Presence at the EU Platform

The RENATE Network is a member of the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings (launched in Brussels on 31 May, 2013). The sixth meeting of the Platform took place in Brussels on 21 October, 2015. Gathered representatives of civil society organisations from EU Member States and neighbouring priority non-EU countries, worked at national, European and international levels. On 20 October, 2015 the Platform attended a conference marking the Ninth EU Anti-Trafficking Day. The account of this meeting was shared on the RENATE website.

For the 6th Civil Society Platform meeting, the format of discussions was different from previous meetings. The participants had more time for in-depth discussions and exchange of information during the parallel workshops, while they also had an opportunity to attend the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, the previous day and build upon the conclusions and points raised during those discussions. The EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (EU ATC) noted that the European Commission will prepare a post-2016 EU Strategy in 2016 and suggested that the participants would be consulted as appropriate.

The seventh meeting of the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings took place in Brussels on 9 and 10 June, 2016. The meeting aimed to further discuss the input received in the written consultations regarding the new post-2016 Strategy on Trafficking in Human Beings. The meeting also served to provide an update on the latest developments at the EU level. The EU Anti Trafficking Coordinator, Myria Vassiliadou, welcomed participants and thanked them for attending and being in touch with the Office of EU ATC. The Office of the EU ATC presented the Commission First Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (2016) and highlighted some of the recent developments at the EU level in relation to the implementation of the EU legal and policy framework addressing Trafficking in Human Beings (THB). The Study on the Gender Dimension of Trafficking in Human Beings was also presented.



RENATE Members with EU Anti Trafficking Coordinator, Myria Vassiliadou, 9-10 June 2016

The Commission/Office of the EU ATC informed everyone that the aim of the meeting and its respective workshops was to brainstorm on the next new policy framework of the THB and discuss the written input provided by the participants in the Platform. The participants split into three workshops of identical thematic content (input for the post-2016 Strategy). The conclusions of the workshop discussions were presented by the rapporteurs during the end plenary session and will be taken into account in the reflection on the post-2016 policy framework. EU ATC also encouraged the participants to use the E-platform more regularly and pro-actively.

RENATE Members attend OSCE workshop in Podgorica, Montenegro

The complexity of human mobility in the Western-Balkans was central to a workshop convened by OSCE, targeting policy-makers, criminal justice and migration practitioners and other relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors working in the areas of prevention, prosecution and assistance to trafficking-in-persons victims, migrants and refugees. Political context, impact of border control measures, access to asylum, risk analysis and challenges of irregular migration flows were critical to the interactive discussions held

in Podgorica, Montenegro, 31st August – 1st September, 2016. RENATE was represented there by the members from Albania, Gazmir Memaj and Sara Çapaliku (MWL).

This workshop was targeted at policy-makers, experts and practitioners from relevant bodies. Its aim was to promote interactive discussions regarding persistent challenges in different areas of expertise and to identify efficient measures in international and cross-border co-operation. It focused on irregular migration-related crime by identifying gaps and challenges, and in sharing good practices whilst putting forward recommendations. The protection of human rights and the need for improvement in identifying victims of trafficking during mass migrations and times of crisis, were amongst agreed priorities arising from the workshop. A comprehensive report from this event is available on the RENATE website.

5.3 ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH

3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters in Hague

Advocates for women's shelters, health care workers, women social workers and NGOs were amongst the participants from more than 95 countries at the World Forum Conference in The Hague, Netherlands, from 3 – 6 November, 2015. The Conference was an initiative arising from the Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS), the Dutch Foundation of Women's Shelters and its partners. The aim was to connect and act together in order to end



Participants of the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters in The Hague

violence against women. At the Conference a RENATE member, Ivonne Van de Kar, gave a presentation on the RENATE Network.

The week was action-packed, with pre-conferences by the Asian Network and WAVE (European Network), side-workshops, plenary sessions, roundtables, creative performances, poster sessions as well as lounge greetings which assist the sharing of information and networking. Her Majesty, Queen Maxima of the Netherlands and Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark presented keynote addresses, followed by key speakers from both national and international governmental departments. Throughout the week, delegates heard presentations from the UN, WHO, UAF and the Council of Europe, and most importantly, the voices of survivors who shared their stories.

Global Companies such as Facebook, Google, Rabobank played an active role in the Conference. Present as keynote speakers and panellists were: the Head of Global Safety at Facebook, the Google representative on Public Policy Strategy and the Director of Human Resources at Rabobank. On the closing day Ashley Judd, actress, activist and author, shared her personal studies and discussed how they reflect the themes of the conference. Judd has been engaging in global feminist social justice work since 2002, and has visited slums, brothels and schools in Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Thailand, Cambodia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Nicaragua, Rwanda and South Africa to meet with survivors. *“Violence against girls and women has grave consequences for the survivor,”* Judd said. *“There is also a cascade effect into her neighbourhood, her town, and her country. If we can provide safe places to care for and support survivors of gender-based violence, we offer them a crucial portal to dignity, while creating healthier outcomes for entire populations.”*

RENATE was privileged to attend such an event where women and men from all around the world came to share their experiences and ideas with the ultimate objective of achieving an international approach to the prevention of violence against women and children. In total there were around a thousand people in attendance. A comprehensive report from this event was posted on the RENATE website.

2nd Vatican Symposium for Young People in Rome

The Vatican hosted its second Youth Symposium at Casina Pio on November 7th and 8th, 2015, where youth working to support the victims of Human Trafficking and working in the areas of awareness raising and prevention, met to collaborate and share best practice.

A RENATE member, Sr Stanka Orslic, represented the Network at the Symposium. A Human Trafficking awareness article was published in the July, 2015 edition of the Croatian Journal, *New Presence: Review for Intellectual and Spiritual Questions* (cover on side picture). This article provides a comprehensive overview of numerous and varied activities undertaken by the listed organisations attending the Youth Symposium at the Vatican in November, 2014. Comprising examples of preventative measures, support to victims and educational awareness-raising activities, the article is a testimony to the work and commitment of

countless people who work against Human Trafficking in responding to the call:

Who is my mother and who are my brothers?
(Matthew 12:46-50)

Public Policy Exchange Conference in Brussels

Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe: Towards Better Social Cohesion and Tolerance in Times of Austerity, was the theme of the Conference in Brussels on 16th February, 2016. A RENATE member, Sr Andrea attended this event and provided a comprehensive report for the Membership.

According to the latest figures provided by Eurostat (2013), 122 million people were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the European Union, a condition which refers to those who fall under at least one of the following categories: at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers, severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. Certain groups in the population have emerged as particularly exposed to the risk of poverty, in particular children, young people, single parents, households with dependents, people with a migrant background, certain ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Also, the gender divide is clearly visible and women are generally more at risk than men.

In recent years, the European Union has been affected by the consequences of several events such as the economic and fiscal crisis and its consequences, such as the imposition of austerity measures taken to overcome the crisis at both EU and national levels. The crisis have not affected Member States uniformly; an element that has contributed to intensify infra-EU differences and spark tensions. Additionally, at an external level, the political, social and economic events across North Africa and Middle East have emerged with their problems impacting European policymakers and national governments, and contributing to further aggravate the magnitude of poverty and exclusion in our societies.

As exclusion begins very early in life, promoting inclusiveness through early education and job opportunities is crucial for the growth process of all human beings. The right to inclusive education is universal and must extend to all. However, to promote effective action there



is a need to integrate the existing policies with more socially-inclusive strategies, such as the right to benefit from functional social protection and quality health care systems, as well as the development of inclusive policies at a local level that focus on the integration of communities.

The European Parliament and the European Commission are committed to fostering upward social convergence towards the EU 2020 strategy, which aims to lift 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion by improving the use of EU funds to support inclusion within Member States, and by directing 20% of the European Social fund to fight poverty and social exclusion. This timely international symposium examined the current state of the Europe 2020 strategy to reduce poverty and social exclusion and evaluate the need to adopt and develop newer strategies to stimulate inclusiveness through education and employment. It provided a vital platform to discuss the need to reform the current social protection systems in the EU and has explored how all stakeholders must cooperate in order to build a more inclusive society.

Religious and Migration in the 21st Century, Conference in Rome, Italy

A RENATE member and the RENATE Communications person represented the Network at the Conference entitled: *The Religious and Migration in the 21st Century: Perspectives, Response and Challenges*. It was held in Casa Generalizia dei Passionisti in Rome from the 22 - 24 February, 2016. The phenomenon already characterizing the 21st Century is the movement of peoples, whether by choice or otherwise. It is an extraordinary humanitarian emergency, where we are confronted with extraordinary challenges in trying to look for an adequate response. If we accept that migration is the 'new normal', then, as Religious, we must ask ourselves: what is the Spirit asking us to do?



Fr. Gabriele Bertoglio, Pontifical Counsel for Pastoral Care of Migrants saw this conference as being of such significance that he remained at the conference throughout. He shared the view that the Conference had been very rich and fruitful and generated new possibilities for the Religious and their ministries. He spoke of the extraordinary temptation of Religious to be self-sufficient, but not to give in to that danger. He encouraged the Religious instead to look beyond their own limitations and structures and to link up with one another and with other

Church organisations in order to pursue the mission. He advised that the Laity are the greatest resource which the Church is only now beginning to appreciate and that the Laity are only too willing to make a fuller contribution, in response to their Baptismal calling.

It was agreed that the conference proceedings would be written up and circulated to the participants in due course. UN representatives at the Conference would also feed into their respective organisations at the UN, with a view to bringing about change at official levels. The conference has offered the participants the opportunity to share experiences and perspectives, to network and build relationships. It has been a step towards creating an international network of solidarity, where we can be representatives of the Church, bearers of hope, take action against the infringements of human rights and offer welcome and solace to those displaced for whatever reason. It is our obligation and duty to make a Gospel response.

The RENATE Communications Person shared a comprehensive report from the Conference. It was published on the RENATE website and the Membership, as well as other RENATE followers, can avail themselves of it.

Biennial Meeting of the COATNET Affiliates in Paris

This was an international meeting of a global network against Human Trafficking, which took place in Paris from the 9 – 11 of November, 2015. Fifty-five people were present from thirty-three countries worldwide. Members represented the following: Caritas Internationalis, National Caritas (Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, India, Kenya, Kongo, Kosovo, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey), USCCB (United States Council of Catholic Bishops), Anglican Alliance, Papa Giovanni XXIII Community (Italy and Belgium), CCEM (Comité Contre l'Esclavage Moderne) NGO, Pontifical Council for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, Medaille Trust UK, IOM (International Organization for Migration) and Mary Ward Loreto Foundation (MWL).

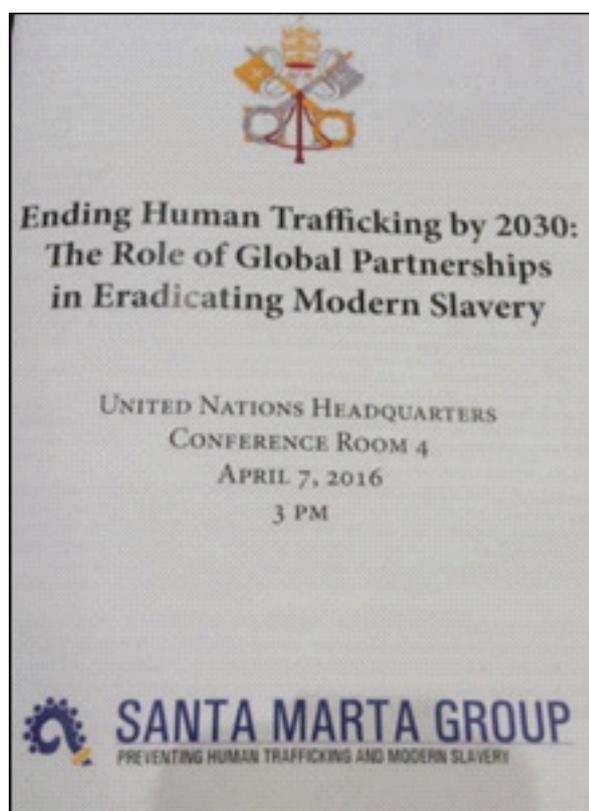
The first two days included inputs from panel speakers and work in groups. The third day covered the presentation of the group's work; training on the use of the members' e-platform called Baobab; the election of the Steering Group and closing remarks. A RENATE member represented us at this event. Gazmir Memaj. He wrote a report which was shared with the Membership via the RENATE website.

RENATE joins the General Assembly of ANDANTE in Hoddesdon, UK

ANDANTE (European Alliance of Catholic Women's Organisations) is an umbrella organisation supporting member organisations to be powerful and credible players defending women's rights as human rights. Additionally, ANDANTE links Catholic women's organisations with sources of knowledge and information and offers a platform for reflection and exchange. Fifty-five members from 19 organisations and 13 countries gathered at the Conference Centre at High Leigh in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, to attend the ANDANTE General Assembly with the theme "Sharing Life - Working Together - Building Strength." The focus was on the future of ANDANTE, its vision, challenges and possibilities. RENATE's representative, Sr. Stanka Oršolić, DSNG, was delegated to attend the event and present the Network, one of the new organisations among ANDANTE members.

The General Assembly consisted of two parts: Study Days and Statutory Assembly, followed by a social event arranged for each evening. Dr Mary McHugh, RENATE member, and President of ANDANTE, presented the entire report from the last General Assembly, informing about internal and external activities. Poverty, Bioethics and Human Trafficking were amongst the priority areas in 2013-2016, arising from which ANDANTE invited RENATE to join and also nominated RENATE for the Council of Europe Vaclav Havel Prize in Human Rights. While RENATE were not awarded the prize, the process of nomination made RENATE's work more visible to many other organisations. The spring 2014 issue of the ANDANTE magazine, was devoted to the subject of Human Trafficking. Currently, RENATE has offered to help organise a Summer School on the subject of Human Trafficking. It will take place in Albania in May 2017. The draft programme for the study days is ready and further arrangements will follow. The event will be financed by ANDANTE.

President of RENATE amongst Speakers at the UN Conference in NY



At the invitation of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, Sister Imelda Poole, IBVM, President of RENATE, was amongst a distinguished panel of speakers, invited to present at the Conference entitled *Ending Human Trafficking by 2030: The Role of Global Partnerships in Eradicating Modern Slavery*. The Conference, co-organised by the Santa Marta Group, named after Pope Francis' Vatican residence and founded in 2014, aims to strengthen and coordinate the global response to combatting human trafficking and all forms of modern slavery and to galvanise the coordination necessary to implement Targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic workers..., all remain huge barriers... Encouraging

entrepreneurship and job creation are key to this, as are effective measures to eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking. ... With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men by 2030... Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those most at risk...”

Sr. Imelda, President of RENATE, outlined the extent of the work of RENATE and showed a short video *Called to give a Voice to the Voiceless*, illustrating the various initiatives and



actions of Women Religious and their co-workers in the 24 European countries who formed the Network of RENATE. Members care for victims in shelters, raise awareness of the issue with many different groups, do prevention work, training, rehabilitation, advocacy and campaigning. The video highlights the positive outcomes of consistent support and community engagement for victims, like the Bagel Café in Albania, run by survivors of Trafficking, supported by Mary Ward Loreto and the Albania Hope project.

Imelda called for international co-operation and collaboration to combat human trafficking in three specific areas which require urgent attention:

- The issue of demand; adopting legislation that criminalises perpetrators and does not treat victims as criminals.
- To examine and address the systems of corruption that give rise to human trafficking.
- Address the problem of Internet trafficking and criminal behaviour that is carried out in the dark net.

Other distinguished speakers included: Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, Mr. Kevin Hyland, OBE., UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, the Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Monsignor Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo, the UN Goodwill Ambassador against Human Trafficking Ms. Mira Sorvino and survivor

of trafficking Mrs. Donna Hubbard, Airline Ambassadors Human Trafficking Awareness Programme among others.

Human Trafficking within and from Africa – International Conference in Abuja, Nigeria



RENATE was represented at an International Conference on Human Trafficking Within and From Africa, 5-7 September, 2016, co-organised by Caritas Internationalis and the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People. Caritas Nigeria hosted the Conference which was held at the Daughters of Divine Love Retreat and Conference Centre (DRACC), at New Lugbe in the Abuja Municipality. One hundred and fifty international delegates working in various ways to prevent human trafficking and support those who have fallen victim to human trafficking, attended this event. The purpose of it was to raise awareness about trafficking among people within and from Africa, with a special focus on the trafficking of children, trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation, trafficking in

crisis situations and trafficking in the maritime industry. RENATE was represented by Sr. Monica Chickwe and Anne Kelleher, RENATE Communications Person.

Conference delegates received a warm welcome from Bishop Lucius Ugorji, President of Caritas Nigeria, who invited all present to assist in devising a roadmap to eradicate human trafficking. This invitation was echoed in the address by Mr. Michel Roy, Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, when he stated “we have come here together, deciding to make a difference in people’s lives”.

The importance of efforts to make a difference in people’s lives, was brought home through the first-hand experiences recounted to us by two victims, Blessing and Sophie, who bravely spoke about their experiences of being trafficked for the sex trade. Although it was difficult enough to hear the pain and sadness in their voices, it was perhaps even more difficult to hear the girls tell how the betrayal of trust by their family members and neighbours remains hurtful and damaging. A common trend amongst victims of trafficking is the natural desire

for life-improvement, both for themselves and their families, which made the exploitation, deceptions and breaches of trust all the more difficult for the victims to bear – “migration gone wrong” – as recounted by both Blessing and Sophie.

Another common trend is the victims’ determination to survive. Theirs is a story of hope and restored faith in humanity as Blessing and Sophie spoke about the ongoing support and assistance they have experienced from the Religious and from associated aid agencies, who endeavour to help rehabilitate and support survivors.

The Conference was the first step towards our common action as faith-based organisations in combating trafficking and exploitation in Africa. It is intended to promote and build our further activities on the experience and knowledge shared at the conference. A full account of this event is available on the RENATE website.

5.4 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Trafficking

Individuals, friends, families and communities were united in prayer on the 8 of February, feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita. This was in response to Pope Francis’ invitation to the world to honour the Second International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Trafficking.

Press releases with resources have been circulated in countries worldwide by numerous organisations working to combat human trafficking. These resources, inter-faith prayer services, prayers, songs and intercessions were readily accessible on the public domain of the RENATE website to all who wished to avail themselves of them.



St. Josephine Bakhita

Samples of events that took place, and resources shared throughout the RENATE Network:

- The URAT Network in Albania: In Tirana, Albania, on the evening of the 7 of February, Bishop George Frendo, who is very supportive of the work against human trafficking, led a liturgy at the Cathedral. At this event, the Canossian sisters were present. This was followed by a screening of a short Novela film of St. Bakhita’s life. A classical quartet played reflective music in the middle of the service. There was a symbolic gesture, forming a chain around the cathedral, to express the unity in breaking the chain.
- The Mary Ward Loreto Foundation in Albania held events every day during the week of February 8th. Around the country, people met in groups for prayer and action against trafficking.
- In France, RENATE member Marie H el ene Halligon, RGS, translated the whole of the Inter-Faith Tool kit on Human Trafficking into French, and circulated it to all

- the Congrégation de Notre-Dame de Charité du Bon-Pasteur communities in France, Belgium, Hungary and the Netherlands, in addition to sharing it with other religious communities in France, via CORREF (French CONFER), so that all religious could benefit from the resource.
- In the Netherlands, on February 7th, a special Mass was held in the Cathedral in Breda and RENATE member Ivan de Kar has organised a Vesper Prayer Service to be held on the 8th of February, with the congregation of the SCMM Sisters of Mercy, Tilburg.
 - The Bakhita Network in Poland, together with The Committee for the Prevention and Help for Victims of Modern Forms of Slavery, under the umbrella of the Conference of Major Superiors of Female Religious Orders in Poland, have arranged the following events: a Prayer Vigil for the night of the 8th of February (translated to English), a poster advertising the appeal, a poster advertising screening of the film titled *Nefarious Merchant of Souls* and a video advertising the action on St. Bakhita's Day.
 - A RENATE member in Croatia shared that in the days leading up to St. Bakhita's Day, the Sisters of the Notre Dame Congregation in Croatia, together with friends and members of their informal network, had Prayer Services in the convent and a special Mass on St. Bakhita's Day itself. As a volunteer with the Jesuit Refugee Services, Sr. Stanka Oršolić was interviewed by the JRS Radio (Croatian Catholic Radio) in a recording for their programme *On the Journey of Hope*. In addition to discussions on St. Bakhita and human trafficking, there were also issues related to the ongoing migrant crisis, human trafficking and smuggling.
 - In Spain, Sr. Justa del Sol Hernando, OSR from the Conference of Religious, informed about a prayer vigil which was shared with all the parishes, communities and prayer groups on the 8 of February, in honour of St. Josephine Bakhita. Sr. Pilar Gonzalez Cano, IBVM shared a prayer card which was distributed amongst the schools, teaching staff, parents and pupils in Spain.
 - APT Ireland (Act to Prevent Trafficking) and RENATE member, Eilis Coe, RSC, kindly shared the Prayer Calendar, a resource from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, in the United States of America. The calendar provided a prayer for each day of the four weeks preceding 8 February, with a specific focus on St. Josephine Bakhita.
 - TRAC UK produced an Awareness Raising Card to coincide with the Feast Day of St Bakhita, 8 February. The cards were printed in A6/postcard size and the members of TRAC distributed them as widely as possible.
 - A RENATE member in Slovakia sent a copy of the poster, inviting everyone to join in a special Prayer Service, which was held in St. Stephen's Capuchin Church, in Bratislava, in honour of the February 8th.
 - From Malta, a RENATE member shared a Power Point presentation which she created as an educational and awareness-raising resource, which was helpful in working with 10-13 year old girls who were spending St. Bakhita's Day on retreat at the Good Shepherd Sister's convent in Malta.
 - From Romania, where each year more than 1,000 Romanians become victims of trafficking, either externally and internally, a RENATE member shared the prayer to St. Bakhita and a poster which featured in all Parish churches and Religious communities throughout the country. Bishop, Msgr. Ioan Robu supported the initiative by sending

a letter to everybody encouraging them all to pray. In all churches and Religious communities, all prayed on Monday, 8 February, for the victims and the exploiters, as well as those who work in support of the victims.

- A RENATE member in Hungary reported about the events organised by the SÁRA TEAM in Budapest: an offer of two options for the common prayer (compilation of prayers, as a prayer leaflet, for individual or community use). On Monday, February 8th, they invited everyone to attend a prayer service which took place at the Heart of Jesus Church, Maria Street, Budapest.

Say a Prayer and Light a Candle

An element of Theological Reflection which accompanies any action of RENATE is present on the website. A unique prayer widget invites web browsers to say a prayer and light a candle. There is a choice of prayers in different languages or the possibility to add one's own. RENATE is happy to see the number on the prayer-counter growing from almost 60,000 at the beginning of October 2015 to over 66,000 prayers said for the victims of human trafficking by the end of September 2016.

5.5 STRUCTURES

Care of Members was given special attention by the European philanthropic body supporting the work of RENATE. It values greatly the work being done by the members. It gave great encouragement to the network to look at ways in which care of members would be considered. This included a chance to rest as well as a chance to take opportunities to improve knowledge, information and skills. RENATE identified the following areas of support for its Members:

- English Language Training for the Membership
- Emergency Fund for Local Projects
- Emergency Relief from Work
- Retreat for the Working Board/Core Group

Core Group Planning Meetings in Rome

The RENATE Core Group, together with its staff members, co-workers from MWL and guests, met together in Rome, Italy, from 3rd till 9th January, 2016. They gathered to plan for the 2nd RENATE Assembly in November this year, and to check on the venue, logistics, communications and any other organisational matters which may result from the planning. They took a long look at the mission and vision of the Network and its further development.

The Core Group gladly welcomed the presence of a representative of one of our donors who participated in the future planning of the 2nd RENATE Assembly. He took the group through the log frame models for strategy development, giving it a fresh and professional approach.

Sr. Iva Kúšiková came over to present a pre-final version of the documentary on RENATE's work, ready for the Core Group's comments and suggestions.



RENATE Core Group in Rome, Italy

During the time in Rome, thanks to our host and RENATE member, Sr Monica Chikwe, we had a chance to gather for a private Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Tuesday morning, 5th January and also to experience the pilgrimage through the Jubilee Door at the Vatican on the same day. Further to this, once the planning meeting was over, the Core Group had two more days for peaceful discussion and relaxation. They went on tour to visit the Clementines Church in Rome, and the day after they went to Nettuno, Sanctuary of St. Maria Goretti. It was a very moving experience which was amplified by a walk on the beach in Nettuno on a very windy day. The waves were very high and it was easy to imagine how dangerous it is for all the migrants coming in by sea on the provisional and overloaded boats.

The second planning meeting for RENATE Assembly took place from the 22nd till 25th June, again in the venue chosen for November, Hotel Casa Tra Noi in Rome. The Core Group, Staff & Facilitator had a chance to firm up the programme details and any pending organisational issues. It was a very fruitful time followed by good news – confirmed Audience with Pope Francis for our November gathering. This helped us to adjust the programme accordingly and enabled further organisational arrangements. We're looking forward to this important meeting of our Membership.

Fund for Members

One of the major objectives of RENATE is to support the members in their daily work and to build capacity for this task. To achieve this objective, RENATE has a Fund at the disposal of its members who can request grants for their needs. To avail oneself of this fund the applicant must comply with RENATE's Criteria and the Donor's Guidelines.

It is envisaged that the Fund will be used for:

A. Member Only

- English language course
- short respite care for workers
- upskill a worker in the field of Human Trafficking or in a short English language course (not planned for in the Project's Annual Budget)

B. Local Projects

- To meet the needs of those who have been trafficked or may be at risk of being trafficked (not for infrastructure). *Examples: health issues; homelessness: 6 months' rent to help families become independent (resettlement); education of woman or childcare fees so as to be free to avail of any educational course.*

The criteria and application form is added to the Member Area of the website. Members can take advantage of the fund by returning the completed form (by email) to RENATE's official email address: renatenetwork@gmail.com. The Secretary informs the applicant of the outcome of the Core Group's decision.

X 2015 – IX 2016, Successful Applications for RENATE Fund for Members¹

	Initials	Country	Date	Project	Amount granted	Notes
1	MM	Albania	23.11.2015	support of D&E staff (retreat)	2,000.00	complete
2	KMS	Czech Rep.	05.01.2016	English course in IE	1,000.00	complete
3	BB	Slovakia	25.01.2016	English course in IE	1,000.00	complete
4	AT	Albania	9.04.2016	English course in AL.	500.00	complete
5	AB	Romania	6.06.2016	local project (equipment)	1,500.00	complete
6	AS	Albania	17.06.2016	local project (campaign)	2,000.00	complete
Total in EUR					8,000.00	

From October, 2015 until September, 2016, RENATE supported six applications from four different countries with a total amount of €8,000.00. Three persons from East European countries received funding for an English course (two abroad – in Ireland, one in the home

1. All amounts stated in euro, listed in chronological order. The agreed maximum donation for a course is 1,000.00 EUR, 2,000.00 EUR for a local project (per applicant per annum).

country – Albania) and followed it in the second, third and fourth quarter of 2016. Two local projects in Albania were granted €2,000.00 each (one enabled a group of staff of Different & Equal to experience retreat before Christmas and enjoy dinner together, second supported training for volunteers taking part in the UN GIFT Box campaign). A third local project arose as an urgent need in Romania where one of our members' offices needed to equip her staff with basic office technology (2 laptops and 1 laser printer). Comprehensive reports were delivered to state all activities undertaken with the support of RENATE funding.

Training for Transformation & Working Board Meeting in Dublin, Ireland

A Training for Transformation for the members of RENATE Working Board was organised and took place in Dublin, Ireland, from 26th till 28th October, 2015. Thanks to the efforts of Sr. Mary Mangan, SHJM, the group had been booked in 2014 into the beautiful venue of All Hallows College. The training was led by Mr. Frank Naughton and Ms. Maureen Sheehy, partners in the work of Training for Transformation. There were 23 participants from sixteen European countries. The training was followed by a short Working Board Meeting from 29th till 30th October, at which three staff members of RENATE were present, together with a guest website consultant, Mrs. Annie Bannister.



RENATE Working Board with Trainers in Dublin, Ireland

The Board Meeting included discussions on the finance report, a hub for RENATE, mapping across Europe, a documentary on RENATE's work, internal rules, upcoming training in Hungary, the visit to the Ukraine and an update on the RENATE assembly in 2016. This was also the time of changes in the Core Group and Working Board, when two of our members announced a need to step off for the time being. *Please see also point 5.2. Networking, Internal & External Communication.*

Working Board Meeting in Máriabesnyő, Hungary

Sixteen members of the RENATE Working Board gathered in Hungary for a one-day meeting on the 7th March, 2016. They met to decide about vital steps for the Network's future as well as to inform one another about the preparations for the General Assembly in Rome, this coming November, 2016. There were 20 participants, including staff and guests, representing fifteen European countries.

The most important topics of the Board Meeting included a briefing from the President on the finance report, a hub for RENATE, viewing and launching of the RENATE film, launching of the mapping across Europe, explanation of the internal rules, and information about the upcoming RENATE assembly this autumn. Despite time constraints, the work was carried out in good order.

The Board Meeting was followed by a two-day Training on Advocacy & Campaigning (described earlier in this report). There were two more days of inculturation to the host country. This programme was attended by most of the Board and about 20 other RENATE Members who made their way to Hungary specially for this training and cross-cultural experience.

Skype Conference Calls

The Core Group of RENATE met via Skype ten times from October 2015 until September 2016. A detailed list of conference calls is included at the end of this report. Each meeting took usually 1.5 hours or longer and was finalised with written minutes. This communication system enables the smooth flow of information and assists the completion of tasks.

6. CHALLENGES

Some of the challenges experienced by the RENATE Network include:

- Taking time out for rest and relaxation (R&R) from the work.
- Holiday Time – difficulties in getting responses to complete various actions because of work-commitments of members when such an action requires additional time on their part as well as some expertise in doing the task.
- Technical Problems – the on-going development of the RENATE Website.
- The frequency of change experienced when Core Group or Working Board members 'move away.'
- Because of the nature of the Network with its variety of languages, it is not easy to fulfill the requirements for information to cater for all languages.

7. CONCLUSIONS

We are hoping in the year ahead, that as we plan for the RENATE 2nd Assembly, all our work will address the recommendations as spelt out in the Mapping Exercise of RENATE (cf www.renate-europe.net). We hope that the programme of the RENATE second assembly, being held in Rome in November, 2016, will include a process which will enable us to deliberate and plan action around these very important recommendations. We live in hope for greater collaboration, for deepening our international networks and for seeing, in some significant way, a reduction in the incidence of this horrific crime. As a conclusion to this Annual Report and as President of RENATE I would like to thank all of our beneficiaries and co-workers, our colleagues who work with us in so many European countries, the membership for their shared passion and all of the RENATE staff who have helped us to realise the mandate given by the membership over this last year. The staff includes RENATE secretary, Aneta Grabowska, based in Warsaw, RENATE Communications person, Anne Kelleher based in Ireland, RENATE finance manager, Artan Toska, based in Albania and Manushaqe Cypi, RENATE website manager, based in Albania.

“Steadiness, resolve, long-term attention and the commitment of resources, aided by the attention to prayer, spirituality of resistance, resources to build communities’ networks to resist trafficking, to uphold respect and dignity for each individual, to assert gender equality, to resist all forms of inequality and violence against the person, to work collaboratively – these are the challenges faced by the RENATE Network into the future – and which each country report bears testimony to in its own unique way.” (Carrie Pemberton – Recommendation, Conclusions Mapping Exercise, 2016.)

We end this report with a story from a victim, written on the inside of the UNGift box, a tool used throughout these last months in various towns in Albania. It highlights the horror of this crime in our world today and yet the resilience of the trafficked to fight for justice:

“Marcus was divorced with a daughter of Slovakian nationality to care for. He came with the help of his uncle living in B.

His uncle managed to find him work on the farm, where he had connections with the Slovakian mafia.

Marcus worked at the farm for a period of three years. However he escaped from the traffickers (Slovakian mafia) and rented a house in B. Whilst there, he was told about a company which employed Hungarian nationals.

Being Hungarian he thought this sounded amazingly lucky and so attended an interview. He was promised a working week of 40 hours with a salary of £250 per week. Unfortunately once there, he found that he was being exploited and was working as cheap labour in a manufacturing company being paid £10.00 for working 80 hours a week

Marcus was rescued by the police. Although exploited, Marcus was educated and recognised that this was wrong.

Marcus gave evidence at the case and was pleased to see that, after the abuse and humiliation he suffered at the hands of his perpetrators, they received these sentences:

O. and F. were jailed for 5 years and 3 years respectively. R. was sentenced to 27 months in prison for human trafficking.

Marcus still visits us and only came back last week for some help. He is now settled with a home, reputable employment and a partner with much improved English. This is an inspirational success story.”

The work against human trafficking is solely to free the victim and to bring justice against perpetrators. This true story told by a member of RENATE is evidence of direct action taken by the members with the aims of rescuing and rehabilitating victims so that they become survivors and have the courage to prosecute the perpetrators. We end this report with the encouraging words of Pope Francis: “Slaves no more but sisters and brothers.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RENATE would like to thank each member for commitment to its common mission.

RENATE would like to thank its generous donors who have enabled the implementation of the fourth year of its action plan.

RENATE would like to thank the RENATE core group for their unstinting work, accomplished throughout the year, in implementing the mandate of RENATE. This work is always done pro gratis and for this we are all grateful.

Aneta Grabowska: Secretary

8. TIMELINE OF EVENTS FROM OCTOBER, 2015 UNTIL SEPTEMBER, 2016

DATE	EVENT
1 October 2015	Core Group conference call via skype
18 October 2015	European Day Against Human Trafficking
20 – 21 October 2015	EU Civil Society Platform Meeting, Brussels, Belgium
25 – 31 October 2015	Training for Change & Working Board Meeting in Dublin, Ireland
3 – 6 November 2015	3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters, Hague, Netherlands
7 – 8 November 2015	2nd Vatican Symposium for Young People, Rome Italy
10 November 2015	Core Group conference call via skype
9 – 11 November 2015	Biennial Meeting of the COATNET Affiliates in Paris, France
24 November 2015	Core Group conference call via skype
17 December 2015	Core Group conference call via skype
18 December 2015	Sixth Edition of RENATE Newsletter
3 – 9 January 2016	1st Planning Meeting for RENATE Assembly, Rome, Italy
1 February 2016	Core Group conference call via skype
8 February 2016	St. Bakhita's Day, International Day of Prayer against Trafficking
16 February 2016	Public Policy Exchange (PPE) Conference in Brussels, Belgium
22 – 24 February 2016	Religious and Migration in the 21 st Century, Conference in Rome, Italy
29 February 2016	Core Group conference call via skype
7 March 2016	Working Board Meeting in Máriabesnyő, Hungary
8 – 12 March 2016	Training on Advocacy & Campaigning in Máriabesnyő, Hungary
21 March 2016	Seventh Edition of RENATE Newsletter
March 2016	Completion of RENATE Film Project in English
4 April 2016	Core Group conference call via skype
7 April 2016	President of RENATE amongst Speakers at the UN Conference in NY
14 – 17 April 2016	RENATE representative at the General Assembly of ANDANTE, UK
3 – 8 May 2016	Cross Cultural experience in Scandinavia (Denmark & Norway)
17 May 2016	Core Group conference call via skype
25 – 29 May 2016	Katholikentag in Leipzig, Germany
9 – 10 June 2016	EU Civil Society Platform Meeting, Brussels, Belgium
22 – 25 June 2016	2nd Planning Meeting for RENATE Assembly, Rome, Italy
11 July 2016	Core Group conference call via skype
15 July 2016	Eighth Edition of RENATE Newsletter
31 Aug. – 1 Sept. 2016	RENATE Members attend OSCE workshop in Podgorica, Montenegro
5 – 7 September 2016	Human Trafficking within and from Africa – Conference in Nigeria
19th September 2016	Core Group conference call via skype
30 September 2016	Ninth Edition of RENATE Newsletter

“No one can claim to be indifferent in the face of new forms of slavery imposed by criminal organisations which buy and sell men, women and children, as forced labourers in construction, agriculture, fishing or in other markets.”

Pope Francis, 2nd December 2015, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery



RENATE

Pastoor de Kroonstraat 349
5211 XJ Den Bosch
The Netherlands

IBAN: NL31ABNA0587386703
SWIFT (BIC): ABNANL2A

www.renate-europe.net
www.facebook.com/renateurope
renatenetwork@gmail.com