

# FINAL REPORT

December 2003



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# Colophon

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## Acknowledgement

Many organisations, projects and individuals have contributed to the developments of the ENMP in the past months.

First of all, thanks to the enthusiastic members of the ENMP, who collaborated and provided knowledge, useful remarks and comments. They gathered information, produced reports and articles, contacted other agencies and contributed to the different network activities. A complete list of members can be found in the appendix of this report.

Invaluable work and support is given by the Regional co-ordinators:

Panagiotis Damaskos from Greece (South),

Rene Akeret from Switzerland (Central Europe)

Justin Gaffney from the United Kingdom (North).

Their input and motivation has been an essential part of the network activities and they fulfilled their role to our entire satisfaction.

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Our special thanks go again to Justin Gaffney and Dr. Nicola Mai, who do a great job by analysing the pilot survey. Therefore, I would like to thank as well Anthony Price from the City University in London, who provides scientific support to this survey. I hope that our fruitful co-operation can be continued in the future.

The following agencies/organisations provided practical and/or financial support:

- RFSL/RFSU, Sweden
- City University London, UK
- Cruz Roja Juventud Oviedo, Spain
- BASIS Projekt Hamburg, Germany

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Finally, gratitude's go to the European Commission and the Dutch Aids Foundation in Amsterdam for providing financial support.

Amsterdam, December 2003

Katrin Schiffer and Markus Giesbers  
European co-ordinators

# 1. Preface

## Why Us?

The Foundation AMOC/DHV started to carry out health promotion activities and HIV/STI prevention among male sex workers (MSW) in Amsterdam more than 15 years ago. It was felt, that MSW (selling sex on Central Station, in hustler bars and in various brothels or private sex clubs) needed specific attention, as they were not targeted and reached by any other local agency.

In 1997 the AMOC/DHV Foundation launched the European Network Male Prostitution (ENMP), supported by the European Commission and the Dutch Aids Fund. The network now consists of agencies in 24 different countries, all engaged in the field of male sex work.

## What do we want?

The ENMP stimulates, develops and improves proper health and social services, which contribute to the needs and well-being of MSW's. Furthermore, the network intends to bridge the gap between the needs of MSW and the services, provided by agencies, active in the field of HIV/STI prevention and health promotion. Therefore both, agencies as well as MSW are actively involved in the network.

## What do we do?

- Exchange between the Member States and the applicant countries of the European Union
- Develop and implement specific intervention strategies and models of good practise
- Practical support and advice towards service providers (e.g. by setting up services for MSW) and other relevant parties
- Organise different activities, such as conferences, network meetings or training workshops
- Organise and support exchange visits within Europe
- Gather information and data, including policy reviews
- Refer and link to hundreds of different service providers, sex workers projects, sponsors and other relevant programmes

## What are the results?

- Website with information about the recent developments of the ENMP
- Different ENMP publications through our website
- Publication and dissemination of different information material (ENMP Manual; Newsletter; Statement of Intent; Information folders, Meeting Reports, ...)
- Discussion forum online through the ENMP mailinglist and the guestbook
- Contacts to different ENMP members for information, advice and practical collaboration

# 2. Objectives

## Networking

The ENMP network exists of 22 different countries. With financial support of UNAIDS we could involve additional partners from Bulgaria, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan and the Ukraine. Their participation responds to the fact that male sex work is not a national, but a European and border-crossing phenomenon. Therefore, we need to develop methods and strategies, which can be implemented in different settings and realities. In addition, the partners need to be flexible and open-minded with the willingness to learn from each other.

## Organisation of regional and national activities

To make use of the various forms of expertise within the network, we agreed that each regional group should prepare and organise a specific conference or training, which guarantees a broader forum for exchange and training. This approach sensitises and trains agencies and supports the implementation of proper health promotion strategies.

In the past 2 years, the Regional groups have focused on different issues:

### ***Central- Eastern European group***

The Central- and Eastern European region can be divided as followed:

1. Western countries, like Germany and Switzerland:
  - Specific services for MSW
  - Migrants from Central and Eastern Europe with different backgrounds and specific needs
2. Eastern countries, like Poland and Romania:
  - No structural and specific services at the moment
  - Need in support and training

Besides these major differences, the group identified common key issues, which are discussed by using and learning of each other's knowledge and experience:

- Exclusion of male sex workers (e.g. Lack of access to medical services)
- New ways of prostitution (Internet) - development of new intervention strategies

### ***Southern European group***

Male sex work is identified as an issue, but France and Spain (with one MSW Project) are the only countries, offering specific services to male sex workers. However, some countries might be able to develop services in the near future. As there is a lack of experience and knowledge in this area, training and networking on a national and local level needs to be supported and developed.

### ***Northern European group***

All countries do have services for sex workers and quite well developed health services, which can be accessed by male sex workers as well. The socio-economic infrastructure within these countries is satisfactory, but does not always meet the specific needs of male sex workers. This applies especially to the Scandinavian countries, in which the term prostitution is indissolubly connected with the emancipation of or violence against women.

Each Regional group agreed to organise a meeting or conference, based on the activities in the past years. The following events were planned<sup>1</sup>:

- Southern Europe: Follow-up training for agencies considering, planning or implementing services for male sex workers
- Northern Europe: Stockholm Hearing: 'Hidden Stories' – Male Prostitution in Sweden & Northern Europe
- Central- and Eastern Europe: Internet conference : Hiv and STI prevention through the Internet

### **HIV and STI Prevention**

In 2002 the ENMP produced a Manual, in which various models of good practice in different countries have been described<sup>2</sup>. The organisation of different conferences and trainings in 2003 contributed to the idea of exchange and transfer of knowledge, regarding the development of specific HIV and STI prevention strategies:

- The training for service providers gives the opportunity to transfer knowledge and learn from each other in a clear defined setting. Participants have the opportunity to exercise specific strategies under the professional supervision of the trainers.

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed information can be found at the foot in chapter 4: Network Activities

<sup>2</sup> Manual with tips tricks and models of good practice for service providers considering, planning or implementing services for male sex workers, ENMP, 2002

- The Stockholm Hearing compares different policy models and its effects on health and well-being of (male) sex workers.
- The Internet conference highlights specific and new HIV and STI prevention methods through the Internet. Different experts are brought together to present their work and participants have the opportunity to learn from each other in smaller workshops.

Besides, these very specific events, the ENMP discusses new developments on HIV and STI prevention during the various meeting (e.g. General Meeting).

#### **Datacollection / Pilotsurvey**

Based on the pilot survey, carried out in 2002, the ENMP analyses and evaluates the outcomes in cooperation with the City University in London. The outcomes will be published in a Survey Report and we hope to conduct a follow-up survey in a number of different countries, including applicant countries of the EU.

#### **Platform of support and advice**

In the past years, the ENMP has developed more and more into a platform, offering support and advice towards policy makers, service providers and health professionals. The network has expanded and we started to cooperate strongly with sex workers and activists on an international level. Within this framework, our efforts can be summarised as followed:

- Exchange and transfer of knowledge by organising meetings, trainings and conferences
- Offering opportunities for bilateral exchange
- Mutual advice and support on the scene
- Development and dissemination of information materials
- Referral and mediation centre (bringing agencies and people together, in order to stimulate future collaboration)
- Presentation of the ENMP and its activities during international conferences

## **3. Developments**

### **1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting**

The 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting was held in January 2003 in Amsterdam. During the meeting, the following items were highlighted:

- Discussion of the general working plan
- Discussion of the Regional working plans
- Planning and pinpointing regional activities
- Needs assessment for our new partner from Central- and Eastern Europe
- Discussion mission statement:
  - Human right and legal issues
  - Migration and policy
  - Service provision
- Preliminary outcomes pilot survey
- Evaluation meeting

An important part of the meeting focused on the planning and preparation of the regional activities. Each group agreed to organise one specific training or conference\*.

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\* Detailed information can be found at the foot in chapter 4: Network Activities

The discussion regarding the mission statement raised many questions and it was agreed that an additional meeting needed to be organised. A preparation group was selected, in which experts (colleagues and sex workers) from outside the ENMP were involved as well. This group met in April 2003 in Amsterdam and prepared a first paper, which still needs to be discussed and summarised.\*

Due to additional funding of UNAIDS we were able to invite colleagues from Estonia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Bulgaria. Their participation played an important role and it was stressed repeatedly that it will be necessary to involve more Central- and Eastern European countries in the future.

### **Further preparation of the regional trainings/conferences**

Most of the preparation work has been done during the General Meeting in January. However, details needed to be discussed afterwards and therefore it was necessary to make clear agreements regarding the division of tasks. The network members communicated mostly through e-mail and phone. However, the organisation of the Internet conference required another preparation meeting in Amsterdam. This applied as well for the making of the Statement of Intent. A preparation meeting was organized, which resulted in a first draft of the paper.

We involved several experts from outside the ENMP for the organization of the different meetings. We cooperated with the European Project Aids & Mobility (1 of the trainers) and with local organizations, which supported the meetings with practical and financial support (e.g. RFSU/RFSL in Sweden).

After all we were informed that the European Commission did not approve our request for future funding. Due to the changes in the programme, we were not totally surprised, although we do not share the reasons from the Commission, which resulted in this decision. this

### **2<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting in Lisbon**

The last Network Meeting was held in October in Lisbon. We used this meeting to present the outcomes of the last year and to evaluate the different activities.

An important part of the meeting was used in order to assess the alternative opportunities for the network. All participants proved their motivation by contributing actively to this discussion. Therefore, we are convinced that we will find ways of continuing at least some of our activities.

## **4. Network activities**

### **Training in Gijon**

#### ***Background***

The European Network Male Prostitution (ENMP) identified the needs of male sex workers and service providers in the different countries and regions. A lack of experience and specific service provision has mainly been observed in Southern and Eastern Europe, where only a small number of organisations offer services to male sex workers.

In 2002 the Southern European Group (SEG) of the ENMP organised a first training for service providers, working for male sex workers. Due to the positive reactions and feedback it was agreed to organise a follow-up training in 2003.

#### ***Aims of the training***

The programme of the training was based on the needs of the participants. As far as the ENMP identified the gaps within Southern Europe, the following major areas of needs have been identified :

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- Sensitising health workers and service providers regarding their own attitudes towards male sex work
- Creating awareness regarding the issue of male sex work
- Improving knowledge about the phenomenon of male sex work
- Developing proper skills in approaching and working with male sex workers

### ***Expected results***

- Better insight into the phenomenon of male prostitution
- Better knowledge about the specific needs of male sex workers
- Better skills for approaching male sex workers
- Better awareness of own attitudes towards male sex work
- Ideas for the implementation of services (within specific working conditions, within the local setting)

### ***Selection and profile of the participants***

The members of the SEG agreed that it would be useful to organise a training for themselves together with different service providers within their own country/city. This approach will enable them to organise national and local network meeting in a later stadium and to initiate projects and activities for male sex workers in co-operation with these services.

The participants of the training were approached and selected by the National co-ordinators of the ENMP in Southern Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Greece). Most of the participants were selected on a local level, but some co-ordinators have chosen to invite as well colleagues from other cities within their country.

The quality of a training is strongly influenced by the selection of the participants and in how far the programme corresponds to their specific needs. Therefore the following participant's profile has been developed:

- Participants are representing an organisation or an agency and do not participate as individuals
- The organisation/project is considering, planning or implementing services for male sex workers
- Participants are motivated to share experiences and learn new skills
- Participants are willing to participate in an active way
- Participants do have good active and passive English skills

### ***Planning of the training***

The training itself has been planned and organised in different steps. The idea and the aims of the training and the participants profile have been pinpointed during the meetings of the SEG. A registration form has been developed and the potential participants were asked to make clear for which kind of organisation they work, whom they target, in which area they would like to be trained and why they would like to participate to the training.

Georg Bröring of the European Project Aids & Mobility (and facilitator of some other trainings of the ENMP) and Pjer Vriens of the Municipal Health Centre GG&GD Amsterdam and National ENMP coordinator of the The Netherlands) were asked to fulfil the role of trainer with assistance of a male sex worker from London. All of them were well experienced in this field.

The training itself took place in Gijon (Spain) and our regional co-ordinators Paz Hernandez Blanco and Javier Fernandez Lopez organised and managed all the local arrangements, like the hotel, the meeting venue and the restaurants.

### ***Participants***

The training itself was intensive and interactive and required an active involvement of all participants.

The group agreed on the following division of participants:

- Maximum number of participants: 25
- 3 participants from each Southern European ENMP country (participants are selected by the National co-ordinators of the ENMP in Southern Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, and Greece). They will approach colleagues within their local and national network in order to stimulate skill development and training in the field of male sex work)
- 5 participants from Eastern European ENMP countries
- 5 participants of the remaining ENMP countries

### ***Results:***

The training has been attended by 24 participants, coming from different countries in Southern and Central/Eastern Europe. There was lots of positive feedback. A detailed training report can be found in the ENMP Activity Report 2003.

## **Conference “Hidden Stories” in Stockholm**

### ***Background***

Sweden passed a new law on prostitution in 1999, which started to criminalize customers of male and female sex workers. Since then the advocates and opponents of the Swedish model are discussing the advantages and disadvantages of this development. Due to the fact, that the abolitionist approach of prostitution is mainly based on the idea of sexual exploitation of women through men, it became nearly impossible to highlight the issue of male sex work. It seems, that male sex workers do not fit into the model of the vulnerable sex worker, who needs to be saved.

The silence around this issue and the need in discussing prostitution not only among ‘professionals’, but together with sex workers, who are actually the ones, who are affected by all forms of prostitution policy, finally lead to the idea of organizing a hearing about "Hidden Stories - Male Sex Work in Northern Europe".

This hearing aimed to explore the practical implications and theoretical perspectives of service provision for male prostitutes in Sweden and the Scandinavian countries, drawing upon experiences and practical examples from other Northern European countries.

The conference was of particular interest to social workers, youth workers, teachers, healthcare professionals, counselors, pastoral caretakers and other service providers. In addition, the organizers ENMP, RFSU and RFSL welcomed participation from policy makers, service commissioners, academics and researchers, media organizations, human rights organizations, legal advisers and police, and of course, male sex workers and sex workers organizations.

### ***Structure***

The first day was organized around a series of presented papers, in plenary sessions, from invited speakers and recognized experts within the subject area.

Presentations were focusing around three main themed areas:

1. Scandinavian practical experiences of male sex work
2. Ideologies and the construction of male sex work
3. Co-operative working and emerging issues

The second day was followed by a smaller number of participants with workshops to explore the issues in-depth that emerge from the formal presentations of the previous day, focusing on migrant male sex worker, service provision and a homophobia training.

### ***Results***

The conference was attended by 76 participants (including speakers). The overall feedback was positive and we received lots of media attention.

We were happy to organise this conference in close cooperation with our National coordinator, the RFSL/RFSU in Sweden, which offered both, practical and financial support. A detailed conference report is published in the ENMP Activity Report 2003.

## **Internet conference in Hamburg**

### ***Background***

In 2002, the Central and Eastern European Group of the ENMP (CEE Group) carried out an Internet survey in 6 different countries<sup>3</sup>. It became obvious, that an increasing number of young men was selling sex through the internet and that service providers had only little knowledge in reaching this group. In addition, more and more service providers expressed their need in training, as they intended to develop intervention strategies through the Internet. It was agreed to organize a conference, in which the experience in different fields could be shared.

Therefore more than 40 experts from all over Europe and even from the United States were invited. We had speakers with a background as prevention worker, researcher and sex worker. Plenary presentations alternated with workshops and plenary discussions, which guaranteed a lively exchange between the participants.

### ***Members of the preparation group***

*Markus Giesbers*, European ENMP coordinator

*Rene Akeret*, Regional ENMP coordinator of the Central and Eastern European Group

*Pjer Vriens*, National ENMP coordinator for the Netherlands, responsible for the Internet survey, carried out by the Central and Eastern European Group

*Bart Vandenbroucke*, National ENMP coordinator for Belgium, responsible for the Internet survey in Belgium

*Michael Okoliyski*, National ENMP coordinator for Bulgaria, responsible for the Internet survey in Bulgaria

*Katrin Schiffer*, European ENMP coordinator, consultant for the organisation of the conference.

### ***Central themes***

- Current experiences on the World Wide Web (The Netherlands, Bulgaria, United States, Switzerland)
- Presentation ENMP Internet survey
- HIV prevention for gay men through Internet
- Counselling through the Internet
- MSW organizing themselves
- Future perspectives for service providers

### ***Results***

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<sup>3</sup> ENMP Manual: Tips, tricks and models of good practice for service providers considering, planning or implementing services for male sex workers, ENMP 2002

The Internet conference will be held at the end of June. A detailed conference report is published in the ENMP Activity Report 2003.

## **Statement of Intent**

In the past two years, it became obvious that the ENMP needs to develop a statement, in which the network lays down its ideas and principles regarding male sex work. Three working groups were set up in order to tackle different strands:

- Working group 1: Civil rights and legal issues
- Working group 2: Migration/Human right issues
- Working group 3: Service provision

Lots of questions were raised during the discussion and finally it was decided that a number of ENMP members prepare a first draft. Therefore a meeting was organised in Amsterdam, which resulted in the presentation of a first draft. This draft was sent around and all ENMP members were asked to respond. During the last General Meeting in Lisbon in October 2003, the members approved the final Statement of Intent. Although the Statement of Intent is a compromise between the different of all ENMP members, it is fantastic the whole network could agree on the paper. The Statement of Intent is published and distributed. A detailed description of the making of the Mission Statement is published in the ENMP Activity Report 2003.

## **Analysis and evaluation pilot survey**

The pilot survey among male sex workers was carried out during the last project phase. The data is now analysed and evaluated by a survey co-ordinator (Working Men's Project, London) and a survey assistant (City University in London).

### ***Targetgroup:***

1. Those men that migrate from one European country and end up selling sex in another European country (e.g. from East to West)
2. Those men who arrive from outside the EC (extra continental) and find themselves involved in selling sex within Europe
3. Those men originating within Europe, and migrating within the continent in order to find or vary their sex work, working environment

### ***Aims:***

- To explore and document the migration phenomena
- To identify factors which influence migration of male sex workers, and enter into sex work
- To identify specific problems and cultural challenges for migrant male sex workers

### ***Methods:***

- Development of survey style, questionnaire by Network partners from Nov'2000-Nov'2001
- Survey tool refined by the Department of Applied Behavioral & Biological Sciences at City University
- Pilot survey ran in three centers (one in each region): London, Hamburg & Nimes from Jan-April 2002, using a two week data collection frame in each centre
- Questionnaires completed by structured interviews

### ***Results:***

- 54 questionnaires completed
  - 25 in the UK
  - 14 in France

10 in Germany

- Age of respondents varied between 16 and 43
- Most respondents were in their 20's

#### ***In depth Analysis – Working Plan:***

- Data analysis:
  - Reasons for entry into sex work
  - Migration patterns/pathways
  - Experience of / access to services
  - Sexual health & risk taking behaviors
  - Experience of violence / abuse & relationship to police
- Preliminary report April 2003 (Dr. Nicola Mai)
- Regional analysis & specific feedback to regional centers
- Academic paper / conference presentation (CHAPS April)
- Final report published September 2003

#### ***Limitations of Pilot***

- Varying quality of data collection
- Difficulty for practitioners undertaking the research interview (relationship with subjects / time / work pressures)
- Lengthy tool – too complex
- Need to focus

#### ***Future Proposals***

- Focus on migration
- Greater number of participants (more centers)
- Trained research interviewers
- Academic partnerships
- Ownership of data
- Links to ENMP

A detailed Survey Report is published in the ENMP Activity Report 2003.

## **4. Regional Reports**

### **Final Report Central-Eastern European region**

Preparation meeting	Internet conference 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2002
1 <sup>st</sup> general meeting	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2003
1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2003
Internet conference	27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2003

#### **Developments**

During the whole period the group dynamic was very positive and commitments were high. The integration of some new eastern Europe countries (Ukraine, Kasachstan,...) showed to be no problem thanks to the special attention we paid at our first general meeting in Amsterdam (the “old” and “new” members of Eastern Europe had a own workshop). Our group continued to work very efficient together which finally resulted in a very successful conference in June 2003 in Germany.

All meetings were very well organised by the local organisations and the regional coordinator. The feedbacks after every meeting were very positive and showed the importance and the need of this

network clearly. To exchange the local and national developments, to share and exchange the related problems and to reflect on local activities is very much appreciated by all members of our group.

The evaluation showed a high acceptance of the European and regional coordinators and their preparation work.

### **Activities**

Last December 5 members of our group (Bart Vandenbrouke/ Brussels, Michael Okoliyski/Bulgaria, Pjer Vriens/Netherlands, Markus Giesbers/European coordinator René Akeret/regional coordinator) had a very first preparation meeting. The main aim was to bring together all relevant informations regarding the internet conference in order to have a broad overview of all existing experiences in the field of relevant internet activities. The group decided who had to take the job of inviting the specific speakers, the preparation of the conference flyer and the responsible for all organisation matters.

The working spirit was very positive. All the major questions regarding budget, location, time and date and a program under reserve for the internet conference were worked out in a very satisfactorily manner. Unfortunately we were not able to hold the conference in Bulgaria as we learnt that the EU Commission was not able to accept this. Therefore we had to find an organisation in Western Europe and were very happy that the Basis Project of Hamburg/Germany agreed to organize the conference in their city.

In January we presented the outcome of the preparation team to the whole group which appreciated the results very much. Some discussion and minor correction took place. We could approve the program as following:

The conference itself was a huge success. It was possible to get an broad overview of what is nowadays possible on the net and how to arrange it most successfully. It will now be very interesting to see what kind of local activities will take place in the future. For sure the knowledge and the creativity of the attending members have increased a lot. Hopefully it will be possible to continue to exchange and evaluate the relevant experiences within our group in the future.

The feedbacks of all 45 attending persons were very positive as an evaluation proved afterwards. I like to express my special thanks to all persons involved for their great work and contribution.

### **Problems**

Due to the fact that some countries do not regard male sexwork as an important issue for an efficient HIV/Aids- prevention lack of financial means remain to be fundamental - mainly in some Eastern Europe countries. I.e. in Poland the staff member of TADA did not receive any salaries this year but still did continue to do their job under very difficult circumstances.

Under the present economical and political situation of many European countries the work with a marginalised group like male sex workers faces a really hard time. Many of our projects were confronted with reduced budget and a lot of energy had to be spend to find possible solutions. The flow of boys from Eastern to Western European countries was increasing again. Thanks to our established network it was comparatively easy to adapt prevention material and to learn more about possible explanations and reasons for this fact.

### **Future plans**

The regional coordinator was involved in the application process to the EU Commission. So far no further detailed plans were worked out, as we did not know the decision of because we need not know the decision of the EU regarding the future funding. Once again I like to stress out that our group members are dedicated to continue the work within our network.

# Final Report Southern European region

## 1. The group

- Greece-Hellenic Center for Infectious Diseases Control (Panagiotis Damaskos-Regional coordinator)
- France - RUBIS A.R.A.P. (Frank Martin - National coordinator)
- Italy- PARSEC (Deborah di Cave National coordinator)
- Portugal – ABRACO Associacao de Apoio a Pessoas com VIH/SIDA (Antonio Rodrigues - National coordinator)
- Spain - Cruz Roja Juventud-CATS (Javier Fernandez Lopez- National coordinator represented by Paz Hernandez )

## 2. Meetings

The first meeting of the group took place during the 1st general meeting held in Amsterdam 23-26 January, 2003. During this meeting the Southern European Group discussed and planned the activities of the group for the next phase.

The second meeting of the group took place during the main activity of the SEG in Gijon 14 Mai 2003

## 3. Activities

### Training

The main activity of the Southern European Group for the ENMP-Phase III concerned a “**Follow up training for agencies considering, planning or implementing services for male sex workers**” in Gijon-Spain from 14 to 18 Mai 2003 (the first training took place in Athens 2002).

Twenty (20) participants from ten countries attended the training.

The preparation of the training gave to the group the opportunity to think about the situation in the region concerning msw and to examine the needs in the region and in the countries. The training was adapted in the Southern European Situation and it was addressed to both, service providers working with msw and service providers developing a project.

For more information see relevant chapter in the present report

### News letter

France, Italy and Spain contributed with articles to the news letters<sup>4</sup>

### Other activities

All the member of the Group attended at list one of the activities of the other groups.

SEG was also represented in the working group of Mission Statment<sup>5</sup>

### Activities in the countries

Separate from the common activities within the Regional Group, the countries developed activities in the own region in the framework of ENMP. Co-operation with other organizations and project national and local networks have been improved. Special Italy organized a workshop about msw where ENMP was represented through one of its European coordinators, Markus Giesbers. Greece is on the preparation of a national website with support of ENMP. The work of ENMP was also presented in conferences and meetings in the different countries.

## 4. Communication and group cohesion

The experience from last phase has also shown that working in small groups improves the individual responsibility and the communication between the partners. Besides the own regional group the members of SEG took part in other group activities which helped a lot the communication and the exchange with the other members of ENMP. The regional meetings are very important for the

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<sup>4</sup> News letter 5,6

<sup>5</sup> See relevant chapter

cohesion of the group and for fine tune activities. Group meeting outside the general meeting have to be more improved.

#### ***5. Time and investment of the participants***

Although the first priority of the group members is the practical work within their own organizations they work with enchaining and they consider the activities within the ENMP as very important. The work within the group is always depended on the investment of extra time and energy of the participants. Parallel to the enthusiasm of the members support and reinforcement are necessary.

#### ***6. Financial limitations***

Although in this Phase there were no big financial obstacles by the organization of the regional activities within the countries within the projects financial limitations don't able the development of basic services for male sex workers. Rising funding is still a demand of the Southern European Group countries.

#### ***7. Evaluation***

Through the group work from the last phase tight relations between the members and a group identity have been developed. Both influenced very positively the co-operation and the working process.

## **Final Report Northern European Region**

#### ***Present***

Justin Gaffney	Regional Coordinator – United Kingdom
Dr Nicola Mai	United Kingdom
Raul Gomez	United Kingdom (sex worker)
Christopher Miller	United Kingdom (sex worker)
Claus Lautrop	Denmark
Jaana Kauppinen	Finland
Mick Quinlan	Ireland
Liv Jessen	Norway
Niklas Eriksson	Sweden

#### ***Evaluation***

The meeting commenced with a review of the activities of the Northern Regional Group of the ENMP during the last year of funding. During the first general meeting of the ENMP III in Amsterdam during January 2003, the regional group agreed on activities to be completed from the previous working schedule (ENMP 2000) and set new objectives. The group reviewed this schedule of work and agreed on the outcomes of this schedule, which are summarised in the table below:

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>EVIDENCE OF ACHEIVEMENT</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
<b>Conference</b>	Successful conference organised during May 2003 – ‘Hidden Stories – Stockholm Hearing’. Raised the issue of male sex work on the Swedish political and social work agenda, media coverage and discussion still on-going.	May 2003 Conference report being compiled, for distribution December 2003
<b>Survey Analysis</b>	Analysis of the pilot survey undertaken by City University.  Proposal for future study developed, supervised by City University and headed by Dr Nicola Mai	Report submitted September 2003 Proposal submitted September 2003
<b>Database</b>	A database of published articles and works in progress has been compiled, of research and studies pertaining specifically to male sex work, from across Northern Europe. The database lists articles in English and rates them as either abolitionist or harm reductionist in nature. The database is to be hosted on the ENMP website.	Database submitted to ENMP web-master October 2003
<b>Terminology Glossary</b>	A glossary of terms pertaining to male sex work and homosexual culture/lifestyle was developed by our Irish partner and published in the ENMP News (issue 2) and within ‘the Manual.’	Glossary of terms was completed during the last period and published in Issue 2 of the ENMP Newsletter – October 2001 The Manual was completed within the round of current funding.
<b>Increased user involvement</b>	Increased user involvement had been achieved. Sex workers were involved in presenting and facilitating during the Stockholm Congress ‘Hidden Stories’ and in fact had their own sex worker only session during the second day of the programme. Further, the concept of user involvement within the Network has been achieved more widely within the entire Network, with a sex worker from the Northern Region being involved in the Southern Regions training, and a number of male sex workers presenting and participating during the Central Region’s Internet meeting in Hamburg.  In addition, the final general meeting of the Network has seen full and active participation of male sex workers, at many different levels.	Completed: Gijon Training - April 2003 Stockholm Hearing – May 2003 Hamburg Conference – June 2003  Lisbon – October 2003

### ***Evaluation of the Regional Group Structure***

The meeting considered the effectiveness of the regional groupings and revised structure of the ENMP, which had been introduced in 2000. The reflections of the partners of the Northern Region are summarised below:

- The regional structure was well received and partners felt it had worked well, as it allowed for meetings to be focused and more considered (intense).
- It allowed for problems which may be specific to the region to be explored and discussed, and the sharing of experiences of different partners could help find solutions for problems experienced by other partners.
- The country groupings felt appropriate, although the United Kingdom (UK) and Republic of Ireland did express concerns that the Northern Region may not have been the ‘best fit’ for them. The other partners fit nicely within the Nordic/Scandinavian countries, and in fact were already known to each other prior to the formation of the ENMP through the Nordic Network. The UK had a significant number of male sex worker projects already established and therefore was more on a par to Germany and the Netherlands, and may have been more usefully placed within the Central Region. Ireland had no male sex worker specific services and a political/social culture which was a-liked to that of many of the Southern Region partners. However, overall, all partners were happy to have been part of the Northern Region and did feel that they had benefited from active participation in the region’s activities.
- There was slight sense of disappointment that the Network had not managed to influence a significant change or shift in political thinking, in fact, a sadness that within the Northern Region, some of the most repressive regulation and suppressive policy controlling prostitution and commercial sex work was emerging, and influencing the thinking of political leaders elsewhere in Europe. It was still the case that many partners within the Network did not have a male sex worker specific project.
- However, opposed to this disappointment, there was strong sense of achievement within the Northern partners that the ENMP had raised awareness, especially with service providers and frontline practitioners from other disciplines that may have contact with male sex workers through their routine work. There was also a sense of achievement that within the Northern Region especially, the ENMP had begun to question and identify some of the faults within the repressive legislation which criminalises men who buy sex and victimises all those who sell sex, and began to stimulate debates regarding concepts of sex work as an informed choice and a profession.

And finally

- All partners agreed that the specific themed meetings were a valuable and focused approach.

### ***Future Proposals***

- All the Northern Regional partners felt sure that funding would be available at some point in the not too distant future to continue the work of the Network, but that perhaps we need to have an adaptive approach in terms of accessing funding. For example, there was lots of funding available over the last twelve months which focused on health and trafficking of sex workers. It was suggested that the ENMP should perhaps adopt a less ‘pro-sex worker rights’ stance and sometimes present a more fundamentalist ‘rescue’ or ‘abolitionist’ approach, if these were the current agenda’s which would attract funding.
- There was also a recognition that many front-line networks that focused on practice development seemed to be folding, and funding seemed more towards policy formation, and perhaps the Network needed to market its ‘expert’ function with regard to advising on policy pertaining to young men, sexual exploitation and homosexuality.

- The partners discussed ways in which to maintain the network in the face of no continued funding, and talked about further developing already existing other networks, such as the Nordic Network, UK based UK Network of Sex Worker Projects and the Irish Network Male Prostitution.
- The UK partner suggested that money may be available from the implementation of the National Sexual Health Strategy to develop the Regional Network, although there was a concern that this funding would be very UK specific.
- The need to maintain momentum was also discussed. Many of the partners agreed that there was flurry of Network activity around the weeks leading up to scheduled regional or general meetings, and for the weeks afterwards, but that for the lengthy periods of time in-between, nothing much was undertaken. Now that funding was lost, it was felt to be of even greater importance that the partners maintain an ENMP presence within their countries, and that the Regional Co-ordinator continue promote the work of the Network and maintains the links between the regional partners.
- The idea was floated that the Regional Network could continue if partners were self funding, as they were within the Nordic Network. There was a suggestion that all partner organisations should consider business planning and setting a budget to contribute towards their network activities in the next financial year.
- The concept of commercial sponsorship was also suggested, and approaches made to health departments of local and national governments.
- ‘Piggy backing’ on other meetings/conferences that partners may be attending, such as the World AIDS Conference could also be explored, with the ENMP hosting a session or symposium meeting, outside of the main activities/on the fringes of the main meeting. If partners were already attending the meeting, it would facilitate the continued networking without additional costs.

And finally

- Many partners felt that the potential study proposal could be used to foster academic relationships/partnerships with Universities and departments of sexology.

### *Website*

The meeting concluded with a reminder to partners to check and ensure that the details on the ENMP website regarding their countries was current and up to date. Partners were asked to review the content for their countries and send any corrections directly to the web-master (Frank ten Horn – [ftenhorn@chello.nl](mailto:ftenhorn@chello.nl)) by the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2003.

### *Epilogue*

In conclusion, the Regional Co-ordinator would like to thank all the Northern regional partners for their hard work, enthusiastic participation over the last five years, and for the strong bonding which has developed within the region.

## **6. Conclusion**

The year 2003 has been full of activities and the ENMP planned and organised lots of different meetings. We realise that the organisation of training events and conferences made the ENMP more accessible for other service providers, activists and MSW and helped to increase the impact of the network. We also received lots of media attention during the Stockholm Hearing and the training in Gijon, which supported the local projects within their practical work.

Pending the decision of the European Commission, regarding future funding, we intended to focus on the following issues:

- Broad exchange with service providers, MSW, policy makers, ...
- Training for service providers and MSW
- Gathering data (based on the outcomes of the pilot survey)
- Gathering existing and developing new prevention material
- Development and implementation of health promotion projects for MSW
- Policy, health and sex work
- Health promotion through the Internet

However, due to the rejection of our project proposal we are now forced to concentrate all efforts on finding alternative ways of funding. During the last ENMP meeting in Lisbon it became obvious that the network members were not ready to reconcile themselves to the fact of the project suspension. Therefore, we will do our best to find alternative ways of continuation.

# Appendix

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## Training for service providers considering, planning and implanting services for male sex workers

Gijon, 14 – 18 May 2003

<i>Wednesday, 14 May 2003</i>	Checklist/remarks
21.00 hrs – dinner	Welcome Markus Welcome Spanish host Short introduction Pjer & Georg
<b>Thursday, 15 May 2003</b>	
<i>Morning session: 9.30 – 14.00 hrs</i>	<b>Introduction</b>
9.30 – 10.15 hrs Introduction participants Pjer	Name Organisation What do you like about your work? What do you hate about your job?
10.15 – 10.30 hrs Introduction to the training Georg	Description of the general outline What can be expected, what not. Relation to/comparison with Athens training Summary of objectives as formulated in first announcement by ENMP
10.30 – 10.45 hrs Presentation timeschedule training Pjer	Division of tasks Pjer and Georg, Involvement of Markus, announcement Chris <b>Material:</b> Objectives on sheet
10.45 – 11.00 hrs Presentation ground rules training 11.00 – 11.15 hrs Checking expectations Georg	Check with the group what they expect with regards to - the contents of the training - new knowledge - new skills - collaboration with other participants <b>Material:</b> Prepare flip over with the main area's
11.15 – 11.30 hrs	<b>Break</b>
11.30 – 14.00 hrs Further introduction Those who are already implementing activities meet those who are planning Pjer  11.30 – 11.45 introduction 11.45 – 12.45 exchange & discussion 12.45 – 14.00 feed-back to the plenary	- Small groups of three or four - Mix of people with and people without experience - Small groups exchange about their work/their plans: experienced participants present interventions that work, and how they achieved the success; participants in planning stage describe what they have done so far, and the obstacles, why they didn't realise a project yet

	<p>A checklist structures the discussion in the group.</p> <p>Back in the plenary, the participants present their counterparts (the experienced presents the un-experienced), again with the support of the checklist – focussing on the factors of success and the factors of ‘failure’.</p> <p><b>Material:</b> Checklist (prepared by Pjer) Flip over</p>
<b>Lunch break: 14.00 hrs – 16.00 hrs</b>	
<b>Afternoon session: 16.00 hrs – 18.00 hrs</b>	<b>Putting health on the agenda - developing priorities</b>
16.00 – 16.15 hrs Introduction: Georg	<p>Why do we talk about HIV/AIDS? Is it a health priority? Or just because we are funded by AIDS programmes? What other priorities do exist?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social</li> <li>- Economic</li> <li>- Drugs</li> </ul> <p>Present example of AIDS &amp; Mobility – addressing migrants, first focus is on HIV/AIDS but other issues are very important as well</p>
<p>Developing priorities: What (do you think) is the main (health) problem in the group of male sex workers in your city? Why? How do you know?</p> <p>Three working groups 16.15 – 17.15 Pjer, Georg &amp; Markus facilitators</p>	<p>Participants discuss in couples the priorities – prepared on a sheet (60 minutes)</p> <p>Feed back in the working group: Conclusions: How can you influence the priorities?</p>
17.15 – 18.00 hrs Report to the plenary	Highlight the main problems that come from different priorities and how to tackle them
<b>19.00 – 21.00 hrs</b>	<b>City Tour</b>
<b>21.30 hrs</b>	<b>Dinner</b>

<b>Friday, 16 May 2003</b>	
<b>Morning session: 9.30 – 14.00 hrs</b>	<b>Outreach in different settings</b>
9.30 – 10.00 hrs Warming up: What's in a word?	Guessing words: one person says a word in his/her language – related to sex, sexuality, male prostitution – and throws a ball to another participant who must guess what it means.  <b>Material:</b> A ball (or another object to throw)
10.00 – 12.15 hrs Different settings – different needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Street – related to drugs &amp; Street – gay scene</li> <li>➤ Bars, brothels, saunas</li> <li>➤ Internet, at home</li> </ul> Personal experience and attitudes in these settings How to deal with violence Drug users, homeless sex workers Different cultural backgrounds People without papers, what can we offer them?	Pjer  Three working groups 10.15 – 11.15 Working group 11.15 – 11.30 Break 11.30 – 12.15 Presentation group  <b>Material:</b> Flip over
12.30 hrs – 14.00 hrs Georg Make your own project in 3 months (Phase1)  Ask someone else from the group to participate.  Planning of ideas, working individually.	Introducing SMART (Georg)   01-09-2003 Follow up by e-mail
<b>14.00 hrs – 16.00 hrs</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>Afternoon session: 16.00 hrs – 19.30 hrs</b>	
16.00 – 16.30 hrs Introduction of individual ideas	<b>Materials:</b> Flip over: Name/Plan/Participant
16.30 – 18.00 Make your own project in 3 months (Phase2)  Developing some projects in working groups using SMART	Three working groups
18.15 – 19.00 Interim evaluation	What about new info? What about collaboration? What about the food? What about your expectations? What about your energy level?  <b>Materials:</b> 5 chairs

21.30 hrs	Dinner
<b>Saturday, 17 May 2003</b>	
<b>Morning session: 9.30 – 14.00 hrs</b>	<i>“Meet the expert”</i>
9.30 – 10.00 hrs Warming up	Condom race
10.00 – 14.00 hrs Presentation by sexworker	Different types of working Character’s of clients What are prostitutes like? What makes a successful sex worker? Who helps Street Walkers Why? Warning signs and safety nets for service providers Four important things you can do.
<b>Lunch break: 14.00 hrs – 16.00 hrs</b>	
<i>Afternoon session: 16.00 hrs – 17.30 hrs</i> 16.00 – 16.15 hrs Warming up, massage 16.15 – 17.30 hrs Role plays Different outreach methods Introduction to role plays Role plays 30 min each Pjer	Three situations: 1. Establish contacts with the young men (Pjer) 2. Provide info and condoms (Georg) 3. Establish contacts with bar/sauna owners (Pjer)  <b>Material:</b> Cards with role descriptions Condoms and lubricants Info material
<b>17.30 – 18.00</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>18.00 – 18.30</b>	<i>Evaluation &amp; Closing</i>  What about the content of the program? What about the organisation?  <b>Materials:</b> Stickies
21.30 hrs	Dinner
<b>Sunday, 18 May 2003</b>	
Departure	

## Stockholm Hearing: 'Hidden Stories'

### Programme

May 23rd 2003

- 8.30-9.00 Registration and coffee
- 09.00-09.30 **Welcome**  
Katarina Lindahl RFSU, Sören Andersson RFSL, Markus Giesbers ENMP
- 09.30-10.45 **Practical experiences of men in prostitution**  
Niklas Eriksson, Malmö, Claus Lautrup, Copenhagen, Øystein Keiseraas, Stockholm
- 10.45-11.15 BREAK
- 11.15-11.55 **Interest groups and unionisation**  
Christopher Miller, IUSW, Pye Jacobsson & Daniel Bergqvist, ROSEA, Sweden
- 11.55-12.30 **The historical construction of male sex work**  
Anthony Pryce
- 12.30-13.30 LUNCH
- 13.30-15.15 **Ideologies, policy and legislation**
- The Swedish model*  
Gunilla Ekberg
- Problems encountered so far in Sweden*  
Don Kulick
- The Dutch model*  
Marieke van Doornink
- Problems encountered so far in the Netherlands*  
Jan Visser
- 15.15-15.35 COFFEE BREAK
- 15.35-16.50 **Co-operative working and emerging issues**
- Ethnic Albanian male sex workers in Northern Europe*  
Nicola Mai
- Co-operative working in Ireland*  
Mick Quinlan
- ENMP Pilot Survey and MSW on the Internet*  
Justin Gaffney
- 16.50-17.00 **Conclusions**

# **Program Internetconference Hamburg, Germany, 27-28<sup>th</sup> June 2003**

*Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2003*

10:30 Visit to Basis Projekt Hamburg (optional)

**12:00** Opening of the Conference by *Farid Mueller*, Vice-President of Parliament of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and *Markus Giesbers*, Co-ordinator of the European Network Male Prostitution.

Practical and organisational points by *Stefanie Grabatsch*, National co-ordinator ENMP Germany, Basis Projekt, Hamburg.

## **Current experiences on the World Wide Web**

**12:30** Experiences from The Netherlands, Dr. *Onno de Zwart*, Head Infection Disease-Section of the Municipal Health Centre, Rotterdam and *Bas Kopper*, Consultant of the Schorer Foundation, Amsterdam.

**13:00** Experiences from Bulgaria, *Trajko Stoilov*, Webmaster of the Gay and Lesbian Organization Gemini, Sofia.

**13:20** Break

**13:30** Experiences from the United States of America, Dr. *Jeffrey Parsons*, Co-director of the Centre for HIV/Aids Educational Studies and Training, New York.

**14:00** Experiences from Switzerland, *Sacha Batthyany*, Counsellor Swiss Aids Federation, Zurich.

**14:20** Break

**14:40** Introduction to the Working Groups by *Markus Giesbers*, Co-ordinator of the ENMP.

**14:50** Start Working Groups

1. Internet survey in Central and East Europe by ENMP-members: presentation and discussion (strategies, contacts, results, obstacles, future, ...), *Pjer Vriens*, Municipal Health Service Amsterdam, The Netherlands and *Bart Vandenbroucke*, Adzon Brussels, Belgium.
2. First contact with gay men on the Internet: sharing experiences, starting prevention, *Onno de Zwart*, Municipal Health Service Rotterdam, The Netherlands and *Bas Koppers*, Schorer Foundation Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
3. Counselling on the Internet: presentation and discussion, *Sacha Batthyany*, Swiss Aids Federation Zurich, Switzerland.

**16:30** Plenary: presentation of the discussions and results of the Working Groups, *Markus Giesbers*.

**17:30** End

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2003**

**9:30** Coffee

**9:55** Opening of the day by *René Akeret*, Regional Co-ordinator of the Central- and Eastern European Group of the ENMP.

**Learning from experiences: Models of good practice**

**10:00** Male Sex Work & the Internet in Northern Europe, *Justin Gaffney*, Consultant Nurse for STI Control, St. Mary's Hospital London, United Kingdom.

**10:20** How to establish contact on the Internet in Switzerland, *Franz Kohler*.

**10:40** MSW organizing themselves in the US, *Shane Luitjens and Daniel Lee*, hookonline.org, New York, USA.

**11:00** Break

**11:15** Panel discussion with MSW and representations of Service Providers for MSW, moderated by *Katrin Schiffer*, European co-ordinator of the ENMP.

**12:30** Lunch

**13:30** Introduction to the Working Groups by *René Akeret*.

**13:35** Working Groups: What does this mean for us, service providers, planning to do or doing outreach work on the Internet?

- Service providers with experience in working on the Internet, *Emmanuelle Curcio* and *Bart Vandembroucke*, Adzon Brussels, Belgium.
- Service providers with little experience in working on the Internet, *Michail Okolyiski*, National Centre of Public Health Sofia, Bulgaria and *Markus Giesbers*, co-ordinator of the ENMP.
- Working Group of MSW, *Frank ten Horn*, STI Foundation, Utrecht, The Netherlands and *Pjer Vriens*, Municipal Health Service, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

**15:15** Break

**15:30** Plenary: presentation of the Working Groups and discussion, *René Akeret*.

**17:00** Outcomes and conclusions of the Internetconference, *Markus Giesbers*.

**17:30** End, *Markus Giesbers* and *Stefanie Grabatsch*.

## STATEMENT OF INTENT

### **Preface**

#### **The European Network Male Prostitution**

In 1997 the AMOC/DHV Foundation launched the European Network Male Prostitution (ENMP), supported by the European Commission and the Dutch Aids Fund. The network now consists of agencies in 22 different countries, all engaged in the field of male sex work.

#### **Aims & objectives**

The ENMP stimulates, develops and improves proper health and social services, which contribute to the needs and well-being of MSW's. Furthermore, the network intends to bridge the gap between the needs of MSW and the services, provided by agencies, active in the field of HIV/STI prevention and health promotion. Therefore both, agencies as well as MSW are actively involved in the network.

Johan is a 32 old gay man, born in Indonesia. He studied in Amsterdam and started to work as an escort to pay for his study. He worked for different agencies and did put advertisements in magazines. He finished his study and at this moment he works five days a week on a lawyer's office. He works as an escort in the weekends, mostly working with regular customers.<sup>6</sup>

#### **The value of (international) networking**

Men selling sex are a heterogeneous group with their own needs. Therefore it is necessary that agencies develop different services in order to reach the different groups. Cooperation at local and national levels is required and other services should be involved and informed as well (e.g. gay organisations, services for people living with HIV and AIDS, services for young people, drug users, homeless people, etc.).

Networking needs to be developed at national, regional and international levels in order to stimulate mutual support and improve service provision for male sex workers.

#### **Participation of men selling sex**

ENMP recognises the importance of the consultation, contribution and participation of men selling sex in all their activities, at all stages of a project (starting up, during and the evaluation of a project). All efforts are made to increase the involvement of men selling sex, in whatever capacity for any given duration (see chapter on sex worker involvement in ENMP Manual 2002).

#### **Statement of Intent**

As a European network, we know, that (healthy!) sex work is effected by different factors, e.g. socio-economic infrastructure, cultural background of sex workers, legal or illegal status of migrants, ways of and barriers for service provision and last but not least the legal situation of men selling sex and men who have sex with men. Due to the increasing impact of the network in the past years, it was necessary to develop a meaningful statement of intent, presenting a clear point of view regarding:

- Civil rights and legal issues,
- Needs of men selling sex,
- Duties of service providers,

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<sup>6</sup> In order to demonstrate the diversity of ways in which men sell sex across the different European countries of the network, this Mission Statement document is interspersed with vignettes of real accounts of the situations of individuals (names have been changed to ensure anonymity).

- Protection of human rights.

The network with partners from 22 countries all over Europe managed to find a general agreement on these issues, summarised in this present statement.

*Dennis is 28. He started to work in prostitution when he was fifteen and he ran away from home. He started to use heroine and cocaine. He lived with customers and lived on the street. He lives in a hostel for homeless people and he receives methadone from a local drug support agency. He has some regular customers and now and then he gets into trouble with the police, mainly for petty crimes. He wants to stop working in prostitution and get a regular job.*

## **The Selling of Sex by Men In Europe**

### **Definitions**

In order to describe the phenomenon of the selling of sexual services by man several different definitions are being used within the countries represented in the ENMP. There is also a range of terms used for the actual act and the people who perform these acts. The definitions and terms reflect the moral and social opinions of the host country. We have tried to use terms that are neutral and accurate. The term "sex worker" has become widely popular among sex workers and sex work projects because it is less stigmatising than "prostitute" and it emphasises the labour-based nature of providing sexual services. Viewing prostitution as work can provide a basis for organising, in order to address the variety of problems, which may occur in relation to the selling of sex. It is important to avoid judgemental language that stigmatises sex workers.

Sex worker lead organisations and advocacy projects use the term 'sex worker', as this term is widely acceptable to persons who sell sex. However, many men that are involved in the selling of sex will not adhere to a collective identify as 'sex workers' but will acknowledge that they are involved in the selling of sex. The term 'selling' is used here in its widest context, not necessarily just to mean the exchange of currency.

The ENMP therefore prefers to use terms like male sex worker or men selling sex. It was agreed for the purpose of this Mission Statement, that the preferred terminology would be 'men selling sex'.

*Radu is from Romania and is heterosexual. He has been travelling for four years now and sends money back to his parents in Romania. He works with customers in hustler bars and uses the Internet cafe to reach new clients. One of the clients did offer him a small apartment to stay; the owner of the apartment works overseas for most of the year. Radu takes care of the cat while he is away, in return for the free accommodation.*

### **The complex reality of men selling sex in Europe**

In the majority of countries, men selling sex is a non-issue, ignored by policy makers, sponsors and service providers.

Each country and region has specific issues and problems unique to the political, cultural and economic circumstances of the country or region. The social position, living and working conditions of men selling sex are strongly influenced by the socio-economic context, the criminal and juridical systems of each country. Not only direct criminalisation of the selling of sexual services but also related criminal laws or legislation such as the criminalisation of clients, homosexual acts, legislation against soliciting or sexual advertising and anti-migration laws lead to marginalisation of men selling sex. Regulation of prostitution often places men who sell sex in a situation of mandatory medical check ups and registration.

Migration has a great impact on the nature of men engaged in the selling of sex in Europe.

In many societies men who sell sex are confronted with specific problems and various forms of discrimination. The stigma of male prostitution is exacerbated by its connotation with male homosexuality, which can lead to further marginalisation. In reality, however, not all men involved in male prostitution are homosexual, nor do all of them identify as 'gay'. Homosexuality is defined by identity and lifestyle, not sexual behaviour on its own. The ENMP works with men selling sex regardless of their identity, such as homosexual, bisexual, heterosexual or transgender.

*Pjotr is a gay man from Poland. He worked as a male sex worker in different countries and does enjoy the gay scene in Amsterdam the most. He fell in love with a Dutch man and they have lived together for three years now. He still works in gay bars and has regular customers. He also works as a porn-star for gay movies.*

In acknowledging these complex realities and the diversity of experiences across Europe, the ENMP activities have focused information for policy makers, sponsors and service providers to meet the health, social and legal needs of men who sell sex. The Network agreed on the responsibilities of service providers, whilst recognising that service provision is informed from a wider perspective that encompasses civil and human rights. Consensus within the Network has been reached with regard to these rights, which is presented in detail within the briefing paper.

### **The Needs of Men Selling Sex**

Men who sell sex have the need to have access to confidential, free (or affordable) facilities, free of discrimination taking into account their ethnic, social, cultural, religious and sexual identity. These facilities cover their needs for health, social support, legal advice and information.

*Revy is a 24 years old Dutch man, who works in a brothel in Amsterdam. He makes a lot of money and likes to buy nice clothes and rents an expensive apartment. He likes to party, drink a lot and starts to experiment with cocaine when he goes clubbing. After a regular STI test, he decided to do a HIV test. He finds out that he is HIV positive. He has only got his colleagues as friends and when he is kicked out of the brothel after several conflicts, he feels very lonely. He wants to start a new life and find a new job and contacts the outreach worker from the health centre for help.*

## **1. Health**

Men who sell sex have a wide range of needs around their health and well being, including:

### **1.1 Information about:**

- general and sexual health :STI and HIV screening and Hepatitis vaccination
- alcohol and drug use
- mental health and psychological care services
- safer sex practices.

### **1.2 Access**

- to sexual health services
- to adequate HIV treatment regardless of immigration status
- to condoms and lubricants
- to harm reduction services for drug users (clean needles, methadone programs and rehabilitation services)
- to appropriate mental health services

## 2. Social services

Men who sell sex have a range of needs around social support issues such as, homelessness, residential care, migration, stigmatization, abuse and violence. Some of these needs can be addressed as follows:

### 2.1 Referrals and access to:

- adequate accommodation appropriate to needs
- groups and agencies around migration and ethnicity
- groups and agencies around sexuality and sexual identity
- groups and agencies around selling sex
- groups and agencies around prevention or reduction of violence.

*Peter is 21 and lives in a medium sized industrial town in Germany. He is bisexual and currently has a girlfriend and one year old son. Unemployment is high in his town as the local car factory recently closed when the new foreign owners automated the assembly line. He visits the local gay sauna five days per week where he exchanges sexual acts for money with men. He is fit and works out at the gym daily which is attached to the sauna. Recently another guy he knows at the sauna started to supply him with steroids, to build his muscles quicker. This has made him aggressive and moody and is causing a strain on this relationship, but he feels he needs to use them to 'look good' and get the clients.*

## 3. Legal issues

Legislation in relation to immigration and sex work affects the lives of men who sell sex. Also this can impede the harm reduction strategy options. Men selling sex need to be able to access:

### 3.1 Information advice on:

- the age of consent
- selling sex
- basics civil rights regardless of residency status
- reporting violence and abuse
- access to free legal advice and Legal aid.

### Duties of Service Providers

Men selling sex access a whole range of services from health issues to migration, some of these may be provided from a central unit. But there are very few designated services otherwise there are usually from a variety of venues and locations. The needs of men selling sex can be better addressed if services are coordinated.

All service providers should adopt anti-discrimination measures and good practice guidelines for service provision to men selling sex (see ENMP Manual). Below are presented some recommendations and guidelines towards this:

*Christof is 24, an English guy who started to sell sex at 18 through gay chat rooms, to fund his university degree. He has worked for agencies and through adverts on the web. He became involved in a Sex Workers Union and campaigns for sex worker's rights. With help from his therapist, accessed through a sex worker's health project, he is tackling issues he sex work has thrown up for him. He is now a sexual health project worker, but still sees the occasional client.*

### Recommendations and guidelines;

- To make services accessible and flexible to meet the needs of the diverse populations

- To create safe environments that promote communication and dialogue
- To take account of cultural and linguistic differences and needs of the men selling sex from other countries
- To promote services through outreach and other methods
- To promote staff training on the issues of sexual identity and the selling of sex
- To include men who sell sex in training provision
- To challenge heterosexism, homophobia, racism and xenophobia
- To address the issue of stigmatization of men who sell sex
- To consult and involve men selling sex in designing and delivery of services
- To facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience between agencies and persons working in this area
- To promote awareness and visibility of men who sell sex
- To research and record on the various aspects of the challenges faced by men who sell sex
- To provide training and support for the personal development of men who sell sex
- To create a network and interagency platforms to lobby towards the abolition of discriminatory laws affecting sex workers
- To promote review of legislation to insure that access to health and harm reduction services is not impeded
- To provide free, friendly and confidential services, and provide such services without expectation of reciprocation from the men using these services who sell sex
- To assist men who sell sex to make positive lifestyle choices, including the existing of sex work, if desired.

### **Civil Rights & Legal Issues**

The existing legal approaches to prostitution that are based on moral and ideological presumptions have their impact on the working and living conditions of men selling sex. In the world there different legislative models can be defined.

#### **Legal approaches**

##### *Prohibition*

The most repressive legal regime is the absolute prohibition of prostitution. Prostitution is seen as deviant or criminal behaviour and prostitutes need to be punished or forcibly re-educated. All activities related to prostitution are prohibited and all parties involved are criminalized, including the prostitute. The illegality of prostitution as such renders prostitutes fully dependent on third parties without any legal protection for they themselves are liable to arrest and prosecution.

##### *Regimentation*

In the system of regimentation, prostitution is considered to be an inevitable or even necessary evil. The existence of prostitution is more or less accepted, but at the same time considered a threat to public health and order. To protect society against the dangers of this 'necessary' evil, prostitution is controlled through the introduction of regulations and various state sanctioned measures.

Although their work is not illegal prostitutes are not given legal rights as workers, neither does the state take responsibility for their working conditions.

Mandatory registration creates a difference between 'legal' and 'illegal' forms of prostitution. Many women and men selling sex do not want to register because they fear the stigmatising effects.

Others cannot register because of their illegal status, like most migrant workers. In both cases they end up in an illegal circuit with all the negative consequences this entails.

##### *Abolitionism*

The laws of the majority of countries are based the abolitionist model. The underlying idea is that prostitution exists because brothel-keepers, pimps and traffickers lure women and children into prostitution to profit from her earnings. Prostitutes are not seen as deviants or as criminals, but as victims who should not be penalised but rescued.

In this all model the activities of 'third parties' such as recruitment for prostitution, managing a brothel, rental of premises for prostitution, pimping and living off the earnings of prostitution are

illegal. This places prostitutes in a profoundly ambivalent legal position. Although not forbidden, it is well-nigh impossible to work, since any type of work requires some form of organisation. The law itself deprives prostitutes of crucial means of assuring an income, e.g. facilities to recruit clients, to advertise, to hire accommodation, or to conclude labour contracts. Even the improvement of working conditions (such as good sanitary equipment or the supplying of condoms) may be considered in law as 'promoting' prostitution.

Although most EU member states formally prohibit any 'exploitation of prostitution', in practice most countries have more or less extensively regulated prostitution, thus combining abolitionist legislation with a regulatory practice.

### **ENMPs Point of View on legal approaches**

Within ENMP there is much discussion on if and what legal and societal changes are needed in order to accomplish equal rights for men selling sex. Legal change can benefit the legal and social status of men selling sex but entail the danger of disturbing the precarious *modus vivendi* that men selling have created for themselves in order to work as safe as possible given the existing legal framework.

It is important to acknowledge that membership of the Network is drawn from 22 nations across Europe and Eastern Europe, each with its own legal system and societal and religious attitude towards the selling of sex.

ENMP therefore will not make a statement on the legal system in an individual member state nor call upon any legal changes concerning the sex industry.

Yet, the ENMP is aware that in many countries within the network, due to the criminal nature of the selling of sex work, or related activities, many men are denied their fundamental human rights. Or these rights are being infringed upon directly by cultural beliefs, societal norms and values and general public attitudes.

*Therefore, the ENMP calls for decriminalisation of punitive laws in all partner nations, which inhibit men who sell sex access to fundamental rights of protection, security, freedom of movement, healthcare, health promotion and economic independence.*

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, 1948) without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

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