

Synopsis of

# The trafficking and sexual exploitation of native Hungarian speaking women in the Netherlands.

*A case study into the nature of forced prostitution and the  
modus operandi of organised crime groups involved in human  
trafficking in Europe.*

A dissertation

to be submitted by

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## **PART 1:**

This ethnographic research was set out to provide answers in regards to questions concerning the nature of victimisation and perpetration within the trafficking and sexual exploitation of native Hungarian speaking women. In other words, who victims and perpetrators of sexual exploitation actually are and more specific what their characteristics consist out of? Information was gathered on which parties and organisations are involved in the trafficking and sexual exploitation of native Hungarian speaking women and what their modus operandi is. By doing so a description of the nature of the trafficking of native Hungarian speaking women to the Netherlands with the goal to sexually exploit them as well as to explain the organisation of the crime and criminal networks by using a network oriented approach, was given. The ultimate goal of this research is to provide hand on empirical and applicable information for those institutions leading and execution the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation of women. In order to do so, the following research questions were used:

### **Main:**

- What is the Modus Operandi of Organised Crime Groups which are involved in the trafficking and sexual exploitation of native Hungarian speaking women in the Netherlands and to what extend does legislation on both national and European level influence the Modus Operandi of these Organised Crime Groups?

### **Sub:**

- What is the nature of forced prostitution involving native Hungarian speaking women in the Netherlands?
- What role does transnational Organised Crime have in the trafficking and sexual exploitation of native Hungarian speaking women across the European Union?
- What are the measurable effects of implementing National (anti-trafficking and prostitution) legislation and European anti-trafficking

programs and international (legal) cooperation towards the trafficking and sexual exploitation of native Hungarian speaking women?

- Which innovative multidisciplinary actions and cooperative strategies are related to and therefore capable of influencing the Modus Operandi of transnational operating Organised Crime Groups?

The expectations as existed prior to the research were formulated as the following hypotheses:

- Most of the women involved in the sex-work spectrum, especially those in the more deprived areas like prostitution have fallen victim to human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- The organisations behind the trafficking are using a business model based upon a network approach.
- Current legislation is ineffective to successfully combat the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women.
- The women fallen victim have insufficient (in)formal support to escape the exploitive situation and in the current situation they lack adequate protection against their perpetrators and social condemnation.
- Nations as well as the European Union will eventually fall short in combating human trafficking due to the fact the interests of states are always carefully balanced against the human rights of citizens which is contra-productive to combating organised crime.

## PART 2:

As mentioned in the first part, this research has an ethnographic setup and different methods and skills were applied. Before doing any intrusive research ethical approval was necessary and for this research this was obtained by the INHolland University of Applied Sciences ad-hoc Research Ethics Committee chaired by prof. dr. D. Andriessen supplemented by the members prof. dr. B Levering and Prof. dr. S. Peij in 2011. The Committee assessed the research on the basis of the Social Research Association (SRA) Ethical Guidelines 2003.

To meet the standards within the research all data was collected anonymously and the necessary description keys are only at the disposal of the researcher himself. All respondents participated on a voluntary basis and the principle of informed consent was used. Due to the nature of the situation, interviews with women working as a prostitute as well as the interviews with pimps and the occasional punter were not recorded but rather organised by using notes during the interviews. After each interview, the notes were placed in a work report within the hour and in transcript the same day. The final analyses was done with the help of Kwalitan.

Example of a work report:

**XXX weg 111, Rotterdam**

**Tuesday January 10 2012**

**13.20-13.35**

Name	Alias	Gender	Age	Ethnicity	Born	Occupation	Area	Type	Contact
Megy	none	F	23	Hungarian	Szeged	Prostitute	Rotterdam	Private In & out call	Kinky.nl

Notes: ....

After finalising the work reports, the information was made anonymous by giving each applied method, person and characteristic a specific code i.e. an interview was coded B, the specific respondent was given a unique number i.e. 25, the nature of the respondent was recognisable by the colour i.e. a prostitute being orange and a pimp green. The location was made clear on the basis of a Latin number i.e. XII and the accommodation, when relevant, i.e. a brothel was given a letter from the Greek alphabet. This resulted in a file as shown in a fictional example below;

Date and time	Type	respondent	Nature	Location	M.O
17-03-2011 18.25-19.50	B	98		X	Φ
02-04-2011 10.00-10.55	B	101		VII	Π
06-04-2011 16.15-16.40	B	103		VII	n/a

The following methods were applied:

Quantitative →

Questionnaires: In both the Netherlands as in Hungary this method was used to retrieve information. In the Netherlands, the people were asked on their attitudes towards prostitution by assessing this to the effects of Not In My Backyard (NIMBY). For this 5000 questionnaires were taken in a face to face setting. In addition 437 punters were asked, face to face, on their motivations for buying sex and their knowledge of human trafficking and sexual exploitation and on their ability to recognise victims and willingness to file a report by the authorities. In Hungary, women working in prostitution were contacted by telephone and asked on their experiences and willingness to travel abroad. This sample was set out as followed;

N=	Budapest	Debréce	Győr	Pécs	Szeged	Nyíregyháza
Prostitutes	39	22	9	11	6	6

All information deriving out of the questionnaires was placed in and analysed by the help of SPSS.

#### Qualitative→

An extensive literature review, based upon the conditions as set out by Hart, has been conducted to analyse all available secondary data and ideas and research on the topics of prostitution, forced prostitution and organised crime. This literature review was supplemented with regular meetings and visits to conferences both as listener but in some occasions also as a speaker. Besides these visits, the retrieval of primary data was initiated by using the method of ethnographic observations in the red light districts of Amsterdam, The Hague, Groningen and Utrecht, in the Netherlands. The aim of these observations was twofold. First they were necessary to get an idea of the reality as it exists in the specific red light districts and to assess the characteristic of the situation of legalised prostitution in the Netherlands. Second to get in contact with relevant persons i.e. prostitutes, pimps and punters who can function as gatekeepers. These first observations were conducted on a non-structured, direct and concealed basis with help of the method of time sampling. as mentioned above, observations were conducted in the cities of Amsterdam, The Hague, Groningen and Utrecht. The observations were structured in such a manner they took place at different days during the week as well as in the weekends and always on different times of the day. All of this to get an understanding of the working conditions, the amount of women present at a certain period in time, the type and amount of clientele etc. In total over 650 hours were spend observing. These observations acted also as a way to get in contact with the women working there which eventually led to the possibility of conducting interviews with the women. So over the period of January 2010 till February 2013, (N=)223 women working as prostitutes at several well know red lights districts in the cities of Amsterdam, The Hague, Utrecht and Groningen as well as women working in a private surrounding in the city and area of Rotterdam

were interviewed. Of these women (of whom the majority were interviewed several times), N=136 had the Hungarian nationality and did actually come from Hungary, more specific Szeged and the surrounding villages, the Budapest region and the Balaton region, 63 of the women belonged to the Hungarian minority in Romania, and usually would originate from the regions of Szatmár Megye and Bihar. One girl belonged to the Hungarian minority in Slovakia. The other N=23 interviewed ladies came from Lithuania (N=2), Bulgaria (N=7), Romania (N=8), Poland (N=4), Greece (N=1) and Estonia (N=1). Even though these women did not meet the characteristics of the research group they were interviewed nevertheless as they could function as a control group and sometimes they were friends with women from the research group so in this occasion they functioned as gatekeepers as well. Almost 35% of the women interviewed belonged to a Roma minority out of one of the specific countries.

In addition to these interviews with the women working in prostitution, (N=) 23 pimps were interviewed which have the following specifications;

<b>N=</b>	2	2	3	2	3	4	4	3
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Albanian	Surinamese	Curacaos	Bulgarian	Hungarian	Romanian	Turkish	Moroccan
<b>Age</b>	33 & 34	37 & 39	21,24 &27	41 & 43	36, 38 & 44	29, 29, 34 & 54	25, 27, 39 & 43	23, 28 &31

Beside these men working as pimps, multiple experts working for the police, the public prosecutions’ office, judges, sex work aid organisations and scholars were asked on their knowledge, experiences and views on prostitution policy, forced prostitution and organised crime. Each interview addressed the following topics in regards to prostitution and the women working as a prostitute: (knowledge of) personal situation and background, (knowledge of) working position, (knowledge of) working conditions, the possibility to exit prostitution, nationality, travel i.e. the prostitution carrousel, perceptions of safety and feelings of trust towards the police and aid workers.



Schematically the entire sample is as follows:

N=	Amsterdam	Groningen	Rotterdam	The Hague	Utrecht
Prostitutes Research group Hungary	23	18	37	47	11
Prostitutes Research Group Other	10	2	16	28	7
Prostitutes Control Group	4	3	3	11	2
Pimps	5	0	8	9	1

The interviews, on average, lasted about an hour and a half depending on the situation. In many occasions the interviews with the prostitutes needed a second or third session to get all the in-depth information needed.

### **PART 3:**

This research tried to clarify the operations surrounding the exploitation of native Hungarian speaking women in the Netherlands. In order to do so the following research question stood at the base of this research.

*'What is the Modus Operandi of Organised Crime Groups which are involved in the trafficking and sexual exploitation of native Hungarian speaking women in the Netherlands and to what extent does legislation on both national and European level influence the Modus Operandi of these Organised Crime Groups?'*

This question can be answered by stating that even though valuable steps have been taken by the European committee and council as well as the member states authorities by; criminalising other types of trafficking, the increase or improvement of investigative powers, raising awareness, applying more victim orientated approaches, offering the victim better protection and setting up ongoing international coordination i.e. by JIT's. This still is insufficient considering the sheer amount and rise of victims reported annually. The prosecution of perpetrators proves to be difficult, because of victims limited willingness to report their situation, investigative difficulties and existing discrepancy in the goals, insight and methods between the different justice institutions. Therefore most profit is to be gained in the prevention of the origination of the crimes. In other words a more in-depth multidisciplinary approach tackling causes on all levels, from social levels which, from an economic perspective, need to be dealt with by Europe and by the member states all the way to personal circumstances i.e. low SES, self-esteem issues, peer pressure or family related issues. The use of criminal law is only required in those cases the victims really need salvation and the human right infringements are severe as otherwise the intervention can become contra-productive causing further abuse and victimisation as the women remain vulnerable and accessible to exploitation. In those cases it is necessary to raise awareness by adapting a different approach of 'community' policing applied on the red light districts in order to re-establish the victims' trust in the police. This will need to be supplemented with efforts on raising awareness amongst the

people, abolishing indifference and make use of the people's help to fight sexual exploitation in example to improve recognition of victims of human trafficking. Aid workers and NGO's can be supportive to this mentality change. At the same time the police needs to adapt different strategies focussing more on victim's interest and help needed and perceive a successful prosecution as a welcome secondary result. The women need to be helped with better help and aid focused on the situation and needs of the woman. Legislation should constitute the base on which can be acted upon while the actions themselves need to address the elements of the three P's with an authorities response based on respect and understanding instead of being patronizing or even criminalising the women. These actions can be orientated or be regulative by the European Union, in the person of a specialised division of Europol, but it can only be effective if successfully adapted and performed by the authorities of all the states the crimes are being committed in.

Prevention should be the key element and thereby limits legal options as criminal law is in the basis reactive in character and therefore unsuccessful in protecting the victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. The European Union could play a role but only if consensus can be reached on prostitution policy and certain investigated powers would be mandated differently.

Concretised and completed the points of interest are:

	<b>Primary prevention (General)</b>	<b>Secondary prevention (Risks)</b>	<b>Tertiary Prevention (Problems)</b>
<b>Perpetrator</b>	Recognition of general indicators that show prove of the possibility of crime and act accordingly to the situation.	Individual risk indicators reveal themselves and so-called early life interventions need to be deployed. These actions need to address all single determinants.	Perpetrators are active and action by the authorities is required. These actions need to address both punishment and rehabilitation in line with individual needs.
<b>Situation</b>	Make use of innovative measures for the universal implementation of preventive measures to reduce opportunity.	Dutch policy towards prostitution creates a legal option for exploitation. As the boundaries between sex work and sexual exploitation are diffuse and hard to distinguish.	Prostitution areas usually have weak social control and poor planning to increase both formal and informal social control.
<b>Victim</b>	Raising awareness with the public and informing on the risks and their actuality. By doing so the public opinion can be altered and indifference avoided.	Victimisation is imminent. Women with elevated risks i.e. low SES, self-esteem issues etc. should be made aware and helped to avoid victimisation.	Victimisation is a fact. Victims need to be helped out of the exploitative situation and need to be kept safe and be prepared for a life after victimisation

## **PART 4:**

### Public

Rij, Jorn van (2012) 'A Dutch Invitation: Hungarian Women Welcome?' in: Jura, University of Pécs (2) pp. 239-244

Rij, Jorn van (2014) 'Human Trafficking and Prostitution Policy. An European issue?' in: PJIEL, University of Pécs (1/1) pp. ??

### Confidential

Rij, Jorn van (2013) 'Mensenhandel -Verleden-' Nationale Politie, uitgesproken presentatie 2/9/2013 te Utrecht p.10

Rij, Jorn van (2013) 'De werkwijze achter de gedwongen prostitutie van Hongaarse vrouwen in Nederland' Landelijk overleg Openbaar Ministerie, uitgesproken presentatie 28/11/2013 te Rotterdam p. 14

Rij, Jorn van (2014) 'Uitbuiting en zwart werk' De Belastingdienst, uitgesproken presentatie 14/1/2014 te Amsterdam p. 11

Rij, Jorn van (2014) 'Seksuele uitbuiting van Hongaarse vrouwen' Bureau Nationaal Rapporteur Mensenhandel, uitgesproken presentatie 8/2/2014 te Den Haag p. 19