(RE)INTEGRATION OR EMPOWERMENT: WHAT’S THE DESIRED AND ACHIEVABLE OUTCOME OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR TRAFFICKED PERSONS?

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THESIS

• Reintegration understood as process of recovery and social and economic inclusion into community of origin following a trafficking experience is not always a desirable and achievable outcome of assistance for trafficked persons. IRIS assistance project implemented in Poland as well literature based on reintegration programs in other countries of Europe and Asia suggest that only in some cases, under favorable circumstances reintegration is appropriate and feasible goal for trafficked persons.

• Empowerment understood as gaining autonomy, social and economical independence and control of life is in most cases more desirable, appropriate and achievable than reintegration.
TRAFFICKED PERSONS AS RETURNED MIGRANTS

 Trafficked persons

• Who are they?

• What are their situation, needs, wishes and interests before and after trafficking experience?
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR TRAFFICKED PERSONS IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

What kind of services are available to trafficked persons?

What are systemic constraints of assistance programs in Europe and in particular in Poland?
IRIS: SOCIAL AND VOCATIONAL REINTEGRATION FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

- Total Budget aprox. 1 200 000 euro, years 2005-2007
- 316 persons in crisis intervention phase, only 60 trafficking survivors assisted with reintegration services
- Why it was difficult to successfully reintegrate victims of trafficking? Comparison of IRIS implementation with other research findings:
  - Problems related to trafficking survivors
  - Problems related to their relatives, communities of origin
  - Problems related to structural constraints of assistance programs
  - Problems related to labor market and economic situation in country of origin
CONCLUSION

- Reintegration is only desirable and possible in few cases, where there is combination of favorable factors like the will and motivation of the victim, healthy relations with close relatives, psycho-social stabilization of the trafficked person, material resources, tailored up, sustainable, and long term assistance package, economic opportunities.
- Empowerment is first step towards the rehabilitation and recovery in most cases of trafficked persons. It is also in current anti-trafficking policies frameworks and resources the most achievable and appropriate.