



Before starting the European Master Degree, I was awarded an Italian Master Degree in 'Politics and Institutions of Human Rights and Peace' by the Faculty of Political Science, University of Padua. I wrote my final dissertation on "*Human security and 'voluntary' international migrations: human rights and the case study of Mexico-U.S. border*". In the meantime I also worked as Junior Expert in the framework of a European Commission DAPHNE Project on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation; we created an Educational Toolkit targeted to students and teachers in order to raise their awareness on this contemporary form of human rights violations.

What brought me to the University Nova of Lisboa? My desire to deepen my knowledge on feasible and, in particular, bottom up strategies to prevent trafficking in human beings.

I knew about the phenomenon of women's trafficking from Brazil to Portugal and its peculiarities. In addition, I was extremely interested to get to know directly the phenomenon of immigration from the former Portuguese colonies and the special relation the Portuguese Government maintains with these countries also in the field of migration and development cooperation.

I wrote my dissertation under the supervision of Professor Paula Escarameia and also thanks to very precious advice of Professor Teresa Pizarro Beleza. My final thesis entitled '*Preventing human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The need for a bottom-up approach : the case-study of Brazilians trafficked to Portugal*' benefited from plenty of Portuguese, Brazilian and international research on the issue of trafficking in human beings; from the human lens I can not do without employing when watching at given phenomena and, in particular, from the interviews I

carried out with privileged informers. Most of them were residing in Lisbon and were representatives of migrants' association as I wanted to go bottom and listen to them as representatives of transnational communities. But I also deemed important to interview representatives from Governments, national and international organizations as well as professors experts in the field residing both in Portugal and in other countries in order to provide an accurate and comprehensive analysis of the current strategy to counteract this phenomenon, emphasizing main gaps and suggesting a way forward. I found the research process really stimulating as I had the chance to get to know plenty of people who challenged my views.

In the meantime I learned Portuguese and once I graduated from the EMA I realized my 'dream' to get to know 'from inside' how the Portuguese development cooperation was working in the PALOP and in Brazil. I worked in this field for 3 months and it was really important for me. After this period, I receive a letter from the EMA saying I was awarded one of the 15 EMA scholarships and I chose to do my internship at the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was also a very constructive experience, I also went to the Human Rights Council. Right now I am working in an Institute in Rome funded by the Ministry of Health whose mission is to promote migrants' health and combat poverty related diseases both at national as well as international level.

The experience I had during my one year stay in Lisbon is still with me, as are all the people I got to know there as I had the chance to learn and to become a bit wiser!!

Francesca Vietti, E.Ma Student at Nova, FDUNL, 2007/2008
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