



Adequate Support measures and improved capacities in countering THB

Building Trust for Safeguarding and Protection of Victims of Trafficking: Technology and Common Protocols

A High-Level International Expertise Meeting

Conclusions and Recommendations

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Summary and recommendations

1. **Improve identification processes** by involving social protection actors and providing unconditional access to protection and assistance. Strengthen collaboration with victims and establish a social path to enable longer protection periods and build trust. EU Member States (MS) should carry out measures and legal provisions outlined in Decision No. 1107 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan and synchronize these efforts. Enhance foreign victims' access to justice and remedy, especially those without legal residence rights, which will require synchronization of immigration laws and labour market-related provisions. Ensure that victims receive assistance and support unconditionally, regardless of their willingness to participate in legal proceedings or cooperate in criminal investigations. Enhance the role of police cooperation in prevention work.

2. Develop **clear and uniform indicators to identify labour exploitation** in the context of human trafficking. Strengthen prevention measures by collaborating with various stakeholders who come into contact with victims. Enhance knowledge about traffickers and at-risk individuals across various sectors, including digital tools for monitoring and analysing trafficking activities. Facilitate the exchange of information from non-state actors to specialized police units through a common system with anonymization protocols.

3. **Encourage cooperation** between law enforcement agencies, NGOs, judicial bodies, community, health and social workers, businesses, employers, embassies, and trade unions. Implement common protocols to engage frontline workers, learn from their experiences, and estimate the actual number of victims in the EU. Enhance international cooperation with organisations like UNODC and OSCE to analyse global trends in human trafficking and the impact of external factors. Strengthen partnerships between law enforcement agencies, labour inspectorates, training agencies (CEPOL, Europol, among others), and NGOs to investigate the economic footprint of human trafficking.

4. An ultimate need to mainstream the use of the technology in mapping the trends of THB. Strengthen cooperation with the Global Network for Combating OCG by making use of technology. The identification of accessible and available forms for mapping THB in early stage via public/state-driven or PPP initiatives, online collaborative platforms for aggregating /mapping information via the network of local actors working in frontline, in the terrain. The technology enable linking various criminal activities and exploring the economic footprint of the crimes.

Highlight the role of **technology in human trafficking**, including how it has changed the nature of such crimes and increased digital vulnerabilities, and how technology has facilitated the expansion of human trafficking offenses on multiple fronts. Various individuals are involved in the act of trafficking, which can be likened to a network of legitimate economic activities.

5. **Provide comprehensive training for law enforcement, increase the number of trained first responders, and foster cooperation between labour inspectorates and police officers.**

6. **Focus on labour exploitation in the context of THB.** Human trafficking for labour exploitation is facilitated by global economic disparities, armed conflicts leading to displacement, failure to uphold economic and social human rights, discrimination, lack of labour market regulations, and market pressure for cost reductions and profit maximization through the exploitation of workers. Human trafficking for labor exploitation can occur in all sectors of the economy and at different stages of supply chains, including public procurement practices and in private households. Combating it requires international cooperation between law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and other institutions, as well as coordinated action between states, businesses, NGOs, and trade unions. The recommendations to combat trafficking in human beings include adopting national laws, policies, and

strategies that are human rights-based and victim-centred. They should aim to prevent trafficking, protect victims' rights, punish offenders, and promote international cooperation. Furthermore, measures and principles should be regularly assessed, and the recommendations should be widely disseminated among competent authorities and stakeholders.

7. **The adoption and regular updates** of National Action Plans will also become mandatory. EU-wide data collection on trafficking in human beings based on specific indicators will be mandatory, and the findings will be published annually by Eurostat.

Follow-up actions within ASIT aspects

- Contribute to the creation of the European Referral Mechanism by suggesting effective standard operating procedures for response, data sharing, anonymisation formats, leveraging experience, and engaging IT companies experienced in building multi-sectoral platforms. I will also coordinate with the Global Network for Combating OCG to explore the possibility of cooperation with TechAgainstTrafficking, and assess if we can use elements of knowledge as learning content.
- Collaborate with La Strada International, UNODC, and OSCE to **develop a set of indicators/criteria** for promoting the identification and protection of victims, while mitigating false indications/misuse of the social path mechanism.
- **Establish specific training for the Labour Inspectorate and test the model in Slovakia in cooperation with the National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration, the Police Academy CEPOL, and the Labour Inspectorate.**
- Define a draft model for strengthening the European referral mechanism in cooperation with La Strada, Homeland Security, and engage the Dutch Embassy to Slovakia to explore potential embassy models.
- **Explore possibilities for capitalising on existing research and development projects on building platforms for gathering and analysing data/information in a multi-sectoral collaborative model of data sharing. Explore the opportunity of digital tools in the form of knowledge for police officers and NGOs in cooperation with the IT developers, Falkor, and other EU-funded projects with concrete results.**
- Capitalise on existing forms of cooperation and PPP networks for providing legal aid, consultations, and more for victims, engage national anti-trafficking networks, and map national referral mechanisms and gaps.
- Propose a standardised list of criteria for identifying elements, potential victims, and victims of human trafficking based on consultation with relevant stakeholders, results from EU surveys, and studies of various modi operandi in partner countries.
- Propose a model for enhancing the education and skills of police and NGOs in using open-source information and mapping available online, including a model for open education in collaboration with IT firms.