



Countering Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)

Practice-oriented training on measures to enhance investigations and prosecutions, disrupt the financial business model and intensify preventive measures

Partners

Co-beneficiaries

- Centre for Judicial Studies (CEJ), Portugal 
- National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bulgaria 
- National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution (KSSiP), Poland 
- National Rapporteur for Trafficking in Human Beings, Portugal 
- National School of Judges (ESDI), Greece 
- Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) 
- Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary (SSR), The Netherlands SSR 
- Western Union 

Supporting organisations

- ANITP (National Agency Against THB), Romania 
- DIICOT (Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime and Terrorism), Romania 
- European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) 
- Federal Ministry of Justice, Austria 
- Immigration and Borders Service (SEF), Portugal 
- La Strada International 
- LEFÖ (AT), Austria 
- National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, Bulgaria 



Co-financed by the European Union.

About the project

The main objective of the project was to train some 300 EU practitioners (mainly judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, financial and compliance officers and members of civil society/NGOs) in how to effectively counter THB from a perspective that encouraged better cooperation between Member States. European legislation, standards and forms of cooperation that are applied in the field of THB were debated and assessed. This was particularly achieved in relation to raising awareness regarding intensified investigations, including intelligence-lead ones, and prosecutions to dismantle the trafficking chain. Moreover, financial investigations into THB and disrupting the business model of criminals were also examined. Prevention initiatives, including reducing the demand for trafficking, were also looked at and placed within the wider context of the culture of impunity that prevails regarding both perpetrators and users. The seminars placed the three main elements of investigations and prosecutions, financial investigations and prevention initiatives and impunity within the greater context of various forms of THB, i.e. sexual exploitation and labour exploitation.

Achieved objectives

- Trained 343 practitioners: 97 judges, 113 prosecutors, 27 law enforcement officers, 25 NGO/civil society representatives, 20 lawyers in private practice, 9 court staff, 15 ministry officials and members of diplomatic representations, 10 local/regional civil servants, 27 employees working for other public authorities and private sector companies who came from 23 EU Member States, Albania and Montenegro.
- Presented and analysed measures, tools and methodologies aimed at intensifying
 - investigations, including financial and intelligence-lead investigations
 - prosecutions in the area of THB, ensuring that the knowledge of tools for evidence-gathering for increasing prosecutions and convictions was enhanced amongst practitioners, while reducing reliance on victim's testimonies
- Improved cooperation through capacity building, including workshops on setting up joint investigation teams
- Enhanced knowledge of cross-border law enforcement and judicial operations, including tools and methods available for cross-border cooperation and investigations offered by Europol and Eurojust
- Assisted in enhancing knowledge of how to reduce cyber-enabled THB and make better use of technology to prevent and combat trafficking, also through dedicated workshops
- Enabled an exchanging of best practice and expertise regarding prosecutions and convictions in the area of THB, including in view of criminalising the use of services exacted from victims of THB.
- Increased reach-out via multi-disciplinary training courses on THB, including common events for the police, judiciary and national competent authorities and civil society.
- Enhanced knowledge and training offered via workshops during each seminar, as well as through introductory e-learning modules.
- Facilitated the involvement of civil society in the prevention of THB by untangling the trafficking chain through participation in the seminars and dedicated presentations.

Project activities and training material

Six seminars

Trafficking in Human Beings: Countering Impunity by Enhancing Investigations and Prosecutions

24-25 March 2022, Trier

English and German (with simultaneous interpretation)

Financial Investigation of Trafficking in Human Beings

14-15 July 2022, Thessaloniki

English and Greek (with simultaneous interpretation)

Reducing Demand and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings

8-9 September 2022, Lisbon

English and Portuguese (with simultaneous interpretation)

Trafficking in Human Beings: Countering Impunity by Enhancing Investigations and Prosecutions

Vienna, 1-2 December 2022

English and German (with simultaneous interpretation)

Financial Investigation of Trafficking in Human Beings

Sofia, 23-24 March 2023

English and Bulgarian (with simultaneous interpretation)

Reducing Demand and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings

Krakow, 5-6 June 2023

English and Polish (with simultaneous interpretation)

Contact



Ramin Farinpour

Course Director and Senior Lawyer - Criminal Law

Tel.: +49 651 93737-310

E-mail: RFarinpour@era.int

Project activities and training material

Project webpage

- Contains an [e-library](#) with e-presentations of the majority of presentations held at the six seminars
- Documentation from the six seminars: speakers' presentations and background documentation
- Nine introductory e-learning modules on the following topics:
 - [An introduction to trafficking in human beings \(THB\), its concepts and definitions and the EU's response to counter it](#)
 - [An introduction to obtaining and transferring e-evidence and forensic tools in European Investigation Orders \(EIOs\) when assisting THB investigations](#)
 - [Protecting victims during THB judicial proceedings: the non-punishment principle and victim-centred approaches to investigations and prosecutions](#)
 - [Survivor inclusion: exploring meaning and practice of the concept in relation to the financial sector and survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking](#)
 - [THB financial investigations: the AML framework – preventing and prosecuting money laundering](#)
 - [THB financial investigations: the asset recovery chain – freezing and confiscation of criminal assets](#)
 - [Following the money: financial investigation of trafficking in human beings \(THB\)](#)
 - [Demand for sexual and labour services within the context of international and European Union legal norms](#)
 - [Human trafficking: countering demand within the context of labour trafficking](#)

For more information please visit:



countering-thb.european.law