



Joint report of the JHA agencies' network on the identification and protection of victims of human trafficking

In 2020, under the chairmanship of Eurojust, the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies' network decided to focus on the respective roles and victims' related actions undertaken by the JHA agencies in the implementation of the 2018 *Joint Statement of commitment to work together against trafficking in human beings*¹.

This report of the JHA agencies' network aims to make Member States more aware of the Agencies' potential in helping the early identification and protection of victims and to encourage Member States to work closer with the Agencies in this area. The report responds to one of the key actions of the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025.

This report is based on:

- The results of a **questionnaire** prepared by Eurojust in consultation with the Office of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, and distributed to all agencies within the network
- The outcomes of an **expert meeting of the JHA agencies' network** organised by Eurojust on 9 June 2021, with participation from all JHA agencies.

There are two main sections of the report, corresponding to the agencies' role and activities in two essential areas of combatting human trafficking: (1) **identification** of victims, and (2) **protection** of victims, as appropriate². Additionally, the report includes information on the work of those agencies active in the area of access to justice, protection of victims in criminal proceedings, compensation, as well as prevention. The report contains infographics to help synthesize the data and allow national authorities to quickly get an insight into the assistance that they can ask and receive from the JHA agencies when it comes to victims of human trafficking.

¹ [eu_agencies_joint_statement_of_commitment_to_working_together_to_address_thb_.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

² Due to their different mandates, some of the agencies do not have a role in all areas covered by the report.

1. The identification of victims of human trafficking

The roles of the JHA agencies in the **identification of victims** is presented in the infographic below:



The main activities undertaken by the JHA agencies in support of the **identification of victims** of trafficking in human beings (THB) are presented below. The overview includes ongoing activities.

Europol

- *Crosschecks Member States operational contributions*, informs them without delay about the possible hits that could lead the national authorities to identify further potential victims.
- *Checks of PNR data* which might result in the identification of new entities linked to the targets, such as potential victims, the identification of new potential countries of suspects' criminal activities and the identification of suspicious travel behaviour.
- *Draws an intelligence picture* about new trends, new modus operandi, including new geographical and societal aspects. This might help to focus on specific groups as potential victims (e.g. South American victims, child victims, victims of labour exploitation in a specific area of labour).
- *Assists EMPACT THB and Joint Action Days (JADs)* also with a view to identify victims in early stages through a comprehensive and coordinated one-week action with participation of several countries.

Eurojust

- As part of its daily operational work, *supports Member States' efforts to locate, identify, rescue and help victims* to report the trafficking irrespective of where their recruitment, transit and exploitation took place in the EU.
- In February 2021, issued a *THB casework report*³ that dedicates one of its two main parts to victims of human trafficking, giving examples of solutions identified with Eurojust support in the interest of victims, translated into *recommendations* addressed to practitioners in the Member States, including:
 - To involve Europol and to refer more THB cases to Eurojust at the very beginning of investigations for an early cooperation and exchange of information in respect to the rights of all victims. Eurojust coordination meetings allow competent authorities to exchange information on possible locations where victims might be being exploited and discuss the need for cooperation and investigative measures aimed at finding and identifying the victims.
 - To request information on money flows, as it often leads to the identification of the names and locations of potential (current and past) victims who have sent money via international money transfer services to suspects and their accomplices.
 - To actively monitor adult websites, to detect potential victims.
 - To request PNR data at the beginning of an investigation, to obtain information on the travel of suspects and potential victims accompanying them. PNR allows to quickly identify people who may be involved in a THB offence (including victims), without the need to request data individually from each air carrier.

FRA

- [*Border controls and fundamental rights at external land borders*](#) with practical tips for border-management staff on identifying and referring vulnerable people including victims of human trafficking.
- *Developed tools and materials for the Frontex fundamental rights monitors*, some focusing on monitoring the identification of vulnerable groups, including victims of trafficking.

³ [Eurojust Report on Trafficking in Human Beings | Eurojust | European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation \(europa.eu\)](https://eurojust.europa.eu/eurojust/en/press-releases/2021/02/eurojust-report-on-trafficking-in-human-beings)

- According to *proposal for a Screening Regulation (2020/0278 (COD))*, FRA will have an advisory role and issue general guidance for Member States – upon request - on setting up independent monitoring mechanisms at borders. This monitoring aims to also help identify THB victims.
- *Takes part in the meetings of Lesvos Task Force* in Greece and shall develop information materials to third-country nationals (TCN) upon arrival as regards the relevant procedures and the risk of THB.
- *Shall provide information and data to the newly established Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint*, focusing also on THB.
- *Participated in five training sessions on THB* organised in Greece in 2019 for staff from reception centres, Asylum Service, police, health, IOM, UNHCR, civil society, labour inspectorate. The training included steps for identifying victims of trafficking in the hotspots and raised awareness about THB indicators and alternative ways of identification in case the victim is not willing to cooperate.
- *Participated in training sessions in Spain on THB together with EASO and UNHCR* for 102 staff of selected reception facilities in Spain covering sessions on THB and identification of vulnerabilities.

Frontex

- *Developed and implements the VEGA Children handbooks* (sea, air and land) in all Frontex-coordinated Joint Operations at external borders. Awareness sessions on the VEGA Children and other related THB products, in support to the identification of potential victims of THB.
- *Developed and implements the Handbook on risk profiles of THB victims* targeting specifically the early identification of potential victims of THB in a border setting.
- *Implements EMPACT THB related activities* in cooperation with other partners, including JADs and EADs targeting THB, such as JAD on labour exploitation, EAD on child trafficking, having among the objectives the early identification of possible victims of THB in a border setting.
- *Recently developed an interactive training support tool* offering a variety of real-life based scenarios involving children, to which participants must adequately respond, based on recognised risk indicators. This tool aims to better ensure border and coast guards' operation skills related to identification of children in need of protection and in particular victims of THB.
- *Frontex will have access to SIS* to help the officers on the ground in the context of border procedures, including in the THB area.

CEPOL

- *Delivered CEPOL Online Module on Trafficking in Human Beings*, providing law enforcement officers with the knowledge and skills needed to identify and assist potential victims of trafficking.
- *Delivered yearly CEPOL onsite courses* on THB for sexual exploitation, for labour exploitation, and Child trafficking, all including sessions and material on the early identification of victims of THB.
- *Organizes on a yearly basis webinars addressing new and emerging trends*, focusing on the early identification of victims exploited in specific or new forms of exploitation. The recorded versions of the following live webinars are available as self-paced learning activity on CEPOL's LMS:
 - webinar 17/2021 *THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation and Victim Engagement*
 - webinar 18/2021 *Children in migration at risk of trafficking*
 - webinar 17/2020 *New and emerging trends of human trafficking networks operating in the EU-Europol perspective*, including new modus operandi, helping the early identification of victims.
 - webinar 18/2020 *Child trafficking for the purpose of forced criminality – case study*
 - webinar 20/2019 *Best practices for prevention of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation*
 - webinar 21/2019 *Use of OSINT in the detection and investigation of THB*

- webinar 72/2020 *Identification of vulnerable persons*, delivered with the support of FRA.
- The use of services which are objects of sexual exploitation, in particular the use of escort websites was covered in CEPOL online course on “*THB as cyber-enabled crime*”.

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- *Developed new large-scale IT systems*, such as the EES, ETIAS, ECRIS-TCN to help ensure that the national authorities and EU Agencies will have access to the necessary information when needed.
- *Supports the interoperability of the IT systems which will be in place by the end of 2023* to also boost the fight against THB by cross-border information sharing of biometric data and allowing for a more effective identification of victims and perpetrators of human trafficking.
- *Develops new functionalities brought by the SIS II Recast*, namely the creation of a new type of alert targeting children and vulnerable people who need to be prevented from travelling if travel would put them at risk of becoming victims of THB or forced marriage, genital mutilation, etc.
- *Took over the management of ECRIS-RI in April 2020*, which contributes to combating THB through providing judges and prosecutors with faster access to comprehensive information on the criminal history of persons concerned, including in which EU countries that person was convicted.
- *Contributes to the Digital criminal justice*, aiming to enhance the necessary technical platforms to improve exchange of information, contributing also to improving the access to justice for victims.
- *Publishes annual statistics*, e.g., in the context of Eurodac⁴ and SIS⁵, to define trends and support the EU decision-making process. With the framework of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, Eurodac will be transformed into a modern system connected to the interoperability architecture, allowing for better access to data by the authorities responsible for combatting THB.

EASO

- In 2018, created a new *EASO Vulnerability Expert Network* to address vulnerability related topics and crosscutting issues in a holistic fashion. THB constitutes one layer of this network.
- In 2019, organised a *thematic meeting on identifying and assessing the International Protection needs in cases of victims of Trafficking in Human Beings*. Participants discussed nine cases of victims following the migration route in three workshops.
- In May 2020, hosted a series of *webinars devoted to forced marriage and child marriage and FGMC* (female genital mutilation and cutting) to discuss common challenges and good practices to properly identify cases and process the victims’ applications of international protection.
- Developed *operational trainings and training modules*⁶, including: (i) module on THB providing officials with knowledge and skills to identify potential victims, handle the initial encounter and prepare and conduct an asylum interview with a (potential) victim of trafficking; (ii) module on Interviewing Children, including the interviewing of child victims of specific forms of exploitation.

⁴ The statistics for Eurodac in 2019 indicated 111,761 sets of fingerprints of persons apprehended when irregularly crossing the external border of a Member State and 449 sets of fingerprints were sent by law enforcement authorities for the purpose of prevention, detection or investigation of terrorist offences or of other serious criminal offences, including THB.

⁵ In 2019 alone, SIS was searched more than 6.6 billion times and the SIS alerts amounted to 91 million, amongst which alerts on persons searched with a European Arrest Warrant. THB related crimes are also included.

⁶ More information on the modules can be found in the EASO Training Catalogue <https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO-Training-Catalogue-2018-EN.pdf> and on EASO blended learning methodology <https://www.easo.europa.eu/asylum-support-training/training>

Developed *Country of Origin Information (COI) Reports*⁷ in respect to countries from which asylum seekers originate and *Country Guidance Reports*⁸ with analyses of the current situation in a particular country of origin. Most reports address (also) the identification of potential THB victims.

- Has developed relevant anti-trafficking actions with *Albania, North Macedonia, Serbia, and other Western Balkan countries, Turkey and Egypt*.

EIGE

- Not directly involved in activities concerning early identification of victims. Nevertheless:
- EIGE's victim-focused gender specific *Analysis of the Anti-Trafficking Directive and the Victims' Rights Directive* and EIGE's research on *Gender-Specific Measures in Anti-Trafficking Actions*⁹ provide both an important insight on how to improve the early identification of victims.
- Firstly, EIGE looked into specific barriers to the process of identification of women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, such as: (i) victims are required to show that they did not consent to their movement and exploitation, which can be difficult for those who are perceived to have willingly entered prostitution due to victim-blaming attitudes; (ii) risk of victims to be relabelled as prostitutes or illegal immigrants; (iii) in some cases, individual or contextual factors or conditions that facilitate situations of trafficking by increasing a person's or a group's susceptibility serves as evidence or proof that there was an abuse of vulnerability as part of defining a trafficking situation. Secondly, in other cases, the absence of such vulnerabilities from the beginning leads to the conclusion that the situation does not constitute trafficking. Difficulties can also emerge in identifying national minorities who have been victims of trafficking for forced marriage. Solutions were recommended by EIGE.

⁷ [Iraq](#) report: Treatment of Iraqis with perceived affiliation to ISIL ([1.1.1](#)), [Afghanistan](#) Security situation (2020), [Côte d'Ivoire](#) released in June 2019, Syria - Situation of women (February 2020) [\[EN\]](#) (section 1.1.3), Syria - Actors (December 2019) [\[EN\]](#) (section 6.3), Socio-economic situation: Damascus City (February 2020) [\[EN\]](#) (section 4.2),

⁸ <https://easo.europa.eu/country-guidance> In 2020, EASO published the 'Country Guidance: Syria' as joint assessment of EU Member States of the situation in Syria in terms of qualification for international protection. The issue of trafficking in human beings is mentioned with regard to potential protection needs (e.g., the risk of trafficking, including organ trafficking for children), as well as a criminal activity affecting the overall security situation and as an excludable crime.

⁹ <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/gender-specific-measures-anti-trafficking-actions-report>

2. The protection of victims of human trafficking

The role of the JHA agencies in the **protection of victims** is presented in the infographic below:



The main activities undertaken by the JHA agencies in support of the **protection of victims** of THB are presented below. The overview includes ongoing activities.

Eurojust

- Eurojust promotes early cooperation and coordination between all countries and all actors involved, as part of the obligation to respect the rights of all victims of human trafficking. A greater focus on victims also leads to greater success in the prosecution of THB cases.
- Eurojust initiate discussions on the suitability of a joint investigation team (JIT) in all complex THB cases, in which the trafficking offence was ongoing and organised, and there was a need to save and protect many victims being exploited in one or more countries.
- The Eurojust *THB casework report* contains a number of *recommendations* for judicial authorities as regards to the protection of THB victims, including:
 - To always give considerable weight to the protection and welfare of victims when deciding which jurisdiction is best placed to prosecute. Eurojust issued joint recommendations for transfer of proceedings in THB cases, placing a central role on victims' rights in these recommendations.
 - During Eurojust coordination meetings, at Eurojust's initiative, participants share with one another how each country will protect the victims on *a joint action day* aimed at simultaneously arresting suspects, rescue and protect the victims (including using national structures and involving NGOs).
 - Judicial and law enforcement authorities always discuss in advance, and take actions to ensure, the interests and protection of THB victims during and after joint action days. Eurojust is able to help with the preparation and organisation of joint action days and provide real-time coordination. By setting up a coordination centre in THB cases, Eurojust is able to immediately provide help and ensure that joint actions are taken to benefit not only the judiciary and the police in all participating countries but, importantly, also the victims, to enable them to be rescued and protected.
- A *Eurojust Working Group on Victims' Rights* was established in 2021 to bring together the expertise of the Agency in this field. Victims' rights is a horizontal issue that affects all crime areas dealt with by Eurojust, all judicial cooperation instruments, and demands a holistic, across-the-board approach. The main objectives of the Working Group are: (i) to promote more systematically the victims' rights dimension in the prosecution strategies discussed and agreed upon with Eurojust's support; and (ii) to ensure an effective and informed contribution to the EU Strategy on victim's rights and to the activities of the EU Victims' Rights Platform (since September 2020, Eurojust is a member of this Platform).

FRA

- In June 2018, produced a focus paper on [migrant women exploited in domestic work](#) followed in September 2018 by a publication on [Protecting migrant workers from exploitation in the EU: boosting workplace inspections](#).
- On 25 June 2019, co-organised the conference '[From wrongs to rights – Ending severe labour exploitation](#)' in Brussels. [To tell the stories of severely exploited migrant workers](#), FRA produced [three videos](#) for the conference and for social media use – each of these building on rights holders' perspectives of severe labour exploitation and the report findings. The report, [Protecting migrant workers from exploitation in the EU: workers' perspectives](#), showed how exploitation often starts with false promises and fraud and identified factors that facilitate exploitation.
- In June 2019, together with the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator, published the Guide on [Children deprived of parental care found in an EU Member State other than their own](#). The guide focuses on child victims of trafficking aiming to strengthen the response of all relevant actors for child

protection and enhance national and transnational cooperation. A set of “10 actions” provide practical suggestions on how to identify, refer and support children, elaborating on how to implement principles such as the right of the child to be heard.

- In 2021, developing a *Manual for trainers on guardianship for unaccompanied children* together with the European Network of Guardianship. The manual will offer a uniform curriculum for guardians including how guardians can support unaccompanied children during legal proceedings, such as asylum and relocation procedures. The manual will reflect the different national contexts.
- In 2021, planning an *update of the 2015 report on Guardianship systems for unaccompanied children*, including all EU Member States plus North Macedonia and Serbia.
- In 2021, developing a research on *Protection risks for Pakistani unaccompanied children in Greece* who might be prone to labour or sexual exploitation. The research shows issues at the border such as experiences of violence, pushbacks and cases of non-detection upon arrival (which often lead to homelessness, reliance on informal networks of co-nationals and risk of exploitation).
- In 2021, working on a report that looks at *how the protective provisions of the Employers Sanctions Directive 2009/52/EC are implemented in the 25 Member States* bound by this Directive (i.e. all EU Member States, except Denmark and Ireland) with a focus on the impact they had on victims of particularly exploitative working conditions.

Frontex

- According to Article 38 of the Frontex Regulation 2019/1896¹⁰, all operational plans for joint operations supported by Frontex include provisions related to the *referral of vulnerable persons*.
- Furthermore, the Frontex Code of Conduct includes provisions on the obligation to give special consideration to particularly *vulnerable groups of people, including victims* of trafficking in human beings. The Code of Conduct is legally binding to all participants of the operational activities.
- All members of the teams receive instructions and guidance on the *application of the Code of Conduct* during the operational briefing.

CEPOL

- Improving the protection and assistance of victims of THB is one of the key elements of CEPOL’s training activities, covered by various dedicated training sessions, modules and study materials.
- *CEPOL Online Module on Trafficking in Human Beings*, available on the CEPOL’s Learning Management System as a self-paced learning activity includes a chapter dedicated to protection of victims. It describes the mechanisms that need to be established to assist victims, including a reflection period, a national referral mechanism (NRM) and an appropriate victim support network.
- *Child sensitive actions* are covered in *CEPOL onsite and online courses* specifically dedicated to *Child trafficking*, in CEPOL’s online module and in dedicated webinars, delivered with the support of FRA:
CEPOL webinar 70/2020 ‘Child protection and child trafficking’
CEPOL webinar 71/2020 ‘Unaccompanied children in return procedures and fundamental rights’
CEPOL webinar 65/2021 Rights of Child Victims of Trafficking
- *Gender specific actions* are covered in all CEPOL training courses and its online module. In 2020, together with EIGE and the Commission, CEPOL organised a *Webinar 07Ad-hoc/2020 Gender-specific measures in anti-trafficking actions* (recorded version being available on CEPOL’s LM).

¹⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1573722151667&uri=CELEX:32019R1896>

- *Attending to victims' special need*, including pregnancy, health, a disability, a mental or psychological disorder, or a serious form of psychological, physical or sexual violence are covered in CEPOL's residential and online courses as well as in the THB online module.
- *Multidisciplinary approach* is covered in all CEPOL THB training activities supporting joint activities with all relevant stakeholders including labour market intermediaries and recruitment agencies.
- *Increasing regional and cross-border cooperation* is covered in all CEPOL THB training activities with dedicated training sessions, including case studies of successful cross border operations and JITs.
- *Actions regarding non-prosecution or non-application of penalties to the victim* for crimes compelled to commit during their exploitation is covered by relevant training material.
- *Actions so that assistance and support for a victim are not made conditional* on the victim's willingness to cooperate in the criminal investigation, prosecution or trial is covered by relevant training material, including EU recommendations and Member States best practices.
- *Actions concerning information on a reflection and recovery period, granting international protection* are covered by relevant training material, including EU recommendations and guidelines, as well as Member States best practices.

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- *See above section 1.*

EASO

- Supports Member States in the implementation of the Qualification Directive 2011/95/EU¹¹. Not all non-EU victims of THB fall within the definition of a refugee nor will all qualify for subsidiary protection as provided by the Qualification Directive. However, there are numerous cases where the elements of the refugee definition or the grounds for subsidiary protection are present and therefore status recognition would be strongly substantiated. *EASO Vulnerability Expert Network* and its THB component address these vulnerability related topics and crosscutting issues.
- *EASO Practical Guide on Best interests of the child in the asylum procedures* addresses child trafficking. *EASO Guidance on Membership of a Particular Social Group* (MPSG) addresses commonly encountered profiles (including of former THB victims) for which the ground of MPSG may be considered.
- *EASO training module on Trafficking in Human Beings* focuses, amongst others, on victims of trafficking who may be in need of international protection. It explains how to prepare and conduct an asylum interview with a victim or potential victim of trafficking and how to approach decision-making of applications from victims.
- *EASO training module on Interviewing Children* focuses on children's developmental stages, legal and procedural safeguards for children in the international protection procedure, and child-specific interview techniques, including how to assess the maturity of the child before and during the interview, in order to adapt the interview to the maturity and to the particular situation of each child. Child-specific forms of exploitation and persecution (sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and criminal activities such as child soldiers, etc) are analysed in the Module.
- *Other relevant EASO training modules* target (i) Gender, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation; (ii) Interviewing Vulnerable Persons; (iii) Reception of vulnerable persons: Identification of

¹¹ [Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/95/oj)

vulnerability and provision of initial support (under development); (iv) Reception of vulnerable persons: Needs assessment and design of interventions (under development); and (v) Best interests assessment (under development).

- *Supports the Member States with COI and Country Guidance reports* with the aim of achieving the Common European Asylum System.

EIGE

- Reported on *Gender specific measures in anti-trafficking actions* with practical and gender-specific guidance to Member States on how to implement the provisions of the Anti-Trafficking Directive¹² and the Victims' Rights Directive¹³. The report identifies main challenges regarding early access to support, duration of assistance, conditional support, consent in obtaining services. It stresses that more guidance is needed on how to ensure that all victims can access services without any discrimination and provide victims with continuous and long-term support and assistance before, during and after any criminal proceedings, especially for trafficking victims who have been sexually assaulted and have likely suffered severe physical and psychological harms. The specific situation of female victims of trafficking who are third-country need to be taken into account as well by extending residence permit, in order to avoid premature discontinuation of assistance and support measures.
- Has developed a list of *indicative indicators to support Member States in ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the Anti-Trafficking Directive, and the Victims' Rights Directive*, from a victim-focused, gender and child-specific approach. The use of indicators allows for monitoring the impact of the implementation of the measures set out by the directives on assistance, support and protection to victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, and other policies and actions taken in this regard. They also enable consistent data collection across Member States and allow for the identification of gaps, contributing to ensure the accountability of all stakeholders. The list of indicators is available here: <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/gender-specific-measures-anti-trafficking-actions-report>

¹² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32011L0036>

¹³ [EUR-Lex - 32012L0029 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

3. Access to justice, protection of victims in criminal proceedings and compensation of victims

Eurojust

- Supports investigations and operational actions to bring traffickers to justice and give ability of victims to *access legal remedies*
- Facilitates discussions between national authorities and formal requests for *arranging of interviews of victims* to be used in proceedings in cross-border THB cases and for ensuring the *admissibility of evidence from victims*. It encourages in its cases the seconding of specialised officers to interview potential victims of trafficking and take into consideration the particularities of child victims of THB.
- Helps national authorities to *prevent secondary victimisation* of victims during the criminal proceedings. In some cases Eurojust helped to arrange that interviews of children could be tape-recorded and transcribed for presentation during the trial proceedings, to avoid the children having to be summoned and undergo further trauma.
- Facilitates discussions and decisions of judicial authorities regarding the *access to witness protection* programmes or other similar protection measures
- Collects information on the *outcome of the trial proceedings - final verdicts* - including on the compensation of victims, through JIT evaluation forms, Case Information Forms and other ways.
- *Eurojust Working Group on Victims' Rights* is collecting relevant Eurojust's expertise and experience on underlying procedural aspects, including compensation rights of victims.

FRA

- The report, [Protecting migrant workers from exploitation in the EU: workers' perspectives](#) outlined, amongst others, what can be done to help exploited workers access justice.

CEPOL

- Ensuring access to justice, compensation of victims of THB are covered in CEPOL training activities.
- Dedicated training session and material in CEPOL onsite courses, online modules and webinars covering: (i) *Operational actions to bring perpetrators to justice*; (ii) *Child specific actions*; (iii) *gender specific actions*; (iv) *Actions for appropriate protection of victims based on an individual risk assessment*; (v) *Specific treatment aimed at preventing secondary victimisation* of victims during the criminal proceedings; and (vi) *Actions with regard to free legal counselling and free legal representation* -

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- *Contributes to the Digital criminal justice*, aiming to enhance the necessary technical platforms to improve exchange of information, contributing also to improving the access to justice for victims.

EIGE

- Contributes to ensuring *access to justice and compensation of victims* by disseminating the reports published by EIGE on the Anti-Trafficking Directive and the Victims' Rights Directive and the 'Gender-specific measures in Anti-trafficking Actions'.
- Provides Member States with *recommendations* to the Member States on how to improve their national mechanisms and actions, measure the impact of the implementation of the measures set out by the directives on assistance, support and protection to victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, and other policies and actions as well as how to improve data collection.

4. Prevention as a mean to protect vulnerable people from criminals

Europol

- Within EMPACT THB, raises the importance of prevention of THB through disruptive and preventative measures and raising awareness amongst relevant public and private actors.
- Enhances countries in the referred mechanism to collect, analyse and identify available best practice focusing on recruiting, safeguarding, protection and control of the victims. One conference and visual campaign is planned in the near future.

Eurojust

- Investigations, prosecutions, protection, and prevention are closely intertwined and complementary. Eurojust supports successful prosecutions that aim to act as a deterrent, which would potentially prevent the occurrence of THB crimes.

Frontex

- All new recruited *Frontex Standing Corps members* follow sessions on identification and referral of potential THB victims.
- *Anti-trafficking training for border and coast guards* including awareness, identification and interviewing victims of trafficking with focus on vulnerable persons and children.
- *Specialised and tailored fundamental rights related modules*, offering adequate considerations on THB, were embedded in all Profile-Related Advanced Specialisation Trainings.
- *The Course manual for Frontex fundamental rights trainers* provides comprehensive and operational guideline on protection of the rights of all migrants in border procedures, including the victims of THB.
- *Frontex course manual on the protection of children at borders* was published to support trainers in an in-depth analysis of risks faced by children at borders and the applicable counter-measures.

CEPOL

- The THB training portfolio aims to educate law enforcement officials of Member States and Operational Partners, including front line officers and investigators from Police, Border guards and Customs.
- A dedicated session in the THB online module addresses the need for preventing THB as it has become increasingly important. It covers various aspects of prevention, including partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders, (self-) regulation and inspections, awareness-raising campaigns, and the 'barrier model' by which the opportunities for THB are obstructed.
- Dedicated *webinar on Prevention of labour exploitation* to protect vulnerable people from criminals.

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- The IT systems help to prevent THB, protect from THB and investigate THB – horizontal scope.

EASO

- Actions on *awareness raising* (education, training, campaigns) for reducing the risk of people, including children, becoming victims of THB. In cooperation with FRA, delivered awareness raising sessions on fundamental rights in Spanish reception facilities. Each session addressed THB.
- In 2017, EASO took over a pilot *Nigeria Social Media Campaign* aimed at countering the narrative of smugglers and providing accurate / factual information on (i) asylum in the EU, and (ii) the risks of making use of smugglers and the existence of trafficking networks. It was discontinued in 2019.