



Budapest Process and European Migration Network (EMN)

Joint conference on Trafficking in Persons

Concept note & Agenda

Organised by: The Budapest Process and EMN Hungary

20-21 October 2022, Budapest, Hungary

BACKGROUND

Although substantial progress has been made against trafficking in persons (TiP) by both governmental and non-governmental actors in recent years, additional progress can still be achieved. Moreover, new challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the crisis in Afghanistan and war in Ukraine have compounded existing challenges. Human traffickers have become more advanced in how they utilise the online landscape, especially to target vulnerable groups like women and children.

In the Silk Routes region¹, TiP remains a major challenge, especially in regards to sexual and forced labour related trafficking. However, countries in the region have been actively enhancing their policies and legal frameworks and implementing these with increasingly effective actions on the ground². International cooperation has been found to be essential in solving transnational cases of TiP as many trafficking groups work within international networks; dismantling these groups therefore requires simultaneous actions across countries and regions.

¹ Comprises Afghanistan (currently suspended), Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan

² U.S. Department of State - 2022 Trafficking in Persons [Report](#)

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In its political declaration and Call for Action adopted at the 6th Ministerial Conference in 2019, the Budapest Process (BP) places a strong focus on TiP, most notably via its Priority Goal 5, which calls for ‘preventing and combatting trafficking in persons, addressing its root causes and providing adequate protection and support to trafficked persons’, with the following as its action points:

- **Action Point 1:** Continue to develop national and regional strategies and policies for preventing and combatting trafficking in persons, including protection of victims, with a particular focus on vulnerable categories, involving all relevant stakeholders. Strategies should also include actions to prevent the demand-side of trafficking;
- **Action Point 2:** Support the development of mechanisms for the national and transnational referral of trafficked persons while increasing capacities to assist and protect victims including their rehabilitation and (re)integration into society including access to the labour market or education sector;
- **Action Point 3:** Strengthen capacities of law enforcement, border management and judicial authorities to allow for effective identification, prosecution and punishment of traffickers and to take measures to disrupt the modus operandi of traffickers including by addressing impunity of perpetrators and protecting the victims and their rights.

The [Implementation Plan of the Call for Action](#), adopted by Senior Officials in 2019, lists several actions that can be undertaken within the umbrella of the Budapest Process to address the topic of TiP. In this regard – inter alia – two Joint Meetings of the South-East European and Silk Routes regional working groups, one in 2021 followed up by another in 2022, have actively addressed issues of TiP between countries of the two regions, as both regions serve as major origin and transit zones for victims of trafficking. Moreover, [the Implementation Plan called for a Thematic Meeting on identification and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons \(including on cultural and gender aspects\)](#). This current meeting is therefore designed to cover this aspect in addition to other important sub-themes.

Naturally, the BP dialogue is meant to translate into enhanced operational cooperation. Therefore, one of the salient achievements under the Budapest Process has been the creation of a Community of Law Enforcement Practitioners (COLEP). The COLEP forum allows law enforcement officials from countries along the routes to engage in meaningful peer-to-peer learning and exchange of information by sharing modern methods and best practices to prevent and counter irregular migration, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. This conference engages members of this forum in addition to other experts and relevant focal persons.

In order to create synergies between forums that have the same objective, the European Migration Network³ (EMN) is partnering with the Budapest Process in order to continue the much needed dialogue on how to better counter and prevent TiP, such as through protecting, supporting and empowering victims; enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders, such as by setting up National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs), adopting National Action Plans (NAPs) as well as passing legislative reforms to enhance investigations; and increase actions against traffickers and their support systems by establishing more robust law enforcement structures.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The conference will provide an opportunity to:

- Explore the latest trends of TiP and irregular migration in countries along the routes;

³ The EU has a [Strategy to tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025](#), which includes a Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings

- Understand ongoing challenges and learn from good practices of law enforcement and border management authorities;
- Gain an insight into the protection structures for victims of trafficking in countries along the routes;
- Explore opportunities for cooperation among the countries of origin, transit and destination in developing and implementing effective measures to prevent and counter TiP, including improving the identification of victims and providing protection, especially to vulnerable groups among them.

GUIDING QUESTIONS (INDICATIVE)

- What are the trends of irregular migration in your country? How many irregular migrants are identified as victims of trafficking?
- How can identification of third country nationals in transit and destination countries be improved? Are potential victims of trafficking being screened and detected during visa processing or at other stages?
- What is the (potential) risk of TiP in the context of the crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine?
- What are the immediate and long term protection and support needs of victims and survivors of trafficking? How can cooperation be improved to ensure the safe return and reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings (with a particular focus on vulnerable groups)?
- How can awareness raising be improved at the community as well as national levels? How can civil society be involved in reinforcing awareness raising?
- Which best practices are being implemented in your country/institution to improve law enforcement responses against TiP? What kind of international cooperation is needed to improve action against trans-national criminal networks involved in TiP?

FORMAT

This conference will be held in Budapest. For details regarding logistics (travel, visas, accommodation, etc.), please refer to the logistical note that has been shared in the invitation email. The working language of the conference is English. Interpretation will be provided in Arabic and Hungarian.

MEETING STRUCTURE

The conference will be structured in 3 panel-based sessions with interventions from experts and delegates as well as followed by plenary discussions with all participants after each session. Invitees should be prepared to respond to the guiding questions and actively participate in the discussions. The conference will take place under Chatham House Rules and conference documentation will not contain names of countries nor identifiable examples in order to ensure that the discussions yield an honest and open dialogue.

AGENDA

Thursday 20 October 2022	
9.30 – 10.00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nóra Jakubovich, Head of Unit, Unit for Counter Trafficking and Horizontal Issues, Department for European Home Affairs Cooperation, Ministry of Interior, Hungary • Mr. Ibrahim Bozbey, Head of Foreign Relations Department, Presidency of Migration Management, Ministry of Interior, Türkiye

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Magnus Ovilius, Chair of the EMN, Head of Sector Forecasting, Preparedness and Policy Monitoring, European Commission (online) • Ms. Sedef Dearing, Head of the Budapest Process Secretariat
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Keynote Speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Judit Tóth, Deputy State Secretary for Coordination of EU Development, Ministry of Interior, Hungary • Ms. Diane Schmitt, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, European Commission (video message)
10:30 – 11:15	<p>Setting the Scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Pierre Cazenave, Anti-trafficking Specialist, ICMPD <i>Presentation on: Latest trends, statistics, policy and knowledge developments, best practices and operational guidelines on addressing trafficking in persons – focus on victims and survivors</i> • Mr. Gábor Vető, EMN Hungary Coordinator, Ministry of Interior of Hungary <i>Presentation of the EMN Study on Third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings: detection, identification and protection</i>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee/Tea Break
11:45 – 13:30	<p>Panel 1: National experiences in addressing irregular migration and countering & preventing trafficking in persons (including detection and identification)</p> <p>Moderation: Ms. Sedef Dearing, Head of the Budapest Process Secretariat and Head of Regional Office Silk Routes</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the trends of irregular migration in your country? How many irregular migrants are identified as victims of trafficking?</i> • <i>How can identification of third country nationals in transit and destination countries be improved? Are potential victims of trafficking being screened and detected during visa processing or at other stages?</i> • <i>What is the (potential) risk of TiP in the context of the crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine?</i> <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Oleksandr Kyrylenko, Programme Officer, Office of Special Rep/Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Persons, OSCE • Mr. Márton Berkes, Pol. First Lieutenant, Anti-trafficking expert, Unit for Counter Trafficking and Horizontal Issues, Ministry of Interior, Hungary • Mr. Nisar Tanoli, Director Immigration, Federal Investigation Agency, Pakistan • Mr. Dumitru Vleju, Main Officer, the Directorate for Organised Crime Policies, member of the EU Support Centre for Internal Security and Border Management of the Republic of Moldova

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Shafiqul Islam, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Bangladesh <p>Plenary Discussion</p>
13.30 – 14.30	<i>Lunch and Group Picture</i>
14:30 – 16:30	<p>Panel 2: Protection and support measures for Victims of Trafficking (including addressing cultural and gender aspects)</p> <p>Moderation: Mr. Pierre Cazenave, Anti-trafficking Specialist, ICMPD</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>What are the immediate and long term protection and support needs of victims and survivors of trafficking? How can cooperation be improved to ensure the safe return and reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings (with a particular focus on vulnerable groups)?</i> <i>How can awareness raising be improved at the community as well as national levels? How can civil society be involved in reinforcing awareness raising?</i> <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Shota Chitanava, Legal Advisor, Public International Law Department, Ministry of Justice of Georgia Ms. Ekin Sevil Gürünlü, Combatting human trafficking expert, Ministry of Interior, Türkiye Mr. Sanin Prašović, Senior Expert Advisor for fighting against trafficking in human beings, Sector for International Cooperation and European Integration, Ministry of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina Ms. Aaricia Boudart, Policy Officer, Belgian Federal Agency FEDASIL, Belgium Ms. Maria Dapena Vilarino, Senior Vulnerability Officer, European Union Agency for Asylum <p>Plenary Discussion</p>
16:30 – 17:00	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
17:50 – 19:00	Transfer to the dinner with a guided tour in English with return shuttle transfer
19:00 – 22:00	<i>Dinner at Robinson Restaurant Budapest</i> <i>1146 Budapest, Városligeti tó (City Park)</i>

Friday 21 October 2022

9:30 – 9:45	Recap Day 1
9:45 – 11:00	Panel 3: Gaps and challenges in the fight against Trafficking in Persons with a particular focus on enhancing international law enforcement cooperation

	<p>Moderation: Steve Harvey, Law Enforcement Expert, ICMPD</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which best practices are being implemented in your country/institution to improve law enforcement responses against TIP? • What kind of international cooperation is needed to improve action against trans-national criminal networks involved in TIP? <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Szonja Szabo, Specialist, Action Plan Phoenix, Europol (online) • Mr. Bálint Kolozsi, Pol. Captain, Acting Head of Unit, Rapid Response and Special Police Services, National Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Intelligence Department, THB Unit, Hungary • Ms. Dora Dimitrova, Inspector, THB unit, General Directorate Combating Organized Crime, Ministry of Interior, Bulgaria • Mr. Mitchell Regterschot, Researcher, Centre of Expertise on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, the Netherlands • Mr. Ayad Ashour Kadhim, Director General of the Legal Department, Agency for Police Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Iraq
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee/Tea Break
11:30 – 12:15	<p>Panel 3 (continued)</p> <p>Plenary Discussion</p>
12:15 – 12:30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p><i>Hungarian Ministry of Interior</i></p> <p><i>Budapest Process Secretariat</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and End of Conference