



LAUNCH OF THE EU CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

31 MAY 2013, Brussels

Background

Trafficking in human beings is a gross violation of human rights explicitly prohibited by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union¹. Safeguarding the human rights of victims is a priority for the Union and the Member States.

Over the last years, the European legislative and political framework addressing trafficking in human beings has been strengthened through the elaboration of two important instruments: **Directive 2011/36/EU** on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims² (hereafter 'the Directive') and the European Commission Communication "**The EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016**"³ (hereafter 'the Strategy'). In addition, Council Conclusions on the new EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012–2016⁴, adopted on 25 October 2012, emphasizing the need to identify, assist, support, protect and compensate the victims of trafficking in human beings, invite the European Commission to implement and strengthen actions within the Strategy and the Directive by further developing policies and approaches to address trafficking in human beings. The EU Strategy has also been strongly welcomed by the European Parliament who has expressed its commitment to addressing

¹ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000/C 364/01), O J L 364, 18.12.2000, p. 1 / Article 5: Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

² Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting Its Victims, and Replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA, O J L 101, 15. 4.2011, p. 1

<http://ec.europa.eu/antitrafficking/entity.action?path=Legislation+and+Case+Law%2FEU+Legislation%2FCriminal+Law%2FEU+Directive+trafficking+in+human+beings>

³ Communication The EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012–2016 COM(2012)286 final

<http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/entity.action?path=EU+Policy%2FNew+European+Strategy>

⁴ Council conclusions on the new EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012–2016, 3195th JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting, Luxembourg, 25 October 2012

trafficking in human being and its support to the Commission's work in this field on numerous occasions.

The EU anti-trafficking policy is characterised by a comprehensive human- rights and gender-specific approach focusing on victims' protection, assistance and support and partnerships across relevant disciplines, between different levels and with the various stakeholders and actors involved, including civil society broadly understood.

Both the Directive and the Strategy recognise the key role of civil society in preventing trafficking in human beings and protecting and assisting its victims⁵. The Directive urges Member States to encourage and closely cooperate with civil society organisations working with trafficked persons. Amongst others, the Directive provides that national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms (NREMs) will be established to carry out assessments of trend in trafficking in human beings, measure results of anti-trafficking actions, including the gathering of statistics in close cooperation with civil society organisations and reporting.

As a concrete action to strengthen the role of civil society in addressing the challenges of trafficking in human beings in the EU, the recently adopted Strategy envisages the establishment in 2013 of an EU Platform of civil society organisations working on victim protection and assistance in Member States⁶.

The decision to establish the EU Civil Society Platform on THB (hereafter 'the Platform') builds on the wide consultations that took place before the adoption of the Strategy, and an informal brainstorming with civil society organisations during the 6th EU Anti-Trafficking Day conference on 18 October 2012 in Brussels⁷. During that meeting participants shared ideas on the possible structure of the Platform, the profiles of the organisations to participate, the type and frequency of activities, the objectives and the ways forward. During the first meeting, the European Commission will facilitate further exchange of information and ideas and invite the participants to discuss future actions fostering open, inclusive and diverse participation.

⁵ Including service providers

⁶ PRIORITY D: Enhanced coordination and cooperation among key actors and policy coherence/ (3) Action 3: Promoting the establishment of a Civil Society Platform

⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/entity.action?path=EU+Policy%2F6EUATDay>

Main Objectives

The Platform will serve as a forum for civil society to engage at the EU level and exchange experiences **in order to enhance coordination and cooperation amongst key actors.**

Ensuring an inclusive approach, the Platform is a concrete opportunity **to engage in a constructive dialogue** on how to best address trafficking in human beings through specific actions, including awareness-raising activities, in a targeted manner.

Bringing together civil society organisations from EU Member States working at European, national and local levels, the Platform will facilitate **the creation of partnerships and synergies in this field. Participation of civil society organisations from third countries is foreseen for future meetings.**

Reflecting the key role of civil society in protecting, assisting and supporting victims of trafficking in human beings, **the Platform will also inform the implementation of the EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings.**

Further through the work of the Platform, the **European Commission will be better informed about the main challenges that civil society organisations face on the ground and on how to contribute more constructively to the needs of the victims**, for instance in the referral of victims of trafficking in human beings.

Finally, **the Platform will facilitate online communication among participants** in order to ensure a sustainable and regular dialogue.

How will it be launched?

In order to launch the Platform, **two events for civil society organisations** will be organised by the European Commission in 2013.

The first meeting will be launched by the **EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström** and will be facilitated by the **EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Myria Vassiliadou**. The event will take place on **31 May 2013** and will bring together representatives of civil society organisations whose work relate to addressing trafficking in human beings. A second meeting is scheduled for the Fall 2013.

On the basis of the results of the meetings in 2013 and the needs identified, future activities of the platform will be planned in line with the priorities identified in the Strategy and the implementation of the Directive.

Participants will be encouraged to engage in a discussion on the key themes to be considered for the meetings as well as more broadly on how best to shape the Platform to reflect the needs of its members.

The meetings of the Platform will be organised by the European Commission

In addition, **the Platform will be supported online** to stimulate interaction amongst participant organisations who can add contributions on different topics and regularly exchange information.

How to participate in the first meeting?

The call for participation to the first meeting in June 2013 is open to all civil society organisations which:

- are **legally based** in one of the EU Member States; applications from civil society organisations legally based in Croatia will also be considered eligible;
- have **demonstrated experience** with regard to the protection and assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings, prevention or prosecution of trafficking in human beings (including human rights organisations, shelters, women and migrants' organisations, trade unions, faith-based organisations);
- are committed to engaging in a **respectful and fruitful dialogue** within the Platform and to contribute to an overall efficient functioning of the Platform;
- are **able to raise awareness** on issues concerning trafficking in human beings among their own constituency, national and European networks;
- have the ability to **interact in English**.

The EU Anti-Trafficking website <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/> will provide all relevant information on the meeting. To apply, please complete the following form and send it to HOME-ANTITRAFFICKING@ec.europa.eu no later than **3 April 2013, 17.00pm**. Please note that late applications will not be considered.

Applications will be **examined and chosen** by the European Commission ensuring a maximum number of participants with a geographical balance to include to the extent possible all Member States, a diversity of areas of expertise for a comprehensive approach of the EU policy, and the type of organisation.

Once applications are reviewed, all applicants will be notified accordingly and no later than 19th April 2013.

Please note the Commission will normally be able to provide travel arrangements for the selected, registered participants via its contracting travel agent. The Commission will normally not be able to reimburse after the meeting the costs of travel arrangements which were made directly by the participants. The Commission will normally be able to cover accommodation, based on the travel plans previously approved. **Further information on the meeting, including registration forms will follow after 19th April 2013.**

INFORMATION NOTE

The European Commission would like to inform applicants for the first meeting of the EU Platform of civil society organisations working on victim protection and assistance that the following data are being collected, organised, recorded, stored and used to contact the selected applicants.

‘Call for participation in the first meeting of the EU Civil Society Platform on THB’

Purpose: The purpose of the collection of the processing of the personal data is:

1. to examine applications for the purpose of selecting participants of the first meeting of the Civil Society Platform’;
2. to contact the selected applicants.

Data Controller:

Legal Basis: The Legal basis of the processing operation for which the data are intended is Article 5 (a) of the Regulation 45/2001 and the Regulation 168/2007.

Access to the Data:

Data Subjects are informed of the following rights in line with Article 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 of Regulation 45/2001:

Right to access data –

Right to block –

Right to rectify –

Right to erase – The data subjects have the right to have their data erased. This right is applicable if the processing of data is unlawful.

Right to object – The data subjects have the right to object at any time, on compelling legitimate grounds relating to their particular situation, to the processing of data.

Right to obtain notification to third parties –

Right to have recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS).

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST MEETING

OF THE EU CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM

ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

When you have completed the form please send it to the functional mailbox mentioned above together with the registration certificate of your organisation in your country.

Please note that the list of invited organisations will be made publicly available as participants of the EU Civil Society Platform on THB. Please read our Data Privacy Statement.

1. ORGANISATION
Name of organisation:
Address:
Website:
Date of Registration:
Registration No.:
Registered with:

2. TYPE OF ORGANISATION

3. Are the activities of your organisation directed at the:	
i. Local level	☐
ii. National level	☐
iv. European level	☐

4. Contact Details

Title:

Name:

Surname:

Position:

Email:

Email 2:

Telephone No:

Fax:

Address:

Postcode:

City:

Country:

5. ORGANISATION'S MAIN ACTIVITIES / MANDATE

6. Describe your organisation's commitment and experience with regard to the protection and assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings. Please provide examples.

7. Why do you want to participate in the meeting and in the Platform? Describe your motivation?

8. Provide some suggestions for possible activities of the EU Civil Society Platform on Trafficking in Human Beings

9. Please indicate those areas related to the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016 or the implementation of the Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims on which you would be interested in being consulted by the European Commission ?

By submitting this application, I agree that the information was completed accurately and truthfully to the best of my knowledge.

☐ Yes