

## FOCUS: TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS

### Trafficking of Human Beings – An Academic Attempt to Support the EU Actions in the Fight Against It<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract.** The following lines are describing the core of a European project, in which the Research Centre on Identity and Migration Issues (RCIMI) is one of the five beneficiaries. The Project is entitled: The Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings in the EU: promoting legal cooperation and victims protections (THB: COOPtoFIGHT). The project is initiated and coordinated by professor de Suosa from Centro de Estudos Socias da Universidade de Coimbra – Portugal and it is financed by the Prevention of and the Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union – Directorate Generale Home Affairs of the European Commission. The duration of the Programme is of 24 months.

#### 1. Human Beings Trafficking in EU – as a nowadays gross problem

“Trafficking of Human Beings” (THB) is a technical term which designates the contemporary form of the most hideous crime in the human history: the crime to en-slave natural persons and to use them as objects.

This crime is a large and expanded attack: against the human societies pillars of protecting Human Rights. It is a crime against the fundamental value of civilized societies: a) against the due respect for any human person dignity; b)

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<sup>1</sup> The research paper is done in the framework of the documentation for running an EU Programme: PROGRAMME 2010/ISEC/ AG/054 30-CE- 0447227/0035: *The Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings in the EU: promoting legal cooperation and victims protections.* (THB: COOPtoFIGHT). The research paper is done *“With the financial support of the Prevention of and the Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union – Directorate Generale Home Affairs. This publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.”*

against the law and the judicial system which is meant to secure the human persons respect; c) against the regulations in the economic field developed in the democratic societies; d) against the culture –accumulated by civilizations in an evolutionary process of 2000 years – the culture of paying respect to any human persons and to not use them as an object; e) against the humanity practices of solidarity in front of such a catastrophic process.

Concomitantly, the Trafficking of Human Beings practice is an explosive and creative form of exploiting the natural persons, as slaves; of revival and re-inventing, some time, more brutal forms of slavery - as trafficking children for organs removal; forced beggary, or as forced prostitution of sold victims – sometimes, of inventing sophisticated forms of en-slaving – as developing a trade with human organs, human product as cells, as ovules, sperm, ... or with services as a surrogate mothers for pregnancy time ...,as sperm or ovules paid donors ... The triple engine of such an explosion is: a) the transforming of the slavery and exploitation in one of the most profitable business in the world; b) active stimulus which slavery is for the economic process: to gain as much money as possible and to invest them in the developing of the business; c) the establishing of a large offer<sup>2</sup> of people volunteering to be used, because, for them, to be involved is the best alternative .

In conclusion, the Trafficking of Human Beings is a formula which indicates the nowadays slavery<sup>3</sup> as a process in which slaves masters are running the rape of children, women, and men, their exploitation in contemporary production and trade. It is a process of transforming natural persons into slaves, by traffickers and their accomplices.

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<sup>2</sup>The offer is the continuous and increasing wave of strangers – mainly immigrants – in the society having enough money to buy them. The offer is created through a culture of migration – backed substantially by media - to over-developed sites in the World, capitalist or not. (The Atlantic region, the Eastern coastal regions in China, the Arabian centres of investments, the tourist destinations magnetizing the industrious poor people from their special proximity. We mean by special proximity, the proximity of the collapsed societies, societies unable to issue political projects and political leadership to provide to their fellow citizens a future at home. We find such kind of states especially in Africa, Asia but also everywhere from Central and Latin America, to the East Europe Part of them were exploited, according to media reports.

<sup>3</sup> The slavery is not a methaphore, but a reality defined as such, by the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, on the official website of the European Commission – Home Affairs section: [http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/crime/crime\\_human\\_trafficking\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/crime/crime_human_trafficking_en.htm)

Is it THB statistically significant for EU countries in 2012?

Unfortunately, Yes! It is! The EU Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings has – recently – declared: “There are millions of people being trafficked each year within the EU and globally and, unfortunately, the figures do not seem to be decreasing ... Worldwide, the profits from trafficking in human beings reach an estimated €24bn a year”<sup>4</sup>. Unfortunately, there are not available data on the real dimensions of such criminal activity. But, there are EU and others parts interested in it, which develop projects and establish institutions able to provide reliable information on THB.

Which are the main forms of human persons trafficking?

As the OSCE Coordinator for Anti-trafficking, Giammarinaro identified them, the main forms - considered by the criteria of exploitation field - are:

1. Trafficking for Labor Exploitation
2. Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation
3. Trafficking for Forced Begging and Illicit Activities
4. Trafficking for the Purpose of Organ Removal and Trafficking in Organs, Tissues and Cells
5. Child Trafficking

In conclusion, the THB is the major crime of nowadays, its trends are to expand, its cover fundamental dimensions of human lives.

## **2. Who are the next victims?**

The question of who is involved in THB seems to be far away from our milieu, but its innovative core should alert all of us directly and impose on us as priority to fight for a society freed for such a barbarian crime.

The official reports, as well the press ones, prove that the victimization is a frequent process, because its success is largely profitable.

Sociologically viewed, the question of the victims, starts with the hypothesis as: The victims of THB are the vulnerable persons. Indeed, the hypotheses of the researchers – many times confirmed - are: the victims are

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<sup>4</sup> Myria Vassiliadou – the European anti-trafficking coordinator, a document available <http://www.theparliament.com/latest-news/article/newsarticle/human-trafficking-myria-vassiliadou/>, accessed in May, 18, 2012

socially or naturally vulnerable persons, insiders, and outsiders. The insider victims are the most vulnerable EU citizens to poverty, ignorance, naivety: a) children from families with weak capacity to protect them; b) women with limited education and incredible family burdens; c) handicapped persons ....; d) the cynical members of some families; d) people from some Roma groups etc. The victims from outside are: the people which engage themselves and their families in adventures, naïve, and non-familiar with Europe; the cynical, victims of a culture of lack of self-respect as person, in exchange of a large access to consumerism; the illegal migrants as a group.

Looking back to the GRETA Reports<sup>5</sup> it is to be underlined that – for the most of its forms - the trafficking recruiting, in EU and in the ESS, is geographically mapped.

What we would like to propose for sociological investigation is the hypothesis that the THB recruiting map is also similar with the map of absolute poverty. In EU, it is strong at the South and East margins, and diminished at the center. The map for consumerism is, by contrast, comparable with the money agglomeration ... It is reversed: focused in the rich zone ...

The trafficking of human beings – in majority of its forms - is exploding in the times when large aggregations of new consumers occurs: wars – as ex-Yugoslavian wars ; the sports events- football championship; holidays .. The demand is shaping the offer.

Taking into account the press reports, the problem of the next victim it is not so far from us. In an unsafe community, anybody could be in a risk to be raped, trafficked, sold and exploited by the traffickers.

That is why, the problem of THB is a problem of any European citizen, and a problem of protecting HR.

### **3. The project to fight THB and to protect victims in Europe**

There are four institutional circles that are trying to protect EU citizens by THB industry attacks: OSCE; Council of Europe; UE Institutions – EU Commission with its Directorate Generale Home Affairs ; and the national States institutions. Beside them, the local and family close connections are functioning in the same

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<sup>5</sup> See the 1st Evaluation Round: GRETA visits on [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/default_en.asp).

direction: protection.

The four circles develop programs to designate, circumscribe and control the criminal phenomenon; of issuing and implementing effective common rules and legislations to fight it; and of alert and mobilize citizens to defend themselves and solidarism at community level to make impossible the recruiting process.

They should be endorsed by a culture of any micro-society to not tolerate such types of activity, and by an education of self respect and of capacity to be aware, and to keep the kindred aware.

There are three major types of actions carried out by EU, through its agents, and in close cooperation with other political actors focused on the problems at the global or regional level.

The main EU types of actions are:

1. preventions of the phenomenon of THB ,
2. protection of the victims of THB,
3. and prosecuting the traffickers and their accomplices.

EU's success in combating Trafficking of Human Beings consists in: having a common rule in Europe in prosecuting the criminals and in protecting the victims: Directive 36/2011<sup>6</sup> ; having harmonized concepts in conducting the judicial process; having specific institutions charged to carry out the implementation in it, National Rapporteur or other similar ; a For the second and third direction the UN, – has succeeded to harmonize The efforts of Prevention are the comprehensive and collective works. They involve any European citizen as an individual interested to live in security and dignity at home as well as involving the Civil Society, Universities included.

The EU individual citizens could be mobilized to stay in alert – as a soldier – against the trafficking and traffickers actions in its community: not to let traffickers to spread their tentacles with marvelous promising far away to the naïve people at their village, areas of living, working, praying ...; not to accept any service to people that seems to have such kind of interests ...; to teach to others the lessons of stay in touch with yours; and not to accept to let one's ID to other persons.

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<sup>6</sup>DIRECTIVE 2011/36/EU available at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:101:0001:0011:RO:PDF>  
[http://anitp.mai.gov.ro/ro/docs/legislatie/legea\\_300.pdf](http://anitp.mai.gov.ro/ro/docs/legislatie/legea_300.pdf), ...

#### **4. The EU Universities in fighting THB**

The University – as a corporate body – could contribute to edify the professional approach to the issue, to provide expertise, as well as it could contribute directly to raise the public awareness by structural and conjectural projects or actions.

In terms of structural projects, the Universities could create or to support the interdepartmental groups devoted to the charged to explore possibility to develop, conferences, seminars, and workshop in THB - issues; to organize specific interdepartmental and cooperative<sup>7</sup> groups of research in the field; to encourage the mentioned groups to apply to HOME projects as - Daphne, Priamos ...; to establish European network of researches; to publish academically systematic their findings ...; to present, in an appropriate manner, as frequent as possible , the problem of THB, its dimensions, and the efforts to tackle it in the general media – quality and tabloids -; to structure teams ready to be involved in advising policies proposals, implementation, or evaluations – at local, regional, national level ....

The University could also encourage trainings for journalists, for public institutions communicators in the field – PRs - , for NGOs members involved in the field ... - as an another structural project.

The University could edit professional journals in the field; as well as, they could organize the printing of books dedicated to explore THB in special collections in its Printing House ...

As conjectural actions, the University forces could support or organize actions to give academic visibility to European actions, progress, and problems in combating THB – by publishing on-line News Letters on THB ; to involve public in knowledge the concrete phenomenon at home, to suggest ways of controlling and stopping it – by organized forums of public debates or blogs; to cooperate with media to raise the public awareness confronted with the trafficker attacks, or with police and judicial success in convicting the criminals ... or with institutional success in protecting and reinsert victims into a community.

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<sup>7</sup> We consider the cooperative groups the groups which bring together academic, political, police, judicial, administrative, media and other forces committed to tackle the phenomenon of THB.

## 5. The University of Oradea – Research Centre for Identity and Migration in an EU Program

Concerned with the dimensions of THB, aware of the academic resources ready to work in the Research Centre for Identity and Migration Issues – Oradea University has participated in an EU project devoted to fighting THB. As it is mentioned the PROGRAMME 2010/ISEC/ AG/054 30-CE- 0447227/0035: The Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings in the EU: promoting legal cooperation and victims protections. (THB: COOPtoFIGHT )

The duration of the program is for 24 months.

The Program was initiated and it is coordinated by professor de Suosa from Centro de Estudos Sociasis da Universidade de Coimbra – Portugal.

The co-beneficiaries are the Institute of Public Affairs established in Poland; the Research Centre for Identity and Migration Issues – Oradea University, established in Romania; Universita Catolica del Sacro Cuore – Transcrime , established in Italy; Universite Libre de Bruxelles, established in Belgium. The associated partners are Universidad Carlos III, Madrid, (UC3M) and DGAI – Observatory for Trafficking in Human Beings – Lisbon. Centro de Estudos Sociasis da Universidade de Coimbra with its team is designing the project and it is assuming its EU management. At the national level there are, also, national coordinators.

In a simplified manner presented, the objectives of the in progress Program<sup>8</sup> are: to understand the trafficking - sex and labor –; to analyze the impact of the legislation on THB; to compare the efforts of states in implementing EU directions in their legislations, in developing cooperation at EU level, in improving their practices and issuing best practices in fighting the crimes and in protecting the victims ; to promote workshops with the experts; to test European guidelines; as to promote the training of the legal and other actors in the field ...

The target group is the group of the specialists and of the future specialists in THB fighting and victims protection<sup>9</sup>. The activities to be carried out are: establishing the list of the updated literature in the field; studying the problems; research– as desk and field researchers; monitoring the practices and the press reports on it;

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<sup>8</sup> \*\*\* PROGRAMME 2010/ISEC/ AG/054 30-CE- 0447227/0035, *The Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings in the EU: promoting legal cooperation and victims protections.*

<sup>9</sup> \*\*\* PROGRAMME 2010/ISEC/ AG/054 30-CE- 0447227/0035, *The Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings in the EU: promoting legal cooperation and victims protections.*

collecting data; and organize transnational comparing actions; organize meeting with the experts. Expected results in terms of knowledge are, among the others: a better understanding of proceedings in fighting the THB in different EU countries, to identify the factors that hinder efficiency in criminal investigations and victims protection.

In terms of judicial and social practices, correlated with THB, the expected results are to support largely among the professionals, authorities, NGOs activists, journalists ... the motivation to improve and self improve their activity and to reach the EU standards. It is also to encourage the transnational cooperative model in sharing experiences, best practices, frequent obstacles and inherent risks. In terms of "material" products, the Program is expecting to achieve: a book; 4 scientific articles; 1 website; 4 workshops; 1 handbook ; and 1 international conference.

Our Center is determined to include – experimentally – an academic course in THB in the MA Programme, EU PUBLIC POLICIES. It could be a course valorizing the experience gained in the EU programme as well as, of the future research in the profile carried out by our Centre. For our group of researchers, as well as, for our centre, The Research Centre for Identity and Migration Issues – Oradea University ([www.e-migration.ro](http://www.e-migration.ro)), The Programme: *The Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings in the EU: promoting legal cooperation and victims protections* is a challenge. It is challenging our determination to enlarge and in-depth our academic competence; our capacity to cooperate and to learn from and with experts from bodies – with different backgrounds and projects – to valorize the leading figures from such a diverse field; and mainly to propose results significant in a European Context.

For Academic bodies, generally speaking, such kind of work it is a test. We consider it as a test of openness to community gross problems, to the problems that threat the communities "bien etre", as THB does. Letting it out, and continuing academic routine is not on the way of academic morality... The devotion to contribute to understand and to improve the solutions for such types of social issues, seem to be a contemporary imperative .They prove to be respectful and open to the society which were investing intellectually, morally and financially there. On the other hand, involving in topic as THB, the Academic World demonstrates that the Academia is able to transfer its theoretical expertise into society resource in the very moment, when a gross threat and new risks confront it. In such a context, the University has the opportunity to prove its social function and its specific value.