



EMN study on third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings: detection, identification and protection

31 March 2022, 10:00-13:00 CEST

Virtual Launch Event (Webex)

Trafficking in human beings is a crime against people that can take various forms, all of which constitute a grave violation of victim's fundamental rights. According to the latest available data, there were more than 14 000 registered victims within the EU, but given its clandestine nature, and the many factors which may deter a victim from reporting the crime, trafficking in human beings is believed to be significantly underreported. Trafficking in human beings is recognised as a highly profitable crime, and the impact and cost of human trafficking on individuals as well as on political, economic and social systems is significant. Trafficking victims may suffer from an array of physical and devastating psychological health issues and the victims' life may be affected forever. Therefore, early identification of victims is crucial to promptly assist, support and protect them and enables police and prosecution authorities to better investigate and punish traffickers. However, detection and identification of (potential) victims of trafficking remain at the same time critical and problematic.

Third-country nationals account for more than half of the registered victims in EU Member States. Vulnerable migrants have been reported to be at persistent risk of becoming victims of trafficking along migration routes. Their detection and identification in mixed migration flows remains a challenge in a number of EU Member States, some of which also relate to tensions with the current legal framework (especially within asylum procedures) as well as to disruption in victim assistance and support services.

The European Migration Network (EMN) has addressed these issues and produced on the basis of the contribution of 25 EU Member States, Norway and Georgia a study to explore the national practices of detection, identification and protection of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, cooperation mechanisms at EU and international level and challenges and good practices identified by government authorities and NGOs.

This online event marks the publication of the EMN study, not only by presenting its main findings, but also by discussing with high-level European and international stakeholders the latest legal developments, priorities and key challenges in this field. Main challenges, as well as successful practices from selected EU Member States will also be presented at this conference.

This EMN conference, organised as an online event and open to a wide range of audiences, aims to stimulate the discussion and thus to shed light on the different aspects of this complex criminal phenomenon.

AGENDA

10:00 – 10:05 **Welcome remarks and introduction to the agenda**

Tamara Buschek-Chauvel, Senior Policy Officer, EMN France

10:05 – 10:20 **Keynote speech on EU-level developments and priorities**

Diane Schmitt, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, DG Home, European Commission

10:20 – 10:35 **Presentation of the main findings of the EMN study**

Petra Van Nierop, Chief Analyst, Public Policy ICF (EMN Service Provider)

10:35 – 11:40 **Panel 1: Spotlight on key challenges**

Moderator: Tamara Buschek-Chauvel, Senior Policy Officer, EMN France

Speakers:

- Valiant Richey, Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, OSCE
- Ilias Chatzis, Chief, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC
- Nina Gregori, Executive Director, European Union Agency for Asylum

Q&A

11:40 - 11:50 **Coffee break**

11:50 – 12:50 **Panel 2: Challenges and good practices at MS level**

Moderator: Hans Lemmens, Coordinator, EMN the Netherlands

Speakers:

- Tamara Buschek-Chauvel, Senior Policy Officer, EMN France
- Hanna van der Linden, Researcher, EMN the Netherlands
- Heracles Moskoff, Special Secretary for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum
- Suzanne Hoff, International Coordinator, La Strada International

Q&A

12:50 – 13:00 **Closing remarks**

Hans Lemmens, Coordinator, EMN the Netherlands