

12th GENERAL REPORT

GRETA

**Group of Experts on Action
against Trafficking in Human Beings**



covering the period from
1 January to 31 December 2022



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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G R E T A
Group of Experts
on Action against Trafficking
in Human Beings

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1 January to 31 December 2022

French edition:

*12^e rapport général
GRETA - Groupe d'experts sur la lutte
contre la traite des êtres humains*

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Contents

INTRODUCTION BY THE PRESIDENT OF GRETA	5
ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2022	10
Introduction	10
GRETA meetings	11
Country visits and evaluations	13
GRETA MEMBERSHIP AND BUREAU	18
SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS OF THE CONVENTION	19
VISIBILITY AND IMPACT OF THE MONITORING PROCESS	20
Publicity of GRETA's reports	20
Practical impact of GRETA's monitoring work	22
Activities related to the implementation of GRETA's recommendations	25
PREVENTING AND DETECTING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOLLOWING RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE	29
Registration and safe migration routes	31
Immediate assistance and integration	32
Information and awareness-raising	34
Detection of potential victims and traffickers	36
Vulnerable groups	37
Co-operation and co-ordination	39
RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTERS ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION	42
MEETING OF NATIONAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING CO-ORDINATORS AND RAPORTEURS	46
RELATIONS WITH THE COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES	48
CO-OPERATION WITH COUNCIL OF EUROPE BODIES	49
European Court of Human Rights	49
Other Council of Europe bodies	50
CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS	54
United Nations	54
Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)	56
OSCE/ODIHR	56
European Union	57
Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)	57
CO-OPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY	58
APPENDIX 1	60
Chart of signatures and ratifications of the Council of Europe	60
Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings Status as of 31/12/2022	60
APPENDIX 2	62
GRETA's field of operations	62
APPENDIX 3	63
List of GRETA members (as at 31 December 2022)	63

APPENDIX 4	64
Secretariat of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (as at 31 December 2022)	64
APPENDIX 5	65
List of GRETA's activities during the period 1 January to 31 December 2022	65
APPENDIX 6	67
List of activities organised to support the implementation of GRETA's recommendations during the period 1 January to 31 December 2022	67
APPENDIX 7	70
Updated provisional timetable of GRETA's 3rd Evaluation Round	70
APPENDIX 8	71
Participation of GRETA members and Secretariat in events in the area of action against trafficking in human beings	71
APPENDIX 9	75
Workflow of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention	75

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS



Helga Gayer, President of GRETA

Introduction by the President of GRETA

It is an honour for me to introduce the 12th General Report on the activities of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022.

The year 2022 was marked by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, provoking the largest displacement of people in Europe since the Second World War. In the first days of the war, the unprecedented and rapidly growing flow of refugees, mostly women and children, posed significant logistical challenges for public institutions and aid organisations, in particular in countries bordering Ukraine. Front-line organisations quickly sounded the alarm over cases of individuals offering transportation, accommodation or work in exchange for sexual or other services to people fleeing Ukraine. GRETA reacted by issuing a statement warning of the dangers of people fleeing the armed conflict in Ukraine falling victim to human trafficking and exploitation. This was followed by the preparation of a Guidance Note on addressing the risks of trafficking in human beings related to the war in Ukraine and the ensuing humanitarian crisis.

Throughout the year, GRETA's activities were impacted by the war in Ukraine in many different ways, which is why GRETA decided to dedicate a thematic chapter in this General Report to preventing and detecting trafficking in human beings following Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The chapter summarises the contents of GRETA's

Guidance Note and provides examples of how State Parties have reacted to prevent risks of trafficking and exploitation of Ukrainian refugees. GRETA continues to follow the situation during its country visits and other activities, systematically asking about steps taken to prevent and limit the risks of trafficking of Ukrainian refugees, as well as any detected cases.

In 2022, GRETA followed an intensive work schedule, including four plenary meetings and 13 country evaluation visits, which is the highest number of evaluations in any given year organised by GRETA so far. After the delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, GRETA is back on track, aiming to complete the third round of evaluation of the Convention in respect of most State Parties and to launch the fourth evaluation round in 2023. GRETA started reflecting on the focus and design of this new evaluation round, as well as launching a stock-taking of the third evaluation round of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human beings in order to identify common challenges, good practices and remaining gaps in the implementation of the Convention.

An important development in 2022 was the adoption by the Committee of Ministers, on 27 September 2022, of a new recommendation to member States on preventing and combating human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. GRETA was actively involved in the drafting process of this recommendation, the preparation of which was largely based on GRETA's findings, recommendations and guidance, and will contribute to its dissemination and the monitoring of its implementation.

In 2022, GRETA started organising again round-table meetings to discuss progress made in the implementation of its third evaluation round reports and the related Committee of the Parties' recommendations. These events bring together relevant ministries, agencies and civil society organisations, providing a forum for clarifying the content of obligations under the Convention and identifying measures to implement them.

As evidenced by GRETA's reports published in 2022, there have been a number of improvements in states' responses to human trafficking. However, there are also persisting gaps and new challenges, including those linked to the increasing use of information and communication technology. Some of the problems in the implementation of GRETA's recommendations are due to lack of political will, resources or training. For example, the low number of convictions for human trafficking is a concern raised in many GRETA reports. Human trafficking cases are complex crimes, frequently with a transnational dimension, and often involving multiple victims and perpetrators. Lack of resources and prioritisation result in low prosecution and conviction rates. Over-reliance on victims' testimonies and the quick return of victims to their countries of origin is another factor which impacts the authorities' ability to prosecute and convict traffickers. Further, the lack of effective access to compensation for victims of trafficking is a problem identified by GRETA in many State Parties.

Civil society plays an important role in the implementation of the Convention, through awareness raising, training, detecting victims of trafficking and providing them with accommodation, assistance and support throughout the criminal justice process. In addition to meeting with civil society during its country visits, in 2022, GRETA organised on two occasions exchanges with anti-trafficking NGOs. In March, GRETA

held an exchange of views with representatives of NGOs about the risks of human trafficking related to the war in Ukraine. Further, in September, GRETA organised an exchange with international NGOs and national coalitions of NGOs active in the field of combating human trafficking on the status of implementation of the Convention and the possible focus of the fourth evaluation round of the Convention. GRETA is grateful for the contributions made by NGOs to its monitoring work and is committed to continuing the existing co-operation with civil society.

GRETA could not have performed its intensive programme of activities without the unfailing support provided by its Secretariat, which was temporarily reinforced as a result of the relocation of the unspent budget from the years affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. GRETA hopes that this reinforcement will be made permanent, reflecting the increase in the number of State Parties to the Convention and the volume of GRETA's activities.

At the end of 2022, the composition of GRETA was partially renewed. I would like to warmly thank the four outgoing GRETA members for their commitment, professionalism and contribution to monitoring of the implementation of the Convention and promoting the Convention's standards.

Helga Gayer
President of GRETA

2022 SNAPSHOT



15

INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

GRETA is the only independent panel of experts monitoring the implementation of binding international legal provisions on combating trafficking in human beings.

13



EVALUATION VISITS

Andorra, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Lithuania, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

10

FINAL REPORTS



adopted and published by GRETA

Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway and Portugal.



IMPACT

GRETA monitoring contributes to changes in legislation, policy and practice.



COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

to support implementation of GRETA's recommendations

Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye and Malta.

7



ROUND TABLES

on the follow-up to GRETA's evaluation reports.



LABOUR EXPLOITATION

Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to member States on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation.



UKRAINE

Guidance Note on addressing the risks of trafficking in human beings related to the war in Ukraine and the ensuing humanitarian crisis.



REGULAR EXCHANGES

European Court of Human Rights, Commissioner for Human Rights, SG Special Representative on Migration and Refugees.

STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS

EU, United Nations bodies, OSCE, ICAT.



NETWORKS

National anti-trafficking co-ordinators, specialised lawyers, specialised NGOs.

MEDIA OUTREACH

Press releases, interviews, press articles, broadcasts, and social media.





GRETA evaluation visit to Spain (3rd evaluation round), 4-8 July 2022

Activities during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022

Introduction

1. GRETA is set up pursuant to Article 36 of the **Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (“the Convention”)** to monitor the implementation of the Convention by the Parties. GRETA is composed of 15 members, who sit in their individual capacity and are independent and impartial in the exercise of their functions. GRETA started functioning in February 2009, following the entry into force of the Convention on 1 February 2008, and the first election of GRETA members by the Committee of the Parties to the Convention in December 2008. GRETA is currently the only independent panel of experts monitoring the implementation of binding international legal provisions on combating trafficking in human beings.
2. As concerns its working methods, GRETA evaluates the implementation of the Convention by the Parties following a procedure divided into rounds. In carrying out its monitoring work, GRETA has the right to avail itself of a variety of means for collecting information. As a first step, GRETA sends a questionnaire to the authorities of the Party undergoing evaluation. The questionnaire is also sent to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in the field of action against trafficking in human beings. After receiving the authorities’ reply to its questionnaire, GRETA organises a visit to the country concerned in order to hold meetings with relevant governmental and non-governmental actors, collect additional information and evaluate the practical implementation of adopted measures.

3. Following the country visit, GRETA draws up a draft evaluation report containing an analysis of the implementation of the Convention and conclusions concerning the action which the Party needs to take to deal with any problems identified. The draft report is discussed in a plenary meeting and, following its approval by GRETA, is sent to the national authorities for comments. Following the receipt and consideration of these comments, GRETA draws up a final report, which is discussed and adopted in another plenary session, and subsequently transmitted to the Party concerned, as well as the Committee of the Parties to the Convention. GRETA's final report is made public together with any final comments by the Party concerned. The Committee of the Parties to the Convention considers GRETA's reports and, on the basis of those reports, adopts recommendations to the governments of the Parties concerned (for a workflow of the monitoring mechanism of the Convention, see Appendix 9).
4. On the basis of GRETA's reports and recommendations, the Council of Europe assists member states to strengthen the implementation of the Convention through projects funded from the organisation's ordinary budget or external sources.



44th GRETA meeting, Strasbourg, France, 27 June – 1 July 2022

GRETA meetings

5. After almost two years of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2022 GRETA was gradually able to return to normal working conditions. In order to catch up with the evaluations which had to be postponed during the pandemic, GRETA followed an intensive work schedule, including four plenary meetings. The meetings took place in a hybrid format, with most of the GRETA members being physically present in Strasbourg, and one or two GRETA members joining by conference call. The additional three-day meeting in September 2022 was organised in order to organise an exchange of views with civil society organisations and start the process of reflection on the focus of the fourth evaluation round of the Convention, as well as to have sufficient time to consider draft country reports, the number of which increased in 2022 due to the increased number of evaluation visits (see paragraph 11).

6. During the four meetings held in 2022, GRETA considered 12 draft country reports and adopted a total of 10 final country reports: eight as part of the third round of evaluation of the implementation of the Convention (concerning Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Norway and Portugal), and two as part of the second evaluation round (concerning Belarus and Greece).
7. Further, at its plenary meetings, GRETA considered reports submitted by the authorities of Austria, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, the Slovak Republic and Turkey on measures taken to comply with the Committee of the Parties' recommendations, and agreed on issues which should be followed up in the context of the on-going dialogue with the authorities.
8. GRETA's plenary meetings were also an occasion to hold exchanges with representatives of relevant Council of Europe structures and other international organisations on issues of relevance to GRETA's mandate. Thus, at its 43rd meeting (28 March - 1 April 2022), GRETA held an exchange of views with Ms Dunja Mijatovic, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (see paragraph 80). At the same meeting, GRETA exchanged on the risks of trafficking in human beings related to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine with Ms Kataryna Levchenko, Equality Commissioner of Ukraine, representatives of anti-trafficking NGOs from Moldova, Poland, Ukraine and a representative of La Strada International (see paragraph 47).
9. At its 44th meeting (27 June - 1 July 2022), GRETA held exchanges of views with Ms Siobhán Mullally, UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (see paragraph 88), and with representatives of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers Issues (see paragraph 82). At its 45th meeting (26-28 September 2022), GRETA held an exchange of views with international NGOs and national coalitions of NGOs active in the field of combating human trafficking on the status of implementation of the Convention and the 4th evaluation round of the Convention. Finally, at its 46th meeting (14-18 November 2022), GRETA members exchanged views with judges from the European Court of Human Rights (see paragraph 74).
10. During the reporting period, GRETA received a number of communications from victims of trafficking, lawyers and civil society organisations concerning issues covered by the Convention, which were discussed at GRETA's plenary meetings. The Convention does not provide for an individual complaints procedure, but according to the Rules of procedure for evaluating implementation of the Convention (Rule 10), the Executive Secretary brings to the attention of GRETA any relevant communication addressed to it. In some cases, GRETA decided to send letters to the relevant authorities, inquiring about legislative, institutional or policy developments.



GRETA evaluation visit to Poland (3rd evaluation round), 6-10 June 2022

Country visits and evaluations

11. After the delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, GRETA strived to get back on track with the schedule of country evaluations. In 2022, GRETA carried out a total of 13 country evaluation visits - the highest number of evaluations in any given year organised by GRETA so far. This was made possible thanks to the decision of the Committee of Ministers to transfer part of the budget which could not be spent in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic, and to temporarily add one administrator to GRETA's Secretariat. Eleven of the visits were organised as part of the third round of evaluation of the Convention (to Andorra, Azerbaijan, Iceland, Lithuania, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden), and two as part of the second round of evaluation (to Estonia and Greece).

12. The disruption created by Russia's aggression against Ukraine had an impact on GRETA's timetable of evaluation visits. The visit to Poland was postponed from March to June 2022, due to the arrival of millions of refugees from Ukraine, creating important logistical challenges for the Polish authorities. The third evaluation visit to Ukraine, scheduled to take place in 2022, has been postponed indefinitely. GRETA periodically revised its visit timetable, introducing a greater flexibility in the composition of visiting delegations and adaptability to changes of dates of visits. Two of the visits initially planned for 2022, to Ukraine and Italy (the latter one had to be postponed due to the parliamentary elections in October 2022 and the time necessary to form a new government), were replaced by the visits to Andorra and Lithuania.



3rd evaluation visit to Lithuania, 8-12 December 2022



2nd evaluation visit to Estonia, 6-9 June 2022



3rd evaluation visit to Serbia, 16 May 2022

13. GRETA's country visits were an occasion to hold meetings with relevant actors, collect additional information, clarify the responses to the questionnaire, and assess the practical implementation of adopted measures. Thus, meetings were held with national anti-trafficking co-ordinators, national rapporteurs, officials from relevant ministries and governmental agencies, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, labour inspectors, social workers, child protection officials, local authorities' representatives and other relevant professionals. Further, in most countries visited, GRETA met Members of Parliament and representatives of Ombudsman institutions and other independent human rights institutions. Civil society organisations, trade unions, lawyers, employers' associations, researchers and investigative journalists were also consulted during the visits.

14. The country visits were an opportunity for GRETA to visit facilities where protection and assistance are provided to victims of trafficking, often run by NGOs, to exchange views with their staff and to speak to any victims willing to meet GRETA on a confidential basis. Specialised shelters for victims of trafficking were visited in Azerbaijan, Greece, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia and Spain. GRETA also visited a centre for the reintegration of victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Spain. In other countries (Iceland, Serbia, Sweden) GRETA visited safe houses or crisis centres for victims of domestic violence, which can accommodate female victims of human trafficking.

15. GRETA has continued to pay particular attention to the situation of child victims of trafficking and unaccompanied or separated children, who are vulnerable to trafficking. By way of example, in Azerbaijan, a visit was paid to an NGO-run shelter for vulnerable children in Baku, and in North Macedonia, to a day shelter for street children in Skopje. In Andorra, GRETA visited a reception centre for children in vulnerable situations; in Serbia, an accommodation centre for children without parental care; and in Sweden, a home for children and youth. In Greece, visits were carried out to centres for unaccompanied children in Athens and Thessaloniki, and in Slovenia, to the Children's House and a student dormitory accommodating unaccompanied children in Postojna.

16. GRETA also visited centres for asylum seekers and detention facilities for irregular migrants, where victims of trafficking may be placed. In Estonia, GRETA paid a visit to the reception centre for refugees in Pärnu; in Iceland, to the reception centre and the emergency accommodation centre for asylum seekers; in Spain, to a closed reception centre for asylum seekers at the airport of Barajas-Madrid; in Slovenia, to the Asylum Centre in Ljubljana; and in Sweden, to an accommodation centre operated by the Migration Agency in Stockholm. In Lithuania, GRETA paid a visit to the Naujininkai refugee camp which accommodates vulnerable asylum seekers. In Serbia, GRETA visited an asylum centre for persons fleeing the war in Ukraine. Furthermore, visits were paid to the centre for irregular migrants in Baku and the Reception Centre for Foreigners in Skopje.

17. During two of the visits, GRETA witnessed the living conditions of undocumented agricultural workers: in the village of Nea Manolada in western Peloponnese, Greece, and in the area of Huelva in Andalusia, Spain.

IN 2022, GRETA'S COUNTRY VISITS WERE AN OCCASION TO MEET RELEVANT ACTORS



National anti-trafficking co-ordinators, officials from relevant ministries and governmental agencies

Representatives of Ombudsman institutions and other independent human rights institutions, national rapporteurs



Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, lawyers



Labour inspectors, trade unions and employers' associations

Local authorities' representatives, including child protection officials, social workers and other relevant professionals



Members of Parliament

Civil society organisations, researchers and investigative journalists



AND TO VISIT



Facilities where assistance is provided to victims of trafficking

- ▶ Specialised shelters for victims of trafficking (Azerbaijan, Greece, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia and Spain)
- ▶ Centre for the reintegration of victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Spain)
- ▶ Safe houses or crisis centres for victims of domestic violence, which can accommodate female victims of human trafficking (Iceland, Serbia, Sweden)



With a particular attention to child victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children

- ▶ NGO-run shelter for vulnerable children (Azerbaijan)
- ▶ Day shelter for street children (North Macedonia)
- ▶ Reception centre for children in vulnerable situations (Andorra)
- ▶ Accommodation centre for children without parental care (Serbia)
- ▶ Home for children and youth (Sweden)
- ▶ Centres for unaccompanied children (Greece)
- ▶ Children's House and a student dormitory accommodating unaccompanied children (Slovenia)



Centres for asylum seekers

- ▶ Reception centre for refugees (Estonia)
- ▶ Reception centre and emergency accommodation centre for asylum seekers (Iceland)
- ▶ Asylum Centre in Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- ▶ Accommodation centre operated by the Migration Agency in Stockholm (Sweden)
- ▶ Naujininkai refugee camp which accommodates vulnerable asylum seekers (Lithuania)
- ▶ Asylum centre for persons fleeing the war in Ukraine (Serbia)

Detention facilities for irregular migrants

- ▶ Closed reception centre for asylum seekers at the airport of Barajas (Spain)
- ▶ Centre for irregular migrants in Baku (Azerbaijan)
- ▶ Reception Centre for Foreigners in Skopje (North Macedonia)

Migrant agricultural workers sites

- ▶ Camps in Nea Manolada (Greece)
- ▶ Informal settlements in Huelva (Spain)



GRETA's Bureau members. From left to right : Julia Planitzer, Second Vice-President, Helga Gayer, President, Antoaneta Vassileva, First Vice-President

GRETA membership and Bureau

18. The composition of GRETA and its Bureau during the reporting period is set out in Appendix 3.

19. The terms of office of seven of the 15 members of GRETA expired on 31 December 2022. Elections to fill the vacant seats were held at the 31st meeting of the Committee of the Parties, on 25 November 2022. As a result of these elections, three GRETA members were re-elected for a second term of office, and four new members were elected. The mandates of these eight members will run from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2026.

20. GRETA warmly thanks its outgoing Second Vice-President, Ms Julia Planitzer, as well as the other outgoing members - Mr Francesco Curcio, Mr Kevin Hyland and Ms Natalie Martin - for their commitment, professionalism and contribution to monitoring of the implementation of the Convention and promoting the Convention's standards.

21. The new composition of GRETA is due to hold its first meeting on 27-31 March 2023. Pending the election of a new Bureau at that meeting, GRETA's work is directed by a Bureau *ad interim* composed of Ms Helga Gayer (President), Ms Antoaneta Vassileva (First Vice-President) and Ms Dorothea Winkler (Second Vice-President).¹

1. The composition of the Bureau *ad interim* follows Rule 7 of the Internal rules of procedure of GRETA.



48 State Parties to the Convention

- ▶ 46 Council of Europe member States
- ▶ Non-member States: Belarus and Israël

Signatures and ratifications of the Convention

22. No new ratifications of the Convention took place during the reporting period. The total number of Parties to the Convention remains at 48 (see Appendix 1).

23. All Council of Europe member States have ratified the Convention. GRETA recalls that the Convention is open to non-member States and hopes that more states which are not members of the Council of Europe will express interest in, and accede to, the Convention.

24. Through their participation in various events, GRETA members and Secretariat have continued promoting the Convention's standards (see Appendix 8). In 2022, presentations on the Convention were made to representatives of Kazakhstan, Morocco and Tunisia. The Convention also serves as the basis for co-operation projects in Morocco and Tunisia.²

2. [South Programme \(coe.int\)](https://coe.int)



GRETA MEDIA

Visibility and impact of the monitoring process

Publicity of GRETA's reports

25. In accordance with Article 38, paragraph 6, of the Convention, the final reports and conclusions of GRETA are made public, together with any final comments by the Party concerned. In 2022, 10 GRETA country evaluation reports were made public, of which nine were issued under the third evaluation round of the Convention (concerning Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway and Portugal) and one under the second evaluation round, concerning Belarus (see Appendix 5). Two more reports, concerning Greece and North Macedonia, were adopted at respectively GRETA's 45th and 46th meetings, but were published in early 2023.³

26. A press release is issued whenever a GRETA report is published. In addition, interviews are given by GRETA members and the Secretariat to journalists, serving as a basis for press articles and broadcasts. According to the sample processed by the Council of Europe Media Monitoring and Analysis Unit, the reports issued by GRETA generated substantial media coverage throughout the year.

27. GRETA's report on **France** was examined in several articles in February 2023, including in *AFP* and *Mediapart*, who highlighted GRETA's call on the French authorities to take additional measures to ensure access to justice for victims of human trafficking, and to strengthen the criminal justice response to human trafficking.

3. There is a time lag between the adoption and the publication of GRETA reports, due to the fact that GRETA awaits the receipt of the national authorities' final comments before publishing a country evaluation report.

28. In May, the key national media in **Armenia** widely examined GRETA's report focusing on victims' access to justice and effective remedies (*Panorama, Aravot, Hetq, etc.*).

29. In June, GRETA's reports on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Portugal made headlines in the local and regional press. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, media reported that according to GRETA the legislation to combat human trafficking was improved, but needed to be implemented more effectively to ensure protection and justice for victims (*Balkan Insight, Euractiv, ANSA, Radio Slobodna Evropa, Vecernje novosti, FENA, Sarajevo Times, Klix.ba, etc.*). It was reported that the growing demand for cheap labour in **Portugal** increased the risks of exploitation and human trafficking (*The Portugal News, Lusa, Sapo.pt, TSF, Diario de Noticias, Publico, InfoMigrants, Anadolu Agency, etc.*). Furthermore, reporting that 35 people suspected of involvement in human trafficking were arrested in November in Portugal, several influential media (*Reuters, AFP, CNN, InfoMigrants*) referred to GRETA's report issued in June, which found that most of victims identified between 2016-2020 had been exploited in the agricultural sector.

30. GRETA's report on **Ireland**, released in June 2022, urged the authorities to take further action against human trafficking, notably by improving the prosecution of human traffickers and providing specialised shelters and compensation for victims (*RTE.ie, The Irish Times, The Journal, The Irish Examiner, The Guardian, etc.*).

31. In October, GRETA's report on **Belgium** was reflected in the national media, with an emphasis on the need to improve trafficking victims' access to legal aid and to guarantee their effective access to compensation (*Agence Belga, The Brussels Times, Proximus.be*).

32. GRETA's anti-trafficking social media accounts on Twitter (@CoE_Trafficking) and LinkedIn (Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) attracted increased numbers of followers, reactions and shares, particularly on and around the World Day against Trafficking in Persons and the European Anti-trafficking Day (30 July and 18 October, respectively). Both platforms have proved to be useful methods for exchange, highlighting not only GRETA's and the Council of Europe anti-trafficking activities in general, but also for bringing partners' activities to the attention of social media followers.

33. Through participation in various events organised at national level, GRETA members and Secretariat promoted the reports issued by GRETA in 2022. Following the publication of GRETA's report on Ireland, the Executive Secretary of the Convention spoke at a conference on combating trafficking in human beings in Ireland, organised by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission on 21 June 2022. Further, on 26 October 2022, she made a presentation on GRETA's report on Norway at the KOM annual seminar "Norway's efforts against human trafficking: where do we stand?". A member of GRETA's Secretariat, Ms Daniela Ranalli, presented GRETA's report on Belgium at a parliamentary hearing before the Belgian Chamber of Representatives committee responsible for assessing legislation and policy on human trafficking, on 7 October 2022.



Practical impact of GRETA's monitoring work

34. Based on GRETA's reports published in the course of 2022⁴, the following section provides examples of measures taken by State Parties to improve their legislation, policy and practice in the light of GRETA's previous recommendations.



ARMENIA

- ▶ As recommended by GRETA in its second evaluation report, the implementation of the National Action Plan was evaluated by an independent expert.
- ▶ To strengthen the prevention of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, the mandate of the Health and Labour Inspection Body was expanded and an additional 60 positions for labour inspectors were created.
- ▶ Following GRETA's second report the Anti-Trafficking Law was amended, introducing a clause on providing financial support to child victims of THB until they turn 18 and specifying the procedure for child victims of trafficking to apply for state compensation.



BELARUS

- ▶ As recommended by GRETA in its first evaluation report, the Victim Identification Regulation now provides for a 30-day reflection and recovery period, independent of the victim's consent to participate in the identification procedure.
- ▶ The amended Victim Identification Regulation also clarified that identification can only be carried out with the informed, written consent of the possible victim and introduced a shortened version of the questionnaire in cases where the possible victim is unable or incapable to undergo lengthy interviewing.
- ▶ Following amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code audio and video recording of interviews with victims and witnesses, who are children below the age of 14, is mandatory and these recordings may be used at trial in lieu of in person testimony.

4. The reports on France and Latvia have already been covered in GRETA's 11th general report.



BELGIUM

- ▶ As previously recommended by GRETA, the principle of non-punishment of victims of trafficking for offences committed by them as a direct result of their exploitation was included in the Criminal Code (CC) in May 2019.
- ▶ The provision of public funding for the three specialised reception centres for victims of trafficking has improved, following the centralisation of their budget within the Federal Ministry of Justice.
- ▶ To strengthen the provision of safe accommodation to child victims of trafficking, a reception centre for girls victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation opened in Flanders on 1 March 2022, managed by the NGO Minor-Ndako.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- ▶ Following up on GRETA's recommendation, in May 2020, the State Ministry of Security and the State Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees concluded an agreement to create a common fund for assistance to all victims of trafficking (national and foreign).
- ▶ As a follow-up to GRETA's recommendation to introduce a comprehensive statistical system on trafficking in human beings, in June 2020a statistics portal was set up on victims of human trafficking within the project "Short-term and medium-term support to strengthen efforts in the fight against trafficking in human beings", implemented by IOM with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- ▶ Following GRETA's second report, a network of specialised prosecutors and investigators working on human trafficking cases, as well as anti-trafficking units within the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the State Investigation and Protection Agency were set up.



IRELAND

- ▶ Acting on GRETA's previous recommendations, in October 2020 the Irish authorities designated the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission as National Rapporteur for trafficking in human beings.
- ▶ The level of engagement with civil society has increased, as recommended by GRETA, through the human trafficking stakeholders forum, bringing together relevant state departments, agencies and civil society organisations.
- ▶ With a view to addressing GRETA's previous recommendations, on 11 May 2021, the Irish Government approved a proposal for a revised National Referral Mechanism (NRM). An interdepartmental group was set up to work on operational protocols which will outline how the different agencies will interact within the new framework.



LUXEMBOURG

- ▶ As previously recommended by GRETA, child victims of human trafficking were exempted from the requirement to provide proof of the damage to their physical or mental integrity in order to receive state compensation, pursuant to amendments to the Law of 12 March 1984 on Compensation for Certain Victims of Corporal Harm Resulting from an Offence and the repression of fraudulent insolvency.
- ▶ As recommended by GRETA in its second evaluation report, the authorities increased the number of labour inspectors and strengthened the training provided to them on human trafficking. This enabled labour inspectors to be more proactive in detecting trafficking cases, as demonstrated by the large increase in the number of victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation detected between 2018 and 2021. Further, the Mines and Labour Inspectorate started to record situations of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.
- ▶ Acting on GRETA's recommendations in its second report, the authorities increased the number of hours of assistance services for victims of human trafficking financed by the government (from 40 hours per week to 100 hours per week) and improved co-operation between assistance services and the police.



NORWAY

- ▶ In the light of GRETA's second report recommendation to intensify efforts to prevent child trafficking, a central guidance unit for child victims of trafficking was established within the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs in September 2019. It works on improving procedures for the identification of children that are victims of trafficking, provides guidance, training and capacity-building activities, and supports and strengthens the coordination between different authorities in protection of child victims of trafficking.
- ▶ Following GRETA's second report, seven inter-agency centres against work-related crime (A-Krim centres), which include the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, were set up and collaborate with the 12 anti-trafficking police units on the detection of cases of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.
- ▶ To increase awareness of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation among migrant workers, the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority produced information materials in Norwegian and seven other languages for migrant and posted workers in Norway, which are available in the form of leaflets and online.



PORTUGAL

- ▶ Acting on GRETA's recommendation to improve the identification of child victims, in May 2021, the authorities introduced a new National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for child victims of trafficking which establishes procedures the goal of which is to ensure that the best interests of the child are guaranteed throughout the

procedure, by strengthening the co-operation and training of all professionals involved in the identification process.

- ▶ In its second evaluation report, GRETA recommended that the authorities provide adequate support and services which are adapted to the needs of child victims of trafficking, including appropriate accommodation. In view of implementing this recommendation, the Portuguese authorities set up in 2018 a shelter for child victims of trafficking, with a capacity of seven places, located in the region of Coimbra and managed by the NGO Akto.
- ▶ Portugal has improved the provision of accommodation and other assistance to victims of trafficking since GRETA's first evaluation and the number of specialised shelters has increased from one to five (two for female victims, two for male victims, and one for children).
- ▶ With a view to improving the criminal justice response to human trafficking, as recommended previously by GRETA, the General Prosecutor's Office issued specific guidance for investigating human trafficking cases.

Activities related to the implementation of GRETA's recommendations



Round-table meeting on the follow-up to GRETA's third evaluation report on the Slovak Republic, 19 May 2022

35. On the basis of GRETA's reports, the Council of Europe assists member States to strengthen the implementation of the Convention by organising targeted **cooperation activities**. With a view to promoting better understanding of the Convention's provisions and GRETA's recommendations, stimulating dialogue between relevant stakeholders and identifying areas where the Council of Europe can support national anti-trafficking efforts, **round-table meetings** were organised in **Cyprus** (5 May), **Slovak Republic** (19 May), **Austria** (20 May), **Republic of Moldova** (8 September), **Albania** (22 September) and **Croatia** (18 October).

36. As a follow up to the round-table meeting in **Cyprus**, an expert round-table discussion on “Access to compensation and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings”, was organised together with the Cypriot NGO “Step up Stop Slavery” on 3 October 2022 in Nicosia. The aim was to provide the Cypriot authorities with a comparative legal analysis and practical examples of access to compensation for victims of trafficking in human beings, particularly through state compensation schemes, as illustrated by the examples of France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.



Expert round-table, Nicosia, 3 October 2022

37. The third meeting of the **network of lawyers and NGOs specialised in providing legal assistance to victims of human trafficking** took place in Strasbourg on 21-22 November 2022. The aim of this network is to strengthen the implementation of the provisions of the Convention through the exchange of experience, legal strategies, good practices and information on relevant case-law. The event brought together some 40 lawyers from 21 States Parties to the Convention. On the first day, the Executive Secretary of the Convention presented an overview of GRETA's monitoring findings under the third evaluation round of the Convention. Mr Davor Derenčinović, judge of the European Court of Human Rights, and Mr Krešimir Kamber, lawyer at the Registry of the Court, discussed with the participants the recent case-law of the Court related to human trafficking. Ms Parosha Chandran, human rights barrister and Professor of Modern Slavery Law at King's College, London, shared her experience of submitting cases to the Court and explained how to lodge a case with the United Nations Human Rights Committee. A legal commentary on the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings was presented by Mr Helmut Sax, senior researcher at the Ludwig Boltzman Institute, Vienna. The second day of the meeting was devoted to an exchange on strategic litigation and presentation of cases and projects from different countries. Participants formed three working groups to discuss issues related to the role of lawyers in the identification of victims, the application of the non-punishment provision, and claiming



Third meeting of the network of lawyers and NGOs specialised in providing legal assistance to victims of human trafficking, Strasbourg, France, 21-22 November 2022

of compensation for victims of human trafficking. The meeting was concluded by a reflection on steps to be taken to facilitate exchange and sharing of information within the network.

38. The four multi-annual projects implemented as part of the joint **EU-Council of Europe programme Horizontal Facility (HF) II**, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye, were finalised at the end of 2022. The aim of these projects was to support the implementation of country-specific recommendations contained in GRETA's reports, thereby strengthening national capacities to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings (see Appendix 6 for a list of activities).

39. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, members of the judiciary and law enforcement officials participated in multidisciplinary training activities on technology-facilitated trafficking. Training was also provided to health-care professionals on detecting and assisting victims of trafficking, to education professionals and school psychologists on child trafficking, and to media and NGOs on protecting the private life and personal data of victims of trafficking. The HELP module on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation was followed by labour inspectors, lawyers and police officers. Studies on assessing the age of children at risk of trafficking and on labour trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina were produced and disseminated. The guide on promoting gender equality and combating gender-based violence and stereotypes as means of combating trafficking in human beings served for capacity building activities. An informational brochure on risks of human trafficking for labour exploitation abroad was developed and disseminated. Additionally, a grant-based informational campaign on preventing child trafficking was implemented by the NGO Buducnost Modrica.

40. In **North Macedonia**, training activities were organised for education and child-care professionals, including kindergarten teachers and school psychologists, on the prevention of child trafficking, and the resocialisation and reintegration of

child victims of trafficking. Health professionals were informed of their role in identifying and assisting victims of trafficking. Diplomatic and consular officials were also trained on their role in identifying and referring presumed victims of trafficking. Multidisciplinary training activities were carried out on the identification of presumed victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. The working group of the Ministry of Justice received support to draft the Law on State Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes and the implementing regulations. In addition, six grants were given to journalists to write articles about human trafficking which were published in the national media. The HELP programme e-learning module on combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation was translated and used to train labour inspectors, lawyers and police officers.

41. In **Serbia**, advanced training was organised for labour inspectors, police officers and representatives of trade unions on detecting and combating trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, using the HELP programme e-learning module on combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation. Training was also organised for media representatives and journalists on ethical and fact-based reporting on trafficking cases and victims. Education professionals were trained to use the revised indicators for preliminary identification of trafficking and exploitation amongst pupils, and health-care professionals were trained to detect and assist victims of trafficking. A grant-supported awareness raising campaign on preventing and combating trafficking in children was implemented by the NGO Child Rights Centre.

42. In **Türkiye**, training was provided to lawyers, public prosecutors, judges, labour inspectors, migration experts, child protection specialists and law enforcement officers through the HELP course on “Combating Trafficking in Human beings”. The project provided an opportunity to improve coordination among national anti-trafficking institutions. Two multi-stakeholder roundtables were held, as well as three consultation workshops at central and provincial levels. Awareness-raising campaigns on child trafficking and trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation were conducted in five Turkish municipalities (Adiyaman, Akcakale, Arsuz, İzmir and Kecioren).

43. As part of the HF II Programme, a **regional conference “Combating Labour Trafficking in Europe - Standards, Realities and New Strategies for Action”** was organised in 20-21 September 2022 in Belgrade. It brought together over 100 participants who discussed persisting challenges and new trends in human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation and identified positive initiatives to strengthen prevention from a victim-centred perspective. Risk assessment studies conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia and presented at the conference illustrated the variety of factors that enhance the risks of falling victims of labour trafficking.⁵ The role of labour market actors and the private sector, as well as how to overcome challenges to victims’ access to justice and effective remedies, were amongst the topics discussed. The conference was widely covered by media outlets (*Euronews, FENA, N1 Info, NewsMax Adria, Politika, Tanjug, RTV, RTS, Danas, Vesti.rs, Insajder, Telegraf, Vecernje novosti, BETA, FoNet, etc.*).

5. [Regional conference: Combating Labour Trafficking in Europe - Standards, Realities and New Strategies for Action - Action against Trafficking in Human Beings \(coe.int\)](#)



Preventing and detecting trafficking in human beings following Russia's aggression against Ukraine

44. War and humanitarian crises create a fertile ground for organised criminal groups and individual profiteers to target vulnerable individuals. Recent migration crises have shown that refugees, in particular women and children, are particularly vulnerable to the risk of human trafficking. GRETA dedicated thematic chapters in its 5th⁶ and 10th⁷ general reports to the identification of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

45. The Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine which started on 24 February 2022 provoked the largest displacement of people in Europe since the Second World War. Within days, millions of people fled the armed conflict in Ukraine to neighbouring countries and onwards across Europe. An estimated 90% of them were women and children, including thousands of unaccompanied children. There was an immediate outpouring of support, with ordinary people making donations and offering accommodation. The EU quickly moved to offer temporary protection to Ukrainians with minimal bureaucratic hurdles. However, in the first days of the war in Ukraine, the unprecedented and rapidly growing flow of refugees overwhelmed both state institutions and aid organisations, in particular in the countries bordering

6. <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168063093c>
7. <https://rm.coe.int/10th-general-report-greta-activities-en/1680a21620>

Ukraine. The authorities initially did not have the capacity to register all persons arriving from Ukraine and could not undertake systematic assessment of vulnerabilities and vet private transport or housing. News media and NGOs reported suspected cases of individuals offering transportation, accommodation or work in exchange for sexual or other services to people fleeing Ukraine. In addition, there were consistent reports of discrimination against non-Ukrainians fleeing the armed conflict in Ukraine.

46. GRETA reacted by issuing a **statement on 17 March 2022 entitled “States must act urgently to protect refugees fleeing Ukraine from human trafficking”**.⁸ It underlined that even in very challenging times caused by the massive influx of refugees, States’ obligations under the Convention are not suspended. On the contrary, they become of greater importance as the risk of trafficking is higher, which is why all relevant national authorities must take specific preventive measures and protect refugees from the risk of trafficking, in a non-discriminatory manner, regardless of the nationality of the victim. Noting that victims of human trafficking are increasingly recruited online, including via social networks, GRETA called on State Parties to undertake measures to raise awareness about this risk among relevant officials and aid organisations’ staff, as online trafficking is difficult to detect and traffickers often remain anonymous. GRETA also recalled the heightened vulnerability to human trafficking of internally displaced persons.

47. During its 43rd meeting (28 March - 1 April 2022), GRETA held an online exchange of views on the risks of trafficking in human beings related to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine with Ms Kataryna Levchenko, Equality Commissioner of Ukraine, and representatives of anti-trafficking NGOs from the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Ukraine as well as La Strada International. Ms Levchenko highlighted the need for EU-wide coordinated action to prevent human trafficking. The NGO representatives reported on their efforts to raise awareness about the risks of human trafficking among refugees from Ukraine and called on officials, including in member States not bordering Ukraine, to be vigilant about possible cases of trafficking. During the exchange of views held at the same GRETA plenary meeting with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, GRETA heard from the Commissioner about her visits to member States bordering Ukraine and the need for more coordination, in particular on registration of refugees and assistance to vulnerable individuals (see paragraph 80).

48. As a result of these discussions, GRETA decided to prepare a **Guidance Note on addressing the risks of trafficking in human beings related to the war in Ukraine and the ensuing humanitarian crisis**, which was issued on 4 May 2022.⁹ Its aim was to provide practical advice to help States Parties ensure that public agencies, NGOs, the private sector and the general public are aware of the risks of trafficking in human beings for different forms of exploitation in their dealings with people fleeing the war in Ukraine, and on how to provide support in order to minimise these risks. In order to have rapid impact, the Guidance Note focused on actions that can be

8. [States must act urgently to protect refugees fleeing Ukraine from human trafficking - Action against Trafficking in Human Beings \(coe.int\)](https://rm.coe.int/states-must-act-urgently-to-protect-refugees-fleeing-ukraine-from-human-trafficking-action-against-trafficking-in-human-beings-coe-int/)

9. <https://rm.coe.int/guidance-note-on-addressing-the-risks-of-trafficking-in-human-beings-r/1680a663e2>

implemented quickly, without the need of legislative reforms or structural changes. It followed on previous work developed by GRETA, notably its Guidance note on the entitlement of victims of trafficking, and persons at risk of being trafficked, to international protection,¹⁰ and complemented recommendations issued by other international actors, such as the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating trafficking in Human Beings¹¹ and the European Commission.¹² As the purpose of this Guidance Note was to focus on preventive measures, it did not seek to be exhaustive and does not tackle questions related to, for example, access to justice for victims of trafficking. **The recommended actions are reproduced below, together with examples of how State Parties have reacted to prevent risks of trafficking and exploitation of Ukrainian refugees**, which were provided to GRETA during the country evaluation visits, round-table meetings and other events organised in 2022.

Registration and safe migration routes



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- ▶ **ALLOCATE** sufficient human, financial and material resources to ensure effectiveness and timeliness of the registration of all newly arrived people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.
- ▶ **ENSURE** registration of all people, including those who lack papers to prove their identity or last place of residence in Ukraine, in the first-entry country, and guarantee continuity of the registration system in transit and destination countries. When children are travelling with unrelated adults or there are doubts about the relationship between a child and the adult(s) accompanying them, the authorities responsible for the registration should interview the child separately and conduct the necessary checks.
- ▶ **COLLECT** all relevant information during the registration process, in line with privacy and data protection rules, notably contact details and place(s) of stay of the registered person, as well as his or her agreement to be contacted by national authorities at a later stage.
- ▶ **ASSESS** the vulnerabilities of people fleeing Ukraine at the earliest stage possible in the registration process through the use of indicators adapted to the current situation, taking into account that Ukraine remains a country of origin of victims of trafficking for different forms of exploitation.

10. GRETA issues Guidance Note on addressing the risks of trafficking in human beings related to the war in Ukraine and the ensuing humanitarian crisis - Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (coe.int)

11. Recommendations of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on the need to enhance anti-trafficking prevention amid mass migration flows | OSCE

12. EU Common Anti-Trafficking Plan to address the risks of trafficking related to the war in Ukraine, https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/anti-trafficking-plan-protect-people-fleeing-war-ukraine-2022-05-11_en

- ▶ With a view to preventing and deterring crimes, INCREASE the presence of trained law enforcement officials, including from specialised anti-trafficking units, at border crossing points, train and bus stations, as well as video-surveillance and identity checks.
- ▶ ESTABLISH official and safe travel routes for people seeking refuge, both when crossing borders and within the territory of the host countries, through proactive measures such as humanitarian corridors allowing safe and legal entry and transit, free-of-charge public transportation or state-funded transportation set up by trusted organisations.



In **Poland**, which has been the main country of arrival for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine, systematic registration of all individuals and organisations providing assistance to persons fleeing the war was put in place. The authorities have taken security measures at border crossing points, reception centres and other locations with high presence of persons fleeing the war in Ukraine, including reinforced border controls, presence or patrols of law enforcement officers in high-risk locations, as well as undercover police operations. Many volunteers received training, in particular from UNHCR and IOM, on risks of human trafficking targeting persons in need or seeking international protection.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, the authorities set up 120 centres to respond to the Ukrainian refugees' needs, and established 'Blue Dots', i.e. safe spaces along border crossings providing children and families with information and services, in co-operation with UNICEF and other organisations.

In **Austria**, welcome and registration centres were set up in Vienna, including at the main train station. The authorities, together with NGOs, provided information leaflets in Ukrainian with contact details to support provision.

In **Croatia**, the Ministry of the Interior conducted checks on people offering private houses to ensure that they do not have criminal records and are not potential perpetrators.

Immediate assistance and integration



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- ▶ PROMOTE safe practices by private individuals and organisations offering assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Good practices include the vetting and official registration of all volunteers, individuals, organisations and private companies offering and providing accommodation, transportation and/or work, as well as the promotion of safe staff recruitment (through identity check and interview of candidates) and codes of conduct.

- ▶ PROVIDE immediate cover of urgent and basic needs, such as food, water, housing, clothing and medical assistance, to all people fleeing the war in Ukraine, irrespective of their nationality.
- ▶ ENSURE sufficient public human, material, and financial resources so that the provision of immediate and long-term assistance does not rely mostly on private or non-governmental initiatives.
- ▶ PROVIDE ongoing advice and support to private individuals who host people fleeing the war in Ukraine.
- ▶ ENSURE that reception and accommodation centres are located in areas which are safe and accessible to relevant services, including health, social assistance and schools.
- ▶ PROVIDE legal status and residence permit without undue delay to all people entitled to international protection following the war in Ukraine.
- ▶ If a State decides not to grant international protection to non-Ukrainian citizens on the ground that they can return to their countries of origin, ENSURE due assessment of the possibilities for the effective, safe and durable return of the persons concerned.
- ▶ GUARANTEE the right to work and ensure work opportunities for people entitled to international protection. Set up job placement schemes, counselling and vocational training through labour and employment services, and encourage employers to recruit qualified workers among refugee population, enabling validation of their skills, educational and professional backgrounds.
- ▶ RAISE awareness among the private sector on what constitute acts of trafficking in human beings, the liability of legal entities in this regard, as well as how to establish safe methods of recruitment of people entitled to international protection.
- ▶ ENABLE easy and free access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health care, and psychological support, including to those who have been victims of sexual violence.
- ▶ PROMOTE integration by providing local language teaching, cultural and social inclusion, schooling and pre-school care for the children.
- ▶ DEVELOP coordinated plans with civil society for providing safe housing, food, psychological and medical assistance, social services, interpretation and provision of information on trafficked persons' rights, with particular attention in cases where children are involved.



In **the Netherlands**, the Directorate-General Programme Ukrainian Displaced Persons was set up within the Ministry of Justice and Security in April 2022 and placed in charge of policy coordination, support and planning for the reception of displaced persons from Ukraine. During the evaluation visit in October 2022, GRETA was informed that 35,000 Ukrainians had found work in the Netherlands.

In **Estonia**, the Government and the local authorities, in cooperation with civil society, developed measures to promote state-organised digital marketplace for matching refugees with employers and the organisation of job fairs at larger

refugee accommodation sites. Ukrainian refugees were offered to participate in the national adaptation programme. The Estonian Unemployment Fund organised information days for employers in order to offer workplaces for Ukrainian refugees.

In **Croatia**, the authorities reported in October 2022 that the accommodation needs of the Ukrainian refugees were fully met, both through collective, state-funded accommodation and private houses.

In **Bulgaria**, the authorities reported that they had successfully integrated 1,400 Ukrainian students into the national education system and had provided employment opportunities for approximately 3,400 individuals who had fled Ukraine after Russia's invasion. A solidarity fund subsidises jobs for them.

Information and awareness-raising



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- ▶ **INFORM** people fleeing the war in Ukraine about the risks of being trafficked for different forms of exploitation (sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, forced begging, forced criminality, organ removal, illegal adoption, abuse of surrogate motherhood...). The information should be provided at all different stages, including within Ukraine, at borders, during registration and in accommodation centres. Good practices include the dissemination of leaflets in different languages, including Ukrainian and Russian, with examples of suspicious practices, advice on the conduct to adopt and details of whom to contact.
- ▶ **DISSEMINATE** widely information on the requirements for obtaining protection status and the rights to assistance, through regular media channels, social media, specific websites and posters on locations where persons fleeing the war in Ukraine are present, such as border crossing points, schools, churches, markets, information and cultural centres, parks, public transport, etc.
- ▶ **PROVIDE** information on the national requirements for legal presence in the country to persons fleeing the war in Ukraine, including people who lost their ID while fleeing the war.
- ▶ **REINFORCE** existing hotlines and/or set up as a matter of urgency new contact points and helplines, available 24/7, where relevant information is provided and potential cases of trafficking and exploitation can be reported, including in Ukrainian and Russian.
- ▶ **PROVIDE** easily accessible information on labour rights and employment procedures in the host country, pointing out the importance of having an official employment contract drawn up in a language which can be easily understood by the employee.
- ▶ **ORGANISE** awareness-raising campaigns, both online (using social media, messaging services such as Viber and Telegram, and specialised websites) and offline (e.g. in public transportation and public places where people fleeing Ukraine may

see the information) on the risks of responding to false job offers. Special attention should be put on the method of job-fishing with targeted messages (via messaging services and social media) proposing well-paid part-time or home-based jobs.

- ▶ RAISE awareness of the general public on the risks of trafficking in human beings in the context of the war in Ukraine and the conduct people should adopt when suspecting a potential case of trafficking.



In **Poland**, measures were taken to alert persons fleeing the war in Ukraine, as well as the general public, on how to avoid human trafficking through posters and leaflets at border crossing points, reception centres, train stations and city halls, as well as through online information. Awareness-raising leaflets on human trafficking, with information on suspicious conducts and contact details of hotlines and email address, were produced and distributed by the Police, the Border Guard, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration La Strada Poland, A21, the University of Warsaw, as well as international organisations. Information alerts via SMS were also sent to all people crossing the border from Ukraine to Poland on potential threat of human trafficking and where to seek assistance.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, steps were taken to provide Ukrainians with information about their rights in the country, including access to services, through the operation of a number of hotlines, including on human trafficking.

In the **Czech Republic**, the Ministry of the Interior set up a hotline for Ukrainian citizens, while police intensified criminal intelligence operations, both offline and online. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs created leaflets for safe working conditions and employment, and issued information on ensuring the protection of children, including unaccompanied ones.

In the **Slovak Republic**, specific leaflets were developed for Ukrainian refugees and a Ukrainian speaking hotline was set up to provide information and advice. There was a concern that some Ukrainians may end up being exploited through bogus self-employment arrangements.

In **Estonia**, measures were taken to raise awareness among Ukrainian refugees, through the dissemination of leaflets with information on the risks of human trafficking and the organisation of information seminars at refugee centres and online sessions. Volunteers helping Ukrainian refugees received information on the risks of human trafficking and where to report suspected cases.

In **Sweden**, the government mandated the Swedish Migration Agency to provide all Ukrainian applicants for temporary protection with an introduction to Swedish society, including information on human trafficking, employment regulations, and laws on prostitution.

Detection of potential victims and traffickers



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- ▶ **ALLOCATE** additional human, financial and material resources to the relevant authorities (border guards, asylum officers, law enforcement officers, labour inspectors...) to strengthen their capacity to proactively detect exploitative situations and identify presumed trafficking victims among people who have fled the war in Ukraine. Provide them with specific training on the vulnerabilities and risks of people fleeing the war in Ukraine, red flags and indicators of human trafficking, and how to refer presumed victims to assistance and protection.
- ▶ **RAISE** awareness among all front-line responders and professionals involved in the registration, assistance and integration of people fleeing the war in Ukraine – in particular volunteers, hotel personnel, social workers, health-care staff, local officials, teachers – about the risks of trafficking in human beings and exploitation. Provide them with easy guidance, tools and indicators on how to detect potential victims of trafficking in human beings, notably among children, and how to react in such cases.
- ▶ **ENSURE** that the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is applied in all cases where presumed victims of trafficking are detected among persons fleeing the war in Ukraine.
- ▶ **INCREASE** targeted action by labour inspectors to monitor high-risk sectors (such as hospitality, agriculture, couriers, food delivery, cleaning, domestic care, car washes, massage studios), and locations where trafficking in human beings was previously detected. Proactively identify new potentially high-risk locations where exploitation of people fleeing the war in Ukraine might appear and boost inspections there.
- ▶ Systematically **MONITOR** the internet, using open-source intelligence and screening of job advertisements and sexual services websites, using various technological tools. Police officers and labour inspectorates should develop digital expertise and increase their online presence.
- ▶ **ESTABLISH** and disseminate information on safe channels for reporting potential cases of trafficking and exploitation. Ensure that workers who have not obtained temporary protection following the war in Ukraine can safely report abuse at the workplace without running the risk of being reported to the immigration authorities.



In **Poland**, the Law of 12 March 2022 on the Assistance to the Ukrainian Citizens in Connection with the Armed Conflict provided for, *inter alia*, a temporary increase in the sanctions for committing human trafficking.

In **Spain**, legislation adopted in March 2022 on urgent measures for dealing with the economic and social consequences of the war in Ukraine enabled the local authorities and specialised NGOs to grant the status of victim of trafficking to detected victims of sexual exploitation.

In **the Netherlands**, the authorities launched a website for refugees from Ukraine, which includes information on human trafficking.

In **Austria**, the specialised unit of the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation decided to employ female Ukrainian colleagues to assist with the identification of potential victims.

In the **Slovak Republic**, to prevent the exploitation of Ukrainians through bogus self-employment arrangements, a new training programme for Ukrainian students was launched.

Vulnerable groups



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- ▶ With a view to preventing the disappearance and abuse of children, ENSURE as a matter of urgency that all unaccompanied and separated children are registered and benefit immediately from effective protective care arrangements, including safe and specialised accommodation, with trained staff alerted to the risks of human trafficking. Ensure prompt and fluid exchange of information on missing children and develop joint protocols on children who go missing.
- ▶ In cases of uncertainty regarding the age of a person, CARRY OUT age assessment procedures which are respectful of children's rights in the context of migration and comply with international standards.¹³
- ▶ In case of unaccompanied or separated children, APPOINT a legal guardian systematically and promptly. Legal guardians should be informed, and to the extent possible, trained on the particular trauma and vulnerabilities affecting children from Ukraine.
- ▶ GUARANTEE that children have access to health care and psychological support, as well as access to education, vocational training, legal assistance and interpretation.
- ▶ CREATE online and offline child-friendly materials to inform children about the risks of trafficking, including recruitment and exploitation online, and to help them develop skills in identifying and avoiding risks, learning how to protect themselves, where to get support and report abuse. Take steps to prevent online recruitment of children, including by co-operating with Internet service providers. Good examples include providing training on online safety to children, parents and teachers, developing an interactive portal which contains practical advice, and active partnership with Safer Internet Centres in the State Parties where such centres are operational. Reference is made in this context to the checklist issued by the Lanzarote Committee on protection of children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and abuse.¹⁴

13. <https://rm.coe.int/ageassessmentchildrenmigration/168099529f>

14. <https://rm.coe.int/checklist-protection-of-children-affected-by-the-refugee-crisis-from-s/1680a62d04>

- ▶ ENSURE that the registration process is undertaken in a gender- and age-sensitive manner. To the extent possible, States Parties should increase the presence of female border guard officers, asylum officials, police officers, social workers and interpreters.
- ▶ PROVIDE gender-sensitive housing in state-organised accommodation or in partnership with private entities which have been carefully vetted. Sleeping and sanitation areas for single women (with or without children) must be separated from men, and the entry to and surroundings of women shelters should be secured.
- ▶ OFFER assistance and protection to surrogate mothers having fled Ukraine and hosted in countries where surrogacy is not legal, including access to health care and housing. States Parties should take measures to ensure that the impossibility to register the surrogate parents in the children's birth certificate does not lead to unsafe deliveries and trafficking of new-born babies.
- ▶ ENSURE that registration, housing, assistance and protection are provided to all people fleeing the war in Ukraine without discrimination, irrespective of their nationality or of being stateless. States Parties should increase the monitoring of possible acts of discrimination and racism against non-Ukrainian nationals and members of ethnic minorities fleeing Ukraine.
- ▶ PROVIDE immediate assistance, including appropriate housing and medical care, to elderly people and persons with disabilities, to prevent them from falling victim to trafficking and exploitation.



In **Poland**, a helpline for children and young persons from Ukraine, operated by psychologists, was opened in June 2022 in co-operation with the NGO Empowering Children Foundation. Amendments to the Law on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in Connection with the Armed

Conflict on the Territory of Ukraine have allowed for the creation of a register of unaccompanied or separated children from Ukraine.

In **the Slovak Republic**, a team of 20 persons from the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Roma Community was present at the border with Ukraine in order to meet the Roma refugees and provide assistance to them.

In **Croatia**, the authorities reported in October 2022 that an information sheet and protocol were developed to provide guidance in dealing with unaccompanied children. The protocol describes the steps to be taken in different situations and is helpful in dealing with the new influx of unaccompanied children originating from Ukraine.

Co-operation and co-ordination



RECOMMENDED ACTION

- ▶ ESTABLISH channels for rapid exchange of information and co-ordination between public agencies, NGOs, private companies and international organisations. Good examples include the designation of contact points in each stakeholder on the managing of the humanitarian crisis and the risks of trafficking in human beings.
- ▶ SET UP a multi-disciplinary taskforce (working group) to plan and implement co-ordinated measures to facilitate the provision of assistance to people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine and prevent their exploitation. It should include representatives of relevant ministries, regional authorities, law enforcement agencies, labour inspectorates, employers' organisations, trade unions, civil society organisations and relevant international organisations.
- ▶ SET UP partnerships with existing Ukrainian diaspora (communities) in the country and involve them in communication with persons fleeing the war in Ukraine, the provision of assistance and integration.
- ▶ COLLABORATE with private employers and HR/Job Online platforms for systematic monitoring of job advertisements, especially through the Internet.
- ▶ COLLECT disaggregated data on people who entered the country as a consequence of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, and people who were granted international protection.
- ▶ COLLECT disaggregated data on presumed and identified victims of trafficking in human beings among persons fleeing the war in Ukraine, as well cases investigated and prosecuted as human trafficking.
- ▶ MONITOR and COUNTERACT misinformation on the possible negative consequences of registering for international protection and access to assistance such as housing, employment, social welfare, etc.



In **the Netherlands**, the Government set up a specific Directorate General Ukraine within the Ministry of Justice and Security to deal with policy coordination, support and planning of the reception of displaced persons from Ukraine.

In **Latvia**, a Permanent Ukrainian Crisis Management Working Group was set up to deal with the reception, accommodation and support of Ukrainian refugees arriving across the border with the Russian Federation.

49. In the course of 2022, GRETA and its Secretariat participated in numerous meetings and events at which they promoted the Guidance Note, and also gave a number of media interviews. A webinar on "Addressing the risks of human trafficking related to the war in Ukraine – what responses are needed?", was organised by the Council of Europe, the Freedom Fund and La Strada International on 25 May 2022. A GRETA

member was involved in the visits of the Secretary General's Special Representative for Migration and Refugees to several countries neighbouring Ukraine (see paragraph 83). GRETA's Secretariat has also been involved in the Ukraine Refugee Response Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force, which brings together a range of international organisations and civil society organisations with the aim of sharing information and having a co-ordinated response.

50. GRETA also refers to the work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which issued a recommendation on 23 April 2022, calling on the Committee of Ministers to establish, without delay, a package of immediate assistance measures in response to the needs expressed by the Ukrainian authorities, also taking into account several priorities, among which addressing the needs of those who are in a situation of vulnerability, including potential or actual victims of trafficking.¹⁵ The related resolution called on member States to raise awareness, amongst persons fleeing Ukraine, of the risks relating to trafficking and exploitation; to take firm action notably through the civil society actors to prevent and punish trafficking and exploitation and protect victims; and to set up assistance and protection programmes to cater for the needs of separated children and unaccompanied children. In June 2022, PACE adopted a report and resolution on the "Humanitarian consequences and internal and external migration in connection with the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine".¹⁶

51. Further, on 8 July 2022, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights published a memorandum on the human rights consequences of the war in Ukraine, following her country visits to Moldova, Poland, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Romania as well as Ukraine between March and May 2022.¹⁷ It noted that efforts should be strengthened to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, in line with the recommendations of GRETA, and called for better identification and registration of unaccompanied and separated children, family tracing and reunification procedures, enhanced capacities of safe places for children, and strengthened referral and guardianship procedures.

52. During its country visits in 2022, GRETA has been collecting information on steps taken to prevent and limit the risks of trafficking of Ukrainian refugees, as well as on any detected cases. Such information was also collected during the round-table meetings organised as a follow-up to GRETA's reports (see paragraph 35). Further, the meeting of National Anti-trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs, co-organised by the Council of Europe and the OSCE in June 2022, provided a forum for sharing information on the steps taken by states to prevent and detect trafficking of Ukrainian refugees (see paragraph 69).

53. The number of confirmed cases of human trafficking in relation to the war on Ukraine has remained low, which may be a sign of success of the early preventive

15. [Consequences of the Russian Federation's continued aggression against Ukraine: role and response of the Council of Europe](#): PACE recommendation 2228 (2022) adopted on 23 April 2022

16. [Humanitarian consequences and internal and external migration in connection with the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine](#): PACE report Doc. 15547 and resolution 2448, 22 June 2022

17. <https://rm.coe.int/memorandum-on-the-human-rights-consequences-of-the-war-in-ukraine/1680a72bd4>

measures taken to protect Ukrainian refugees and mitigate the risks of trafficking. The level of awareness-raising on trafficking related to the war in Ukraine is very high compared to other humanitarian crises. At the time of GRETA's visit to **Poland** in June 2022, no victims of human trafficking had been identified among persons fleeing the war in Ukraine, but four suspected cases had been detected. One case of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation of two Ukrainian girls was confirmed following an investigation and the proceedings were ongoing. In **the Netherlands**, during GRETA's visit in October 2022, the Police and the Royal Marechaussee reported that they had started six investigations into possible cases of trafficking (five concerning sexual exploitation and one case of fraud which may also involve exploitation). In **Sweden**, during GRETA's visit at the end of October 2022, the authorities informed GRETA that there were some 40 cases of suspected human trafficking of Ukrainian refugees, primarily related to the cleaning industry and farming, however, after investigations, no victims of trafficking were identified. In **Austria**, while no cases of trafficking amongst Ukrainian refugees had been identified by May 2022, there was a particular concern over possible "sex for rent" arrangements that are targeting Ukrainian women online.

54. Trafficking in human beings has always been considered as an "invisible crime" and the use of new technologies to facilitate trafficking makes it even more difficult to detect. The social and economic vulnerabilities of the millions of people affected by the war in Ukraine are likely to increase as time goes on. That is why coordinated action and rapid exchange of information at national and international level are crucial to prevent trafficking, detect potential victims, and investigate and prosecute any detected cases. GRETA will continue to monitor the situation and collect relevant information.



Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation

55. Human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation is on the rise in Europe, affecting an increasing number of women, men and children. In November 2019, the Secretary General presented to the Committee of Ministers a “Roadmap on strengthening action against trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation”.¹⁸ In accordance with this Roadmap, GRETA adopted, in September 2020, a Compendium of good practices in the area of combating human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.¹⁹ The compendium served as a basis for the elaboration of a Guidance Note on preventing and combating human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, which GRETA adopted in November 2020.²⁰

56. GRETA’s Guidance Note demonstrated the need to supplement the existing legally binding instruments (in particular, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) with a Committee of Ministers

18. [SG/Inf\(2019\)34](#) and [SG\(2020\)29](#).

19. <https://rm.coe.int/mpendium-of-good-practices-in-addressing-trafficking-in-human-beings-f/16809f9bef>

20. <https://rm.coe.int/guidance-note-on-preventing-and-combating-trafficking-in-human-beings-/1680a1060c>

recommendation to all member states which codifies the necessary guidance. In April 2021, the Committee of Ministers decided to set up the Drafting Committee on Trafficking for the Purpose of Labour Exploitation (DH-TET), under the authority of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), to prepare a draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation. DH-TET held four meetings (two in the autumn of 2021 and two in February and April 2022). GRETA and its Secretariat participated in these meetings and were actively involved in the drafting process entrusted to DH-TET.

57. On 27 September 2022, the Committee of Ministers adopted **Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)21 to member States on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation**.²¹ It draws on the monitoring work and guidance of GRETA, the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, and the conclusions and decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights.

58. The recommendation acknowledges that trafficking for labour exploitation is facilitated by, among other things, armed conflicts resulting in displacement of people, failure to uphold economic and social human rights, and lack of effective labour market regulations and inspection mechanisms. It calls on member states to adopt national laws, policies and strategies which address trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, following a human rights-based and victim-centred approach. They should be supported by adequate funding to ensure their implementation, and co-ordinated, monitored and evaluated by specific mechanisms. The purpose of these policies should be to prevent human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, to protect the rights of victims and guarantee their access to effective remedies, including compensation, to punish those responsible for the offences, and to promote international and multi-agency co-operation and co-ordination. They should also ensure that businesses and public organisations act with due diligence, and map and tackle the risks of human trafficking in their supply chains and procurement. The implementation of the recommendation will be examined, within the Committee of Ministers, in co-operation with other relevant bodies of the Council of Europe and with the participation of relevant stakeholders, no later than five years after its adoption, taking into account prior national assessments.

59. The recommendation has an **Explanatory memorandum** which details the necessary action.²² It contains a comprehensive package of measures, starting with **prevention**, which includes awareness raising, targeted information to migrant workers on their rights, and labour market regulation. The extension of the scope of labour protection over all sectors of the economy, including domestic work, unregulated sectors, the informal economy and undocumented workers, is essential for protecting vulnerable workers from exploitation. The right of workers to unionise and the right to collective bargaining are also important for the prevention of labour trafficking. The role of labour inspectorates is critical, and they should be provided with a comprehensive mandate, training and sufficient human and financial resources to enable them to be regularly and proactively present in all economic

21. https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=0900001680a83df4

22. Explanatory Memorandum [CM\(2022\)141-add5final](#)

sectors. Further, member States should regulate and monitor employment and recruitment agencies, and scrutinise potentially irregular labour market practices. Another prevention measure is the availability of pathways for regular migration, so that labour migrants can take up employment legally and have decent working conditions with full respect of established economic and social rights.

60. In the area of **protection of the rights of victims**, the Explanatory memorandum stresses that member States should reinforce and prioritise the detection of cases of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation and the identification of victims. They should thus establish safe reporting and effective complaint mechanisms, concrete possibilities of regularisation of the trafficked person's residence status and access to the labour market, and their realistic chance of receiving compensation and back pay. Furthermore, the provision of adequate support services, legal assistance, and a realistic chance of receiving compensation and back pay, are key for empowering victims.

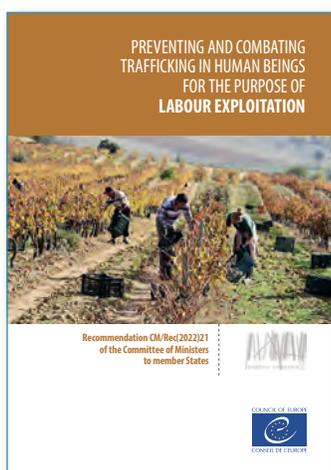
61. The Explanatory memorandum acknowledges that there are difficulties in distinguishing between labour law violations and human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation and, as a result, victims of human trafficking are often not recognised as such, while perpetrators are not prosecuted or/are acquitted. Member States are therefore asked to **define the parameters of the concept of labour exploitation through either law or guidance**, in order to avoid inconsistency of interpretation and legal uncertainty. They should adopt country-specific guidelines on the interpretation and application of labour exploitation in the context of human trafficking, which explain how failures to tackle labour law breaches can create labour exploitation offences. Member States should also consider adopting a specific protocol on the investigation of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, to be deployed in order to gather all necessary evidence, using special investigative techniques in order to avoid reliance on trafficked persons' evidence. Investigations of human trafficking offences should be systematically accompanied by financial investigations, in particular where companies are involved. The collection of evidence should facilitate the qualification of cases as human trafficking rather than other offences which carry lighter penalties and may deprive trafficked persons from access to protection, compensation and other remedies.

62. Member States should also ensure that the authorities responsible for investigating trafficking cases are adequately resourced and that relevant professionals are trained on the specificities of trafficking for labour exploitation and its modalities, and are equipped with the right tools to prevent, identify and combat the phenomenon. The establishment of specialised units within the police and Prosecutor's Office, as well as specialisation amongst judges, enables the acquisition of experience and knowledge, and contributes to a higher prosecution and conviction rate. In view of the increase in cases of recruitment through the Internet and social networks, labour inspectorates should develop digital expertise, increase their online presence and perform frequent controls on job advertisement websites. Training on electronic evidence should be made integral to the training curricula of law enforcement officers.

63. In addition, member States should provide **guidance and tools for businesses** on how to lower the risk of being involved, directly or indirectly, in trafficking for

labour exploitation, ensure that they undertake due diligence throughout their supply chains and remain particularly vigilant when operating in sectors known for exploitative practices. Member States should apply such measures as may be necessary, including legislation, requiring businesses domiciled within their jurisdiction to apply human rights due diligence throughout their operations and supply chains, comprising obligations to report publicly about measures taken to reduce the risks of human trafficking. This should include control mechanisms, such as an early warning system, a monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of measures. The legal framework for corporate liability should be effectively applied in practice in cases of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. Member States should also work with financial institutions to raise awareness of how such institutions can develop and use leverage to influence business clients and suppliers to comply, where the risk of forced labour and trafficking exists. Finally, member States should be transparent about their own procurement policies and ensure that they themselves do not contribute to exploitative practices.

64. Through its activities, GRETA intends to promote the implementation of the new Committee of Ministers recommendation, which is also very relevant in the context of the humanitarian crisis provoked by the war in Ukraine.



A booklet presenting the Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)21 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation and its explanatory memorandum is available online in several languages.

BOS - BUL - ENG - FRA - POL - GEO - MKD - SRP

Download the booklet:

<https://bit.ly/CM-REC-2022-21>





Meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs, Vienna, Austria, 13-14 June 2022

Meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs

65. On 13-14 June 2022, the Council of Europe and the OSCE organised jointly, for the fifth consecutive year, a meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs. Representatives from 58 countries (Council of Europe member States and OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation) participated in the meeting that took place in Vienna. GRETA was represented by its President and First Vice-President.

66. During the first session, the panellists presented policy developments to combat technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings, given the growing influence information and communication technology (ICT) has had on the crime of trafficking in the last decade. The OSCE presented the report “Policy responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings: Analysis of current approaches and considerations for moving forward”,²³ which provides an analysis of how technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings has been approached from the perspective of policy and legislation across the OSCE participating States. GRETA’s study on “Online and technology facilitated trafficking in human beings”²⁴ was also presented. It explores operational and legal challenges that States and NGOs face in detecting, investigating and prosecuting online and ICT-facilitated human trafficking, and offers evidence-based recommendations to help States adapt and equip their law

23. <https://www.osce.org/cthb/514141>

24. <https://rm.coe.int/online-and-technology-facilitated-trafficking-in-human-beings-summary-/1680a5e10c>

enforcement agencies and criminal justice systems with capabilities in step with this changing environment. The European Commission presented a recently proposed EU legislation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse online²⁵, which aimed at improving detection, reporting and removal of child sexual abuse by establishing uniform obligations for all providers, setting a new EU Centre on Child Sexual Abuse and co-ordinating authorities to ensure application and enforcement, as well as enhancing victim support.

67. Furthermore, participants discussed ways to enhance and sustain anti-trafficking capacity building efforts at national level. They mapped existing and planned capacity building initiatives in their countries, and shared good practices in this respect. Discussions also focused on strategies that States can implement to identify needs and opportunities within current training curricula related to trafficking in human beings, as well as to better evaluate the impact of training programmes conducted for various anti-trafficking stakeholders.

68. Another session focused on the progress of national anti-trafficking efforts and current trends, with presentations on the Survey Report 2021 of Efforts to Implement OSCE Commitments and Recommended Actions to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings²⁶ and GRETA's main findings from the second evaluation round of the Convention, published in GRETA's ninth annual report.²⁷

69. The final session was dedicated to actions undertaken and needed to prevent and mitigate the risks of trafficking stemming from the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. It included presentations from several countries (Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Latvia, Moldova, Norway, Ukraine and United States), as well as by representatives of GRETA, the OSCE and the European Commission (see Chapter V).

25. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_2976

26. <https://www.osce.org/cthb/522934>

27. <https://rm.coe.int/9th-general-report-on-the-activities-of-greta-covering-the-period-from/16809e169e>



30th Meeting of the Committee of the Parties, Strasbourg, France, 17 June 2022

Relations with the Committee of the Parties

70. GRETA and the Committee of the Parties represent the two pillars of the monitoring system set up by the Convention. According to Article 38, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the Committee of the Parties may adopt, on the basis of GRETA's reports and conclusions, recommendations addressed to the Parties concerning the measures to be taken to implement GRETA's conclusions, if necessary, setting a date for submitting information on their implementation, and aiming at promoting co-operation with the Party concerned for the proper implementation of the Convention. GRETA recalls that the purpose of this provision of the Convention is to strengthen the implementation of GRETA's conclusions.

71. The Committee of the Parties has continued to hold regular exchanges with the President of GRETA. Such exchanges are an opportunity to present GRETA's ongoing work, highlight the main findings from country evaluations, and clarify the content of certain substantive obligations under the Convention.

72. At its 30th meeting (17 June 2022), the Committee of the Parties considered six GRETA reports and adopted recommendations addressed to the Governments of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Latvia, Norway and Portugal, based on GRETA's third round evaluation reports. At its 31st meeting (25 November 2022), the Committee of the Parties considered GRETA's reports on Belarus (second evaluation round) and Belgium, Ireland and Luxembourg (third evaluation round), and adopted recommendations on the basis of these reports to the governments of the countries concerned.



Exchange of views with judges from the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France, 17 November 2022

Co-operation with Council of Europe bodies

European Court of Human Rights

73. GRETA's monitoring of the implementation of the Convention contributes to preventing violations of the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 4 of which includes within its scope trafficking in human beings, as confirmed by the European Court of Human Rights. A growing corpus of the Court's judgments related to different articles of the European Convention on Human Rights refer to GRETA's reports.

74. At its 46th meeting (14-18 November 2022), GRETA held an exchange of views with Mr Davor Derenčinović and Ms Ivana Jelić, judges in the European Court of Human Rights, as well as Mr Kresimir Kamber, lawyer in the Registry of the Court. They presented recent case-law of the Court relevant to GRETA's work, in particular, *Zoletic and Others v. Azerbaijan* (no. 20116/12, 7 October 2021) and *Darboe and Camara v. Italy* (no. 5797/17, 21 July 2022) explaining the importance of these judgments and the implications for the fight against human trafficking.

75. The discussion focused on the scope of the procedural obligations of the Contracting Parties to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) to investigate human trafficking cases and to cooperate with other countries in that context. Referring to relevant case law of the Court,²⁸ the judges confirmed the existence of procedural obligations to investigate human trafficking cases and to cooperate with

28. *El-Masri v. the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* ([GC], no. 39630/09, ECHR 2012); *Rantsev v. Cyprus and Russia* (no. 25965/04, paragraphs 272-82, ECHR 2010), and *Zoletic and Others v. Azerbaijan*.

other countries during such investigations. That obligation is of the means, but not of the result. It was noted that Article 4 of the ECHR however does not require States to provide for universal jurisdiction over trafficking offences committed abroad.²⁹

76. Another point of discussion concerned the issue of compensation for victims of trafficking and whether Article 4 of the ECHR imposes an obligation to guarantee compensation for damages sustained by victims. Participants discussed whether the Court's finding in *Choudury and Others v. Greece*³⁰ that positive obligations under Article 4 of the Convention must be construed in the light of the Council of Europe's Anti-Trafficking Convention may be relevant to the issue of compensation. The margin of appreciation of Contracting Parties in deciding on how the system of compensation should be organised at the domestic level was also discussed.

77. Further, the exchange focused on whether suspended or excessively light sentences for human trafficking offences are compatible with the requirements of Article 4 of the ECHR. The representatives of the Court recalled that the criminal policy and sentencing are prerogatives of the domestic authorities and the courts. However, in some cases there may be an issue under Article 4 of the ECHR. Although no such cases under Article 4 have been examined yet, the judgment in *Smiljanić v. Croatia* (no. 35983/14, 25 March 2021) may be relevant. In that case a violation of Article 2 of the ECHR was found on account of ineffective implementation of road traffic regulations and judicial system response to repeat offender who caused a fatal collision. The offender in that case, who killed the applicant's relative in a road traffic collision, was convicted and sentenced to a period of imprisonment of two years, of which he served only some fourteen months. That punishment was criticised by the Court.

78. GRETA members also raised the question of the application of the interim measures by the Court in respect to the applicants who faced a risk of being removed to a country where they could be re-trafficked. The representatives of the Court explained their general approach to such requests. Owing to the confidential character of the information, they were not in the position to provide GRETA with the detailed information on interim measures in THB cases.

79. On 9 December 2022, GRETA requested the Court to be granted leave to submit written comments concerning application no. 22512/21 (*T.V. v. Spain*), pursuant to Rule 44 § 3 of the Rules of Court. The case was communicated to the Spanish Government on 23 August 2022.

Other Council of Europe bodies

80. As noted in paragraph 8, at its 43rd meeting, GRETA held an exchange of views with Ms Dunja Mijatovic, **Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**. Ms Mijatovic stated that prevention of human trafficking was an important focus of her work and that she used GRETA's evaluation reports to raise issues and advocate for improvements. The Human Rights Commissioner noted that the COVID-19 pandemic

29. *J. and Others v. Austria*, no. 58216/12, paragraph 114, 17 January 2017.

30. *Choudury and Others v. Greece*, no. 21884/15, paragraph 104, 30 March 2017.



At its 43rd meeting, GRETA held an exchange of views with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Dunja Mijatovic

and the war in Ukraine had increased vulnerabilities to human trafficking. She referred to her visits to member States bordering Ukraine (Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia) as well as the Czech Republic, and highlighted the overwhelming solidarity with refugees from Ukraine. While acknowledging the commendable action taken by officials and NGOs, the Commissioner stressed the need for more co-ordination between member States, in particular on registration of refugees and assistance to vulnerable individuals. In this respect, she acknowledged the importance of the statements issued by GRETA and the Lanzarote Committee.

81. Replying to questions about child refugees from Ukraine, Ms Mijatovic stressed the importance of timely registration of all unaccompanied children and their inclusion in the child protection systems. She referred to her meeting with the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, during which she had discussed, *inter alia*, the protection of children and difficulties in obtaining information about the situation in areas of Ukraine under the *de facto* control of Russia. Turning to the situation at the Belarus-Polish border, Ms Mijatovic expressed concern at the arrest by the Polish authorities of four activists providing humanitarian aid to migrants at the border, continued reports of push-backs of vulnerable migrants, and very limited access for NGOs and journalists to the border zone. Finally, she mentioned the continued attention paid by her office to the protection of Roma children from trafficking, including forced marriage and forced criminality.

82. Further, at its 44th meeting, GRETA held an exchange of views with Mr Jan Hero and Ms Mabera Kamberi, respectively Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe **Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM)**, as well as Ms Petra Neumann, Secretary of ADI-ROM. Mr Hero informed GRETA about the activities of ADI-ROM, which was set up in 2020 by the Committee of Ministers as the successor to CAHROM (Ad hoc Committee on Roma and Traveller Issues) to steer the Council of Europe's intergovernmental work toward protection and promotion of the human rights of Roma and Travellers and their inclusion and active participation in society. Mr Hero noted that Roma communities had become more vulnerable to human trafficking as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Statelessness, lack of identification documents and discrimination are among other factors which contribute to their vulnerability to human trafficking. Mr Hero informed GRETA of the draft recommendation on the equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls

which was being prepared by a working group of ADI-ROM. He noted that insufficient access to justice, including unavailability of interpretation, affects Roma communities disproportionately. Further, he stressed the need to establish co-operation between different stakeholders and noted as a positive example the presence of Romani translators at the Slovakian border with Ukraine, which facilitated the reception of Roma refugees from this country. Nevertheless, he referred to problems faced by Roma persons from Ukraine who have dual Ukrainian and Hungarian citizenship when it comes to receiving assistance in other EU countries. Replying to a question whether the prosecution of parents of Roma children involved in forced begging is in the best interests of the children, Mr Hero stated that there is a need to put more focus on Roma families and help them get out of undignified situations. Ms Kamberi referred to a conference on Roma women organised in North Macedonia in November 2021, which included the topic of human trafficking, and plans to organise another conference in Skopje during North Macedonia's chairmanship of the OSCE in 2023.

83. GRETA and its Secretariat have also maintained contacts with the **Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Migration and Refugees**, Ms Leyla Kayacik, in the context of her activities and in particular the preparation of her country visits and reports. In order to address issues relating to trafficking in human beings, Ms Ia Dadunashvili, member of GRETA, accompanied the SRSG on her visits to countries receiving important numbers of Ukrainian refugees after the Russian military aggression, namely to the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic on 2-6 May 2022, and to Moldova on 13-15 June 2022. The SRSG has published reports of her visits to the Czech Republic,³¹ the Slovak Republic,³² Moldova³³ and Poland³⁴ which include sections on trafficking in human beings.

84. Further, the Executive Secretary of the Convention participated in the 6th meeting of the **Network of Focal Point on Migration**,³⁵ organised by the Special Representative on Migration and Refugees on 1-2 December in Strasbourg.

85. GRETA has maintained contacts with the **Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe** on matters of common interest, in particular with the Sub-Committee on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (MIG). A report and resolution on the "Humanitarian consequences and internal and external migration in connection with the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine" were adopted at the PACE summer plenary (20-24 June 2022).³⁶ GRETA's Secretariat was consulted in the drafting process. Further, on the occasion of the European Day against Trafficking, 18 October, the Chair of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced

31. <https://rm.coe.int/report-of-the-fact-finding-mission-to-the-czech-republic/1680a72648>

32. <https://rm.coe.int/report-of-the-fact-finding-mission-to-the-slovak-republic/1680a72646>

33. <https://rm.coe.int/report-of-the-fact-finding-mission-to-the-republic-of-moldova-by-ms-le/1680a818de>

34. <https://rm.coe.int/report-of-the-fact-finding-mission-to-poland-by-ms-leyla-kayacik-speci/1680a7acc9>

35. [Network of Focal Points on Migration - Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees \(coe.int\)](https://rm.coe.int/report-of-the-fact-finding-mission-to-poland-by-ms-leyla-kayacik-speci/1680a7acc9)

36. [Humanitarian consequences and internal and external migration in connection with the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine: PACE report Doc. 15547 and resolution 2448, 22 June 2022](https://rm.coe.int/report-of-the-fact-finding-mission-to-poland-by-ms-leyla-kayacik-speci/1680a7acc9)

Persons issued a statement highlighting the risks of human trafficking and recalling the importance of safe pathways for migration, which refers to GRETA's work.³⁷

86. The President of GRETA and the Executive Secretary participated in a thematic session on money laundering and human trafficking organised by **MONEYVAL** during its 64th plenary meeting (7-9 December 2022) in Strasbourg. GRETA's President noted that trafficking in human beings is very often linked with criminal groups that make use of money laundering to conceal their profits. For this reason, it is of crucial importance to confiscate or otherwise deprive offenders from the proceeds of human trafficking offences, and use them to compensate victims directly or through a victim compensation fund. GRETA's reports contain information of the use of financial investigations to intercept criminal assets generated by human trafficking, their seizure and confiscation, and subsequent use to the benefit of victims of trafficking. GRETA's President also referred to the new Committee of Ministers Recommendation on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, which is relevant in this respect. Its Explanatory memorandum states that member States should work with financial institutions within their jurisdiction to raise awareness of how such institutions, providing banking, insurance, and managing loan investment and investment in employee pensions schemes, can develop and use leverage to influence business clients and suppliers to comply, where the risk of forced labour and trafficking exists. During the thematic session, Mr Daniel Thelesklaf, presented the Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST) Project, which works to mobilize the financial sector against modern slavery and human trafficking. He underlined the need for the national risk assessment to include human trafficking, since it is a significant crime with major human rights consequences. FAST has been organising financial sector roundtables which produce typologies and red flag indicators related to human trafficking, and in some countries this has led to an increase in suspicious transaction reports.

37. [European Anti-trafficking Day: 'our legal obligation to prevent exploitation or abuse' \(coe.int\)](https://coe.int)



Co-operation with other intergovernmental organisations

87. Co-operation, strong partnerships and co-ordinated action are the keys to the success of anti-trafficking action. GRETA has continued developing links and forging partnerships with international organisations active in the area of combating trafficking in human beings. The country evaluation visits were an opportunity to meet representatives of international organisations present in the respective countries (Council of Baltic Sea States, ICMPD, ILO, IOM, OSCE, UNHCR, UNICEF). Further, members of GRETA and the Secretariat participated in events organised by other international organisations, at which they presented the Convention and GRETA's work (see Appendix 8).

United Nations

88. At its 44th meeting, GRETA held an exchange of views with Ms Siobhán Mullally, **UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children**. Ms Mullally underlined the importance of GRETA's work for her mandate. She welcomed the publication of GRETA's Guidance Note on addressing the risks of trafficking in human beings related to the war in Ukraine, and stressed the importance of the situation being assessed by GRETA in its monitoring reports. Further, the UN Special Rapporteur referred to her report on the intersections between trafficking and terrorism, published in August 2021, and the third-party intervention she had made before the European Court of Human Rights in the cases of *H.F. and*

M.F. v. France and *J.D. and A.D. v. France*,³⁸ concerning the refusal to repatriate from North-East Syria children who could be victims of trafficking. In relation to trafficking and migration, she referred to a letter she had recently sent to the British authorities regarding the plan to transfer asylum seekers to Rwanda and her third party intervention before the Court in the case of *K.N. v. the United Kingdom*.³⁹ She also referred to her recent report on trafficking in persons in the agriculture sector, as well as her forthcoming report on trafficking of persons in the context of climate change. Finally, the Special Rapporteur informed GRETA of her recent country visits in Tajikistan, and her plans to visit Bangladesh, South Sudan and Colombia, and underlined the importance of not overlapping with GRETA's geographical coverage.

89. The ensuring discussion focused on the challenges in relation to identifying and protecting victims of human trafficking among migrants and asylum seekers, the links between terrorism and human trafficking, the implications of the war in Ukraine for human trafficking, and the application of the non-punishment provision. The Special Rapporteur highlighted the importance of establishing safe route to migration. She mentioned exchanges of views with the International Criminal Court and the UN Commission on Libya. While the mandate has not been able to conduct a country visit in Libya yet, due to the lack of cooperation of the Libyan authorities, she stressed that the fact-finding mission on Libya established by OHCHR is focusing among other things on human trafficking. As regards the identification of victims of trafficking among persons fleeing the war in Ukraine, the Special Rapporteur underlined that the EU temporary protection directive had allowed to establish safe route for migration and to mitigate the risks of trafficking, but limited capacities and the lack of attention to other situations of potential trafficking raise concern and there is a need to monitor the situation closely.

90. GRETA was represented at a number of events organised by UN institutions during the reporting period. For example, Mr Francesco Curcio participated in the Regional Expert Group Meeting: "Financial investigations and asset recovery for trafficking in persons, including compensation on victims, in the South Eastern Europe", organised by the **UNODC** on 2 March 2022. Ms Ia Dadunashvili spoke at the Regional Workshop on "Enhancing response to trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls for sexual exploitation, through cross-border criminal justice cooperation in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia", organised by the UNODC on 17 March 2022. Ms Julia Planitzer and the Executive Secretary of the Convention participated in the Regional Conference on "Improving response to trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation, especially women and girls, through addressing demand in South-Eastern Europe", organised by the UNODC, in collaboration with Croatia, France and Sweden, on 11-12 May 2022. The Executive Secretary also made a presentation at the Regional Expert Group Meeting: "Countering Labour Exploitation in Trafficking in Persons, Focusing on Due Diligence in Supply Chains in South-Eastern Europe", organised by the UNODC on 5-6 October 2022.

38. [Submission by the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in the Cases of H.F. and M.F. v. France \(App. No. 24384/19\) and J.D. and A.D. v. France \(App. No. 44234/20\) before the European Court of Human Rights.](#) by Siobhan Mullally: SSRN.

39. *K.N. v. the United Kingdom* (application no. 28774/22)

91. Since April 2022, GRETA's Secretariat has been contributing to the efforts of the Task Force on Trafficking in Persons under the Regional Protection Working Group on the Ukraine situation established by UNHCR, IOM and UNODC.

Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)

92. The Council of Europe is a partner of the Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). GRETA's Secretariat continues to be involved in ICAT Working Group meetings, which in 2022 were co-chaired by the OSCE and UN Women, and has contributed to the preparation of issue briefs, ensuring that the Convention's standards and GRETA's work are duly reflected. The Executive Secretary also participated in the ICAT Principal Level Meeting on 2 December 2022, held online.

93. GRETA's Secretariat participates in the Policy Support Group on trafficking in persons in the context of the Ukraine crisis, set up by ICAT in April 2022, which meets periodically online to exchange information and coordinate actions.

OSCE/ODIHR

94. Action against trafficking in human beings has been one of the four priority areas of co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. Pursuant to the agreement reached at a meeting held in June 2010 in Paris, co-operation between the Council of Europe and OSCE in the field of action against trafficking in human beings focuses on awareness raising and advocacy, capacity building and assistance to governmental and non-governmental actors, and conducting assessments and monitoring and providing recommendations. The OSCE has observer status with the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention.

95. As noted above, the Council of Europe and the OSCE organised jointly a meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs, held on 13-14 June 2022 (see paragraphs 65-69).

96. Members of GRETA and representatives of the Council of Europe Secretariat regularly participate in conferences and other events organised by the OSCE. Such exchange contributes to sharing mutual expertise, informing research and policy development and enhances alignment and synergy. By way of example, a member of GRETA, Mr Kevin Hyland, participated as a panellist, while the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Head of the Anti-trafficking Division of the Council of Europe served as a moderator at the OSCE 22nd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons "Protection: upholding victims' rights and strengthening assistance" held on 4-6 April 2022 in Vienna and via teleconference.

97. During country evaluation visits, GRETA delegations meet representatives of local offices of the OSCE (where they have Field Operations and anti-trafficking Focal Points) and benefit from their presence on the ground to complete the collection of information necessary for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe

Convention. This co-ordination also enables the organisations to identify areas for joint initiatives and collaboration.

98. Besides a bilateral format, co-operation with the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings continues to develop in the framework of the OSCE Alliance Expert Coordination Team (AECT), as well as the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group against trafficking in persons (ICAT). The Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention participated in the AECT meetings and ICAT Working Group meeting.

European Union

99. The public consultation opened in 2021 on the evaluation and possible revision of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive ended on 22 March 2022. GRETA presented its contribution and also contributed to the joint submission prepared by ICAT.

100. The EU Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator and members of her Office participated in events organised by the Council of Europe in 2022, such as a meeting with the Sub-Committee on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons on the occasion of the World Refugee Day, 20 June 2022, the joint Council of Europe-OSCE meeting of national coordinators and rapporteurs in June 2022, and the conference on labour trafficking in September 2022.

Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

101. The President of GRETA spoke at the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings under the German Presidency “Tackling new challenges in combating trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation” on 17-18 October 2022 (online).



Co-operation with civil society

102. The Convention provides for co-operation and building strategic partnerships with civil society, which can help governments fulfil their obligations under the Convention (Article 35). In its country reports, GRETA has emphasised the need to adopt an inclusive approach and develop formal and systematic consultation between governmental and non-governmental actors involved in anti-trafficking action. Civil society, including trade unions, should be involved in the development and implementation of anti-trafficking measures and their evaluation. Further, GRETA has called for the involvement of specialised NGOs in a multi-agency effort to identify and protect victims of trafficking.

103. During the reporting period, international and national NGOs continued to provide information to GRETA in the context of the preparation of country evaluation visits and reports. Furthermore, NGOs provided feedback to GRETA on the follow-up given to its reports. GRETA is grateful for the contributions made by NGOs to its monitoring work and is committed to continuing the existing co-operation with civil society.

104. On 26 September 2022, GRETA organised an exchange of views with international NGOs and national coalitions of NGOs active in the field of combating human trafficking. The aim was to discuss the status of implementation of the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention and to collect ideas concerning the focus of the fourth evaluation round of the Convention, which will be launched in mid-2023.

105. Members of GRETA and the Secretariat participated in a number of events organised by civil society organisations (see Appendix 8). By way of example, the President of GRETA spoke at the ECPAT Anniversary Conference “The future in view – shaping the change of child protection together” on 21 October 2022 in Berlin. She also participated in the International Santa Marta Conference on 17-19 May 2022 at the Vatican. A member of GRETA’s Secretariat, Ms Parvine Ghadami, spoke at a seminar on “Human trafficking in flight from conflict – impact of the war in Ukraine”, organised by the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe, on 18 October 2022 in Strasbourg.

Appendix 1

Chart of signatures and ratifications
of the Council of Europe

Convention on Action against
Trafficking in Human Beings

Status as of 31/12/2022

Title	Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
Reference	CETS No.197
Opening of the treaty	Warsaw, 16/05/2005 - Treaty open for signature by the member states, the non-member states which have participated in its elaboration and by the European Union, and for accession by other non-member states
Entry into Force	01/02/2008 - 10 Ratifications, including 8 member states

	Signature	Ratification	Entry into Force	Notes	R.	D.	A.	T.	C.	O.
Albania	22/12/2005	6/2/2007	1/2/2008							
Andorra	17/11/2005	23/3/2011	1/7/2011							
Armenia	16/5/2005	14/4/2008	1/8/2008							
Austria	16/5/2005	12/10/2006	1/2/2008							
Azerbaijan	25/2/2010	23/6/2010	1/10/2010					T.		
Belgium	17/11/2005	27/4/2009	1/8/2009							
Bosnia and Herzegovina	19/1/2006	11/1/2008	1/5/2008							
Bulgaria	22/11/2006	17/4/2007	1/2/2008							
Croatia	16/5/2005	5/9/2007	1/2/2008							
Cyprus	16/5/2005	24/10/2007	1/2/2008							O.
Czech Republic	2/5/2016	29/3/2017	1/7/2017		R.					
Denmark	5/9/2006	19/9/2007	1/2/2008		R.			T.		
Estonia	3/2/2010	5/2/2015	1/6/2015		R.					
Finland	29/8/2006	30/5/2012	1/9/2012		R.					
France	22/5/2006	9/1/2008	1/5/2008		R.	D.				
Georgia	19/10/2005	14/03/2007	1/2/2008			D.				
Germany	17/11/2005	19/12/2012	1/4/2013		R.					
Greece	17/11/2005	11/4/2014	1/8/2014							
Hungary	10/10/2007	4/4/2013	1/8/2013							
Iceland	16/5/2005	23/2/2012	1/6/2012							
Ireland	13/4/2007	13/7/2010	1/11/2010							

	Signature	Ratification	Entry into Force	Notes	R.	D.	A.	T.	C.	O.
Italy	8/6/2005	29/11/2010	1/3/2011							
Latvia	19/05/2006	6/3/2008	1/7/2008		R.					
Liechtenstein	30/11/2015	27/1/2016	1/5/2016							
Lithuania	12/2/2008	26/7/2012	1/11/2012							
Luxembourg	16/5/2005	9/4/2009	1/8/2009							
Malta	16/5/2005	30/1/2008	1/5/2008		R.					
Republic of Moldova	16/5/2005	19/5/2006	1/2/2008			D.				
Monaco	30/11/2015	30/11/2015	1/3/2016		R.					
Montenegro	16/5/2005	30/7/2008	1/11/2008	55						
Netherlands	17/11/2005	22/4/2010	1/8/2010					T.		
North Macedonia	17/11/2005	27/05/2009	1/9/2009			D.				
Norway	16/5/2005	17/1/2008	1/5/2008							
Poland	16/5/2005	17/11/2008	1/3/2009		R.	D.				
Portugal	16/5/2005	27/2/2008	1/6/2008		R.					
Romania	16/5/2005	21/8/2006	1/2/2008							
Russia										
San Marino	19/5/2006	29/11/2010	1/3/2011							
Serbia	16/5/2005	14/4/2009	1/8/2009	55						
Slovakia	19/5/2006	27/3/2007	1/2/2008							
Slovenia	3/4/2006	3/9/2009	1/1/2010		R.					
Spain	9/7/2008	2/4/2009	1/8/2009			D.				
Sweden	16/5/2005	31/5/2010	1/9/2010		R.					
Switzerland	8/9/2008	17/12/2012	1/4/2013		R.					
Türkiye	19/3/2009	2/5/2016	1/9/2016			D.				
Ukraine	17/11/2005	29/11/2010	1/3/2011			D.				
United Kingdom	23/3/2007	17/12/2008	1/4/2009		R.					
	Signature	Ratification	Entry into Force	Notes	R.	D.	A.	T.	C.	O.
Belarus		26/11/2013 a	1/3/2014							
Canada										
Holy See										
Israel		28/05/2021 a	01/09/2021							
Japan										
Mexico										
United States of America										
	Signature	Ratification	Entry into Force	Notes	R.	D.	A.	T.	C.	O.
European Union										

Total number of signatures not followed by ratifications: 0

Total number of ratifications/accessions: 48

Notes

(55) Date of signature by the state union of Serbia and Montenegro.

a: Accession – s: Signature without reservation as to ratification – su: Succession – r: Signature “ad referendum”.

R.: Reservations – D.: Declarations – A.: Authorities – T.: Territorial Application – C.: Communication – O.: Objection.

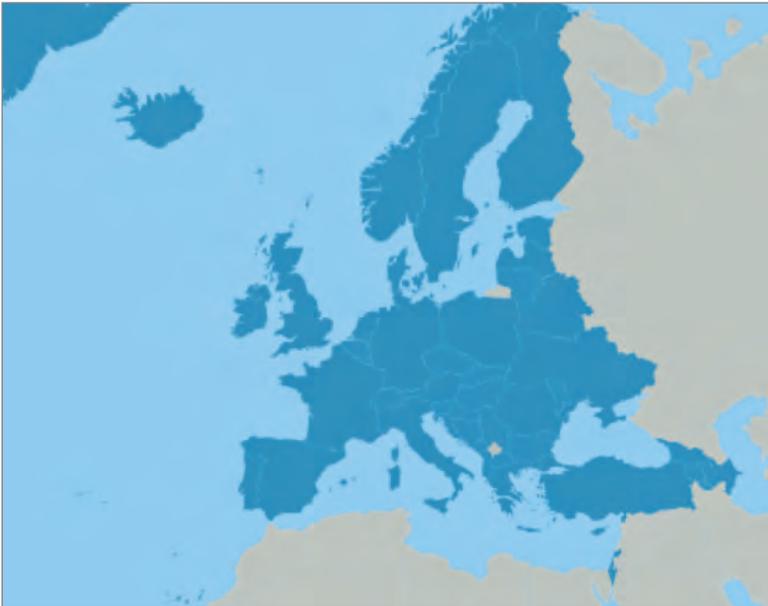
Source: Treaty Office on <http://conventions.coe.int>

Appendix 2

GRETA's field of operations

States bound by the Convention

Albania	Georgia	Netherlands
Andorra	Germany	North Macedonia
Armenia	Greece	Norway
Austria	Hungary	Poland
Azerbaijan	Iceland	Portugal
Belarus	Ireland	Romania
Belgium	Italy	San Marino
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Israel	Serbia
Bulgaria	Latvia	Slovak Republic
Croatia	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Cyprus	Lithuania	Spain
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Sweden
Denmark	Malta	Switzerland
Estonia	Republic of Moldova	Türkiye
Finland	Monaco	Ukraine
France	Montenegro	United Kingdom



Appendix 3

List of GRETA members (as at 31 December 2022)

Members	Term of office
President: Ms Helga Gayer (German)	31/12/2024
First Vice-President: Ms Antoaneta Vassileva (Bulgarian)	31/12/2022
Second Vice-President: Ms Julia Planitzer (Austrian)	31/12/2022
Mr Thomas Ahlstrand (Swedish)	31/12/2024
Mr Francesco Curcio (Italian)	31/12/2022
Ms Ia Dadunashvili (Georgian)	31/12/2022
Mr Sergey Ghazinyan (Armenian)	31/12/2024
Mr Aurelijus Getauskas (Lithuanian)	31/12/2024
Mr Kevin Hyland (Irish)	31/12/2022
Ms Svala Ísfeld Ólafsdóttir (Icelandic)	31/12/2022
Ms Nathalie Martin (France)	31/12/2022
Ms Connie Rijken (Dutch)	31/12/2024
Mr Peter Van Hauwermeiren (Belgian)	31/12/2024
Mr Georgios Vanikiotis (Greek)	31/12/2024
Ms Dorothea Winkler (Swiss)	31/12/2024

Appendix 4

Secretariat of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (as at 31 December 2022)

Ms Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Convention

Mr Alexander Bartling, Administrator (follow-up to GRETA's recommendations)^a

Mr Mesut Bedirhanoglu, Administrator

Ms Parvine Ghadami, Administrator^b

Mr Roemer Lemaitre, Administrator

Mr Yuriy Paltsev, Administrator (follow-up to GRETA's recommendations)^c

Ms Daniela Ranalli, Administrator

Ms Asja Žujo, Administrator

Ms Susie Morgan, Principal Administrative Assistant^d

Ms Jackie Renaudin-Siddall, Administrative Assistant

Ms Silvia Pedrini, Administrative Assistant

Co-operation and capacity-building unit

Ms Lilia Kolombet, Head of Unit

Ms Stéphanie Burel, Project Manager^e

Ms Severina Spassova, Senior Project Officer

Ms Naz Gun, Project Officer^f

Ms Monica Petrovici-Ronecker, Project Officer

Ms Nadia Marino, Administrative Assistant

a. Employed until 1 March 2022

b. Employed as from 1 March 2022

c. Employed as from 1 July 2022

d. Employed until 30 November 2022

e. Employed as from 1 November 2022

f. Employed until 31 October 2022

Appendix 5

List of GRETA's activities during the period 1 January to 31 December 2022

GRETA meetings

- ▶ 43rd meeting (28 March – 1st April 2022)
- ▶ 44th meeting (27 June – 1st July 2022)
- ▶ 45th meeting (26-28 September 2022)
- ▶ 46th meeting (14-18 November 2022)

GRETA's evaluation visits (in chronological order)

- ▶ Greece (2nd evaluation round) 28 February-4 March 2022
- ▶ North Macedonia (3rd evaluation round) 14-18 March 2022
- ▶ Serbia (3rd evaluation round) 16-20 May 2022
- ▶ Estonia (2nd evaluation round) 6-9 June 2022
- ▶ Slovenia (3rd evaluation round) 6-9 June 2022
- ▶ Poland (3rd evaluation round) 6-10 June 2022
- ▶ Spain (3rd evaluation round) 4-8 July 2022
- ▶ Azerbaijan (3rd evaluation round) 5-9 September 2022
- ▶ Netherlands (3rd evaluation round) 19-25 October 2022
- ▶ Sweden (3rd evaluation round) 24-28 October 2022
- ▶ Iceland (3rd evaluation round) 7-9 November 2022
- ▶ Lithuania (3rd evaluation round) 12-15 December 2022
- ▶ Andorra (3rd evaluation round) 13-15 December 2022

GRETA country evaluation reports (in order of publication)

- ▶ France (3rd evaluation round) 18 February 2022
- ▶ Latvia (3rd evaluation round) 21 February 2022
- ▶ Armenia (3rd evaluation round) 31 May 2022
- ▶ Norway (3rd evaluation round) 8 June 2022
- ▶ Portugal (3rd evaluation round) 13 June 2022

- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina (3rd evaluation round) 28 June 2022
- ▶ Ireland (3rd evaluation round) 28 September 2022
- ▶ Luxembourg (3rd evaluation round) 4 October 2022
- ▶ Belgium (3rd evaluation round) 20 October 2022
- ▶ Belarus (2nd evaluation round) 27 October 2022

Appendix 6

List of activities organised to support the implementation of GRETA's recommendations during the period 1 January to 31 December 2022

Online, 5 April 2022

Side event "Unconditional support and access to residence on personal grounds is needed to uphold trafficked persons' rights" on the margins of the 22nd Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference

Nicosia, 5 May 2022

Round-table meeting on the follow-up to GRETA's third evaluation report on Cyprus

Bratislava, 19 May 2022

Round-table meeting on the follow-up to GRETA's third evaluation report on the Slovak Republic

Vienna, 20 May 2022

Round-table meeting on the follow-up to GRETA's third evaluation report on Austria

Online, 25 May 2022

Webinar on "Addressing the risks of human trafficking related to the war in Ukraine: what responses are needed?"

Chisinau, 8 September 2022

Round-table meeting on the follow-up to GRETA's third evaluation report on the Republic of Moldova

Tirana, 22 September 2022

Round-table meeting on the follow-up to GRETA's third evaluation report on Albania

Nicosia, 3 October 2022

Round-table on access to compensation and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings in Cyprus

Zagreb, 18 October 2022

Round-table meeting on the follow-up to GRETA's third evaluation report on Croatia

Strasbourg, 21-22 November 2022

Third meeting of the network of specialised lawyers and NGOs providing legal assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings

Activities organised under the joint EU-Council of Europe programme Horizontal Facility II (HF) for the Western Balkans and Türkiye

- ▶ Regional conference “Combating Labour Trafficking in Europe - Standards, Realities and New Strategies for Action”, 20-21 September 2022, Belgrade (Serbia)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- ▶ Four training sessions for education professionals on preventing and detecting child trafficking, 24-25 March 2022, Sarajevo; 31 March – 1 April 2022, Banja Luka; 19 May 2022, Brčko; and 26 May 2022, Sarajevo
- ▶ Two training sessions for healthcare professionals on detecting and assisting trafficking victims, 30 June – 1 July 2022, Teslić; and 24 – 25 October 2022, Igman
- ▶ Inter-institutional working meeting on the informational brochure on risks of human trafficking for labour exploitation abroad, 13 July 2022, Igman
- ▶ Training and consultation session on preventing child trafficking and assessing the age of children at risk of trafficking, 26-27 July 2022, Konjic
- ▶ Training session on technology-facilitated trafficking in children, XV annual symposium of prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 18 - 20 October 2022, Neum
- ▶ Two training sessions for spokespersons and representatives of NGOs on the protection of the private life and personal data of victims of trafficking, 22 and 23 November 2022, Sarajevo

North Macedonia

- ▶ Basic training on detecting, identifying and referring victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, Ohrid, 31 March-1 April 2022
- ▶ Training for school psychologists and pedagogues, Skopje, 20 April 2022
- ▶ Working group on the proper implementation of the Law on State Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes, Skopje, 29 April 2022
- ▶ Two workshops on the role of health professionals in proactive identification and referral of potential THB victims, Skopje, 26-27 May 2022
- ▶ Two training activities on discrimination and human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, Skopje and Bitola, 6-7 June 2022
- ▶ Presentations of the comparative research on the rules of procedure of state compensation bodies and claims, Skopje, 9 and 29 September 2022
- ▶ Two training activities on discrimination at workplace and forced labour, Gevgelija and Skopje, 26-27 September 2022
- ▶ Multi-disciplinary training on human trafficking indicators and the role of diplomatic and consular offices in the identification, protection and return of victims of THB, Skopje, 27 October 2022
- ▶ Training sessions on prevention of child trafficking, inclusion and protection of child victims of trafficking, Skopje, 18-19 October and 9-10 November 2022
- ▶ Specialised module on the resocialisation and reintegration of child victims of trafficking into foster care homes/caretaker families, Skopje, 5-6 December 2022

Serbia

- ▶ Two training sessions for media representatives on ethical and fact-based reporting on trafficking cases and victims, Belgrade, 31 March and 11 April 2022
- ▶ Advanced training for labour inspectors, police officers and representatives of trade unions on detecting and combating trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, Sabac, 12 - 14 April 2022
- ▶ Two training sessions for education professionals on the revised indicators for preliminary identification of trafficking and exploitation amongst pupils, Sabac, 23 - 27 May 2022
- ▶ Webinar on the ECtHR case “Zoletić and others v. Azerbaijan”, online, 10 June 2022
- ▶ Round-table on challenges and possible improvements in the protection of victims of trafficking, Belgrade, 17 October 2022
- ▶ Two training sessions for healthcare professionals on detection and referral of potential victims of trafficking, Vrnjacka Banja, 19-21 October; and Sabac, 26-28 October 2022

Türkiye

- ▶ Five regional awareness raising campaigns, Adiyaman, Akcalale, Arsuz, Izmir and Kecioren, September – May 2022
- ▶ Coordination round-table on investigation and prosecution, Erzurum, 22-25 February 2022
- ▶ Training sessions for border management authorities, coast guards, police and gendarmerie,, Izmir, 1-4 March 2022 and Istanbul, 15-18 March 2022, Gaziantep, 12-14 October 2022 and Bursa, 19-21 October 2022
- ▶ Three training sessions for Labour Inspectors, Istanbul, 21-24 March 2022, Antalya, 17-20 May 2022 and 23-26 May 2022
- ▶ Training sessions for members of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations, Antalya II, 8-10 June 2022
- ▶ Three multi-disciplinary training sessions on child trafficking – Ankara, 28 June – 2 July 2022, Antalya, 28 June – 2 July 2022, Bursa, 9-12 August 2022
- ▶ Training for child protection services, Gaziantep, 16-19 August 2022

Joint Project on “Supporting Malta in the design and implementation of a new National Anti-Trafficking Strategy”, implemented by the Council of Europe and DG REFORM of the European Commission

Malta

- ▶ Kick-off event of the Joint Project on “Supporting Malta in the design and implementation of a new National Anti-Trafficking Strategy”, Malta, 6 December 2022

Appendix 7

Updated provisional timetable of GRETA's 3rd Evaluation Round

Parties	Questionnaire to be sent	Deadline for replies	Evaluation visits	Draft GRETA reports	Final GRETA reports	
Austria Cyprus Slovak Republic	November 2018	March 2019	May-June 2019	36th meeting November 2019	written procedure March 2020	
Albania Croatia Republic of Moldova	February 2019	June 2019	September - December 2019	37th meeting July 2020	38th meeting October 2020	
Georgia Bulgaria Denmark					39th meeting November 2020	
Montenegro Romania	June 2019	October 2019	January - March 2020	38th meeting October 2020	40th meeting March 2021	
Malta United Kingdom Latvia	September 2019	January 2020	September – December 2020	40th meeting March 2021	41st meeting July 2021	
France	March 2020	September 2020	January – March 2021	41st meeting July 2021	42nd meeting November 2021	
Portugal	September 2019	January 2020	April – June 2021	42nd meeting November 2021	43rd meeting March 2022	
Armenia	July 2019	November 2019	September – December 2021			
Bosnia and Herzegovina Norway	March 2020	September 2020				
Belgium Ireland Luxembourg	October 2020	February 2021		43rd meeting March 2022	44th meeting July 2022	
North Macedonia Slovenia Serbia Spain Poland	June 2021	October 2021	January – March 2022	44th meeting July 2022	45th meeting September 2022	
		October 2020	February 2021	April – June 2022	45th meeting September 2022	47th meeting March 2023
	September/ October 2021	January 2022	September – December 2022			
Sweden	December 2021	April 2022		47th meeting March 2023	48th meeting July 2023	
Iceland Italy Andorra	April/May 2022	September 2022		January – March 2023	48th meeting July 2023	49th meeting September 2023
Lithuania						
San Marino Finland Germany	May/June 2022	October 2022	April – June 2023	49th meeting September 2023	50th meeting December 2023	
Hungary						
Liechtenstein Monaco Switzerland	September 2022	January 2023				

Note: Belarus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Israel, Türkiye, and other new parties to the Convention will undergo the third evaluation round approximately four years after the second evaluation, unless otherwise decided by GRETA (Rules 2 and 3 of the Evaluation Procedure).

Appendix 8

Participation of GRETA members and Secretariat in events in the area of action against trafficking in human beings

Bordeaux, France and online, 7 January 2022

Conference “Working in synergy to support victims of human trafficking”, organised by the Association Ruelle

Strasbourg, France, 3-4 February 2022

Council of Europe Digital Partnership Workshop

Online, 22 February 2022

Round-table on combating human trafficking and modern slavery, organised by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner’s Office of the United Kingdom

Online, 24 February 2022

Regional Conference “Reporting Human Trafficking, Addressing Compensation of Victims and Identifying Other Key Issues in Combating Human Trafficking” organised by the Croatian Academy for Legal Sciences in co-operation with the Government’s Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia

Online, 2 March 2022

Regional Expert Group Meeting: “Financial investigations and asset recovery for trafficking in persons, including compensation on victims, in the South-Eastern Europe”, organised by the UNODC

Online, 2 March 2022

High-level meeting on “Zero Tolerance for Child Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking”, organised by the Secretariat of the Alliance 8.7- Global Partnership against Child Labour, Forced Labour, Contemporary Slavery and Human Trafficking and the Paris Office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) under the French Presidency of the European Union

Tbilisi, Georgia, 7 March 2022

Regional Workshop on “Enhancing response to trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls for sexual exploitation, through cross-border criminal justice cooperation in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia”, organised by the UNODC

Vienna, Austria, 4-6 April 2022

OSCE 22nd High-Level Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference

Strasbourg, France, 11 May 2022

13th Meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society on “Defending the rights of Roma and Traveller children”, organised by the Council of Europe

Dubrovnik, Croatia and online, 11-12 May 2022

Regional Conference on “Improving response to trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation, especially women and girls, through addressing demand in South-Eastern Europe”, organised by UNODC, in collaboration with Croatia, France, Sweden and the OSCE

Vatican and online, 17-19 May 2022

International Santa Marta Group Conference on trafficking in human beings

Strasbourg, France, 25 May 2022

Seminar on Council of Europe Conventions, organised by the Council of Europe for the visit of a delegation from Kazakhstan, in the framework of the Central Asia Rule of Law Programme 2020-2023

Online, 25 May 2022

Webinar on “Addressing the risks of human trafficking related to the war in Ukraine – what responses are needed?”, organised by the Council of Europe, the Freedom Fund and La Strada International

Germany, 8 June 2022

G7 Head of Delegation Meeting, under the German G7 Chairmanship

Vienna, Austria, 13-14 June 2022

Annual meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms, co-organised by the Council of Europe and the OSCE

Online, 14 June 2022

Academy of European Law (ERA) seminar on Protection of Migrant Workers in Irregular Situation in Europe

Dublin, Ireland, and online, 21 June 2022

Conference on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland, organised by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Thessaloniki, Greece, 22 June 2022

Training police personnel on issues of combating trafficking in human beings, organized by the Subdivision for Combating Organized Crime and Trafficking in Human Beings of Thessaloniki Security Directorate, Greece

Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 28 July 2022

Training for journalists on the UN Anti-Trafficking Day

Ankara, Türkiye and online, 28 July 2022

Summit on Combating Human Trafficking in Türkiye, organised by the Presidency of the Migration Management, the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Lisbon, Portugal, 8-9 September 2022

Seminar “Reducing Demand and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings”, organised by the Academy of European Law (ERA)

Berlin, Germany, 15 September 2022

G7 Roma-Lyon Group on Protecting Children in CyberSpace – Online dimensions of THB

Tunis, Tunisia, 21 September 2022

7th Summer School on migration and of the symposium on the protection of migrant children in North Africa, organised by IOM Tunisia

Reykjavik, Iceland, 23 September 2022

“Lawyers Day” annual conference, hosted by the Icelandic Lawyers Association, the Icelandic Bar Association and the Icelandic Association of Judges

Turin, Italy, 29-30 September 2022

Conference “Beyond the Borders of Vulnerability”; final conference of the ALFa-Accogliere le Fragilità project

Online, 5-6 October 2022

Regional Expert Group Meeting: “Countering Labour Exploitation in Trafficking in Persons, Focusing on Due Diligence in Supply Chains in Southeastern Europe”, organised by the UNODC

Brussels, Belgium and online, 7 October 2022

Parliamentary hearing before the Committee responsible for assessing legislation and policy on trafficking and smuggling in human beings of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives

Vienna, Austria, 13 October 2022

Conference “No future for Trafficking”, organised by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria

Online, 17-18 October 2022

CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings under German Presidency “Tackling new challenges in combating trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation”

Strasbourg, France 18 October 2022

European Anti-trafficking Day, awareness-raising event for students at the Law Faculty, University of Strasbourg

Strasbourg, France and online, 18 October 2022

European Anti-trafficking Day, Seminar on “Human trafficking in flight from conflict - Impact of the war in Ukraine”, organised by the Conference of INGOs of the CoE

Sofia, Bulgaria, 18 October 2022

Discussion forum organised by the Bulgarian National Commission against Trafficking in Human Beings on the occasion of the European Anti-trafficking day

Nürnberg, Germany, 20 October 2022

Trafficking in Human Beings 2.0 – Challenges in the fight against modern Slavery, organised by Hanns-Seidel Stiftung, Aktionsbündnis gegen Frauenhandel, Renovabis

Berlin, Germany, 21 October 2022

ECPAT Anniversary Conference (20 years) "The future in view – shaping the change of child protection together"

Oslo, Norway and online, 26 October 2022

KOM annual national human trafficking seminar "Norway's efforts against human trafficking: where do we stand?"

Strasbourg, France, 1-2 December 2022

6th meeting of the Network of Focal Points on Migration, organised by the Special Representative on Migration and Refugees

Vilnius, Lithuania and online, 2 December 2022

International Conference "Fight against Human Trafficking – our successes and challenges", organised by the Lithuanian Ministry of the Interior

Online, 2 December 2022

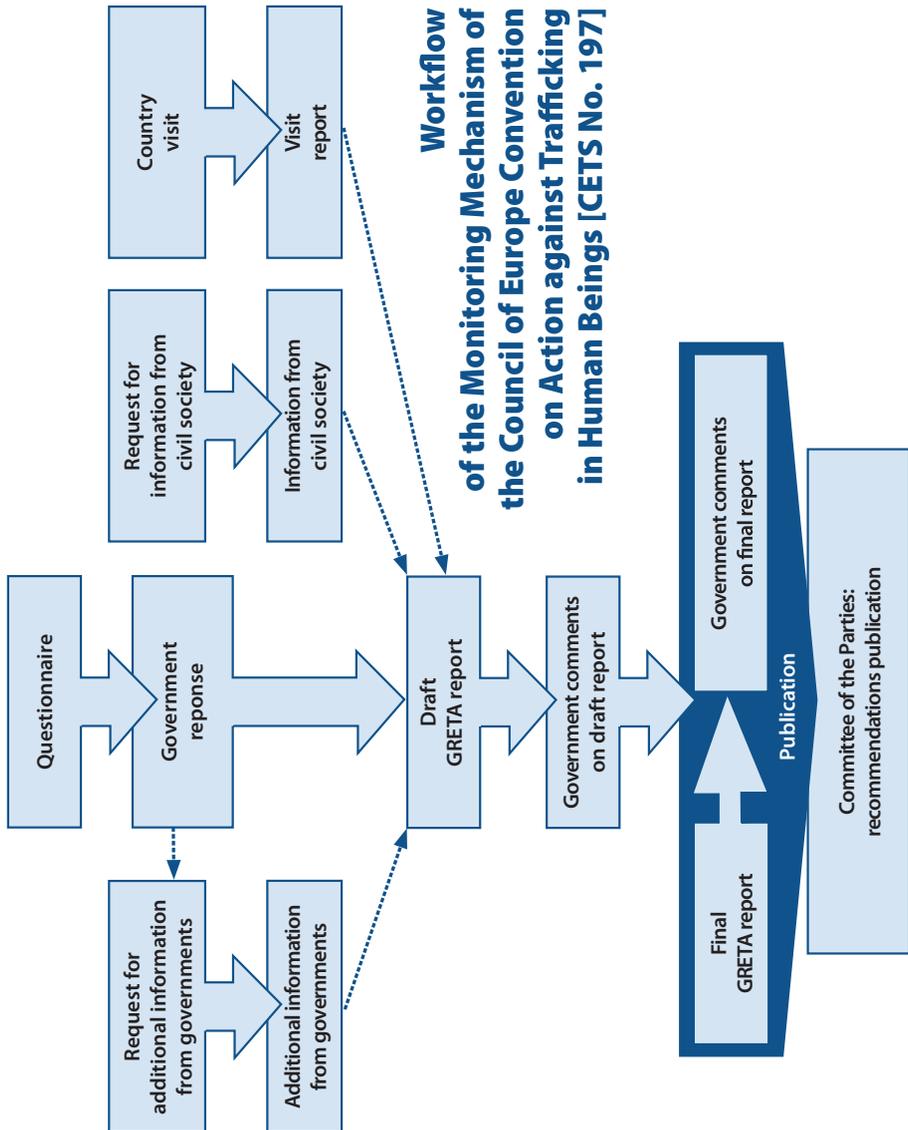
ICAT fourth annual Principals meeting

Rzeszów, Poland, 9 December 2022

World for Ukraine Summit

Appendix 9

Workflow of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention



The Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, in force since 2008, provides a comprehensive framework for combating trafficking in human beings from a human-rights based and victim-centred perspective. To date, the Convention has been ratified by all 46 member states of the Council of Europe, as well as by the non-member states Belarus and Israel.

The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) is responsible for evaluating the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties. Its recommendations help to trigger legislative changes, raise awareness of the various forms of human trafficking and better protect the rights of trafficked persons.

GRETA's 12th General Report presents an overview of its activities from 1 January to 31 December 2022, including meetings, evaluation visits, country reports, round tables, and relations with other Council of Europe bodies, international organisations and non-governmental organisations. The report also includes a thematic chapter devoted to managing the **risks of trafficking in human beings related to the war in Ukraine** and a presentation of the new Committee of Ministers' recommendation on **preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation**.

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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