

Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking
*Improving National and Transnational Coordination and Cooperation in Preventing and Combating all Forms of Human Trafficking;
Developing and Strengthening National and Transnational Networks and Partnerships*



Think-tank Event

International Expert Round Table

***Understanding the Linkages between
(Labour) Exploitation, Migration & Human Trafficking***



**Chamber of Labour, Vienna, Theresianumgasse 16-18
14 September 2021, 10:00 – 16:00**

in Cooperation with



**MENSCHEN
RECHTSBÜRO**

supported by

 **Federal Chancellery**

Federal Minister for Women,
Families and Youth

 **Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Social Affairs, Health, Care
and Consumer Protection**



***The Round Table will be held in English - No interpretation. Attending the Round Table is free of charge.
Registration is obligatory and open from 27 August - 10 September 2021***

Participants are invited to take note that there may be photographs taken and videos recorded for documentation purposes, a selection of which might be published on our websites and/or social media channels later on. Participants' speeches and presentations will be recorded and published on image and sound carriers as well as internet (Livestream) and television broadcast, reproduced and used audio-visually. By registering for the above Round Table you agree that your personal data (name, function, company or institution) can be automatically processed by the 'Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking' for the indicated purpose. You may revoke your arrangement(s) any time by sending us an e-mail. If you don't agree that your e-mail address is used for information provision and invitations on activities (Round Tables, meetings, workshops, info sessions) of the 'Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking', please let us know via e-mail. We shall delete your e-mail address from the list(s).

draft AGENDA

Understanding the Linkages between (Labour) Exploitation, Migration & Human Trafficking

10.00-10.15 Welcome and Introduction

- **Christoph Klein**, Director General, Chamber of Labour, Vienna
- **Helga Konrad**, Head/Coordinator 'Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking'/Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe IDM: **Moderation**

10.15-12.00 Expert Panel Debate 1:

Narrowing the Gap between Theory and Reality

Assessments, studies and research underline what we have seen in Europe for many years: migrants in general – and irregular migrants in particular - are most vulnerable to exploitation and prone to become victims of human trafficking. Many of them work under very exploitative conditions, often in the cheap unprotected informal labour markets of the transit and destination countries: without health care, unaware of their rights, subject to physical and mental abuse, underpaid, or wages withheld by recruiting agents. The traffickers and their accomplices take advantage and exploit the often total lack of social and legal protection. All this continues despite the fact that international documents such as the UN Protocol, the Council of Europe and ILO Conventions, EU Directives as well as national laws condemn and prohibit such exploitative practices. The Panelists will discuss the problem in general by providing in-depth insight into its reality and suggesting possible solutions.

- **Johannes Peyrl**, Analyst on European Migration and Labour Market Laws, Chamber of Labour, Vienna
- **Ryszard Piotrowicz**, Professor Aberystwyth University, Dept. of Law and Criminology, former Member of GRETA
- **Roger Plant**, Independent Expert, Former Head of ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour
- **Vassilis Kerasiotis**, Director HIAS GREECE, Lawyer of the Applicants "Chowdury and 42 others vs Greece, ECHR
- **Klara Skrivankova**, Independent Expert on Trafficking and Business and Human Rights, London Truust Fund
- **Helmut Sax**, Senior Researcher, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Austria

Q & A

12.00-13.45 Expert Panel Debate 2:

Discouraging Exploitation in the Context of Human Trafficking and Migration

There is undoubtedly an urgent need to research and monitor the factors contributing to trafficking for labour exploitation, the contexts in which it is facilitated, the actors involved as well as its nature and dynamics in the various stages of the criminal cycle, such as irregular cross-border movements of migrants which translate into and impact on human trafficking; the labour market conditions that generate demand for irregular workers; means of recruitment and last but not least the responses of state authorities and civil society to the problem. The Panelists will discuss their experience with the promotion of migrant workers' rights and of non-criminalisation, creating conditions in which workers who are abused can safely report their experience to authorities, complaint mechanisms, non-punishment clause and access to compensation etc. as means that discourage exploitation and human trafficking.

- **Albin Dearing**, Programme Manager, European Union Fundamental Rights Agency FRA
- **Philipp Schwertmann**, Head of Migration and Decent Work Section at 'Arbeit & Leben', Trade Union DGB, Germany
- **Suzanne Hoff**, International Coordinator, La Strada International, NL
- **Patrick Hauvuy or Federica Marengo**, Head/Coordinator Dispositif National AcSé, France (**tbc**):
- **Evelyn Probst**, Coordinator of LEFÖ-Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women and Girls (IBF), Austria
- **Roxane Ouadghiri Hassani**, Project development officer, Comité contre l'Esclavage Moderne CCEM, France
- **Markus Zingerle**, Sociologist, MEN VIA- Support for Male Victims of Human Trafficking, Vienna

Q & A

13.45-14.15 Networking Break

14.15-16.00 Expert Panel Debate 3:

Challenging EU Policies on Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation - including Return and Reintegration Schemes

In contrast to the free movement of goods and capital, free movement of people (and labour) has remained a sensitive political and social issue. Recently, intergovernmental cooperation in the field of migration management has again focused primarily on stepping up border controls and preventing irregular (im)migration. As a rule, migrants in general and irregular migrants in particular are at the mercy of criminals including traffickers and their accomplices. The fact that migration is more and more often equated with organised crime, impacts negatively on the attempts that are made to combat the various forms of human trafficking. The often total absence of social and legal protection is taken advantage of by criminals who exploit migrants in many ways including in forced and bonded labour, domestic servitude etc.. Instead of providing appropriate protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking, including an extended stay in the country of destination, they are often returned as soon as possible to their home countries or expelled under the 'Dublin' regulations. This attitude is also influenced by the assumption that the offer of (temporary) residence and other protective measures would be abused and attract more migrants. With regard to the 'new' EU/EC strategies on Human Trafficking and on Voluntary Return/Reintegration, the Panelists will discuss current shortcomings and problems such as massive human rights and children's rights violations, manifold restrictions of freedom of movement, lack of transparency etc., on the one hand - and potential improvements through the new documents, on the other hand.

- **Diana Schmitt**, *EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, (and/or Olivier Onidi, Deputy Dir. DG Migration and Home Affairs), Brussels (tbc)*
- **Mike Dottridge**, *Independent Expert and Consultant, UK*
- **Kiril Sharapov**, *Researcher, Associate Professor of Applied Social Sciences, Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland*
- **Conny Rijken**, *Researcher, Univ.Prof. Tilburg University, Member of GRETA, NL*
- **Sara Prestianni**, *Migration & Asylum Program Officer, EuroMed Rights, Brussels*

Q & A

16.00 Closing of the Event