

National Convention on the European Union in the Republic of Macedonia
Recommendations of the Fourth session of Working group 4
“NEW FORMS OF PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING”

1. To work on the development of a broader concept of Human Trafficking that will include the causes which contribute to the rise of Human Trafficking and are closely related to socio-economic aspects (poverty, unemployment, discrimination, domestic violence, demand in the countries of destination), acting as the reason for appearance.
2. In the existing bodies working on prevention of Human Trafficking, protection of victims and prosecution of perpetrators, to involve interdisciplinary expert teams as well as representatives of the civil sector who will contribute to identify and define new forms of trafficking (child labor, forced labor, victims of trafficking in human organs and other forms).
3. To move from ratification to the implementation of international conventions on prevention, protection and punishment in human trafficking (the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Human Trafficking, the Palermo Protocol 2000, the Istanbul Convention).
4. To pay more attention to the protection of women and children as higher-risk groups, and to provide resources (institutional, human, and financial) for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (2011) on the protection of women from violence, forced labor and any other kind of exploitation.
5. To create training programs in order to foster experts for more effective recognition of victims.
6. To organise frequent civic forums (panel discussions, TV and radio discussions, student debates, awarding small grants for research into the occurrence in local environments), in which teachers, local authorities, civic associations and relevant institutions will take part. In addition, wider socialisation is recommended in order to actualise the problem in the local communities in which the risk groups are present.
7. To educate vulnerable groups, especially of young people, to recognise false advertisements on social media, as well as institutional monitoring of adds (sanctioning groups that create false advertisements and detecting criminal associations).
8. The relevant institutions should establish programs for long-term support to victims of trafficking in order to avoid the conditions that will lead them to the same situation.
9. To take concrete measures for social inclusion of potentially vulnerable groups (people without documents, unemployed youth, especially unemployed women, persons without any resources).
10. To pay special attention to children leaving school early, because they represent an extremely risky group for human trafficking.
11. To intensify the activities of the relevant institutions in the discovery of the main networks of Human Trafficking (tracking the money, social network research and sanctioning of the organisers).
12. To strengthen cooperation between different institutions by involving the financial police, customs, police, and judicial authorities.
13. To provide dedicated financial resources for the implementation of national strategies for prevention and better protection of Human Trafficking, in practice.
14. Although the concept of prevention, protection and punishment in Human Trafficking is a global phenomenon, local actors such as schools, media, and the local government should all be involved in the fight of Human Trafficking.
15. Taking into account the continuous changes in the modus operandi of human trafficking and smuggling, capacity building activities for the implementation of the Law on Combating Human Trafficking and Cross-Border cooperation should be continued (positive examples include initiatives for signing protocols for cooperation in the area of prevention of smuggling and Human Trafficking with all neighbouring countries).