

Dear Chairman, Honourable Members of the Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Human trafficking has various forms and fighting against it requires multifaceted solutions adapted to each culture and to the prevailing patterns of slavery.

Each element of the 4P's - Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership - should be tailored accordingly.

I work in Prevention and Partnership in Hungary and I can see the difference, between the solutions Eastern European countries require compared to Western European countries.

Let me point out some critical aspects and their connectedness:

Young democracies in Europe are fragile, the presence of corruption in each segment of society is permanent. The illusion of equal gender treatment created during the Communist era is sustained, yet women and female children had and still have lower social status, and no considerable economic and political position.

Additionally, Roma population is severely discriminated in Eastern Europe. In many regions with a high ratio of Roma population deep seated poverty is also prevalent.

According to the recent Eurostat survey: from the poorest 17 EU regions 9 are in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary.

Moreover, based on OECD calculations, as social mobility is very low in Hungary, it would take almost 200 years - 7 generations - for those who were born into low income families to approach the mean income, the same as in China or India, while the OECD average is 4.5 generations. For lot of people quick cash loan and migration seem to be the only option for a faster change.

Combining these facts: it is not a coincidence that Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland are in the top 5 EU countries of citizenship of registered trafficking victims, if you are looking at the first anti-trafficking report of the European Commission from 2016. The prospect of a 'western style life' offered by traffickers is equally attractive for people from South Eastern Europe and outside Europe whom are fleeing due to conflict, persecution, environmental degradation, lack of security and opportunity to make a living.

This raises the question of how effective our work in the field of prevention can be, if we can't address the root causes - among them local and global inequality being the central one and connected dept slavery.

Despite the systemic difficulties there are some promising and adaptable initiatives from different actors I would recommend to everyone as preventive programmes in the field of education and training where I work.

Our Association, Anthropolis was especially inspired by the idea of a teachers' toolkit of the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool which supports teachers to raise awareness on contemporary slavery among children.

We adapted this idea and wrote a handbook (available online for free: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0D0aze6nEYUZzg0U2F3YU1DM0E/view?pli=1>) which explains the root causes, consequences, and forms of modern slavery and introduces the possible solutions of combating slavery. The methodology aims to encourage teachers and

trainers to discuss this sensitive issue in the classroom or in non formal educational settings through case studies and connected lesson plans. We run regular one-day trainings for teachers to deepen their knowledge and explain how they can deliver the proposed activities. So far we have worked with more than 200 teachers and 2000 children and also several child care homes.

We also created an alternative edition for interested adults.

I delivered workshops in many schools and in each class there was at least one child who asked for help after the session due to cyber bullying, harassment or abuse in the school or in the family, even in schools which were considered to be privileged. This is one tiny piece of evidence which can confirm researchers' conjecture on the extreme latency.

The vulnerability of children in child care homes is more evident. Loveboys try to win the confidence of 12-14 year old girls and sometimes boys, who are not aware of the danger and after years of neglect yearn for attention. These institutions would require special measures of protection everywhere.

Education has a fundamental role in prevention, because it can deepen children's knowledge on their rights, it can develop their skills in critical thinking, build their self-esteem and self-confidence.

One of the best large-scale school project - Human Trafficking in America's Schools - started in 2015 when the U.S. Department of Education has released a guide for educators about the ways to identify and prevent child trafficking in schools: <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/sites/default/files/HumanTraffickinginAmericasSchools.pdf>. It includes information about risk factors, recruitment, how to identify trafficking; what to do if you suspect trafficking, including sample school protocols and policies. In many European countries there is no such protocol for schools and yet we are very far from an established European standard.

Among good practices, it is worth to mention the discourse of the Child Protection Hub for South East Europe, which was created by Terres des Hommes and its partners. This online platform (<https://childhub.org/en>) provides a confidential forum for experts from Albania, Croatia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Hungary, North Macedonia and Moldova to exchange methods and find resources to fight against child trafficking and information on children on the move.

Fostering mutual learning our organisation also facilitates offline discussions among the key actors of the protection system. We train the media as well, because investigative journalists and documentary filmmakers has an important role to play in countering trafficking. We also work with law enforcement to train police, prosecutors, judges and labour inspectors.

In some regions the networking activities for local members of the protection system are limited to only one conference per year therefore trainings offer a unique opportunity to connect and share information and ideas.

The above mentioned initiatives focus mainly on the vulnerable communities and the systems of protection.

Scholars of this field appropriately analyse trafficking also in terms of supply (meaning the victims), distribution (where the key players are recruiters and traffickers), and demand (are the buyers). We need more research and results to be more effective in aiming preventive measures at recruiters, traffickers and buyers. We should use every opportunity to tackle slavery and trafficking from as many directions as possible. This is particularly reasonable in areas where the perpetrators are small-scale groups with very similar or even identical socio-cultural background as the victims.

Awareness raising has a great potential to convey direct messages to a particular group of people. For instance it can target people whom are planning to leave their countries of origin through pre-departure orientation workshops, or potential buyers through billboard and social media campaigns or the general public, -to change the tide of victim-blaming, a tenacious problem all over the world-through performances and exhibitions.

As the Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration Report (<http://www.medam-migration.eu/en/>) concludes the EU needs to better balance its short-term goal of decreasing irregular migration and increasing migrant returns with long-run development considerations.

Development of the targeted regions, if they are in Lybia, Jordan, Moldova or Hungary, in each case should start with a thorough research and whenever it is possible the work should continue in partnership with empowered grass-root movements and local NGOs.

No question that prosecution, victim and witness protection should happen as fast as it can, but reaching attitude change always needs time.

The mapping of the problem, the assessment of needs and networking takes time, the introduction of microcredit, the creation of job opportunities, providing quality education and building equality, again, takes time. The holistic approach is our only chance even if it takes a lot of time and at the beginning requires more financial investment and the formation of coalitions, such as the 8.7 Alliance which brings together actors at all levels to accelerate progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals Target 8.7 to end modern slavery.

As a final thought I wish you all a Europe with a principle based migration policy which is not separated from but built on human rights and a less short-sighted development policy with an equal partnership between North-West and South-East.