

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

Coordination			
<i>Action</i>	<i>Target Deadline</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>State of Implementation</i>
<p>The National Coordination against Human Trafficking</p>		<p>Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality</p>	<p>The Coordination of the Anti-Trafficking Reform has been entrusted to the Human Rights Initiatives Unit within the Human Rights Directorate.</p> <p>In 2021, the Human Rights Directorate successfully applied for EU assistance under the technical Support Instrument (TSI) in the drafting of a national strategy to combat THB. In this regard, the Council of Europe has been engaged by the European Commission to provide its expertise and assistance in the implementation of this project which enshrines a human-rights based approach and aims to develop a sustainable system for the early identification and comprehensive support for victims.</p> <p>The Detailed Project Description has been approved and the project 'Supporting Malta in the design and implementation of a new national Anti-Trafficking Strategy' came into force in mid-September 2022. The kick-off meeting was held on 6th December 2022 at Dar I-Ewropa. Following the kick-off meeting, the CoE and HRD project team also held high-level bilateral meetings with various key stakeholders including Parliamentary Secretary Hon Rebecca Buttigieg, Mr Emmanuel Psaila, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality as well as Agenzija Appogg and the International Organization for Migration.</p> <p>With regards to the National Referral Mechanism, on the 5th of October HRIU coordinated a meeting between National Statistics Office, Data Protection Commission and Research and Coordination Unit at HRD and proposed the design of a Consent form, a Case record form and a Data Protection Policy (retention of data etc) which every public entity should have in accordance with the GDPR.</p>

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<p>(cont.)</p> <p>The National Coordination against Human Trafficking</p>		<p>Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality</p>	<p>The role of the designated Data Protection Officer shall be to proceed accordingly once an individual seeks the assistance of any gov service through HRD. This practice will be vetted by the Office of the Commissioner for Data Protection and shared with the PDPI officers.</p> <p>HRIU coordinated the appointment of national experts on nine (9) Simulations organised by the Council of Europe. The training was organised by the Council of Europe, MENA Office in Tunis and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Malta. As part of the objective to enhance the capacities of relevant professionals of the MENA region to detect, identify and refer victims of trafficking in human beings following a human rights approach centred on the victims, several simulations have been conducted at the national level in Tunisia and Morocco to train professionals on the identification and referral of victims of trafficking in human beings. <i>An example of simulation conducted in Tunisia is <u>available on the website of the Council of Europe in Tunisia</u>.</i></p> <p>HRIU has published information about the crime of trafficking, indicators, and helplines/victim support services on its website, which will be promoted through the national awareness campaign starting from 1st February till end of September 2023.</p> <p>The Human Rights Directorate is currently seeking the assistance of international partners to deliver training to police officials, border control officers and police officers at border crossing points in relation to the identification of potential human trafficking cases. The programme will focus on the drafting of a check list to assist risk of human trafficking, and training in relation to the referral of potential cases.</p>
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<i>Action</i>	<i>Target Deadline</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>State of Implementation</i>
<p>1. Convening of the Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee</p>	<p>Year 1 - 4</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality</p>	<p>On the 29 July 2022, a proposal by the Human Rights Directorate was formally submitted to the newly appointed Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality (MHSR) to chair the high-level national monitoring mechanism.</p> <p>In December 2022, the Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee has been set up for the purpose to monitor the implementation of the legal obligations of the Maltese Government to combat Trafficking in Human Beings. This Committee is being chaired by Mr. Emanuel Psaila, the Permanent Secretary MHSR who appointed the members as follows:</p> <p>Mr. Angelo Gafa - Malta Police Commissioner Dr. Victoria Buttigieg - Attorney General Dr. Christopher Soler - State Advocate Mr. Johan Galea - Permanent Secretary Ministry for Justice Mr. Mark Musu - Permanent Secretary Social Policy and Children’s Rights Mr. Anthony Gatt - Caritas Malta</p>
<p>2. Regular convening of the Stakeholder Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings</p>	<p>Year 1 – 4</p>	<p>Stakeholders Task Force</p>	<p>Following the 2022 general election, the Task Force ceased to exist since the authorities decided not to re-establish the Task Force. Instead of the Task Force related to the human Trafficking Reform, HRD proposed that <u>Ad hoc Thematic Working Groups will be set up to be able to assist the TSI project in the legislative and operational reform leading to the Anti-Trafficking National Strategy</u></p> <p>A new mechanism was set up to fulfil the national coordination and reporting functions in relation to matters concerning human trafficking.</p>

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<p>(UPDATE)</p> <p>Regular convening of the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (Quarterly)</p>	<p>(UPDATE)</p> <p>Year 3 - 4</p>	<p>(UPDATE)</p> <p>Focal Persons appointed on the Inter-Ministerial Committee</p>	<p>An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up for reporting purposes on the 29th of July 2022, by the Human Rights Directorate during a networking event aimed at strengthening the national cooperation among the Policy Development and Programme Implementation Officers on matters related to combatting THB. During this event, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality announced the setting up of the Anti-Trafficking Malta - Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC).</p> <p>The Committee is chaired by the HRIU Senior Manager and the IMC nominees have been confirmed by all their respective Ministries and the first meeting to be convened on the 18th of October 2022. The minutes of the first meeting were circulated amongst all the appointed focal persons and presented to the high-level Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>The tasks of the IMC focal persons have been outlined in the Committee’s Terms of Reference document which is available here.</p> <p>During the first Anti-Human Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee in October 2022, the Human Rights Initiatives Unit requested all Ministries to submit a Ministerial Action Plan on Human Trafficking by the end of November 2022. This deadline was extended to the end of December 2022 upon the request of some focal persons. The focal persons were instructed to include all the work done to combat Human Trafficking by all the different entities under their Ministry. This initiative will enable the Advisory Group of the Technical Support Instrument project to conduct an analysis of the current situation of human trafficking in Malta, including institutional structures, policies, feedback of public consultation and processes and actions currently in place.</p>
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<p>3. Enhance identification and referral of victims of human trafficking, including child victims</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2020</p>	<p>National Stakeholders and Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality</p>	<p>Support Tools for Service Providers on Trafficking in Human Beings and Standard Operating Procedures on Identification and Referral of (potential) Victims of Trafficking were provided by IOM, who have been contracted to provide training leading to the enhancement of the identification and referral process. This project entitled ‘Launching Initiatives supporting Malta’s Efforts to Suppress trafficking – LIMES’, was financed by the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security.</p> <p>Staff members on Support line 179, which is the National Helpline, have all been trained including the operators and their supervisors in Human Trafficking issues, in identifying victims and in referring them for help. The Support line operates on a 24/7 basis and is available for free on both landlines and mobile phones.</p> <p>Police officers receiving crime reports direct cases to relevant sections, including Immigration and Vice Squad. Officers at both Immigration and Vice squad are aware of the different forms of Human trafficking. Past training initiatives have benefitted, inter-alia, officers at these sections.</p> <p>The Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS), through the Human Trafficking Service has also given various information sessions about indicators of human trafficking to various front-liners including the police, health care personnel in different hospitals and health centers, social workers working in different fields including AWAS and the Corradino Correctional Facility. Furthermore, FSWS invites JobsPlus and the Department for Industrial and Employment Relations (DIER) and the Police to the round table conference (which are currently held bi-monthly) and gives them training regarding the detection of victims and reporting of cases.</p>
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TRAINING			
<i>Action</i>	<i>Target Deadline</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>State of Implementation</i>
4. Training for Public Officers	3 rd Quarter 2022	Government of Malta	<p><u>Feb- Mar 2022</u> - The Department of Industrial Relations and Employment (DIER) was supported by IOM through tailor made training sessions which served to build capacity in modern slavery as a concept, as well as local and international legal frameworks to be applied. The training on understanding and communication with victims was implemented to improve access to justice of victims of labour exploitation. DIER and APPOĠĠ were also supported with the cultural mediation to facilitate the interaction with migrant workers as well as promote their access to the services, assistance and the activation of the referral mechanism. The role of cultural mediators in translating concepts into a cultural context more relatable to migrant workers, was promoted and explained throughout the project.</p> <p><u>15 Sep 2022</u> - Online Event delivered by US Secretary of State Office – “Nefarious Crossroads: How Corruption Shapes Human Trafficking” – A series of three Events:</p> <p><u>17 Oct 2022</u> – Workshop delivered by OSCE – “Assessing the Risks and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Supply Chains”, held in the Grand Salon in the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.</p> <p><u>18 Oct 2022</u> – Focal Persons appointed from Governmental Ministries will attend Anti-Trafficking Malta -IMC. Guest speaker Ms. Melita Gruevska Graham, Head of the Anti-Trafficking Programme of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) has been invited to share the aim of their activities around the Anti-Trafficking Day within the framework of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) (ICMPD is a co-chair in</p>

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<p>(cont.)</p> <p>Training for Public Officers</p>		<p>Government of Malta</p>	<p>2022) and within the Network of Anti-Trafficking Coordinators of South-East Europe (ICMPS as Secretariat of the Network).</p> <p><u>24-30 Oct 2022</u> - The Council of Europe Programme Office in Tunisia organised a week-long simulation exercise in Malta. HRD coordinated the appointment of nine National Experts to participate in nine (9) Simulations exercises focusing on referral mechanisms related to Trafficking in Human Beings to help professionals from the MENA region to enhance their capacities in the detection, identification and referral mechanisms of victims in human trafficking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of National authorities on action against trafficking in human beings; nominee representing national Authorities Dr. Lynn Chircop Faure, MHSR - Public prosecutors Office; nominee Dr. Ramon Bonett Sladden, AG office, MFJ - Professional in Public health services – nominee Ms. Marika Podda Connor, MFH - Professional in Public social services - nominee Ms Stephanie Caruana, FSWS - Professionals Law enforcement professionals; nominee - Malta Police - Professional in Financial investigation - PDPI Finance - Professional Labour inspection services - PDPI OPM - NGO: with social responders, lawyers and cultural mediators. – VO Commission/ PDPI MIVC - MT journalist – National Broadcaster <p><u>16 – 21 Janaury 2023</u> - The Council of Europe appointed Senior Manager HRIU and Lawyer from the Attorney General’s Office to participate in a “Regional training of trainers on HELP methodology and on combating human trafficking” held in Tunisia. The main objective of the Council of Europe Programme on Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) is to enhance the capacity of judges, lawyers and prosecutors, in all 46 Council of Europe member states and</p>
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			<p>beyond, to apply the European human rights standards in their daily work. This is done through the HELP online courses that cover a range of human rights topics.</p>
<p>5. Training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse for officials working with migrants and asylum seekers</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2021</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality, AWAS and Ref Com</p>	<p>The Academy for Disciplined Forces is committed to providing the In-Service Training Course for Police Sergeants and Constables. In-Service Training Courses are a continuation of the previous year in terms of the structure and content and partly focus on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.</p> <p>As of January 2020, 299 officials from the Malta Police Force have received this training. Officials are also exposed to different units such as the Gender-Based Violence and Victims of Crime unit. This area introduces the officers to the responsibilities they have towards protecting and supporting victims of crimes, with lectures covering the basic communication skills of how to deal with traumatized victims and how the crime’s consequences may affect victims in different ways.</p> <p>Furthermore, officials receive training on the rights, support and protection of victims in line with Chapter 539 Laws of Malta (Victims of Crime Act). Case studies based on real-life experiences are also shared to better understand and analyse the significance of such duties.</p> <p>The Academy also provides sessions on fundamental rights and ethics with the objective of raising awareness about the importance of ethical behaviour in day-to-day police work and to enhance respect towards fundamental rights in all levels of policing. A series of other courses are also delivered up to the rank of Police Constables and Inspectors, covering fundamental rights, victims support, human trafficking and people smuggling.</p> <p>Several informational sessions about the signs of human trafficking were also held for front-line employees, such as the police, medical staff at various hospitals and health facilities, and social workers employed by organizations like AWAS and Corradino Correctional Facility.</p>

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			<p>HRIU and national Stakeholders will be guided by the draft law on Prostitution reform to include the rights and obligations and other prevention and protection support services & programmes in relation to the sexual industry.</p> <p>A close collaboration with Public Health and other entities involved in the Adult Entertainment business, (namely MTA, Police Force, Labour Inspectorates, FSWS, MCESD etc) to design 3 A3 posters (50 copies of each version namely, on Protection Services, Sexual Exploitation and Labour Exploitation to be place in areas which are frequently accessed by the vulnerable persons referred to in the email sent by the concerned parties below.</p>
<p>6. Training for Immigration Police and civilian immigration officers</p>	<p>1^s and 2nd quarter 2021</p>	<p>Academy for Disciplined Forces and Police</p>	<p>Training has been provided regularly for the past several years for the benefit of police officials, in particular border control officers and police officers at border crossing points in relation to the identification of potential human trafficking cases. Human Trafficking, Vulnerability of Persons and Human Rights lectures during these past years were delivered by Police, EASO and also NGO's.</p> <p>This year's training sessions commenced on 3rd October 2022. It is anticipated that up to around 120 officers, including Police, Customs officials, AFM personnel, BCO's and Detention Services officers will be trained.</p> <p>The training is being provided in-house.</p> <p>The training is composed of a variety of lecturers from IOM, JRS, IPA and also Police. Over 120 officers from Police, BCO's, AFM, Customs and Detention Services are to attend this training which is being held from October 2022 to April 2023. The Training Programme is also expected to focus on the drafting of a check list to assist risk of human trafficking, and training in relation to the referral of potential cases.</p>

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<p>(cont.)</p> <p>Training for Immigration Police and civilian immigration officers</p>		<p>Academy for Disciplined Forces and Police</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Training for Border Control Officers, which comprises a module on the identification of Human Trafficking</i> <p>The Malta Police Force regularly organizes training sessions for Border Control Officers, which comprises modules about the identification of human trafficking cases. This training, which is provided to Police border control officials and all police and civilian officers working in migration, will continue being held in the context of Malta’s Human Trafficking Action Plan, thereby contributing to measures aimed at raising awareness, and at those seeking to improve the identification of human trafficking cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>MHRS Information Exchange Seminar</i> <p>The Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality will hold an Information Exchange Seminar for practitioners within its ranks who may encounter potential victims of human trafficking in their day-to-day work.. The Seminar, which will be held by the 4th quarter of XXXX, will be comprised of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A general presentation about Human Trafficking and Maltese initiatives to counter Human Trafficking (to be delivered by HRD personnel); 2. A presentation about ‘typical’ Human Trafficking cases encountered in Malta, also comprising information on how cases were detected and addressed. 3. A Q&A session on potential or suspicious cases that may have been encountered by frontliners. <p>The purpose of the training is to raise awareness about the forms Human Trafficking may take in a Maltese context, and the difficulties and challenges it presents to the authorities. This training would be for the benefit personnel at the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers, the International Protection Agency, the Probation and Parole Department, as well as Identity Malta.</p>
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			<p>The Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Division, in collaboration with the Human Rights Initiatives Unit within HRD held a training session entitled: ‘Capacity-building session on investigation and prosecution of cases of trafficking in human beings.’ Such training was presented by two experts of the Council of Europe, Mr Bernie Gravett and Mr Colin Carswell on victim identification, investigating human trafficking, organised crime, and Joint Investigation Teams. The training session took place on 1st March 2023 at the Academy for Disciplined Forces.</p>
Awareness and Prevention			
<i>Action</i>	<i>Target Deadline</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>State of Implementation</i>
<p>7. Strengthening public awareness by screening video on human trafficking awareness on national TV station</p>	<p>4th quarter 2020</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality</p>	<p>During the week starting the 25 – 30 July 2022, a series of events have been held as part of the National Awareness Raising Blue Heart Campaign. An audio-visual production incorporating all the initiatives taking place during year 2022 will be launched on national TV / radio stations, as well as social media portals, including governmental social media (HRD / Reforms), and all local media platform.</p> <p>HRIU shall also seek the cooperation of the stakeholders giving support services to vulnerable persons to create video clips discussing various topics and aimed at different target groups on human trafficking to strengthen public awareness on national media and social media.</p> <p>The collaboration of the Malta Police Force on identification procedures and the Victim Support Agency on protection services shall be sought.</p>

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			<p>HRIU undertook the management of an Awareness Raising Campaign on Human Trafficking which has been launched on the 1st of February following a tender process which was concluded in August 2022. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness on what constitutes the crime of human trafficking, and to ensure that the public is knowledgeable of the indicators of trafficking. So far, the tender has come to fruition through billboards, bus shelters and bus wraps, as well as through social media, with monthly posts on Facebook and Instagram. The start of this campaign has centred around the tagline: ‘Prevent, Protect, Report’. This campaign shall include initiatives to promote the services available and managed by the national service providers. So far the collaboration of the Malta Police Force, Jobsplus, Agenzija Appogg, GU Clinic and Victim Support Agency has been sought to promote the Crime Stop Hotline 119, an online reporting and free phone available on website of Jobsplus, the International Victim Support Freephone to be launched by the Victim Support Agency in 2023, a reporting facility through Messenger operated by the Health Department and the 179 support line managed by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services, to ensure that the public is equipped to report any suspicious activity pertaining to trafficking and the victims are guided to the national support services.</p> <p>Through a series of appearances on national television and radio programmes, the above objectives shall be further promoted.</p>
<p>8. Awareness session on domestic servitude and labour exploitation mainly for persons working in care services</p>	<p>1st quarter 2023</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality, DIER and Jobs Plus</p>	<p>HRD took the initiative to invite OSCE’s Special Representative & Coordinator for combating Trafficking in Human beings to provide MHSR with further recommendations on Policy development and co-ordination, Financial investigations and Prevention of labour exploitation in supply chains and public procurement. In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we organised a workshop delivered by OSCE. Assessing The Risks And Prevention Of Trafficking In Human Beings and Labour Exploitation in Supply Chains (organised by OSCE). The OSCE Special Representative & Coordinator for combating Trafficking in Human beings provided a report with feedback and recommendations to Malta and institutions with a mandate to protect workers in Malta, namely DIER. These have been published in the Call for Action Document.</p>

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			<p>HRIU shall also seek the cooperation of the stakeholders giving support services to vulnerable persons and prone to labour exploitation to create video clips in Maltese with English subtitles or English with Maltese subtitles, discussing various topics and aimed at different target groups.</p> <p>The collaboration of Ministry for Active Ageing, Ministry for Inclusion, DIER, Jobplus, identity Malta and SCSA shall be sought.</p>
<p>9. Research among former victims of human trafficking in Malta, with a view to obtaining information about their recruitment and experience, as well as the efficacy of assistance provided.</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2023</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality</p>	<p>In July 2021, the Human Rights Directorate has conducted research on the 3P's entitled 'Legislation, policies, strategies and guidelines concerning Trafficking in Human Beings'. Selected judgements of the Maltese Criminal Courts were included. Court judgments and decisions serve not only to decide upon those cases brought before it but more generally, it enables the analysis of the testimony given by victims and/or presumed victims of THB.</p> <p>On the 5th October 2022 HRIU coordinated a meeting between NSO, Data Protection Commission and RCU on Data Collection and Analysis Processes and the implementation of Action 9.</p> <p>The Human Rights Initiatives Unit (HRIU) initiated discussions on the setting up a national common data facility for reporting and statistical use on cases of human trafficking and any matters related to human trafficking. A meeting was coordinated by HRIU between the National Statistics Office, the Office of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner and the Research and Coordination Unit within HRD on the 5th of October 2022 with the aim to improve the coordination of the current data collection processes for reporting and monitoring purposes and to enhance the national efforts to protect potential and identified victims of human trafficking.</p> <p>HRIU invited NSO to give a presentation to the Focal Persons appointed on the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee on the 18th of October during the first IMC meeting held at Dar I-Ewropa, Valletta. HRIU is further collaborating</p>

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<p>(cont.)</p> <p>Research among former victims of human trafficking in Malta, with a view to obtaining information about their recruitment and experience, as well as the efficacy of assistance provided.</p>			<p>and discussing with the National Statistics Office (NSO) on the creation of the Common Data System for Human Trafficking through the TSI project.</p> <p>A One-to-One session has been held between the Project’s Programme Manager and the Expert from the Council of Europe and NSO (Crime Statistics Unit) to seek further guidance on the legal aspects of data collection.</p> <p>HRIU held further discussions with the TSI project team to ensure the procedure to be adopted for the implementation of Action 9 of the NAP 2020-2023 fulfils the national monitoring and reporting functions (in this case emerging from the EU anti-trafficking Directive 36/2011) and the collection and processing of data in line with the GDPR. RCU within HRD scheduled/planned further meetings with the following stakeholders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5th December 2022 – International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2. 7th December 2022 – Victim Support Agency (VSA) <p>Further guidance on the implementation of Action 9 during bi-lateral meetings held between the TSI, HRD and the MHSR. It was agreed that Action 9 will be fulfilled through the TSI project as part of Output 1.1 and Output 1.2 and will be delegated to a pool of national consultants recruited through the Council of Europe. A meeting is being planned early January 2023 between TSI Expert and the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS).</p>
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<p>10. Outreach sessions for boys and girls between 13-15 years old on the dangers of online child abuse, including sexting, grooming and child pornography.</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2022</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality and Ministry for Education, Youth and Employment</p>	<p>The Ministry for Education, Sports, Youths, Research and Innovation held consultations with Mr Stephen Camilleri Education Officer – PSCD, who informs that the project is implemented through a consortium coordinated by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS) and brings together the Office of the Commissioner for Children, the Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes (DLAP) and the Malta Police Force - Cyber Crime Unit. The consortium is supported by the expertise and experience of a number of strategic partners’ who contribute through a purposely set up Advisory Board.</p> <p>All partners work together to raise awareness and educate children and teens, parents/carers and educators on the safer use of the Internet. The partners also established and promotes www.childwebalert.gov.mt , an online reporting facility for illegal online content, particularly child abuse material and offers support services to respective victims.</p> <p>Additional information, and to download the report on Besmartonline 6 can be accessed here. https://www.besmartonline.org.mt/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1</p> <p>The consortium is now in the Besmartonline 7 project.</p> <p>Activities and awareness campaigns are ongoing both in schools and in the community. In schools they have different workbooks for primary and secondary which deal with various issues related to internet safety and abuse</p>
<p>11. Publication of material relating to online sex abuse of children for parents</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2022</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality and Ministry for Education, Youth and Employment</p>	<p>The <u>CALL FOR ACTION</u> report was circulated with all Permanent Secretaries, PDPIs and entities within the public service and sector during the National Blue Heart Awareness Campaign in July 2022. The theme of the campaign was ‘Use and Abuse of Technology’. The publication included actions recommended by international organisations to Malta under Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships sub-headings. During a networking event organised by HRIU on the 29th of July, PowerPoint presentations by Speakers from NSO and MITA highlighted the need for more online security and initiatives to be undertaken by</p>

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			<p>the Malta Communications Authority and other governmental institutions empowered to regulate the content available to the public, especially minors, online.</p> <p>The HRD is collaborating with the Ministry for Health (MFH) during the Anti-Trafficking Malta Campaign as part of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day 2022, aimed to raise awareness on the risks of sexual exploitation as well as the support services available for potential victims. Posters shall be distributed in health centres’ and hospitals’ common areas.</p> <p>The IMC focal persons have been tasked with providing information on the services offered by their respective Ministries in support to vulnerable persons to prevent any form of human exploitation. These will be collected in the form of a booklet which shall be designed and printed by Outlook Coop, commissioned through a tender agreement awarded on the 7th of September 2022. The first half of the booklet will be in the Maltese language and the other half which is upside down format shall be in English.</p> <p>HRIU shall be looking into the design and print of three-gate leaflets, every version to be translated into English and Maltese to address the action recommended by GRETA in the Third Evaluation Report : “Malta to take steps to ensure that presumed and formally identified victims of trafficking are given information in a proactive manner regarding their rights, including by developing a specific leaflet and making it available in the languages of the main countries of origin of victims.”</p>
<p>12. Awareness sessions for women and girls aimed at:</p> <p>a) Providing information about services that would</p>	<p>3rd quarter 2021</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality, Agenzija Appogg and AWAS</p>	<p>Outreach sessions have started on the 26th July 2022 at Hal-Far Open Centre. These sessions are organised by FSWS and coordinated in collaboration with the Human Rights Directorate, the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers, and the Correctional Services Agency. The link to the first outreach activity at the Hal-Far Open Centre may be viewed on the following link https://www.facebook.com/HRDmalta/posts/pfbid0MRoyijHPhQgtQF5zpZGRuZYskPE9MQCX6FQAnjbnnEndAJrZXyAfFwhzXgqLsKDgI</p>

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<p>assist in dealing with past traumatic situations; and,</p> <p>b) About the threat posed by labour trafficking and human trafficking for sexual exploitation.</p>			<p>These sessions are currently on-going.</p> <p>HRIU shall also seek the cooperation of the stakeholders giving support services to vulnerable persons involved in the sex industry to create video clips in Maltese with English subtitles or English with Maltese subtitles, discussing various topics and aimed at different target groups.</p> <p>The collaboration with SOGIGESC unit shall be sought.</p>
<p>Evaluation and monitoring</p>			
<p><i>Action</i></p>	<p><i>Target Deadline</i></p>	<p><i>Responsible Parties</i></p>	<p><i>State of Implementation</i></p>
<p>13. Yearly report to the Minister for Home Affairs and National Security on action in combating human trafficking</p>	<p>Year 1 - 4</p>	<p>Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee</p>	<p>A report on the implementation of the NAP 2020-2023 has been presented to the PS MHSR, for the eventual presentation to the Minister of Home Affairs, Security and Reforms.</p>

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<p>14. Publication of final report on the implementation of the Action Plan</p>	<p>4th quarter 2023</p>	<p>Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee</p>	
<p>15. Support EU Anti Trafficking Coordinator and attend meeting of the National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms meetings</p>	<p>Year 1 -4</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security</p>	<p>On the 7 May 2021, the Human Rights Directorate has attended the meeting of the NREMs to discuss further the consolidated country fiches, including the contributions received from 25 Member States.</p> <p>On the 15th & 16th November 2021, representatives from the Human Rights Directorate within the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality have attended the Annual Meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms. The annual meeting was organized by the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).</p> <p>Furthermore, on the 6th December 2021, the Directorate also attended the Joint meeting of the EU Network of National Rapporteurs and/or Equivalent Mechanisms against trafficking in human beings and the Network of the National Anti-Trafficking coordinators of South-East Europe.</p> <p>Meeting in May 2022 in Brussels HRIU participated as National Anti-Trafficking Rapporteur in an event organised by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Ms Diane Schmitt and the French Presidency Secretary General of the Inter-Ministerial Mission for the protection against violence against women and the fight against trafficking in human beings, Ms Elisabeth Moiron Braud - EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms on Trafficking in Human Beings held in Brussels on 16 & 17 May 2022</p>

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			<p>Event was organised by the EU Commission for Home Affairs in which the Network of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms and the Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings met in Brussels on the 16/17 May 2022 to address the risks of trafficking in human beings and support potential victims among those fleeing the war in Ukraine, the Digital dimension of trafficking in human beings, the Criminalisation of the use of exploited services, preventing and detecting trafficking for labour exploitation and assisting its victims, penalties and sanctions for offences concerning trafficking in human beings.</p> <p>The keynote addresses on the 17th of May have been streamed Live: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9E5LxidjLI</p> <p>On the EU Anti-Trafficking Day 2022 –National Awareness Raising Events included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14 Oct – Interview on TV programme ‘Kalamita’ One TV - 16 Oct - Article on local newspaper - 17 Oct - Workshop delivered by OSCE on Supply Chains - - 18 Oct – First Anti-Trafficking Malta – IMC meeting Official launch of Anti-Trafficking Malta logo/ facebook page during the IMC. - 4 different posts to be designed and posted on the social media, 12, 13, 14, 17 October 2022 - Audio-visual message by EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to be broadcast on the 18th of October 2022 on National and Social Media - Posters shall be distributed in health centres’ and hospitals’ common areas on the risks of sexual exploitation as well as the support services available for potential victims
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			<p>HRD attended Joint Meeting of the EU Network of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms and Civil Society Platform against trafficking in human beings held in Brussels from 26 to 27 October 2022.</p> <p>The meeting was co-chaired by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Diane Schmitt, and the CZ NREM on Trafficking in Human Beings.</p>
16. Support GRETA monitoring mechanism under the Council of Europe	Year 1 - 4	Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security	<p>Malta has contributed in the third evaluation report on Access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings. https://rm.coe.int/greta-evaluation-report-on-malta-3rd-evaluation-round-/1680a47d84</p> <p>Furthermore, in May 2021, Malta has also contributed to a questionnaire sent by the Council of Europe on online and technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings.</p> <p>On the 4th June 2021, the Human Rights Directorate attended the 28th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.</p> <p>Malta has also provided its contribution to the drafting Committee on Trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation (DH-TET)</p> <p>Feedback on the GRETA recommendations to Malta from national stakeholders will be collected by the <u>Research and Coordination Unit HRD</u> by mid-2023 on the THIRD EVALUATION REPORT TO MALTA – GRETA and submitted through MHRS PSPI and DG Global Issues Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe on Action against Trafficking in Persons requests the Government of Malta to report to the Committee of the Parties on the measures taken to comply with these recommendations by <u>17 December 2023</u>.</p>

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			Council of European MENA event hosted in Malta – 23-31 October 2022
17. Support GVA Department of State Washington	Year 1 - 4	Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security	<p>Malta has contributed with the department of State in the compilation of the TIP Report for the year 2020, 2021 & 2022.</p> <p>A meeting was held on the 8th of August between the US Embassy officers and the Human Rights Directorate at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The US Embassy reported that the number of successful investigations leading to effective judicial processes and convictions is what ultimately matters. It has been suggested that a meeting is held with between MFJ PDPI, MHSR PDPI, MFET DG Global Issues and HRD RCU / HRIU to be able to devise plan forward for the collection and coordination of the required feedback concerning the recent amendments and direct involvement of AG office in matter concerning THB, updates on investigative tools and law enforcement procedures and the effectiveness of the Prosecutions within the judicial system.</p> <p>The cooperation of the National Statistics Office was identified as an essential component in the gathering of data and statistics for the next TIP reporting period.</p> <p>Herewith, is the link to U.S. Secretary of State Anthony’s Blinken’s remarks on the launch of the 2021 TIP Report on 19 July , where he mentions Malta.</p> <p>65 Public Officers were invited to participate during an online event held on the 15th of September 2022</p> <p>“Nefarious Crossroads: How Corruption Shapes Human Trafficking”</p> <p>Feedback for the TIP reporting period Arp 2022 to Arp 2023 was collected by the <u>Research & Coordination Unit HRD</u> and submitted through MHSR-PDPI and DG Global Issues Ministry of Foreign Affairs <u>19 Janaury 2023</u></p>

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<p>18. UN Blue Heart Campaign Malta</p>			<p>30th July is the UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons whereby UN members are invited to join the Blue Heart Campaign – a global awareness raising initiative to fight human trafficking and its impact on society. It seeks to encourage involvement from governments, civil society, the corporate sector, and individuals alike, to inspire action and help prevent this crime. The Blue Heart represents the sadness of those who are trafficked whilst reminding us of the cold-heartedness of those who buy and sell human beings. The theme for 2021 is “Victims’ Voices Lead the Way”.</p> <p>On this day, Minister for Equality, Research and Innovation Dr. Owen Bonnici has launched a campaign aimed to raise awareness among the general public on the trafficking situation in Malta. The campaign included an outdoor display at Pjazza Tritoni in Valletta whereby survivors of trafficking were given a voice to share their stories.</p> <p>Press Release by the Ministry for Equality, Research and Innovation.</p> <p>In 2022, the Human Rights Directorate in collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality organized a series of events between the 25th and 30th July 2022 as part of the national efforts to join the Blue Heart Campaign. The theme for 2022 is “Use and Abuse of Technology”.</p> <p>This year's Blue Heart awareness raising campaign consisted of outreach initiatives in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Council of Europe (GRETA), Agenzija Appoġġ, Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers, Correctional Services Agency, Victim Support Agency, Malta Police Force, Policy Development and Programme Implementation Officers, MITA, National Statistics Office, and the Directorate for Global Issues within the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade.</p>
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			<p>The Unit has asked local councils, ministries, and private companies to light up their building in blue as a sign of support for the Blue Heart Campaign. See the list of contributors below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Venera Local Council • Gudja Local Council • Birkirkara Local Council • Birzebbugia Local Council • San Gwann Local Council • Ministry for Social Policy and Children’s Rights • Ministry for Public Works and Planning <p>A promotional video was developed showcasing this year’s campaign, which was also shown on national TV station. This initiative also contributes towards Action 6 of the of the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking 2020-2023.</p> <p>The Blue Heart Campaign and events were promoted on local TV Stations and magazine. Senior Manager Dr. Lynn Chircop Faure appeared on INDIGO on 27th July, and FLiving Show on 29th July and 3rd of August. The topics discussed were the Blue Heart Campaign events and the networking initiatives in preparation of the National Strategy and Action Plan 2024. An article was also published on local magazine Gwida and Malta Today.</p> <p>As part of the campaign, two family events were organized in Council of Europe Garden in Gżira and Buġibba Square on Tuesday 26th July and Thursday 28th July respectively. These events were intended to raise awareness among the general public on the growing phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and how it impacts the society we live in.</p>
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			<p>Kiosk stands were set up by the Human Rights Directorate, the Malta Police Force, the Victim Support Agency and Aġenzija Appoġġ, to provide information to passersby on the support services available to victims and how one can report a potential case of trafficking through the National Referral Mechanism.</p> <p>T-shirts and freebies with the United Nations Blue Heart Campaign logo were distributed and entertainment was made available for all the family with popcorn, doughnuts and day-tarts offered free of charge.</p> <p>Additionally, an outreach session with migrants was organized as part of the Blue Heart Campaign on Tuesday 26th July 2022. This session will be the first in a series to target migrants residing in open centres, community, and detention centres with the aim to raise awareness on what is human trafficking, how to identify signs of trafficking, where to report and the services available to potential victims of trafficking.</p> <p>The session is part of the All Equal Project coordinated by Aġenzija Appoġġ, but also aims to contribute towards the implementation of Action 11 of the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking 2020-2023.</p> <p>July '23 - Promotional Anti-Trafficking messages will be designed on Six (6) billboards (5 in Malta and 1 in Gozo) for a duration of 1 month</p>
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