

# Human Trafficking Impact on the Public Security

## Analysis of EU Public Perceptions

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**Summary:**

This article focuses on the main priorities of the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings. It analyzes the influence on the public security of the EU Member States. Quantitative models have been developed to assess human trafficking and security in the European Union. The Defense and Security Strategic Studies Centre (DSSSC) at the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) carried out a research on the 5 P's model for eradication of so called "human slavery". It aims to assess the importance of key initiatives in fighting against the trafficking in human beings.

**Key words:** human trafficking, public security, organized crime, EU strategy, group evaluation, relation modeling.

**JEL:** D7, H56.

Trafficking in human beings is at the core of contemporary slavery, whose global scope has regrettably been expanding in recent years instead of

shrinking. According to the latest report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) covering the 2002-2011 period, the victims of sexual exploitation and forced labour stood at 20.9 million people on a global scale, including 5.5 million children. Forced labour affects directly 67.9% or an estimated 14.2 million people worldwide. The UN Global Initiative is aimed at engaging and mobilising international organizations and state institutions all over the world in human trafficking prevention.<sup>1</sup>

Human trafficking comprises a brutal crime against human beings and a gross violation of the European Union Charter. The victims of human trafficking are about 1.5 per 1000, which makes 750,000 people. The EU institutions adopted a Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. Directive 2011/36/EU<sup>2</sup> aims at taking stronger actions and setting up more ambitious standards as an important step towards a comprehensive and more effective European anti-trafficking policy. It is committed to the prevention and combat of

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<sup>1</sup> UN.GIFT (The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking), UN, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, Official Journal of the European Union, 5 April 2011.

trafficking in human beings as well as to the protection of the rights of trafficked persons and effective prosecution of traffickers. In 2012 the Directive was followed by a relevant strategy<sup>3</sup> that will support its transposition and implementation. This strategy identifies five priorities on which the EU should focus in order to address the issue of trafficking in human beings, which should be implemented by 2016. It outlines the following key priorities: identifying, protecting and assisting the victims of trafficking, especially children; shifting the focus from revealing all forms of trafficking in human beings to trafficking prevention, increased prosecution of traffickers, enhanced coordination and cooperation among key actors and policy coherence, increased knowledge of and effective response to emerging risks, assessment of treacherous crime trends, measuring the impact of anti-trafficking efforts, and gathering data, etc. The strategy emphasizes on the better coordination of the various initiatives of the international organizations, third countries, civil society and the private sector. Adopted papers are well received and supported by the EU citizens.

The conceptual model for human trafficking prevention could be described as follows:

Prevention of human trafficking = Reducing vulnerability +  
+ Expanding opportunities + Reducing risk in security environment.

The European authorities (Commission, Parliament, etc.) constantly monitor the public opinion in the European Union. Eurobarometer

collects appropriate information by conducting surveys, interviews, focus groups, and other to run standardized, special, express and other studies related to the major issues of the present and the future. The objectives are to study the positions, opinions, perceptions and expectations of the population in the Member States.

A specialized survey carried out by the Eurobarometer (SEB)<sup>4</sup> in 2012 examines sensitive topics for society at large, such as the level of public security, the fight against terrorism and organized crime, etc. This survey reveals the productivity and effectiveness of the EU institutions' policies. Gathered data indicated that the fight against human trafficking is in the limelight. The actions taken to combat forced exploitation in the 27 EU Member States enjoy full public approval. There is widespread support among the population in general regarding the measures taken by the national governments. The significance of these measures is estimated via the so called "strong scale" (very important - VI, fairly important - FI and not very important - NVI)<sup>5</sup>. The descriptive statistics of the collected data is shown in Table 1.

Within the EU 62% of respondents on average highly estimated the importance of elimination of exploitation, while 31% of

the respondents gave moderate evaluations. The scattering amplitude of the evaluations obtained is 44% and 39% respectively

<sup>3</sup> EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings, Brussels, 19 June 2012.

<sup>4</sup> Special Eurobarometer 380, Report: Awareness of Home Affairs, European Commissions,

<sup>5</sup> VI (very important), FI (fairly important), NVI (not very important). 2012.

Table 1.

Indicators	VI	Country	FI	Country
Q <sub>min</sub>	45%	Austria	8%	Cyprus
Quartile Q <sub>1</sub>	57%	Czech Republic	23%	Finland, Slovenia
Median Q <sub>2</sub>	65%	Luxembourg	28%	Germany, Greece
Quartile Q <sub>3</sub>	72%	Slovenia	34%	Spain, Czech Republic, Hungary
Q <sub>max</sub>	89%	Cyprus	47%	Austria

and the median interval is 15% and 11% respectively. The powerful approval of Cyprus (VI = 89% and FI = 8%) and the balanced support of Austria (VI = 45% and FI = 47%) should be noted.

Human trafficking raises strong concerns among the European citizens and has a negative impact on the levels of public security. The Eurobarometer survey shows that 36% of the respondents on average totally agree with the statement that their native countries are a safe place to live in. The countries in which respondents feel safer and are seen as a secure place to live in are Finland (76%), Denmark (74%), Malta (70%), Luxembourg (64%), Sweden (61%), Austria (60%), Slovenia (58%), The Netherlands (56%), Germany (55%), Spain (54%), Estonia (47%), Cyprus (44%), etc. Feeling less secure are the citizens of Hungary (16%), Italy (17%), Latvia (22%), England (24%), Lithuania (24%), Czech Republic (25%), Romania (25%), Slovakia (25%), France (26%), Bulgaria (26%), etc. There is a significant difference among the opinions of the people living within the EU regarding security at the local and national level.

Modeling the relationship between public security of the citizens (**PSEC**) and the importance of fighting human trafficking

(**FHT**) allows us to accumulate useful knowledge. This quantity can be determined by means of regression models of the **PSEC<sub>i</sub> = f (FHT)** type. The Eurobarometer survey contains relevant information about the support-levels and range of approval. Key variables were the percentage of respondents who support ongoing initiatives. Based on data the applied models have been developed to assess the traffic and security of the European Union, Member States, local areas, environment, etc.

The relation between EU security **EUSEC** and the **FHT** estimates can be described as:

$$\mathbf{EUSEC = 25.32 + 0.5981 FHT} \quad (1)$$

The calculated value of the coefficient of determination is 5.7% and the value of the coefficient of correlation is 0.239.

The relation between security within EU Member States **COSEC** and the **FHT** estimates is determined by the following model:

$$\mathbf{COSEC = - 46.00 + 1.3941 FHT} \quad (2)$$

The calculated value of the coefficient of determination is 12.9% and the value of the coefficient of correlation is 0.359.

The relation between local security **CISEC** and the **FHT** estimates is:

$$\mathbf{CISEC = 10.85 + 0.8357 FHT} \quad (3)$$

The calculated value of the coefficient of determination is 10.7% and the meaning of the coefficient of correlation is 0.327.

The relation between immediate neighborhood security **NESEC** and the **FHT** estimates is described as follows:

$$\text{NESEC} = 32.16 + 0.6191 \text{ FHT} \quad (4)$$

The calculated value of the coefficient of determination is 7.7% and the value of the coefficient of correlation is 0.277.

In 2012 the Defense and Security Strategic Studies Centre at the University of National and World Economy performed a group evaluation of the relative significance of the base components regarding the applied model for combating human trafficking. During the past few years the **5 P (five P's)** model is perceived as a more efficient means of countering the modern "slavery" established by organized crime. **Prevention of human trafficking P<sub>1</sub>** is mainly focused on the practical aspect of information and publicity measures. **Protection P<sub>2</sub>** focuses primarily on defending victims. **Patronage of casualties P<sub>3</sub>** lays the emphasis on the necessary care of and support services rendered to victims. **Prosecution of traffickers P<sub>4</sub>** is oriented towards the timely sanction and tough punishment. **Partnership among the institutions P<sub>5</sub>**, engaged in combating human trafficking is best described with more effective co-ordination of the joint anti-trafficking actions.

Thirty people of the academic staff of

the Department of National and Regional Security (DNRS) as well as bachelor students who study the Economics of Defense and Security as a major course at UNWE took part in the survey. The collected data were processed with the help of the consensus software. This software allows to measure the level of group agreement in the different communities. It includes algorithms for the treatment of numerical evaluations of expressed preferences for the significance of selected objects. The overall results of the group consensus are presented graphically in Figure 1.

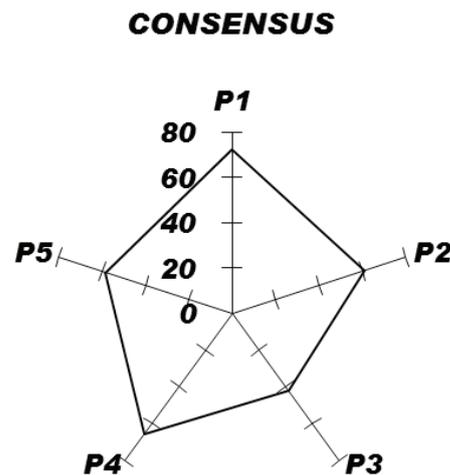


Fig. 1

Prevention of trafficking **P<sub>1</sub>**, prosecution of traffickers **P<sub>5</sub>** and protection of victims **P<sub>2</sub>** as key initiatives are pointed out as

Table 2.

Code	5P's model determinants	Consensus, %	Agreement	Rank
P <sub>1</sub>	Prevention of trafficking	77.33	high	1
P <sub>2</sub>	Protection of victims	48.00	moderate	4
P <sub>3</sub>	Patronage of casualties	32.67	moderate	5
P <sub>4</sub>	Prosecution of traffickers	72.67	high	2
P <sub>5</sub>	Partnership among institutions	69.30	high	3

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being of a greater importance, according to the participants in the survey. The group consensus among the respondents is high, reaching 72.67%, 65.67% and 61.00% respectively.

The group ranking of the 5P's model determinants in terms of public security is shown in Table 2.

The attracted respondents in the survey believe that the most significant initiatives regarding public security are **Prevention of trafficking** P<sub>1</sub>, **Prosecution of traffickers** P<sub>4</sub> and **Partnership among institutions** P<sub>5</sub>.

Table 3.

Code	5P's model determinants	Consensus, %	Agreement	Rank
P <sub>1</sub>	Prevention of trafficking	68.00	high	2
P <sub>2</sub>	Protection of victims	74.00	high	1
P <sub>3</sub>	Patronage of casualties	51.33	moderate	4
P <sub>4</sub>	Prosecution of traffickers	58.67	moderate	3
P <sub>5</sub>	Partnership among institutions	48.00	moderate	5

There has been a high consensus among surveyed respondents on these matters. Its values are relatively close and amounted to 77.33%, 72.67% and 69.30%. The relative importance of key measures is 46.7% for Prevention of trafficking P<sub>1</sub>, 30.0% for **Prosecution of traffickers** P<sub>4</sub> and 23.3% of the potential maximum for **Partnership among institutions** P<sub>5</sub>.

The processed results show that there is some discrepancy in the team's priority perceptions. There is a positive correlation among 83.34% of the respondents while negative correlation is established among 13.33% of the respondents. Some 16.65% of the respondents have shown full consensus. Lack of correlation is reported in 3.33% of

the ranking below. These circumstances certainly affect the coefficient of concordance W, whose value  $W = 0.360$  is not high. Its significance is measured with  $\chi^2$  Pearson test. In this case, it is assumed that W coefficient is statistically significant as  $\chi^2_c = 43.2 > \chi^2_t = 13.277$ . This shows 99.0% probabilities of coincidence between the respondents.

Collective ranking of the 5P's model determinants in terms of **individual security** is described in Table 3.

According to the opinion of the group

attracted respondents, individual security is mainly dependent on practical measures in terms of **Protection of victims** P<sub>2</sub> and **Prevention of trafficking** P<sub>1</sub>. On these issues high agreement has been achieved which reaches 74.0% and 68.0% respectively. The relative importance of priority measures with regard to both Protection of victims and Prevention of trafficking is the same and represents 33.3% of the possible maximum.

The final results reveal specific differences among the expressed opinions. The positive correlation measured among the respondents is 76.67% and the negative correlation – 16.67%. The lack of correlation is 6.67%. The concordance coefficient value

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is relatively low and  $W = 0.120$ . However, it is statistically significant because  $\chi^2_c = 14,4 > \chi^2_t = 13.277$ .

Quantitative relationships between the ranges within the survey are measured with Spearman's correlation coefficient  $\rho$  ( $\rho$ ). The correlation between the national and public security with regard to the fight against human trafficking is very high, as  $\rho = 0.900$ . The estimated correlation between national and personal security is also positive, but is lower because  $\rho = 0.600$ . The correlation relationship between individual and community security is significantly weaker. The value of  $\rho = 0.200$  is positive, but shows a low similarity. This is determined by differences in key priorities for combating human trafficking.

## Conclusion

Human trafficking is an important threat to public security and society in general. It is an act of organized crime and is associated with use of real violence or the threat of violence, intimidation, fraud, kidnapping, torture, humiliation, abuse and other things. Human trafficking directly affects millions of people's lives worldwide in physical, psychological, moral and other terms.

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Combating human trafficking requires the joint efforts of the responsible institutions and civil society.

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