



## Facultat de Ciències Polítiques i Sociologia

### Bachelor Thesis Executive Summary

#### European Union against Transnational Organized Crime

“EU’s actions against human trafficking in the context of the Syrian and Libyan conflicts”

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Trafficking in human beings represents one of the biggest challenges for the European Union, it is a vile crime rooted in the worst of human beings, a problem hard to identify, measure and analyze. The EU feels the moral obligation of stopping and penalizing this crime. However, there are many issues that aggravate and deteriorate the situation making its control even harder. One of this factors can be exemplified in the migration crisis of 2015. Although, both are not related problems, they can get influence by one another. Migration can act as a trigger in the increase and complexity of human trafficking.

This research aims to encompass the main actions taken by the European Union in order to fight human trafficking in the context of Syrian and Libyan conflicts. The methods of analysis include the selection of documents regarding human trafficking between 2012 and 2019 and of four categories under which the documents have been analyzed. The main objective of the analysis is to witness the scope of trafficking in order to decide the best solutions to combat it. Eight documents prepared by the European Commission were examined. The Directive 2011/36/EU and the Strategy 2012-2016 represent the major tools the EU lean on to combat human trafficking.

The four categories enclose the key features to analyze human trafficking. First, conceptual developments, which allows to have a better understanding of how malleable the issue actually is. A crime that through time has taken a gender dimension, in the way of how different it affects men and women. To become a profitable business with no risk of punishment. Second, creation of new tools to fight this problem. The creation of an Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to ensure cooperation, handbooks to guide victims and Member States, funded projects and a website completely dedicated to this matter. Every document adapts to the circumstances and contribute with new mechanisms to stop it. Third, reform of institutions, an intricate category due to the complex model of shared sovereignty the EU has. Member States and EU agencies are encouraged to work together in order to find and implement effective solutions. Fourth, redefinition of actor's roles. Trafficking is an issue that involves many actors, each of them is been reinventing according to time and circumstances. From Member States who are an important part in every aspect to fight this problem, to victims who now play a more active role in fighting for their rights and to traffickers who are changing their ways to act thanks to technology.

Analysis allows to recognize what is human trafficking, what forms it can take and in what ways it affects society. All of this under the context of the refugee crisis of 2015, an event that have complicated human trafficking. Also, shows how easy this phenomenon evolves and the extent it can has. EU's actions have been key in stopping this problem. However, there has been many setbacks to have in consideration for a stronger future response. For instance, overlapping and duplication of initiatives are a problem that should be contemplated. Coherence and cooperation are the only way to combat such an entangled matter. Further analysis is also required for an issue with that ease to adapt. Only time will tell if actions taken by the EU were enough to tackle trafficking in human beings.