NEW THREATS TO HUMAN SECURITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION:

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AS TOOLS IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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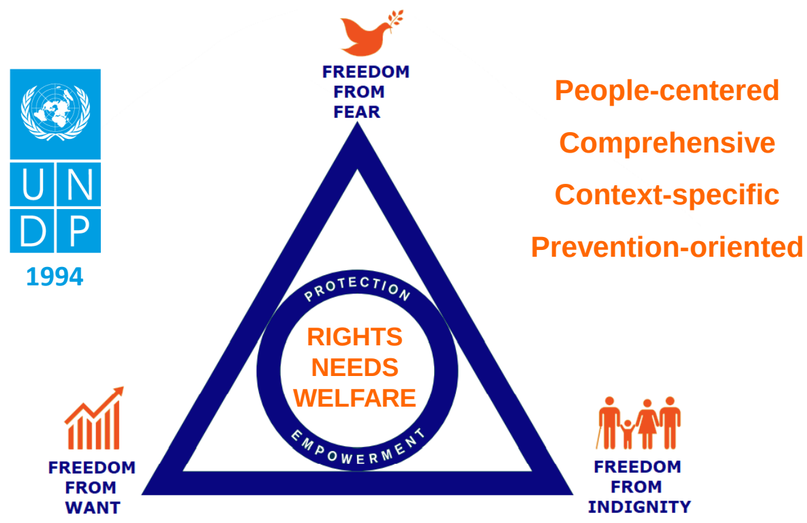
1.INTRODUCTION

- **Human trafficking** is the world's **third** largest criminal enterprise
- **50$ billion / year worldwide**
- **46.9$ billion/year** in **developed economies** and the **EU**
- **14.145 victims** reported by **EU Member States** (2017-2018)
- **Technologies facilitate** the trafficking cycle

How does the use of new technologies in the human trafficking business threaten human security in the European Union?

2.ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

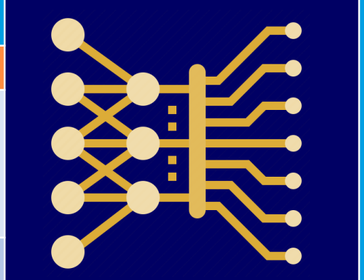
HUMAN SECURITY



3.ANALYSIS

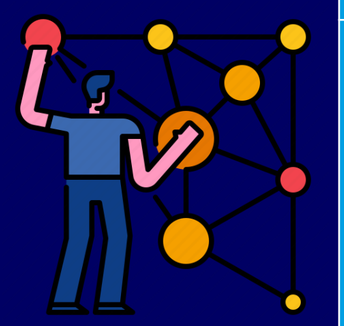
Analyzed technologies and their use in human trafficking stages	R*	C*	A*	E*	M*
Current use					
Internet "clearnet" platforms and smartphone apps	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Internet "darknet" platforms			✓	✓	✓
Telephones		✓			
Cameras and microphones		✓		✓	
Cryptocurrencies					✓
Future trends					
Artificial Intelligence (AI)		✓	✓	✓	
5G and Internet of Things (IoT)		✓		✓	
New transport infrastructures		✓			

*R = Recruitment of victims *A= Advertisement of victims
*C= Control of victims *E= Exploitation of victims
*M= Movement of illicit proceeds



TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

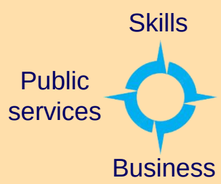
3 IMPACTS



Threats of the 3 impacts to human security		Freedom from FEAR	Freedom from WANT	Freedom from INDIGNITY
1 Facilitation of recruitment and control of victims	Society	- Fear of human trafficking - Fear that other crimes and abuses escalate - Fear of using technologies	- Need for a safe use of technology - Need for effective institutions	Facilitation of the violation of the rights to: - Life - Liberty and security - Not to be submitted to slavery, servitude, forced or bonded labour - Not to be subjected to torture and/or degrading treatment or punishment - To be free from gendered violence - To freedom of association - To freedom of movement - To the highest attainable standard of health - To favorable work conditions - To an adequate standard of living - To social security - To special protection of children - To non-interference in private life, nor attacks on honor or reputation
	Victims	- Fear of privacy intrusion - Fear of loss of reputation and credibility	- Need for privacy and intimacy	
2 Expansion of the market and profits	Society	- Fear of human trafficking - Fear that other crimes and abuses escalate - Fear of using technologies	- Need for a safe use of technology - Need for effective institutions	
	Victims	- Fear of further exploitation	- Need for privacy and intimacy	
3 Reduction of the risk of detection	Society	- Fear of human trafficking - Fear that other crimes and abuses escalate - Fear that institutions are unable to address threats of different nature	- Need for effective institutions	
	Victims	- Fear of not getting their lives back, feeling of unprotection		

4.EU EFFORTS

DIGITAL STRATEGY (2020)



Technology that works for people
Fair and competitive digital economy
Open, democratic and sustainable society

DECLARATION ON DIGITAL RIGHTS AND PRINCIPLES (2022)

CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY (2020)

EUROPOL

EU Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025

- Digital transformation and online crime are a **priority**
- Focus on **empowering peole**
- Focus on protecting **rights**, **opportunities** and **well-being**

5.CONCLUSIONS

- Technologies do **not** create a **new crime**, but rather **transform** it
- Technologies have **three main impacts** on human trafficking
- These three impacts pose **a series of threats** to the **three pillars** of human security
- The three pillars of human security are **interlinked:** one "freedom" is not realized without the other two
- The **EU** is adopting an approach **close to human security.** This should be a subject of **future studies**
- **Human security** is a **very relevant** concept for the case study, as it has been **successful to broaden** it to **identify the threats** that the **use of technologies in human trafficking poses to people's welfare**. Therefore, human security implications of the misuse of technologies need **further exploration.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

To: Law Enforcement Agencies of EU Member States

1- Clearly understand the problem of technology-facilitated human trafficking and the purpose of technology-based solutions

2- Keep abreast of changes and consider victims' experience

3- Establish formalized communication channels with stakeholders

4- Develop partnerships with online platforms providers

5- Collect representative statistical data

6- Provide hotlines for emergencies

7- Improve online victims identification capabilities

8- Organize prevention campaigns

9- Use digital evidences to prevent victims from difficult experiences

10- Include initiatives to remove victims'fear of technologies

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