Knowledge Sheet

The role of Information Communication Technology tools in countering Trafficking in Human Beings

The case of Poland

Background

Internet and information communication technology (ICT) have a significant impact on various sectors, including Trafficking in Human Beings (THB). Technology and ICT presents both challenges and opportunities to law enforcement agencies and non governmental organisations (NGOs). The impact of technology on Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) is a cause for concern, especially during two stages of the process: recruitment and exploitation. In the recruitment stage, technology can aid in identifying, locating, and contacting potential victims. Different mechanisms are at play depending on the type of exploitation. For sexual exploitation, job postings associated with THB, recruitment through social media, and dating apps are used.

When it comes to anti-trafficking efforts, technologies and various applications such as International Child Sexual Exploitation Database, Google images, Stole camera finder app, TinEye Reverse image search, tracking the activities of perpetrators in the Darknet and via blockchain can facilitate prevention, identification, investigation and prosecution of THB cases. Among other EU Member States, the Polish Police Headquarters has been at the forefront of applying technologies to improve its anti-trafficking efforts.

👍 Promising practices

Polish police officers are using the International Child Sexual Exploitation Database which operates in the framework of Interpol in order to better investigate THB cases in the country and at regional and international levels.

Stolen Camera Finder tool allows to find photos in Internet made by the same camera model. Polish police officers made use of the tool and it helped to investigate numerous THB cases.

Both law enforcement officers and NGOs can use Google Images for searching images and identifying the location of potential victims of human trafficking.

Another digital tool which can be used for identification and investigation of THB cases is TinEye Reverse Image Search.

📖 Resource Box

ICSE Database

ToR Project

Tin Eye app

Google Images tool

Stolencamerafinder App

💡 Lessons Learnt

Participation in the Interpol training on using International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) Database allows to get direct and instant access to the base and use its resources for police officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan.

Participation in the Microsoft training on combating child sexual exploitation allows to get direct and instant access to CEST Microsoft digital tool and search individuals responsible for distribution of CSAM (child sexual abuse materials).

A comprehensive training for law enforcement officers, NGOs and representatives at the local level in Azerbaijan on how to prevent and combat Trafficking in Human Beings can be beneficial.

While state and NGOs in Azerbaijan are providing shelters to victims of THB, it is important to establish more centres that employ professional social workers also at local level. This can allow to provide victims all necessary help and assistance.

👥 Actors

Polish Police Headquarters