

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EU CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN EU MEMBER STATES

1. Introduction

Trafficking in human beings destroys individuals' lives by depriving people of their dignity and freedoms. It is often a violent crime committed by organised crime networks. It should have no place in today's society. Yet, trafficking in human beings happens in every country and every region. It continues to happen in the European Union too.

Trafficking in human beings is a grave violation of fundamental rights, prohibited by the [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) (Article 5), and considered as a serious form of organised crime by the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) (Article 83).

To combat this crime, the European Union follows a comprehensive approach including legal, policy, and operational initiatives in a coherent and multidisciplinary manner – from prevention to conviction of criminals while emphasising the protection of victims at all stages. This approach is also the basis of the latest [EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings \(2021-2025\)](#)¹, which includes a series of actions to be implemented in cooperation with key actors and with a strong involvement of civil society organisations.

The [EU Anti-trafficking Directive \(Directive 2011/36/EU\)](#) as amended by [Directive 2024/1712/EU](#) of 13 June 2024; hereafter 'the revised Directive') encourages Member States to work closely with civil society organisations, including recognised and active non-governmental organisations in this field working with trafficked persons, in particular in policymaking initiatives, information and awareness-raising campaigns, research and education programmes and in training, as well as in monitoring and evaluating the impact of anti-trafficking measures (recital 6 of Directive 2011/36/EU). The revised Directive includes specific references to civil society organisations in relation to prevention (article 18), national coordination (article 19), referral mechanism (recital 15).

The function of [EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator \(EU ATC\)](#) was created to ensure that the coherent and comprehensive approach is followed. According to article 20 of the EU Anti-trafficking Directive (Directive 2011/36/EU) as amended by Directive 2024/1712/EU of 13 June 2024 (hereafter 'the revised Directive'), the EU ATC shall ensure coordination with national anti-trafficking coordinators or equivalent mechanisms, independent bodies, Union agencies, and with relevant civil society organisations active in the field, including for the purposes of the contribution from the EU ATC to the reporting carried out by the Commission every 2 years on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human.

¹ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021- 2025 COM/2021/171 final [EUR-Lex - 52021DC0171 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

2. EU Civil Society Platform

The importance to strengthen the role of civil society in addressing the challenges of trafficking in human beings in the EU was already recognised in 2012, when the EU [Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016](#) was adopted by the European Commission. This Strategy included as one of the actions, the **establishment of an EU Platform of civil society organisations** working on victim prevention, protection and assistance in Member States.

In line with this Strategy, the Commission launched in 2013 the [EU Civil Society Platform against trafficking in human beings](#)² (hereafter 'the Platform'). The Civil Society Platform is an informal Special Group³ (S28700).

After more than 10 years of existence and following the modification of the Anti-Trafficking Directive, the European Commission now opens a **Call for Expression of Interest** with a view to renewing the composition of the “EU Civil Society Platform against trafficking in human beings”. This renewal will allow to take into account changes as regards civil society organisations active at national or European level in the field of trafficking as well as the evolving landscape of human trafficking. The call is open to civil society organisations that are legally based in Member States.

To note: current members of the Platform will not automatically remain members. They are therefore required to renew their interest in being members of the Platform by following the respective application process.

Please read through the document below prior to filling in the application form.

3. Main Objective

The objective of the Platform is to serve as a forum for civil society to engage at EU level and to exchange experiences and best practices in order to facilitate cooperation amongst key actors and contribute to preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings while protecting the victims.

The Platform is a concrete opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue on how to best address trafficking in human beings through non-legislative actions and initiatives, including awareness-raising activities, early identification of and assistance to the victims. The Platform will also help to identify specific challenges and possible solutions with regards to the implementation of the EU policy to address trafficking in human beings, in line with the revised Directive and the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings.

²[Intensifying a coordinated response - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

³ A special group does not qualify as a ‘Commission expert group’ or ‘other similar entities’ in the sense of Commission Decision C(2016)3301 establishing horizontal rules on expert groups, as its primary role is not to provide advice and assistance to the Commission.

4. Organisation of the Platform

The Platform is chaired by the **EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (EU ATC)**.

The Platform **meets at least once per year (ordinary meeting)**, including in the joint session with the [EU Network of National Coordinators and Rapporteurs](#) on trafficking in human beings.

The ordinary meeting of the Platform is supported and organised by the European Commission, that covers travel expenses and accommodation, within the limits of the available appropriations allocated to the Commission departments under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources, for **one representative** from each organisation. **Extraordinary meetings** of the Platform can be convened online when needed and appropriate.

Civil Society Organisations from non-EU countries might be invited to attend the meetings of the Platform on an ad-hoc basis.

To note: The Commission will provide a maximum of 100 places in the Platform.

An attendance rule will be in place, on the basis of which any civil society organisation which does not attend the ordinary meeting two times in a row, is excluded from the Platform. This allows to give place to other civil society organisations that could not be accommodated due to logistical limits but are eligible to be involved.

Please note that participation to the Platform **extends to participation to the ePlatform**, which aims to stimulate interaction amongst participant organisations wishing to contribute on different topics and exchange information. To this end, in case selected, your organisation will be asked to provide a contact email address to which the credentials and how to login will be sent.

5. Selection criteria

This call is open to civil society organisations which:

- are **legally based** and **registered** in a Member State;
- have **demonstrated experience** with regard to the protection and assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings as well as prevention of trafficking in human beings;
- are committed to actively engage in a **respectful, constructive and fruitful dialogue** within the Platform and to contribute to an overall efficient functioning of the Platform;
- are **able to raise awareness** of issues concerning trafficking in human beings among their own constituency, at national and European level.
- are **national organisations** or **umbrella organisations**.
- In addition, **the representatives appointed** by the civil society organisations shall have the **ability to interact and communicate in English**.

6. Application procedure

Interested organisations are invited to submit their **application to the Commission, DG HOME** via the [EU Survey](#) by **5 March 2025 at 12:00 CET**.

Applications must be completed **in English**.

Organisations shall indicate the **name of their representative(s)** in the group, as well as their **contact details**.

An application will be deemed **admissible only if all the documents referred to below are included**. All documents submitted by applicants should be duly filled in, legible, signed and numbered sequentially.

Supporting documents

Each application shall include the following documents:

- The **application** duly filled in via the [EU Survey](#), documenting how the applicant fulfills the selection criteria listed in point 5 of this call.
- **An official registration certificate** of your organisation in your country to be uploaded in the [EU Survey](#). Please note that if the original language of the official registration certificate is not English, a translation into English should also be submitted.

Additional supporting documents may be requested at a later stage.

Deadline for application

Applicants interested in becoming members of the EU Civil Society Platform have to submit an expression of interest via the [EU Survey](#). The **deadline** to submit an expression of interest is **5 March 2025 at 12:00**.

An application will be deemed admissible only if it is sent by the deadline. Please note that late applications **will not be considered**.

7. Selection procedure

The selection procedure shall consist of an assessment of the applications performed by DG HOME against the selection criteria listed under point 5 of this call, followed by the establishment of a list of the most suitable applicants, and concluded by the appointment of the members of the group. The list of successful applicants (organisations) will be published on the Commission's website "[Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings](#)".

When defining the composition of the group, DG HOME will aim to ensure participation of members:

- active in areas related to trafficking in human beings as presented in the comprehensive approach described in the [EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings](#) and,

- with a high level of expertise, geographical balance, as well as a representation of relevant expertise in areas of interest (i.e., forms of exploitation), while taking into account the specific tasks of the group and a balance between the type of organisations.

In case of more eligible civil society organisations than the maximum limit of places, a **reserve list** will be established and will serve as a pool in case a member decides to withdraw or is excluded due to non-attendance (see section 2 above).

For any further information please contact HOME-ANTITRAFFICKING@ec.europa.eu

ANNEXES:

- Annex I: Privacy statement

8. Data Protection

The submission of an application under this Call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data as described in the Privacy Statement (Annex I). This data will be processed in accordance with Regulation 2018/1725. It will be processed for the purpose of evaluating your application.

9. Transparency Register

Each selected member of the Platform, will be requested to register in the [Transparency register](#)⁴. This is a database listing ‘interest representatives’ (organisations, associations, groups and self-employed individuals), who carry out activities to influence the EU policy and decision-making process.

⁴ [Transparency Register - European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)

Annex I - Privacy Statement



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRIVACY STATEMENT FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF A SPECIAL GROUP AND PUBLICATION OF PERSONAL DATA ON THE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS' WEBSITE

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

This privacy statement provides information about the processing and the protection of your personal data.

Processing operation: *Selection of members of Commission special groups and publication of personal data on the [Trafficking in human beings website](#).*

- *Directorate-General For Migration & Home Affairs/Unit Organised Crime & Drugs (HOME.D.5) for the processing operation "Selection of members of Commission special groups".*

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1. Introduction

The European Commission (hereafter ‘the Commission’) is committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy. The Commission collects and further processes personal data pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

This privacy statement explains the reasons for the processing of your personal data, the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Data Controller with whom you may exercise your rights, of the Data Protection Officer and of the European Data Protection Supervisor.

This privacy statement concerns the following processing operations:

(1) “**selection of members of Commission special groups**” undertaken by the Commission department which runs the selection process for your special group and which is the Data Controller for the selection process: *Directorate-General For Migration & Home Affair, Unit HOME.D.5*.

The selection of special group members is carried out via call for expression of interest (applications) published on the appropriate Service website: [Trafficking in Human Beings \(THB\) website](#).

2. Why and how do we process your personal data?

Purpose of the processing operations:

The Data Controllers collect and use your personal data to manage Commission special groups, in particular by selecting their members, and to ensure transparency on special groups’ membership and activities. In that context, in order to select among the applicants who best fulfil the selection criteria mentioned in the call for applications, Commission services collect and assess information of the organisation applying and personal contact information of representatives of candidate members.

For representatives, personal data indicated in the application is stored by the Commission service managing the special group (see also point 4 below). The names of the representatives of the organisations which they represent may also be made available in the ePlatform (ie wiki for members of the special group).

Your personal data will not be used for an automated decision-making including profiling.

3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data

We process your personal data, because processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725), since it allows for the selection of members of special groups (individuals appointed to represent a common interest and organisations) and also increases the transparency on special groups. Processing is also necessary to comply with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject (Article 5(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725).

4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?

In order to carry out these processing operations, the Data Controller may collect the following categories of personal data:

- *Name;*
- *Position;*
- *Contact details (for example, e-mail address, telephone number, postal address, company and department, professional title, country of residence address);*

For successful applicants, only the name of the organisation will be made public on the [Trafficking in Human Beings \(THB\) website](#).

The provision to the Commission service of the personal data of a representative of a candidate member required is mandatory to meet a legal requirement of selecting members of special groups.

5. How long do we keep your personal data?

The Data Controller only keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing. The following modalities apply:

- The competent Commission services keep personal data submitted to them as part of rejected applications for three years after the end of the selection process and do not process them for other purposes; these personal data are not published on the THB website or anywhere else.
- The special group and some types of personal data of its members, as described in Heading 4, are published on the THB website during the duration of existence of the special group.
- The competent Commission services keep personal data for the period during which the relevant individual is a representative of a member of the group and for five years after the date on which the is no longer representative of a member of the group.

6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

Personal data submitted in paper form is stored in the competent Commission service. All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored on the servers of the Commission. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to the [Commission Decision \(EU, Euratom\) 2017/46](#) of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

In order to protect your personal data, the Commission has put in place a number of technical and organisational measures. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed.

Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your personal data collected in the course of the process of selection of members of special groups is provided to the Commission staff authorised for carrying out this processing operation and to other authorised Commission staff according to the “need to know” principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Certain personal data collected of members, as explained in Headings 3, 4 and 5, is publicly available on the THB website. For successful applicants, only the name of the organisation will be made public on the [Trafficking in Human Beings \(THB\) website](#).

The XML files referred to in Heading 5 are only accessible to a reduced number of users in the Secretariat-General (System Owner) and IT development team within the Commission (System Supplier).

Please note that pursuant to Article 3(13) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, public authorities (e.g. Court of Auditors, EU Court of Justice) which may receive personal data in the framework of a particular inquiry in accordance with Union or Member State law shall not be regarded as recipients. The further processing of those data by those public authorities shall be in compliance with the applicable data protection rules according to the purposes of the processing.

The information we collect will not be given to any third party, except to the extent and for the purpose we may be required to do so by law.

8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

You have specific rights as a ‘data subject’ under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access your personal data and to rectify them in case your personal data is inaccurate or incomplete. Under certain conditions, you have the right to erase your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing and the right to data portability.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data on grounds relating to your particular situation in accordance with Article 23(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the Data Controller or, in case of conflict, the Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given under Heading 9 below.

Where you wish to exercise your rights in the context of one or several specific processing operations, please provide their description (i.e. their Record reference(s) as specified under Heading 10 below) in your request.

Any request for access to personal data will be handled within one month. Any other request mentioned above will be addressed within 15 working days.

9. Contact information

- The Data Controller

Regarding the personal data collected in the course of the process of selection of the members

of the special groups, if you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint, please contact unit in charge of the special group at HOME-ANTITRAFFICKING@ec.europa.eu.

- **The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission**

You may contact the Data Protection Officer (DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

- **The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)**

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

10. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>.

These specific processing operations will be included in the DPO's public register with the following Record references: DPR-EC-01066 and DPR-EC-00656.