

WHAT IS INVERT?

In light of this, the INVERT project focuses on the issue of labour exploitation as a form of Human Trafficking, aiming to disrupt the financial flows of traffickers' criminal business models and to intensify investigations, prosecutions, and judicial responses. The INVERT project intends to combat the use of legal companies by labour traffickers to exploit victims. It will achieve this by assisting EU prosecutor offices, law enforcement agencies (LEAs), and judicial authorities in identifying victims and disrupting these business models and, in consequence, the trafficking chain. The project, funded by the ISF (Internal Security Fund) of the European Commission, involves 7 partners in 3 EU Member States - Hungary, Italy and Belgium - and runs for 24 months.

INVERT

JOIN US

Join us in our mission to tackle labour exploitation in the context of Trafficking in Human Beings following the [INVERT website](#) and subscribing to the [newsletter](#).

Who works on the project?

- Transcrime-Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)
- Palermo Prosecutor's Office (Italy)
- Milan Prosecutor's Office (Italy)
- Victim Support Europe (Belgium)
- National Institute of Criminology (Hungary)
- Carabinieri Corps/Police (Italy)
- CBRNe Security and Defense Observatory (Italy)

Identifying
compaNies and
Victims in the
Exploitation phase to
disRupt the financial
business model
of adult and child
labour Trafficking

INVERT - PROJECT . EU



The project is supported by the European Labour Authority and the Italian National Labour Inspectorate.

THE ISSUE

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Trafficking of both adults and children is a serious human rights violation, compromising human dignity, well-being and freedom of those affected.

Human Trafficking inflicts significant human, social, and economic damage on victims, while traffickers and other actors involved in the illicit trade (with or without intent) reap substantial profits.

In the period 2019-2020, EU Member States reported 14,311 victims of trafficking in human beings, 63% of which were women and girls, and 23% were children. Trafficking for labour exploitation is the second most prevalent form of trafficking in human beings in the EU (28%) with men as primary victims (66%)¹. However, the dark figure of this crime, which means the number of unreported crimes, is extremely high and therefore it is difficult to understand the real extent of it. For instance, the 2021 Global Estimates indicate that 49.6 million people are forced to work against their will or to get married (modern slavery) on any given day, which means to nearly one of every 150 people in the world².

¹ European Commission (2022). Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (Fourth Report). Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022DC0736>

² International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2022). Global estimates of modern slavery: forced labour and forced marriages. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/global-estimates-modern-slavery-forced-labour-and-forced-marriage>

HOW WILL INVERT ACHIEVE ITS GOALS?

The project will develop user-friendly risk assessment tools for Prosecutor's offices and Law Enforcement Agencies officials tailored to the identification of both victims and companies. These tools will smoothen and improve professionals' day-to-day activities and support and strengthen investigations related to labour trafficking, with special attention to child victims.

The INVERT tools will be tested by Prosecutor's offices and LEAs officials for a period of 3 months on cases of adult and child labour trafficking in two environments: a) general and b) specific, such as in areas affected by organised crime (gangmaster system).

INVERT will also develop comprehensive training modules to build capacity of prosecutors and LEAs, strengthening their professional and technical capabilities in the fight against and the prevention of labour trafficking. A dedicated training programme will focus on investigations in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

INVERT ACTIVITIES

- 01 - Conduct in-depth research on key characteristics and trends of human trafficking for labour exploitation of adults and children, in both general and organized crime heavy environments.
- 02 - Develop company and victim-focused risk indicators.
- 03 - Develop the risk assessment tools for prosecutors and LEAs.
- 04 - Develop and deliver training on how to make use of risk assessment tools, national and global data on labour trafficking, along with supporting legal infrastructure, and thirdly, best practices for engaging with and supporting victims of trafficking.
- 05 - Test and validate the INVERT suite in both general and organized crime environments.

INVERT EXPECTED RESULTS



Increased capacity of prosecutors and LEAs to identify companies and businesses at risk or complicit in labour exploitation, and accurately and swiftly identify victims.



Improved effectiveness of criminal investigations into human trafficking for labour exploitation.



Enhanced cooperation both across the justice and legal system alongside NGOs and Civil Society Organisations.



Increased reporting of cases of labour trafficking, more comprehensive support for victims and a greater penal framework for companies complicit in labour trafficking.