



**EU - CoE Joint project  
Supporting Malta in the Design and Implementation of a New  
Anti-Trafficking Strategy**

**SIDE EVENT, 16 January 2025, AX The Palace, Sliema, Malta**

**Concept Note and Agenda**



Co-funded  
by the European Union



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by the Council of Europe



## Side event

### Participation of Children in Designing Child-Friendly Anti-Trafficking Tools

**Co-organisers:** Council of Europe Action against Trafficking in Human Beings Division, European Commission's Directorate General for Structural Reform (DG REFORM), Human Rights Directorate (Malta), Office of the Commissioner for Children

**Participants:** Children's Advisory Board Malta, children advisory boards from other countries, other relevant entities, Civil society organisations

**Estimated number of participants:** 50

The side event on "**Participation of Children in Designing Child-Friendly anti-trafficking Tools**" aims at discussing how children's voices can actively shape the development of tools and resources addressed to child victims of human trafficking. In line with the **Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**, which emphasises the need for a child-sensitive approach in anti-trafficking measures, this activity will highlight the importance of involving children in the design of materials addressed to them.

By empowering children to participate in developing tools intended for their protection, anti-trafficking stakeholders can ensure that these resources are accessible to children and respectful to their emotional and developmental requirements. This approach not only enhances the relevance and usability of child protection tools but also promotes the broader principle of child participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

This event will be followed by a series of workshops (online and in person) with children to design a child-friendly summary of dispositions related to children in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This document will be launched during the European anti-trafficking day on 18 October 2025.

## Agenda

Thursday, 16 January 2025	
9.00– 9.30	<b>Registration</b>
<b>Opening Remarks</b> <b>Moderator: Ms Nadine CASSAR</b> , Representative of Children Advisory Board, Malta	
9.30 – 10.00	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <b>Ms Antoinette VASSALLO</b> , Commissioner for Children, Malta <b>Mr Michael CAMILLERI</b> , Director, Human Rights Directorate, Office of the Prime Minister, European Funds, Equality, Reforms and Social Dialogue <b>Ms Petya NESTOROVA</b> , Executive Secretary, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA and Committee of the Parties) <b>Mr Angelos BINIS</b> , Rule of Law Head of Sector, Public Administration and Governance, DG REFORM, European Commission

10.00 – 10.30	<p><b>Engaging Children in the Design of Child-Friendly Tools</b></p> <p><b>Ms Katerina STEPHANO</b>, Consultant engaged by the Council of Europe</p>
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee break and group photo</i>
11.00 – 12.20	<p><b>Co-Designing Child-Friendly Tools</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms Kathryn Michelle BALDACCHINO</b>, Consultant engaged by the Council of Europe</p> <p><b><u>With the participation of:</u></b></p> <p><b>Ms Katerina STEPHANO</b>, Consultant engaged by the Council of Europe</p> <p><b>Ms Jane LASONDER</b>, Vice-Chair of OSCE-ODIHR International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC)</p> <p><b>Ms Maria KIRDAN</b>, Member of OSCE-ODIHR International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC)</p> <p>This session focuses on the co-design process of child-friendly anti-trafficking tools. With the active participation of children, this interactive session will explore how to effectively integrate children's voices and perspectives into the design of resources that meet their specific needs.</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing a set of recommendations for drafting child-friendly tools based on the collective input of children and anti-trafficking stakeholders;</li> <li>- Increasing awareness of the importance of child participation in action against human trafficking.</li> </ul>
12.20 – 12.30	<b>Closing remarks</b>
12.30	<i>Lunch break</i>