

Committee of the Parties
to the Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings



CP(2026)04

**Report submitted by the authorities
of Hungary
on measures taken to comply with
Committee of the Parties Recommendation
CP/Rec(2024)04 on the implementation
of the Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

Third evaluation round

Received on 8 June 2026

Ce document n'est disponible qu'en anglais

Follow-up report on the third evaluation round regarding GRETA recommendations

The third evaluation round of the Convention focused on access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking. The report on Hungary contained eight „urged” recommendations that need the authorities to take action in order to be in compliance with the Convention.

A follow-up meeting was held with GRETA experts in Budapest on November 13, 2025. The Hungarian authorities and NGOs provided detailed information and reports on the current state of compliance with the recommendations.

Our current report provides additional information on the “urged” recommendations and on the steps we have taken in the last six months:

1. Access to information on victims’ rights and services

Interpreters, lawyers, and psychologists are available during the victim support procedure in the state-run centres. NGOs also provide translation, legal counselling, and mental health services for victims of human trafficking. At the same time, we must admit that conveying information does not always go smoothly and is not always user-friendly. For that reason, we continue to train front-line officers on a victim-centred approach.

The highlighted embassy procedure still exists. Persons who want to be granted international protection in Hungary are obliged to submit their applications to Hungarian embassies in Kyiv and Belgrade. In these situations, victims may lack proper information.

2. Access to psychological assistance

In February 2026, the 20th victim support centre opened, achieving national coverage; there are currently 20 centres and 7 victim support hotspots in Hungary.

The services provided by the centres, including psychological counselling, are available in the capital and in all counties.

As part of the collaboration between the Ministry of Justice and the "Animal Protection Is Our Common Cause" Foundation, a pilot program has been launched called Animal-Assisted Activities (AAA), which involves dog-assisted therapy provided to victims of human trafficking. The pilot program is available as a supplementary service at four victim support centres. The program was implemented at two locations in Budapest, as well as in Kecskemét and Debrecen, between October 2025 and April 2026. The project supported the victims as a supplement to psychological counselling and crisis intervention.

The goal is that this service eventually becomes available at every centre. The involvement of dogs does not replace psychological expertise, but rather reinforces and complements it. The combination of the assistance dog, the handler, and the psychologist creates a safe space where the victim can experience trust, connection and acceptance.

International experience and our domestic observations also show that a dog’s presence:

- reduces anxiety,
- stabilizes emotional state,

- facilitates trauma processing,
- and increases cooperation in the therapeutic process.

3. Investigation

For the proactive and successful investigation, the National Bureau of Investigation participates in a professional exchange program with the Swiss federal police, FEDPOL. Three study visits were carried out on both sides, and one will be organized this year. The visits are financed by the Swiss contribution program.

The most significant benefit of the visits was the further strengthening of bilateral relations. Various Swiss law enforcement agencies conduct several investigations in which a group of Hungarian perpetrators have emerged; some of these individuals are already known to the delegation members through previous and ongoing proceedings. Thus, during the Hungarian delegation's visit, an initial exchange of information took place and the possibility of further official cooperation also arose.

Hungarian police officers have built relationships with Swiss NGOs that care for Hungarian victims to ask for information if necessary.

4. Non-punishment provision

The Hungarian authorities have a definite point of view on this question. They experience that this principle works in practice without a special legal provision.

The guideline for prosecutors and investigators published in 2024 is under revision and needs to be amended. It will be published in July 2026. The revised edition of the guideline includes a separate chapter on the non-punishment principle, civil claims and compensation for victims, and one chapter on victim assistance, labour exploitation, and sexual exploitation. There is a new chapter on the relationship between human trafficking and money laundering.

5. Identification of victims

In 2026, the Ministry of Interior launched an EU-funded project to develop the EKAT system (Identification and Assist of Victims of Human Trafficking) and to connect it to the database of the police.

In 2025, the National Council on Disability joined the National Coordination Mechanism and NGO Roundtable. The organization contributes to the identification of victims with special experience and knowledge. In the first half of 2026, the Ministry of Interior initiated the revision of the list of indicators for victim identification. The work on the revision is still in progress.

We have made no progress on the question of third-country nationals. Migrants without regular residence status are not involved in the national referral mechanism.

6. Assistance of victims

With the financing of the Swiss contribution, three protected accommodations have hired five social workers for follow-up and aftercare service. The service is provided to clients who have left the shelters and who have started living independent lives.

7. Child trafficking

The stakeholders in the field of THB intend to develop a special identification procedure for minor victims after finishing the revision of the adult indicator list.

The Ministry of the Interior, together with a theatre company, continues the prevention programme aimed at raising awareness among at-risk youth and sensitising police staff through drama pedagogy. The Swiss contribution finances thirty theatre performances about minor victims, based on true stories. Twenty-two performances have been held, and eight more will be organized in the second half of 2026.

8. Additional information

During its autumn 2025 session, the Government submitted a bill to the Parliament, which - among other things - included amendments to the statutory provisions of Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code (hereinafter: the CC) concerning the criminalization of THB and forced labour, namely Section 192 of the CC. The reason for the amendment of the CC is that Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims was amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 amending Directive 2011/36/EU (hereinafter: the Directive), with effect from 15 July 2026. The main innovation of the Directive from the perspective of substantive criminal law is that it extends the concept of exploitation to exploitation related to surrogacy, forced marriage, and illegal adoption. Section 192(2) of the CC sets out the forms of exploitation through a non-exhaustive list. However, the amendment – by supplementing the definition of exploitation – places an even greater emphasis on exploitation related to surrogacy, forced marriage and illegal adoption. Accordingly, the amended CC still does not contain an exhaustive definition of exploitation; instead, it only sets out its typical cases and characteristic forms of occurrence through a non-exhaustive list and therefore complies with the international requirements.

