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

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Report submitted by the authorities of the Slovak Republic on measures taken to comply with Committee of the Parties Recommendation CP/Rec(2020)05 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Third evaluation round

Received on 6 June 2022

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Secretariat of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Minister
of the Ministry of the Interior
of the Slovak Republic

Roman MIKULEC

Bratislava 10th May 2022

Reg. No.: IC-26-151/2022

Dear Ms. Executive Secretary,

Let me cordially thank you for your valuable and useful cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic as a contact point within GRETA's third report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Slovak Republic.

Based on the Committee of the Parties to the Convention´s Recommendation CP/Rec(2020)05 on the implementation of the Convention by the Slovak Republic followed by consequent Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021 on the implementation of GRETA recommendations, I was delegated by the Government of the Slovak Republic to inform you of the governmental information on the measures taken to comply with the recommendations which I am forwarding in the attachment.

I consider GRETA recommendations a superb incentive to improve the fight against trafficking in human beings in the Slovak Republic and I believe that the Slovak authorities have made substantial progress. You can rely on our continuous cooperation in relation to proper implementation of GRETA recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

Dear Ms.

Petya Nestorova
Executive Secretary
Council of Europe Convention on
Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

S t r a s b o u r g

Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in the third round of evaluation - first report as of 12 June 2022

I. Information on the progress and outcome of the third round of evaluation of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Since 20 November 2018, the Slovak Republic has been part of the third round of evaluation of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter the "Convention") by the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter "GRETA").

The third round of evaluation focuses on trafficking victims' access to justice. The contact point of GRETA and the Council of Europe Secretariat to the Convention in the Slovak Republic in the third evaluation round is the Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and for Crime Prevention (hereinafter referred to as the "Information Centre") of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Interior"), which, on 20 March 2019, sent to the Council of Europe Secretariat to the Convention on behalf of the Slovak Republic a completed questionnaire drawn up on the basis of inputs from experts from the Slovak Republic.

Subsequently, on 17 - 21 June 2019, GRETA conducted an evaluation visit to the Slovak Republic, during which they met with the then National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and experts from relevant ministries and other general government authorities, as well as with representatives of the non-governmental sector. On this basis, on 22 November 2019, GRETA approved the draft evaluation report and submitted it to the Slovak authorities for comments. GRETA received the comments of the Slovak Republic on 28 February 2020 and prepared a final evaluation report, which was published by the Council of Europe on its website on 10 June 2020 (available in the English language at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/slovakia and in the Slovak language at https://www.minv.sk/?obchodsludmisvet).

On 12 June 2020, at its 26th meeting, the Committee of the Parties to the Convention adopted a recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to the Slovak Republic in the framework of the third round of evaluation.

II. Implementation of recommendations of the Committee of the Parties

In its recommendation to the Slovak Republic, the Committee of the Parties to the Convention calls for measures to ensure the implementation of the Convention. These recommendations are divided into two units. These are the eight main recommendations of the Committee of the Parties addressed to the Slovak Republic, which are based on the GRETA recommendations identified in the final evaluation report, and the GRETA recommendations themselves, which form Annex 1 to the GRETA Third Evaluation Report.

The GRETA recommendations are divided into 20 thematic units, within which 42 recommendations are proposed, focusing on access to justice for victims of trafficking in human beings. The GRETA recommendations cover the period up to 6 April 2020 and do not take into account the situation after that date.

By letter of 23 June 2020 from Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention, the Committee of the Parties to the Convention requested the Slovak authorities **to send a report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of the Parties by 12 June 2022**. This is the first report at the mid-term of the third round of evaluation. In addition to the GRETA recommendations in

the third evaluation round, a final report on their implementation by the Slovak Republic is expected on the basis of the invitation of the Committee of the Parties, which is likely to be by **12 June 2024**.

III. Responsible entities and opinion of the responsible entities on the implementation of individual recommendations of the Committee of the Parties

The contact point has collected and completed the documentation on the implementation of all GRETA recommendations, which are also the basis for the eight main recommendations of the Committee of the Parties, through cooperation with the contact persons of the relevant central government authorities - experts from the General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "General Prosecutor's Office"), Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Finance"), Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Defence"), Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family"), Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Justice"), Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport"), competent units of the Ministry of Interior, Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs"), Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Health"), National Labour Inspectorate, Government Office of the Slovak Republic, and Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia.

To this end, by letter of 19 June 2020 from the then National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the contact persons were requested to provide supporting documents and proposals on the GRETA recommendations by 31 July 2020, in order to implement the GRETA recommendations in their respective areas of competence. Due to the fact that, after the deadline of 31 July 2020, the supporting documents for the GRETA recommendations were not complete, the individual ministries were contacted by letter dated 30 September 2020 from the position of the current National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings with a request to nominate an expert(s) and to provide a final opinion on the individual GRETA recommendations by the deadline of 16 November 2020. Some of the nominated experts are also members of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which is a permanent expert, advisory, initiative and consultative body of the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings - this function is performed by the designated State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior. After two rounds of comments, the positions of the different responsible entities on the GRETA recommendations were finalised. The prepared opinions of the responsible and cooperating entities for the Slovak Republic **on the individual GRETA recommendations show the following:**

2020 **The Slovak Republic considers the existing legislative or non-legislative regulation or adopted policies to be sufficient and in need of effective implementation, with the following GRETA recommendations: R1a), R1b), R2.1, R2.2, R3, R4a), R4b), R4c), R4d), R4e), R4f), R5.1, R7.1a), R7.1b), R7.1c), R7.2, R8.2, R9, R10, R13.1, R13.2, R13.3, R14a), R14b), R14c), R14d), R15, R16.2a), R16.2b), R17.1, R17.2, R18, R19, R20.**

The specific provisions of the legislative and non-legislative instruments, which represent the implementation of the individual GRETA recommendations in point 1, are deposited in the form of extended supporting documents from the responsible and cooperating entities as registry records with the contact point. In the opinions on the implementation of the GRETA recommendations in question, legislative and non-legislative regulations are referred to only in general terms by the name of the act or regulation on the grounds that specifying individual provisions would disproportionately increase the scope of the material.

2021 **New tools, procedures and policies need to be adopted, introduced and implemented for the following GRETA recommendations: R11, R12, R16.2c).**

2022 **There is a need to trigger a discussion on the possibilities to implement the GRETA recommendations for the following GRETA recommendations: R5.2, R5.3, R6, R8.1, R16.1.**

For clarity, we present the proposed implementation of the recommendations in colour - for implementation under point 1 in green blocks, for implementation under point 2 in yellow blocks and for implementation under point 3 in blue blocks.

For the implementation of GRETA recommendations, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence, Government Office of the Slovak Republic, General Prosecutor's Office, National Labour Inspectorate, Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Transport and Construction"), Ministry of Finance, Association of Chiefs of Municipal and City Police of Slovakia, Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia, Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, and International Organisation for Migration were identified as responsible or cooperating entities.

The material with opinions on the implementation of individual GRETA recommendations together with the letter of the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on Recommendation CP/Rec (2020)05 on the implementation of the Convention by the Slovak Republic, which was adopted at the 26th meeting of the Committee of the Parties on 12 June 2020, have undergone an intra-ministerial comment procedure at the Ministry of Interior and an inter-ministerial comment procedure. Subsequently, the materials were submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic, which approved them by Resolution No. 380/2021 of 30 June 2021. By the resolution in question, the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic was tasked by the Government of the Slovak Republic to inform the Committee of the Parties on the status of implementation of GRETA's recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to the Slovak Republic in the third evaluation round by 12 June 2022, at the mid-term of the evaluation process. On the basis of the above, the various responsible and cooperating entities have provided the contact point with comments on the GRETA recommendations, which the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic takes the liberty to inform the Committee of the Parties about.

1. ***Topics related to the third evaluation round on the implementation of the Convention***

R1. Right to information

GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should take further steps to ensure that presumed victims of trafficking in human beings are given information to allow them to evaluate their situation and to make informed choices about the various legal possibilities available to them, and in particular:

a) provide the information in a language that the victim can understand, as established by the Convention, which may necessitate the use of qualified interpreters;

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior
Cooperating entities: General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Health

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R1(a) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed legislatively in the following acts:

- Act No. 301/2005 Coll. Code of Criminal Procedure as amended (hereinafter referred to as the Code of Criminal Procedure"),
- Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on residence of foreigners and on the amendment to certain acts as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Residence of Foreigners"),
- Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on asylum and on the amendment to certain acts as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Asylum"),
- Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on victims of crime and on the amendment to certain acts (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Victims of Crime"),
- Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on social and legal protection of children and social guardianship and on the amendment to certain acts as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship"),
- Act No. 576/2004 Coll. on healthcare, healthcare-related services and on the amendment to certain acts (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Healthcare"),

and in the internal document of the Ministry of Interior – Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020 on the provision of a support and protection programme for victims of trafficking in human beings (hereinafter referred to as "Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020").

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

- Code of Criminal Procedure:

The National Unit of Fight against Illegal Migration of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as the "NUFIM"), with material competence for the detection and investigation of trafficking in human beings under the Ministry of Interior, states that the right to an interpreter or translator is guaranteed in Article 2(20) of the Code of Criminal Procedure if the victim declares that they do not speak the language in which the proceedings are conducted. An interpreter shall be admitted to the proceedings pursuant to Article 28(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure if the person being questioned declares that they do not understand or speak the language in which the proceedings are conducted. An interpreter shall also be admitted to the proceedings if a person declares that they understand the language in which the proceedings are conducted, but the authority which

carries out the act finds that the linguistic abilities of that person are insufficient to enable them to exercise their rights properly in the language in which the proceedings are conducted; the admission of an interpreter shall in such a case be decided by a resolution, against which a complaint shall be admissible. If a person chooses a language for which there is no interpreter on the list of interpreters, or if the matter cannot be delayed and the interpreters on the list are unavailable, the law enforcement authority or court shall assign an interpreter in an official language of the State of which the person is a citizen or in which the person resides and which the person understands.

If it is necessary to translate a record of a statement or other document in the proceedings, a translator shall be admitted to the proceedings pursuant to Article 28(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure by measure. Pursuant to Article 28(6) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the judgment, the criminal warrant, the decision on the appeal, the decision on the conditional discontinuance of criminal prosecution and the notice of the main hearing shall be translated in writing to the victim. If the victim is also the person who reported the offence, a written acknowledgement of receipt of the criminal complaint shall be provided to the victim in writing upon their request, and the translation and delivery of the acknowledgement shall be provided by the authority whose decision is at issue or which received the criminal complaint. At the request of the victim, or even without such a request, the authority before which the proceedings are conducted shall decide that, in addition to the decisions referred to above, other documents shall be translated in writing to the victim if this is necessary for the proper exercise of the victim's rights in the criminal proceedings. Instead of a written translation, such a document or its essential content may be interpreted if this does not affect the fairness of the proceedings.

Where the physical presence of an interpreter is not required to guarantee a fair trial and it is not possible to provide an interpreter for a language sufficiently understood by the person being questioned, interpretation may, in justified cases, also be provided by means of technical equipment for the transmission of images and sound.

NUFIM investigators use the services of interpreters and translators in criminal proceedings who meet the conditions pursuant to Act No. 382/2004 Coll. on experts, interpreters and translators and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Experts, Interpreters and Translators").

- Act on Residence of Foreigners:

The Department of Foreign Police of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as the "Department of Foreign Police") under the authority of the Ministry of Interior states that if a foreigner does not know the Slovak language, the competent police unit shall immediately after the commencement of administrative expulsion proceedings, entry ban proceedings or detention proceedings engage an interpreter pursuant to Article 2(1)(a) of the Act on Experts, Interpreters and Translators. If it is not possible to engage an interpreter, the court shall appoint an interpreter in accordance with Article 2(1)(b) and Article 15 of the Act on Experts, Interpreters and Translators.

The police officer shall initiate administrative expulsion or entry ban proceedings by executing the authorisation to bring the foreigner in pursuant to Article 79 of the Act on Residence of Foreigners or by drawing up minutes pursuant to Article 22 of Act No. 71/1967 Coll. on administrative proceedings (Administrative Procedure Code).

Providing information in a language that the victim understands is in practice carried out for all the foreigners involved in any kind of proceedings. The administrative proceedings

themselves are based on compliance with the principles of administrative proceedings. The decision of administrative authorities must be based on a reliably established state of affairs. In the event of the possibility that the person does not understand the circumstances, the police unit is not in a position to comply with this principle and is therefore obliged to engage an interpreter. At the same time, when initiating administrative expulsion, entry ban or detention proceedings, the police unit is obliged to immediately engage an interpreter in accordance with a special regulation (the Act on Experts, Interpreters and Translators). At the same time, members of the Police Force are obliged to follow the Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020, which defines the procedure for identifying a person as a victim of trafficking in human beings in accordance with the identification questionnaire, which is an annex to the said Order.

At the same time, in the event of any subsequent suspicions that, for example, a person already placed in a police detention centre for foreigners might be a victim of trafficking in human beings, an interpreter will be engaged without delay if necessary.

- Act on Victims of Crime:

The General Prosecutor's Office, as the cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation for the purposes of the report, states that it fully agrees that the issue is sufficiently addressed by Act No. 300/2005 Coll., the Criminal Code as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Criminal Code") and the Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as the Act on Victims of Crime.

- Act on Asylum:

The Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior states that interpretation in asylum proceedings is regulated in Article 4(6) and Article 18 of the Act on Asylum, which is in full compliance with the legislation of the European Union. As regards interpretation and interpreting services, the Migration Office has not encountered any major problems in the long term that would affect this area in any negative way. The only problem is the lack of interpreters for some specific, mostly exotic languages.

The Migration Office continues to work with interpreters and is constantly supplementing and improving its database of interpreters used in the asylum proceedings (currently mainly Ukrainian and Russian interpreters). Each new interpreter is instructed on how to carry out their work and is made aware of the interpreter's code of ethics. In addition, interpreters registered in the list of court interpreters of the Ministry of Justice are preferentially used in asylum proceedings. They are trained for their work and have received appropriate training. Only if these interpreters for a given language are not available or cannot be used, then the Migration Office proceeds to invite non-court interpreters.

- Act on Social and Legal protection of Children and Social Guardianship:

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, as a co-responsible entity, states that the child's opinion (e.g., on the situation in which they find themselves) is ascertained by the authority of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship directly during the interview with the child, while it is obliged to provide the child with the necessary assistance to facilitate the process of ascertaining their opinion on the matter in an environment suitable or formed for this purpose. Employees of the authority of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship have the necessary knowledge of how to conduct an interview taking into account the age and intellectual maturity, specific problems and needs of the child.
A specific case is unaccompanied minors (hereafter referred to as "UMs"), where, after their placement in the centre for children and families, a case conference is conducted, which is

interpreted in a language that the UM understands. During the case conference, the child's views are ascertained and possible threats to which UMs may have been exposed are identified. Legal advice is also provided to all UMs through the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in a language understood by UMs. The child's point of view is continuously ascertained and professional activities (e.g., psychological care) are provided through a cultural mediator - an interpreter in the UM's language.

- Act on Healthcare:

The Ministry of Health, as a cooperating entity, states that the priority of the Slovak Republic remains equal access in ensuring accessible and quality healthcare for all citizens, including compliance with all human rights aspects. National legislation takes full account of patients' rights under international legislation and conventions. The Ministry of Health is strongly committed to ensuring that all patients have dignified conditions when receiving healthcare. Based on the provisions of Article 4(3) of the Act on Healthcare, every healthcare provider is obliged to provide healthcare in accordance with the relevant applicable legal regulations regulating the provision of healthcare.
Pursuant to Article 4(2) to (4) of the Act on Victims of Crime, a police officer or prosecutor is obliged, among other things, at the time of first contact to provide the victim, taking into account the reasonable needs of the victim depending on their age, mental and volitive maturity, state of health, including mental state, and the nature of the offence, with information on the entities providing assistance to victims, the contact details of these entities and the form of professional assistance that may be provided to the victim under this Act, as well as on the possibilities of providing the necessary healthcare. Pursuant to Article 4(6) of the aforementioned Act, the healthcare provider shall provide the victim with the contact details of the entities providing assistance to victims at the first contact with the victim.
Persons belonging to national minorities in municipalities that meet the conditions under national legal regulations may use the minority language in communication with the staff of healthcare, welfare, social services or social and legal protection institutions, and these institutions shall allow the use of the minority language "in so far as the conditions prevailing in the institution so permit". In practice, oral communication in healthcare is facilitated in Hungarian, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian.

- Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020:

The Information Centre under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as the responsible entity states that in connection with the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings within the framework of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection within the meaning of the internal document - Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020, the service of interpretation and translation services is provided to the victims who enter the programme, if necessary. As part of the operation of the National Line of Assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings 0800 800 818, counselling services are provided not only in Slovak, but also in English, Hungarian and Ukrainian, if necessary. In the event of a call to the helpline from a person who does not speak one of the languages listed above, the operators on the helpline will suggest a face-to-face or telephone meeting with the provision of interpretation in a language that the victim understands.

b) include specific information about the implications of being recognised as a victim of trafficking, in addition to general information on the rights of victims of crime, more specifically on the right to a recovery and reflection period and, where applicable, temporary residence, and the possibilities to receive legal aid and to claim compensation.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior
Cooperating entities: Ministry of Justice, General Prosecutor's Office

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R1(b) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed legislatively in the following acts:

- Code of Criminal Procedure,
- Act on Victims of Crime,
- Act on Residence of Foreigners.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as the responsible entity, states that the law enforcement authority and the court are obliged to inform the victim of their rights and provide them with a full opportunity to exercise them, as provided for in Article 49 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

   According to Article 7 of the Act on Victims of Crime, legal aid means the provision of legal information and legal representation of the victim in criminal proceedings and in civil proceedings, if the victim has made a claim for compensation in criminal proceedings and the claim has not been decided. Legal aid is provided to victims by the Centre for Legal Aid, an entity providing assistance to victims and a lawyer under the conditions and to the extent provided for under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

   The obligation to provide the victim on first contact with information on access to legal aid and procedures related to the victim's claim for compensation in criminal proceedings arises for the police officer from Article 4 of the Act on Victims of Crime, taking into account the justified needs of the victim depending on their age, mental and volitive maturity, state of health, including psychological state, and the nature of the offence. At the same time, the police officer is also obliged to provide the victim with information about entities providing assistance to victims, including contacts to these entities, and these entities provide their services to injured parties (victims) free of charge.

   One of the rights of the injured party under Article 47(6) of the Code of Criminal Procedure is the appointment of a legal representative in the case of an injured party who claims compensation for damages and does not have sufficient means to pay the related costs. A representative from among lawyers may be appointed by the judge for pre-trial proceedings after charges have been brought, upon the prosecutor's motion, and in proceedings before the court, even without a motion, by the presiding judge, if they deem it necessary to protect the interests of the injured party.

   Information concerning legal aid and the right to compensation shall also be provided to the injured party (victim) in writing by the law enforcement authorities during their questioning in criminal proceedings, and shall be adequately explained to them as

appropriate. They are also provided with information on the right to recovery and reflection, together with information on the possibility of joining a support and protection programme for victims of trafficking in human beings. In order to streamline the provision of information regarding the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection and the services provided by it, the Director of the NUFIM issued an instruction on 11 June 2020 that requires NUFIM investigators to inform the provider of services to victims of trafficking under the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection of the date of the victim's interview and to allow them to conduct a brief interview with the victim in order to inform the victim of the possibility of their entry into the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, of the legal counselling opportunities provided under the services of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, as well as to provide a recovery and reflection period.

- Act on Residence of Foreigners:

The Department of Foreign Police under the authority of the Ministry of Interior states that the above is carried out in practice for all foreigners undergoing any kind of proceedings. The administrative proceedings themselves are based on compliance with the principles of administrative proceedings - Article 3 (5) of Act No. 71/1967 Coll. on administrative proceedings (Administrative Procedure Code) - the decision of administrative authorities must be based on a reliably established state of affairs. In the event of the possibility that the person does not understand the circumstances, the police unit is not in a position to comply with this principle and is therefore obliged to engage an interpreter. At the same time, when initiating administrative expulsion, entry ban or detention proceedings, the police unit is obliged to immediately engage an interpreter in accordance with a special regulation (the Act on Experts, Interpreters and Translators). At the same time, members of the Police Force are obliged to proceed with the identification in accordance with Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020. At the same time, in the event of any subsequent suspicions that, for example, a person already placed in a police detention centre for foreigners might be a victim of trafficking in human beings, an interpreter will be engaged without delay if necessary.

- Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020:

The Information Centre under the authority of the Ministry of Interior states that part of the information provided when a victim enters the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection includes informing the victim of the right to a recovery and reflection period, in accordance with Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020. The victim's informed consent is an important point of entry into the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection and further steps. The victim, by their signature on the entry declaration upon entering the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, which is an annex to Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020, confirms that they have understood the following information, which has been communicated to them by the entity of the programme, usually a contracted non-governmental organisation:

- voluntary entry to the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection,
- cutting off contact with the criminal environment,

- the victim acknowledges the content of the information sheet on the protection of personal data within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and Article 19 of Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on personal data protection and on the amendment to certain acts as amended by Act No. 221/2019 Coll.,
- the victim will not provide information about their place of residence,
- the victim may voluntarily decide to cooperate with law enforcement authorities,
- if the victim decides to stop cooperating with law enforcement authorities, they shall notify the service provider (the contracted organisation providing the services of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection),
- the contracted organisation submits an application for a permit for tolerated stay in the territory of the Slovak Republic or its extension,
- the victim has been advised of the conditions of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection and the grounds for exclusion from the programme.

It was not necessary to use the concept of tolerated stay for third-country nationals who historically entered the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, as the victims were asylum seekers or were legally present in the territory of the Slovak Republic. Should such a situation arise, the Information Centre, as the coordinator of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, would immediately contact the Department of Foreign Police of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force. Such cooperation also follows from the processes enshrined in Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020.

2. The Ministry of Justice, as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime has fundamentally changed the philosophy of compensation for victims of crime. A key change is the introduction of the possibility for a victim of a violent crime, which includes victims of trafficking in human beings, to apply to the Ministry of Justice for compensation after the initiation of a criminal prosecution. Under the amendment, entitlement to compensation will arise even before the judgment, criminal warrant or decision in the criminal proceedings has been pronounced, issued or has become final. This is a situation where a criminal prosecution is initiated and the results of the investigation or abbreviated investigation do not raise doubts about the commission of an act which has the characteristics of a violent criminal offence, whereby the victim of the violent criminal offence has been harmed. In cases where personal injury has been caused by the offence of trafficking in human beings, there is no need to bring a claim for criminal damages in order to establish a claim for compensation. The previous legal regulation allowed the victim to apply for and obtain compensation only after the final conclusion of the criminal proceedings. The amended Act extends the circle of victims of violent crimes to include surviving close persons who were living in the same household with the deceased at the time of death and victims of the crime of abuse of a close person and a person entrusted to one’s care and the crime of involuntary disappearance, to whom non-pecuniary harm has been caused.

   The Ministry of Justice is obliged to decide on the application within 4 months from the date of receipt of a complete application. The new legislation will therefore ensure that victims of violent crime receive compensation at the time when they feel the effects of

the crime most acutely, i.e. as soon as possible after they have been the victim of a violent crime. Pursuant to law, when compensation is provided to the victim, the right to compensation for damages or non-pecuniary harm passes on to the State to the extent of the compensation provided.

Law enforcement authorities are obliged to inform the victim of a violent crime who has been harmed about the conditions of compensation. Information on compensation conditions is also published on the website of the Ministry of Justice.

Other proposals relating to GRETA measures were beyond the scope of the legislative intent and amendments to the Act on Victims. These recommendations and their legislative embedding need to be further discussed.

3. The General Prosecutor's Office, as the cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation for the purposes of the report, states that it fully agrees that the issue is sufficiently addressed by the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as the Act on Victims of Crime.

R2. Legal assistance and free legal aid

R2.1 GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should ensure that the staff of the Centre for Legal Aid are provided with training on the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R2.1 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation should be solved by fulfilling Task No. 14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 495/2018 of 6 November 2018 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023).

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

In line with this task and following the recommendation R2.1, the Information Centre under the Ministry of Interior, as the sole responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, approached the Centre for Legal Aid with an offer to conduct training for its staff. The first email contact with the Centre for Legal Aid was made to the general email contact of the Centre for Legal Aid on 25 May 2021 with a proposal for the implementation of training focused on information on trafficking in human beings, victims' rights and assistance options for victims of trafficking in human beings with a proposal for an online training format in case of a worsening pandemic situation and with regard to the deployment of the Centres for Legal Protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic. Subsequently, on 3 August 2021, the Centre for Legal Aid contacted the Information Centre by telephone and email to request a briefing on collaboration and training in an online format. As requested by the Centre for Legal Aid, the Information Centre sent an email on 3 August 2021 with further information on the focus and logistics of the training, but without further response from the Centre for Legal Aid. The organisation of the training will probably need to be proposed to the Centre for Legal Aid repeatedly and included in the next training plan according to staff capacity. However, the

Information Centre has managed to start cooperation with the Slovak Bar Association, for more information see recommendation R4b).

R2.2 Further, GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should strengthen their efforts to facilitate and guarantee access to justice by granting access to legal assistance to all victims of trafficking in human beings, regardless of whether they have entered the Victim Support Programme or not.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior
Cooperating entity: General Prosecutor's Office

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R2.2 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed legislatively in the following acts:

- Code of Criminal Procedure,
- Act on Victims of Crime.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as the responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that access to legal assistance and free legal aid is guaranteed to all injured parties (victims) of trafficking in human beings, regardless of whether they have joined the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection or not. The victim's access to justice is guaranteed by Article 2(7) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, according to which everyone has the right to have their criminal case heard fairly and within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal in their presence, so that they may be heard on all the evidence adduced.

   Pursuant to Article 47(6) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, if an injured party who claims compensation for damages and does not have sufficient means to pay the costs related thereto may, in the pre-trial proceedings after the charges have been brought, have a representative appointed by the judge for pre-trial proceedings on the prosecutor's motion, and in the trial proceedings, even without a motion, by the presiding judge, if they deem it necessary to protect the interests of the injured party.

   Pursuant to Article 48a of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the injured party has the right to be accompanied by a fiduciary, who must be a person with legal capacity. The fiduciary provides the injured party with the necessary assistance, especially psychological assistance, and may also be the injured party's attorney. Pursuant to Article 53 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the injured party also has the right to be represented in criminal proceedings by an attorney, who may also be an authorised representative of a victim assistance organisation. Only a person with legal capacity may be an attorney.

   Other entitlements of the injured person (victim) in relation to the provision of legal assistance and counselling are set out in Recommendation R1b) (include specific

information about the implications of being recognised as a victim of trafficking, in addition to general information on the rights of victims of crime, more specifically on the right to a recovery and reflection period and, where applicable, temporary residence, and the possibilities to receive legal aid and to claim compensation).

2. The General Prosecutor's Office, as the cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation for the purposes of the report, states that the wording of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which sufficiently covers the issue, applies without the need for further amendments.

R3. Access to work, vocational training and education

GRETA welcomes the fact that foreign victims of trafficking have the right to work in the Slovak Republic, as well as the initiatives aimed at promoting the employability of persons from marginalised communities. Nevertheless, GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should take further steps to strengthen effective access to the labour market for victims of trafficking in human beings and their economic and social inclusion through the provision of vocational training, raising awareness among potential employers, and the promotion of micro-businesses, social enterprises and public-private partnerships with a view to creating appropriate work opportunities for all victims of trafficking, including foreign nationals and persons from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Cooperating entities: National Labour Inspectorate, Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R3 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed legislatively in the following acts:

- Act No. 125/2006 Coll. on labour inspection and on the amendment to Act No. 82/2005 Coll. on illegal work and illegal employment and on the amendment to certain acts as amended,
- Act No. 82/2005 Coll. on illegal work and illegal employment and on the amendment to certain acts as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Illegal Work and Illegal Employment"),
- Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on employment services and on the amendment to certain acts as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Employment Services"),
- Act No. 453/2003 Coll. on central government authorities in the field of social affairs, family and employment services and on the amendment to certain acts as amended,
- Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on social economy and social enterprises and on the amendment to certain acts as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Social Economy"),
- Act No. 336/2015 Coll. on support for the least-developed districts and on the amendment to certain acts as amended.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family as the responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation states that the development of social economy is one of the long-term priorities in the Slovak Republic, as of 31 December 2021, a

total of 461 active social enterprises were registered in the Slovak Republic. According to statistical data, as of 31 December 2021, registered social enterprises employed a total of 4,366 employees. Of these, disadvantaged persons number 2,908 and vulnerable persons number 45. Among the disadvantaged persons, employees of registered social enterprises are disadvantaged persons with disabilities, i.e. persons recognised as disabled and persons not recognised as disabled who have a long-term disability reducing their physical, mental and sensory abilities, which prevents their full and effective participation in the working environment compared to a healthy individual, totalling 2,512.

Interest in setting up or transforming enterprises into registered social enterprises within the meaning of the Act on Social Economy is still persistent and the number of registered social enterprises tends to increase every month.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family granted the status of the umbrella organisation of the social economy sector to the Association of Social Economy Entities (an interest association of legal entities) and to the Alliance for Social Economy in Slovakia (a civic association) pursuant to Article 26(2) of the Act on Social Economy. These umbrella organisations of the social economy sector bring together social enterprises and other entities that support the social economy and specifically social entrepreneurship in the Slovak Republic.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, in cooperation with experts on the social economy and social entrepreneurship, is preparing a draft act amending the Act on Social Economy. The main objective of the draft act is to supplement the legislative regulation of the social economy sector and to create appropriate conditions for the social economy to continue to develop and to be beneficial not only for increasing employment. With the draft act in question, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family has the ambition to introduce provisions in the Act on Social Economy concerning the issue of family businesses, which would create a separate section and family business would thus acquire a separate legal framework. The draft act also reflects the requirements of supporting the development of the business environment at the regional as well as at the national level, which will help to reduce the risk of poverty and social exclusion of disadvantaged persons and vulnerable persons who find it difficult to integrate and participate in the open labour market.

The Act on Employment Services provides in the provision of Article 23a(ac) for third-country nationals whose tolerated stay has been extended on the grounds that they are victims of trafficking in human beings, the possibility of entering the Slovak labour market without a certificate of the possibility of filling a vacant job corresponding to a highly qualified job, a certificate of the possibility of filling a vacant job, or without an employment permit. This is in accordance with Article 12(4) of the Convention.

2. The National Labour Inspectorate, as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states for the report that the labour inspection bodies are involved in raising awareness of the above-mentioned issues by providing free advice to employers and employees in the areas of labour inspection supervision. Labour inspectorates also provide more detailed information on selected areas of employment through specialised free seminars and webinars. This recommendation is also implemented through communication via websites and social networks.

3. The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, as a cooperating entity, carries out social prevention in the above-mentioned area, especially through the implementation of individual national projects creating integration prerequisites. During the evaluation visit, the members of the delegation were particularly impressed by the local civic order services project.

   The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities in the system of implementation and coordination of the Strategy for Roma Integration until 2020 creates all preconditions for the reduction of differences in employment between Roma and the majority population by improving the link between vocational training and education and the labour market, by improving and expanding employment services and by improving the quality and accessibility of assistance services. However, the 2020 Strategy and the relevant Action Plans do not specifically target victims of trafficking in human beings. This applies equally to the area of micro-credit and social entrepreneurship. However, the Office has not established special programmes for victims of trafficking in human beings, i.e., such special activities are not covered in accordance with Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on budgetary rules of general government and on the amendment to certain acts as amended.

   If the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities wanted, even minimally, to support any activity from public funds within the regulation of Act No. 526/2010 Coll. on subsidies within the competence of the Ministry of Interior, as amended, please note that the Ministry of Interior has not released any resources for the provision of subsidies in the budget year 2020. In the same way, the educational campaigns foresee expenditure of economic classification of budgetary classification 500 and economic classification of budgetary classification 600, i.e., the strengthening of staff capacities, which, again, the Office does not have budget coverage for.

   The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities can only participate in the implementation of the recommendation in an appropriately participatory manner through social prevention, but focused on the entire target group of integration intervention measures, because for the programmes specifically aimed at the target groups, fixed in the Convention, Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, no resources are allocated in the budget chapter of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. It can therefore only join educational campaigns mutandi mutandis, not as the main (co-)manager of the implementation of the recommendation.
   Insofar as the non-legislative legal acts of the European Union adopted in this programming period for the implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 have also identified the above-mentioned area of "trafficking" on a case-by-case basis, it is necessary to point out both that the 2014-2020 programming period is coming to an end and the fact that the non-legislative legal acts of the European Union relating to the preparation of new national strategies do not contain specific measures specifically for this target group of "victims", and it is

therefore obviously problematic to predict whether the European Union will provide such measures from the funds earmarked for Roma integration in the next steps of the European Union's integration strategy. If we just go by the European Parliament's draft report and resolution on the implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, document in process No. 2020/2029(INI) of 16 October 2020, it is clear that the European Union favours a sectoral, line-by-line approach, that is to say, both to strengthen the staff capacities of the materially competent authorities and for the line-by-line cooperation of the national authorities with the European Union's offices or agencies. This document also allows the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities to respond only to the extent of identification within the framework of national projects.

R4. Compensation

GRETA welcomes the legislative developments in the area of state compensation, but is concerned that only one victim of trafficking in human beings has so far received compensation from the State. Moreover, almost no victims of trafficking in human beings have been paid compensation by perpetrators. GRETA urges the Slovak authorities to facilitate and guarantee access to compensation for victims of trafficking, including by:

a) enabling all victims of trafficking, including irregular migrants, to exercise their right to compensation, by ensuring access to legal aid and legal assistance at the outset of the criminal proceedings;

Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R4a) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the right of the injured party (victim) of trafficking in human beings to claim compensation for damages caused by the crime is guaranteed in Article 46(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. This right of the injured party is guaranteed to all victims, including illegal migrants. When questioning the victim, the law enforcement authority shall ascertain whether the victim is claiming compensation for the damage caused by the offence against the accused, and it must be clear from the claim on what grounds and in what amount the victim is claiming, and the claim must be submitted by the victim no later than by the end of the investigation.

   The Act on Victims of Crime deals with compensation for victims of violent crime, which includes victims of the crime of trafficking in human beings. In the third part of the Act in question (Article 10 - Article 22), according to which a victim of a violent crime who is a citizen of the Slovak Republic, a citizen of another Member State or a stateless person who has permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic or in the territory of another Member State, or a foreign national may apply for compensation under the conditions and to the extent provided for by an international treaty that has been ratified and promulgated in the manner provided for by law, if the injury to health occurred in the territory of the Slovak Republic. A victim of a violent

crime who has been granted asylum, subsidiary protection, temporary shelter, residence or tolerated stay in the Slovak Republic may also apply for compensation if the injury occurred in the territory of the Slovak Republic. A victim of a violent crime shall be entitled to compensation under this Act if a judgment or criminal warrant finding the perpetrator guilty of an offence by which bodily injury was caused to the victim of the violent crime, or a judgment acquitting the defendant of the charge because they are not criminally liable for lack of age or insanity and the bodily injury has not otherwise been fully compensated to the victim of the violent crime, has entered into legal force in the criminal proceedings. Following the latest amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime with effect from 1 July 2021, the right to compensation also arises if a criminal prosecution has been initiated and the results of the investigation or abbreviated investigation by law enforcement authorities to date do not raise reasonable doubts that the victim of a violent crime has been injured by an act which has the characteristics of a criminal offence or a court decision has not been pronounced, issued or has not entered into legal force. The decision to grant compensation shall be made and paid by the decision-making body, which is the Ministry of Justice, on the basis of a written request from the victim of a violent crime. According to information from the Ministry of Justice, compensation was paid to one victim of trafficking in human beings in the maximum amount of EUR 17,600 in 2020 and to one victim of trafficking in human beings in the amount of EUR 4,800 in 2021. The National Rapporteur notes that both compensation payments were made in proceedings with a final judgment; there is as yet no practice of claiming compensation for victims of trafficking in human beings under the Act on Victims of Crime during criminal proceedings without a final court decision.

The Crime Prevention Department of the Office of the Minister of Interior of the Ministry of Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Crime Prevention Department"), under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, provides assistance to all victims of crime including victims of trafficking in human beings through the information offices for victims of crime, by means of basic information and referral support, or by providing assistance with contacting entities providing professional assistance to victims, and, where justified, by arranging for services in the area of legal guidance and support. At the same time, in order to inform victims about the possibility to claim compensation for damages from perpetrators in criminal proceedings, it developed and subsequently updated an information brochure focusing on the topic of "Compensation for Damages and Indemnification of Victims of Violent Crimes" in accordance with the amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime. The brochure is also available for the professional and general public on the website of the Ministry of Interior.

In 2022, an internal methodological material "memory map - foreigner" was also developed in order to guide the procedure of the information office staff to correctly direct the foreigner victim in the recommended procedure. The material also contains information on the possibilities of compensating foreign victims for the harm caused.

2. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation for the purposes of the report, states that it has no proposal for the supplementation of this point, the issue is sufficiently covered by the Code of Criminal Procedure and it sees no reason for further measures.

b) building the capacity of legal practitioners to support victims in claiming compensation;

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior
Cooperating entity: Ministry of Justice

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R4b) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation should be solved by fulfilling Task No. 14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023). Education on victims' rights and their status for other legal professions is also regulated by the forthcoming amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime. The amendment will ensure access to education for legal professions, while leaving the inclusion of such education entirely within the competence of the authorities responsible for education under special regulations.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. In accordance with this task, the Information Centre under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, as the responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, addressed the Slovak Bar Association by email dated 24 August 2021. Subsequently, a training session for attorneys associated in the Slovak Bar Association was jointly agreed, which took place in an online format on 24 November 2021. The Slovak Bar Association made a recording of the training with an electronic presentation and the leaflet "Rights of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings" available to participants of the course and to a group of attorneys who are members of the Slovak Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers. The leaflet was developed by the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the General Prosecutor's Office and the Slovak Catholic Charity in 2018, and in 2020 with an updated visual, which was distributed to the non-governmental sector and police units. The Slovak Bar Association offered the Information Centre access to the HELP platform and considered including the provided materials for a closed group of participants who had already completed the course.

2. The Ministry of Justice, as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime has implemented Article 25 of Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, which focuses on the training of practitioners who come into contact with the victim - from civil servants, members of the Police Force, to judges and lawyers in general.

   The provision of the new Article 32a of the Act on Victims of Crime reflects this requirement and creates an obligation to take into account specific education on victims' rights when providing education. Education should be understood as preparation for the legal profession, i.e., university education, as well as continuing education after obtaining a university education in law or other fields. The aim of this provision is to ensure that professionals and practitioners have access to education on victims' rights and are subsequently able to provide services to victims, thereby ensuring the quality of the services provided.

   In accordance with an amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime, victims of crime are entitled to compensation even before the judgment, criminal warrant or decision in the criminal proceedings has been pronounced, issued or has become final. In cases where

personal injury has been caused by the offence of trafficking in human beings, there is no need to bring a claim for criminal damages in order to establish a claim for compensation. In such a case, it is not even necessary to use legal services. In addition, victims can use the services of accredited bodies that provide general professional assistance to victims, including legal aid.

c) ensuring that the collection of evidence about the harm the victim has suffered, including the financial gain from the exploitation of the victim, is part of the criminal investigations with a view to supporting compensation claims in court;

Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R4c) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that it is the duty of the law enforcement authorities within the meaning of Article 2(10) of the Code of Criminal Procedure to proceed in such a way as to establish the facts of the case beyond reasonable doubt, to the extent necessary for their decision, and to procure evidence ex officio. It is therefore the duty of the investigator to secure and collect all evidence related to the crime under investigation, including evidence of harm to the victim, including financial harm, as part of the pre-trial proceedings. In securing evidence, the investigator shall act so as to obtain sufficient evidence to document the harm that has been caused to the victim, whether it is bodily injury, property damage, or moral injury, which has been caused to the victim in direct connection with the crime committed against them.

   Pursuant to Article 119 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the investigator is obliged to prove in criminal proceedings, in particular, whether an act has been committed and whether it has the characteristics of a criminal offence, who committed the act and for what motives, the seriousness of the act, including the causes and conditions of its commission, the personal circumstances of the perpetrator to the extent necessary to determine the type and amount of the penalty and the imposition of a protective measure, the consequence and amount of the damage caused by the criminal offence and the proceeds of crime and the means for its commission, their location, nature, condition and price. It follows from the above that it is the legal obligation of the investigator in criminal proceedings to ascertain and document the proceeds of crime, to ascertain the assets of the perpetrator, and at the same time to verify that these assets do not originate from criminal activity, or have not been used in the commission of criminal activity. In both cases, it is the duty of the law enforcement authorities to seize such property and it is then up to the court to decide how such property will be disposed of.

The instruction of the NUFIM Director dated 11 June 2020 also includes ensuring strict compliance with the provisions of Article 119(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure and placing emphasis on the conduct of evidence in criminal proceedings and in the extent of ascertaining the consequence and amount of damage caused by the offence, as well as the proceeds of crime and the means of committing it, their location, nature, condition and price.

Compensation for victims of crime is regulated by the Act on Victims of Crime, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. The methodology for calculating compensation is not the responsibility of investigators of the Police Force; this is carried out by qualified experts in accordance with the applicable directives and laws.

2. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation for the purposes of the report, states that it has no proposal for the supplementation of this point, the issue is sufficiently covered by the Code of Criminal Procedure and it sees no reason for further measures.

d) including compensation in existing training programmes for the judiciary so that judges are encouraged to use all the possibilities the law offers them to uphold compensation claims;

Responsible entity: Ministry of Justice

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R4d) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation should be addressed through the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Judicial Academy") in relation to judges, prosecutors, judicial officers, assistants to judges of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic and assistants to prosecutors.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

The Ministry of Justice, as the entity responsible for the implementation of the recommendation, states that training in relation to judges, prosecutors, judicial officers and assistants to judges of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic and assistants to prosecutors is provided by the Judicial Academy.

Following GRETA's recommendation, the Judicial Academy included in the curriculum an educational event on "Compensation for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings", which introduces the system of compensation of victims of violent crimes under the Act on Victims of Crime with an emphasis on victims of trafficking in human beings, the impact of the systematic change in the compensation of victims of violent crimes as of 1 July 2021 in relation to victims of trafficking in human beings. Furthermore, the training focuses on ways to help victims of trafficking and protection measures for victims of trafficking in human beings.

The Judicial Academy's training event entitled "Compensation for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings" is scheduled for 3 May 2022 and will be attended by the above target groups. The lecturers at the event will be representatives of the Information Centre (possibilities of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings and related protective measures), the NUFIM (activities of the specialised unit dedicated to the investigation of the crime of trafficking in human beings) and the Ministry of Justice.

A similar event was held in cooperation with the Judicial Academy in March 2020, attended by senior judicial officials.

In addition, the Judicial Academy offers seminars on “Rights of Victims of Crime”.

e) introducing a procedure through which victims are entitled to obtain a decision on compensation from the offender as part of the criminal trial and requiring courts to state, where applicable, why compensation is not considered;

Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor’s Office, Ministry of Justice

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R4e) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed legislatively in the following acts:

- Code of Criminal Procedure,
- Act on Victims of Crime.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that ascertaining the damage caused to the victim by a criminal offence is a legal obligation of the law enforcement authorities and at the same time the right of the victim to claim compensation in criminal proceedings for the damage caused to them by the criminal offence, and this right is guaranteed by Article 46(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The right to compensation of a victim of a violent crime (i.e., also a victim of trafficking in human beings) is also guaranteed by the Act on Victims of Crime, and under Article 22 of the Act, law enforcement authorities are obliged to inform the victim of a violent crime who has been harmed of the conditions of compensation provided for in the Act. Pursuant to Article 11 of the above Act, a victim of a violent crime shall be entitled to compensation if a judgment or criminal warrant finding the perpetrator guilty of an offence by which bodily injury was caused to the victim of the violent crime, or a judgment acquitting the defendant of the charge because they are not criminally liable for lack of age or insanity and the bodily injury has not otherwise been fully compensated to the victim of the violent crime, has entered into legal force in the criminal proceedings. Following the amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime with effect from 1 July 2021, the right to compensation also arises if a criminal prosecution has been initiated and the results of the investigation or abbreviated investigation by law enforcement authorities to date do not raise reasonable doubts that the victim of a violent crime has been injured by an act which has the characteristics of a criminal offence or a court decision has not been pronounced, issued or has not entered into legal force. According to information from the Ministry of Justice, compensation was paid to one victim of trafficking in human beings in the maximum amount of EUR 17,600 in 2020 and to one victim of trafficking in human beings in the amount of EUR 4,800 in 2021. The National Rapporteur notes that both compensation payments were made in proceedings with a final judgment; there is as yet no practice of claiming compensation for victims of trafficking in human beings under the Act on Victims of Crime during criminal proceedings without a final court decision.

2. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation for the purposes of the report, states that it has no proposal for the supplementation of this point, the issue is sufficiently covered by the Code of Criminal Procedure and it sees no reason for further measures.

3. The Ministry of Justice, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation for the purposes of the report, states that the issue of compensation for the injured party is comprehensively addressed in the forthcoming amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure, specifically in the following measures:

    - extending the possibility of claiming damages to court proceedings;
    - the introduction of mediation in criminal proceedings as a standardised procedure in all criminal cases where harm has been caused, which can be used at any stage of the criminal proceedings;
    - the benefits to the accused by taking into account the conclusion of a compensation agreement in determining the procedural course of action;
    - introduction of the specialisation of a criminal mediator (until now we had dual functions - probation officer and mediation officer);
    - introducing the possibility for courts to deal with compensation claims in a special public session after the main hearing, in particular for cases where the determination of the amount of the claim goes beyond the scope of the evidence on guilt and punishment.

    At the same time, the amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime, which has fundamentally changed the philosophy of compensation for victims of crime, is a

significant development. A key change is the introduction of the possibility for a victim of a violent crime to apply to the Ministry of Justice for compensation after the initiation of a criminal prosecution. More in point R1b).

f) making full use of the legislation on the freezing and forfeiture of assets to secure compensation to victims of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible entities: General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R4f) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed legislatively in the following acts:

- Code of Criminal Procedure,
- Act No. 312/2020 Coll. on the execution of asset seizure decision and seized asset management and on the amendment to certain acts.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that it has no proposal for the supplementation of this point, the issue is sufficiently covered by the Code of Criminal Procedure and it sees no reason for further measures.

2. The Ministry of Justice, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that securing the victim's claim for compensation through seizure of the accused person's assets is a standard procedure of criminal proceedings, which can also be used in the case of trafficking in human beings offences (Article 50 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

R5. Investigations, prosecutions, sanctions and measures

R5. 1 GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should take further steps to ensure that all possible human trafficking offences are promptly investigated, regardless of whether a complaint about the reported crime has been submitted and notwithstanding the cultural context of the crime, making use of special investigation techniques in order to gather evidence and not having to rely exclusively on testimony by victims or witnesses. In this context, the Slovak authorities should take steps to ensure that all complaints about possible THB offences are registered and complainants are treated respectfully by the police. Moreover, property used to commit crimes or which can reasonably be considered to constitute proceeds of crime should be seized to the largest extent possible.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior

Cooperating entity: General Prosecutor's Office

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R5.1 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed legislatively in the following acts:

- Code of Criminal Procedure,
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 171/1993 Coll. on the Police Force as amended.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as a responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that according to Article 2(6) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, law enforcement authorities act ex officio (the principle of ex officio proceedings), which means that a law enforcement authority may initiate a certain proceeding or take an action without having an initiative or a proposal from another person, and it may, or must, initiate a certain proceeding on its own initiative. The law enforcement authorities shall proceed in such a way as to establish the facts of the case beyond reasonable doubt to the extent necessary for their decision; they shall evaluate the evidence obtained in a lawful manner according to their internal conviction based on careful consideration of all the circumstances of the case, individually and in the aggregate, irrespective of whether it has been obtained by the court, the law enforcement authority or one of the parties, as provided for in Article 2(10) and (12) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

   Similarly, one of the tasks of the Police Force embodied in Article 2(1)(b) of Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 171/1993 Coll. on the Police Force as amended is the detection of crimes and the identification of their perpetrators.

   The NUFIM, as a specialised unit of the Presidium of the Police Force, has specially trained operatives in the field of trafficking in human beings, who are primarily engaged in searching for cases of trafficking in human beings in all its forms throughout the territory of the Slovak Republic. Upon discovering a suspicion of committing the crime of trafficking in human beings, they proactively obtain further information and evidence and, after its sufficient verification and documentation, they submit a written proposal to the NUFIM investigator to initiate a criminal prosecution without the necessity of filing a criminal complaint by the victim. In criminal proceedings, the testimonies of victims and witnesses, as well as other relevant evidence related to the crime committed, are also taken into account. All observations, complaints and reports of suspected offences of trafficking in human beings are registered and thoroughly investigated, and if all the legal elements of the offence of trafficking in human beings are fulfilled, a criminal prosecution is initiated and all evidence is pursued with the aim of identifying and convicting the perpetrator.

   The obligation of investigators to ascertain the consequence and amount of the damage caused by the crime, as well as the proceeds of crime and the means of its commission, their location, nature, condition and price, is enshrined in the provisions of Article 119(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, while the emphasis on conducting evidence in criminal proceedings in accordance with the aforementioned provision is also contained in the instruction of the Director of the NUFIM of 11 June 2020.

2. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that it has no objections to supplement the recommendation with the need for media presentation of legally completed cases. Beyond the arguments used earlier, it considers it necessary to increase the activity of all law enforcement authorities and to pay more attention to the detection and criminal liability of legal persons under a special act (Act No. 91/2016 on criminal liability of legal persons and on the amendment to certain acts) who may participate in the commission of trafficking

in human beings offences. According to the statistics of the Ministry, no legal person has been held criminally liable for the offence of trafficking in human beings under Article 179 of the Criminal Code since the above-mentioned Act was introduced into practice.

In connection with the legislative changes, the General Prosecutor's Office considers it necessary to highlight the forthcoming amendment to the Criminal Code concerning Article 179 of the Criminal Code, where in paragraph 2 (concerning child victims) of this provision the sentencing tariff is increased with the possibility of imposing a prison sentence of 10-15 years (currently the sentencing tariff is 4-10 years). At the same time, a new provision is added to the Criminal Code, namely Article 179a of the Criminal Code, which will allow for the criminal punishment of persons who, knowing about a victim of trafficking in human beings, exploit their plight for their own benefit.

R5.2 GRETA urges the Slovak authorities to take additional measures to ensure that THB cases lead to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions. In this context, the authorities should continue providing training and develop the specialisation of investigators, prosecutors and judges to deal with human trafficking cases and to ensure that they are not re-qualified as other offences which carry lighter penalties and deprive victims of THB of access to protection, support and compensation.

Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice
Cooperating entity: General Prosecutor's Office

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R5.2 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

Within the Police Force, the material competence for the crime of trafficking in human beings is implemented through a specialised unit - the NUFIM, but in the conditions of the prosecutor's office and the courts there is no specialisation. In relation to further specialisation of prosecutors and judges, it is advisable to address this topic in the discussion on the forthcoming amendments to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, as it has not yet been addressed at the professional level. The recommendation concerning the training of investigators, prosecutors and judges should be implemented by fulfilling Task No. 14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023) and through activities of the Judicial Academy.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, the NUFIM states that the material competence for the crime of trafficking in human beings is implemented within the Police Force through a specialised unit (NUFIM), which was established on 1 April 2002 and, since 1 January 2014, has also had exclusive competence for the operational screening and investigation of trafficking in human beings crimes with a nationwide scope of activity. It has specially trained investigators as well as operatives in its operational and investigation units located in the west, centre and east of Slovakia, whose expertise is increased annually through participation in courses, trainings, working groups, workshops, conferences and working meetings at national and international level, while it is also involved in various European Union projects in the field of trafficking in human beings, e.g., in the framework of the EMPACT working

group, with a priority on trafficking in human beings. Active participation of NUFIM officers in international forums and regular meetings is also fulfilled through Task No.7 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 495/2018 of 6 November 2018 (to ensure the sustainability of good international cooperation, responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, General Prosecutor's Office, with a deadline of 01/2019 – 12/2023).

However, in the conditions of the prosecutor's office and the courts there is no specialisation currently.

The recommendation concerning the training of investigators, prosecutors and judges should be implemented by fulfilling Task No. 14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 495/2018 of 6 November 2018 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023) and through activities of the Judicial Academy. On the above, see point R4d).

2. The Ministry of Justice, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, reports that an event on "Compensation for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings" is currently being planned jointly with the Ministry of Interior. The curriculum for the coming year (2023) has not yet been approved.

3. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, provides the rationale included under point R5.1.

R5.3 GRETA reiterates its recommendation made in the second report that the offence of THB be excluded from the plea-bargaining procedure.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Justice
Cooperating entity: Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R5.3 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation has not yet been the subject of expert discussion and should therefore be considered for inclusion in the forthcoming legislative changes to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Code planned for 2021. On the basis of such a discussion it will be possible to evaluate whether the recommendation in question can be implemented in the legislation and conditions of the Slovak Republic or whether other measures will be chosen to achieve the objective pursued.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The Ministry of Justice, as the entity responsible for the implementation of the recommendation, states that it does not consider the exclusion of the offence of trafficking in human beings from the possibility of conducting proceedings on a plea bargain to be a good solution, as it does not consider it right to introduce exceptions to the general rules, which in a given case would lead to the need to prove the guilt of

a defendant who has confessed to the offence. Moreover, in Slovak criminal law, a plea of guilty has the same effect as a plea bargain, i.e., the intention not to impose sentences below the lower limit of the sentencing range would not have been achieved.

The Ministry of Justice responds to GRETA's objections to the imposition of suspended sentences for the offence of trafficking in human beings on child victims in the current amendment to the Criminal Code by increasing the lower limit of the sentencing tariff in Article 179(2) of the Criminal Code to a threshold which, even after an extraordinary reduction of the sentence due to the conclusion of a plea bargain (or the defendant's plea of guilty), does not reach the threshold for suspension of the imprisonment sentence.

2. The NUFIM, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the Code of Criminal Procedure, in Article 232 dealing with the possibility and conditions of the plea-bargaining proceedings, does not define any criminal offences to which the possibility of applying the plea-bargaining proceedings is not applicable. It follows from the foregoing that the accused has the right, if the conditions are fulfilled, which are a confession to the commission of the offence, a plea of guilty by the accused and the existence of evidence indicating the truth of their confession, to initiate proceedings for a plea bargain. In such a case, the prosecutor is obliged to take into account the interest of the injured party in the agreement for compensation for damages which the injured party has duly and timely claimed. Thus, without legislative modification of that provision of the Code of Criminal Procedure, it is not within the authority of NUFIM investigators to exclude the crime of human trafficking from the plea-bargaining process.

3. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, provides the rationale included under point R5.1.

R6. Non-punishment provision

GRETA once again urges the Slovak authorities to strengthen efforts to ensure compliance with the non-punishment provision, by extending its scope to cover all offences which victims of THB were compelled to commit, including administrative and immigration-related offences, as well as issuing guidance to police officers and prosecutors.

Responsible entity: **Ministry of Interior**
Cooperating entity: **General Prosecutor's Office**

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R6 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed legislatively in the following acts:

- Code of Criminal Procedure,
- Act on Residence of Foreigners,
- the non-punishment provision (Article 40 of the Criminal Code) is amended within the Act on the execution of asset seizure decision and seized asset management and on the amendment to certain acts (the Act was approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic on 21 October 2020 with effect of this part from 1 January 2021, number of the parliamentary print 195).

In relation to misdemeanours, Act of the Slovak National Council No. 372/1990 Coll. on misdemeanours as amended does not regulate a similar form of non-punishment, which is why it is necessary to draft an amendment to the Act and submit it to the intra-ministerial comment procedure at the Ministry of Interior, which is the coordinator of the above-mentioned Act.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The NUFIM under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as the responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation states that on 1 January 2021, an amendment to the Criminal Code, as amended, entered into force, which added to Article 40 of the Act in question, namely to its second paragraph, the possibility of waiving the punishment of the perpetrator of a criminal offence, if the offence was committed by the person under duress in direct connection with the fact that the offence of trafficking in human beings under Article 179, the offence of sexual abuse under Articles 201 to 202, the offence of abuse of a close person or a person entrusted to one's care under Article 208 or the offence of production of child pornography under Article 368 has been committed against the person. If the punishment of the perpetrator has been waived, the perpetrator shall be regarded as if not having been convicted.

   Prior to this amendment, waiver of punishment under the Criminal Code was only possible in connection with the commission of a misdemeanour which a person was compelled to commit in direct connection with the commission of the crime of trafficking in human beings under Article 179 of the Criminal Code and other exhaustively enumerated criminal offences. The amendment thus extended the provision on the possibility of waiving punishment or non-punishment of victims of trafficking in human beings to criminal offences in addition to the commission of misdemeanours.

   The Department of Foreign Police under the authority of the Ministry of Interior states that the provision of Article 116(5) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners guarantees misdemeanour immunity to victims of trafficking in human beings in connection with misdemeanours committed by third country nationals/citizens of the European Union or their family members in the field of border control if they cross the external border illegally; deliberately evade or refuse to submit to border control when crossing the external border; or present another person's travel document, another document authorising the crossing of the external border, or a visa as their own at the border control.

   In relation to misdemeanours, Act of the Slovak National Council No. 372/1990 Coll. on misdemeanours, as amended, does not provide for a similar form of non-punishment. The Ministry of Interior (General Government Section), which is the coordinator of the aforementioned Act, states that the Framework Plan of Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the 8th electoral period obliges the Ministry of Interior to submit in the third quarter of 2022 a draft Act amending Act of the Slovak National Council No. 372/1990 Coll. on misdemeanours, as amended. Actions are currently being carried out to amend the Act in question and the request to enshrine non-punishment for victims of trafficking in human beings has been submitted to the working group for the purpose of incorporating the above-mentioned issue into

the Act on Misdemeanours. It will only become clear whether the above-mentioned issue will be incorporated into the Act on Misdemeanours after the inter-ministerial and intra-ministerial comment procedure has been carried out.

2. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the issue is sufficiently addressed by the Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as by the Act on Residence of Foreigners.

R7. Protection of victims and witnesses

R7.1 In order to protect victims' privacy and ensure their safety, GRETA urges the Slovak authorities to:

a) set up a sufficient number of specially adapted interview rooms around the country and systematically use them to interview children and other vulnerable victims of THB, and ensure that testimony given in such rooms is used in court;

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior
Cooperating entity: Ministry of Justice

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R7.1a) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is being fulfilled through the implementation of the following projects:

- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior by implementing the project "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Application of Tools for its Prevention" co-financed by the European Union from the Internal Security Fund, financial instrument in the field of police cooperation, crime prevention, combating crime and crisis management (project implementation period: 2 September 2019 – 31 December 2021),
- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior by implementing the project "Special Interrogation Rooms for Child Victims and Other Particularly Vulnerable Victims of Crime" co-financed by the European Union from the Internal Security Fund (project implementation period: 1 February 2018 – 31 December 2021),
- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice by implementing the project "Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Judiciary through the Protection - Empowerment of Victims and Vulnerable Parties" funded by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism (to be implemented from 14 March 2020).

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior by implementing the project "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Application of Tools for its Prevention" co-financed by the European Union from the Internal Security Fund, financial instrument in the field of police cooperation, crime prevention, combating crime and crisis management (approved project implementation period: 2 September 2019 – 31 December 2021): The creation of special interrogation rooms is one of the priority activities of the project implemented by the NUFIM. The project was planned to be implemented between September 2019 and December 2021, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this period has been extended by 12 months to December 2022. The project funds will also be used to build two special interrogation rooms for victims of

trafficking in human beings, which will be located in the investigation departments of the NUFIM in Bratislava and Humenné. The interrogation rooms will be equipped with appropriate technical equipment and will be furnished in a manner suitable for child as well as adult victims of trafficking in human beings, in particular with a view to exerting a positive influence on the victim. The interrogation rooms will be built in such a way that the victims feel pleasant and comfortable in them, without any negative impact on their ability to testify and thus on the whole course of the evidence. An equally important objective is to prevent secondary victimisation of victims, whose interrogation will be carried out with the use of technical means of video and audio recording.

Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior by implementing the project "Special Interrogation Rooms for Child Victims and Other Particularly Vulnerable Victims of Crime" co-financed by the European Union from the Internal Security Fund (approved project implementation period: 1 February 2018 – 31 December 2021): The project will have the benefit of building special interrogation rooms for the interrogation of victims of trafficking in human beings, who are particularly vulnerable victims. The topic of trafficking in human beings is included in the training curriculum for investigators and commissioned officers of the Police Force. This project was also expected to be completed at the end of 2021, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the suspension of some activities, the implementation of the project has been delayed by 12 months. As of 31 December 2021, 15 special interrogation rooms have been constructed and will be furnished and handed over to trained staff for use during 2022. In order to expand the network of these rooms, Partnership Agreement No.12/2021 was signed by the Minister of Interior in August 2021. This is a new project entitled "Improving the protection of victims' rights - strengthening capacities and procedures for combating violence against women and domestic violence", from the programme "Domestic and Gender-Based Violence", which is funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the state budget of the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Interior is a partner in this project and it has committed to building and commissioning eight more special interrogation rooms by April 2024.

2. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation by implementing the project "Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Judiciary through the Protection - Empowerment of Victims and Vulnerable Parties" funded by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism (to be implemented from 14 March 2020) - a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the amount of EUR 1,020,000. The project focuses on caring for the most vulnerable groups, including children and victims of crime. Between March and May 2022, 8 courts (District Court in Galanta, Spišská Nová Ves, Rožňava, Rimavská Sobota, Zvolen, Bratislava II, Prešov and the Regional Court in Prešov) are to establish special rooms to assist in the interrogation of children and particularly vulnerable victims. At the same time, a handbook for judges entitled "Increasing the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the protection of minors as victims of crime and in family law disputes' was created and distributed. The aim of setting up special rooms and creating a uniform methodology is to create the most appropriate conditions for children and vulnerable victims during the court proceedings, but also to ensure that the process of ascertaining the child's opinion is not traumatic for the child. Particularly vulnerable victims targeted in this project are children, persons with specific disabilities, victims of sexually motivated crimes, persons over 75 years of age, and victims of crimes of abuse of a close person and a person entrusted to one's care. The interrogation of vulnerable victims has a special regulation in the criminal law regulations (legislative regulation in Articles 135-139 of the Code of Criminal Procedure). With regard to interrogations and their non-repetition, we note the provisions of Article 134 and Article 135 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which emphasise that they should be carried out in relation to particularly vulnerable victims in such a way that they do not have to be repeated in criminal proceedings.

As part of the implementation of the above-mentioned project, the Ministry also plans to launch an educational programme in May 2022, which will include, among other things, the training of judges in the field of individual approach to minors when ascertaining their opinion in civil proceedings. The aim is to create an educational programme that will improve knowledge about the treatment of minor children, but also to create synergies between the courts and the prosecutor's office and to unify attitudes towards minor children (as well as victims) throughout the proceedings.

b) to the extent possible, avoid cross-examination of the victim and the accused ("direct confrontation") and repeated questioning of victims in THB cases, and ensure the presence of a psychologist when vulnerable victims are being interviewed;

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R7.1b) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed legislatively in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as the responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that confrontation (cross-examination) is excluded in criminal proceedings under Article 125(5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure if it concerns the questioning of a witness (victim) against whom the crime of trafficking in human beings or one of the enumerated crimes has been committed. In the case of a witness (victim) under the age of 18, confrontation (cross-examination) is impossible, regardless of the offence of which the victim has been the victim (Article 125(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

Article 134 of the Code of Criminal Procedure imposes an obligation on the law enforcement authorities to provide a psychologist or an expert who, having regard to the subject matter of the interrogation of the person being questioned, will contribute to the proper conduct of the interrogation. If a person who is a particularly vulnerable victim (i.e., including a victim of trafficking in human beings within the meaning of the Act on Victims of Crime) is questioned as a witness in criminal proceedings, the questioning must be carried out in a sensitive manner and in terms of content so that the questioning does not have to be repeated in subsequent proceedings. The interrogation shall be carried out with the use of technical equipment designed for sound and image recording and the law enforcement authority shall ensure that the interrogations in the pre-trial proceedings are conducted by the same person, provided that this does not interfere with the course of the criminal proceedings.

If a person under the age of 18 is questioned as a witness (victim) about matters, the recollection of which, due to their age, could adversely affect their mental and moral performance, the law enforcement authority is obliged, pursuant to Article 135 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to carry out the questioning in a particularly considerate manner and in terms of its content, so that the questioning does not have to be repeated in the subsequent proceedings. A psychologist or an expert who, having regard to the subject matter of the interrogation and the degree of mental development of the person being interrogated, will contribute to the proper conduct of the interrogation, and a representative of the authority for social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, if the guardian of the child is not present, shall be brought in for the interrogation. If this can contribute to the proper conduct of the interrogation, a legal representative or a pedagogue shall also be invited to the interrogation. Before questioning a witness, the law enforcement authority shall consult the manner of conducting the questioning with the psychologist or expert who will be brought in for questioning, and, if necessary, also with the authority for social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, the legal representative or the pedagogue, so as to ensure that the questioning is conducted correctly and to prevent secondary victimisation.

c) ensure a sufficient number of female investigators to conduct interviews with female victims of trafficking in human beings (paragraph 131).

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R7.1c) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is legislatively addressed by Act No. 365/2004 Coll. on equal treatment in certain areas and on protection against discrimination and on the amendment to certain acts.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

The recommendation is legislatively addressed by Act No. 365/2004 Coll. on equal treatment in certain areas and on protection against discrimination and on the amendment to certain acts. The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as the entity responsible for the implementation of the recommendation, states that for the interrogation of particularly vulnerable victims, including victims of trafficking in human beings, specific conditions for their interrogation apply, including the obligation of the law enforcement authority to conduct the interrogation by a person of the same sex as the person being interrogated, unless this is prevented by compelling reasons, which the law enforcement authority is obliged to mention in the minutes (Article 135(5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

The NUFIM currently has 3 female interrogators out of a staff of 15, who mainly handle all same-sex interrogations of persons under the age of 18. The positions of investigators at the NUFIM are filled within the framework of selection in the Police Force, while the position of an investigator is always filled by the most suitable candidate irrespective of their sex, which would be contrary to Act No. 365/2004 Coll. on equal treatment in certain areas and on protection against discrimination and on the amendment to certain acts (Anti-Discrimination Act) when giving preference to female candidates.

R7.2 GRETA also considers that the Slovak authorities should make full use of all available means of providing protection to victims and witnesses of THB, including the witness protection measures provided for by Act 256/1998 Coll.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R7.2 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed by the availability of a specialised Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection under the authority of the Ministry of Interior and Act No. 256/1998 Coll. on the protection of witnesses and on the amendment to certain acts.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as the responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the conditions and procedure for providing protection and assistance to a threatened witness, a protected witness and their close persons are regulated by Act No. 256/1998 Coll. on the protection of witnesses and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended, which leaves the use of this concept in the pre-trial proceedings to the assessment and consideration of the law enforcement authority, depending on the circumstances of a given case. The fact that this concept is not used in criminal proceedings conducted for the crime of trafficking in human beings does not mean that the law enforcement agency disregards the rights and safety of witnesses and victims of trafficking. The said concept is not the only one in the criminal law system that can ensure the protection of a witness, a victim or the whole society, and law enforcement authorities use the whole complex of criminal law legal norms for this purpose according to the given case, its circumstances and the nature of the case.

As the existing Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, which is coordinated by the Information Centre, is a targeted instrument of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, specially configured in its focus and services for victims of trafficking in human beings, it is therefore the most appropriate and comprehensive instrument for the provision of assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in human beings. For this reason, it is also the most frequently used tool when victims express interest in assistance and protection.

R8. Specialised authorities and co-ordinating bodies

R8.1 GRETA welcomes the existence of police investigators specialised in THB crime and considers that the Slovak authorities should promote specialisation amongst other professional groups, such as prosecutors and judges.

Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice
Cooperating entity: General Prosecutor's Office

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R8.1 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

Within the Police Force, the material competence for the crime of trafficking in human beings is implemented through a specialised unit - the NUFIM, but in the conditions of the prosecutor's office and the courts there is no specialisation. In relation to further specialisation of prosecutors and judges, it is advisable to address this topic in the discussion on the forthcoming amendments to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, and in preparing the court map.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The NUFIM under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation states that the material competence for the crime of trafficking in human beings is implemented within the Police Force through a specialised unit - the NUFIM. The specialisation of investigators in the field of trafficking in human beings within the Police Force was implemented on 1 January 2014, when the exclusive jurisdiction for operational screening and investigation of trafficking in human beings crimes was transferred to the NUFIM. The NUFIM has a total of 15 establishment plan posts of investigators allocated in the Operational and Investigation Units West, Centre and East. Investigators have undergone special training in the field of trafficking in human beings, focusing in particular on

investigations and work with victims of trafficking in human beings, and their specialisation is increased annually by attending expert lectures, trainings and conferences focused on trafficking in human beings. The NUFIM has no competence or influence on the implementation of specialisation among other professionals, especially prosecutors and judges, but it fully supports their specialisation in the crime of trafficking in human beings and we believe that it would be a very beneficial step towards a "sensitisation" approach to such a specific crime as trafficking in human beings.

However, in the conditions of the prosecutor's office and the courts there is no specialisation currently.

2. The Ministry of Justice, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that within its competence it is currently dealing with the preparation of a new court map in order to reduce the high number of district courts and thus create larger judicial districts with a higher number of judges in individual courts. The aim of the reform is to improve the credibility, performance and quality of the judiciary, while ensuring better working and decision-making conditions for judges and court staff. One of the fundamental objectives of the new judicial map is the specialisation of judges. Specialisation of judges is envisaged for criminal cases in the general courts and should allow for the specialisation of judges in any court, including the creation of space for a truly random selection of judges. Specialisation should also increase the quality of decisions.

   However, the specialisation of judges specifically for the crime of trafficking in human beings is not realistic in the conditions of the Slovak Republic due to the small size of the judicial districts, i.e., there is not such a number of criminal judges in the courts that allows for such a narrow specialisation for individual crimes, while maintaining random selection. The above will also apply after the reform of the court map.

3. The General Prosecutor's Office as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation states that with reference to the opinion expressed in the documents to the recommendation, as well as in view of the current socio-political situation and anticipated legislative changes (new court map) and organisational changes in the prosecution department, the recommendation and its implementation is not the dominant area of activity of the prosecution authorities. Moreover, in the conditions of the General Prosecutor's Office, the issue of specialisation of prosecutors in the area of combating trafficking in human beings (creation of a separate office - department), which would be dedicated specifically to this issue, is not currently discussed.

R8.2 Further, while welcoming the training provided already, GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should take additional steps to ensure that all relevant professionals are trained regularly and systematically on preventing THB, identifying victims and referring them to assistance, as well as in prosecuting THB offenders. The training should be integrated in the regular training curricula of different professional groups, including law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, labour inspectors, social workers, child welfare staff, health-care staff, and diplomatic and consular staff.

Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice, National Labour Inspectorate, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
Cooperating entity: Ministry of Defence

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R8.2 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed in the conditions of the responsible entities by the following measures:

- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, by fulfilling Task No. 14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023),
- by providing training to specialised units with material competence for the detection and investigation of the crime of trafficking in human beings, through trainings organised by the Judicial Academy,
- under the responsibility of the National Labour Inspectorate by a general competence training plan for applicants and labour inspectors,
- under the authority of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family by internal educational or training activities and methodological guidance, which are organised by the relevant expert departments of the Centre for Labour, Social Affairs and Family, by the implementation of Strategic Objective 4 of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Violence and by the implementation of the National Project "Support of Child Protection against Violence",
- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, by further training of health professionals on topics related to violence against people, which are implemented in the minimum standards in the specialisation fields of general medicine and sexology for doctors, in the specialisation fields of nursing care for adults and nursing care in the community for nurses, and in the specialisation field of care for the elderly for healthcare assistants; furthermore, the issue of violence against children in all its forms, the identification of violence against children in all its forms, as well as cooperation with the relevant state authorities is implemented in the minimum standards for selected specialisation study programmes in specialisation fields intended for doctors (paediatrics, paediatric surgery, gynaecology and obstetrics, paediatric gynaecology), for psychologists (clinical psychology), for nurses (nursing care in paediatrics) and for midwives (midwifery and care of women in the family and the community),
- by trainings for employees of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs preparing for deployment to embassies of the Slovak Republic as consuls and temporary consuls in the framework of pre-departure consular training on the issue of cooperation of the authorities of the Slovak Republic in assisting victims of trafficking in human beings, which are implemented in the framework of the implementation of Task No.14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 (education of state and non-state

entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023),

- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence by raising legal awareness and preventing wrongdoing by expanding crime prevention for military police officers to include victim identification, evidence, assistance, prosecution of potential offenders and re-victimisation, as well as by including the training course "Military Police Entry Course" in the curriculum for newly recruited military police officers, by targeted dissemination of awareness of the establishment of contact points that provide their services to victims of crime, through lectures and training seminars, and by incorporating the issue of human trafficking in the lectures of cadets in the 4th and 5th year of the Armed Forces Academy as future commanding officers, and thus personnel in charge of crime prevention within the competence of the Ministry of Defence.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity, the implementation of the recommendation is ensured by fulfilling Task No. 14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 495/2018 of 6 November 2018 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023):

2. In 2020-2021, the Information Centre, the Crime Prevention Department as well as the NUFIM and the Education Unit of the Directorate of Border and Foreign Police Sobrance carried out this task under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior. Lecturing and training activities were focused on the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings, potential risks in connection with travelling abroad for work or temporary employment, and the possibilities of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings. The training module was modified and adapted to the needs of the participants of the lectures on trafficking in human beings. As part of the lectures, a number of promotional materials containing information on assistance options and preventive advice were distributed.

   In 2020, due to restrictive measures put in place to combat the spread of Covid-19, the delivery of training was minimised in a face-to-face format and moved to an online space. As part of the development of the National Reference Mechanism (the update of the National Reference Mechanism took place in 2020 and the material was published on the website of the Ministry of Interior https://www.minv.sk/?referencny_mechanizmus), the Information Centre carried out trainings for several professional groups. In order to raise awareness about the issue of trafficking in human beings and at the same time to broaden the spectrum of entities that will be able to identify a potential victim, training activities were held for the staff of DePaul Slovakia (the organisation is to help people who find themselves in a crisis situation and are left destitute on the street), for the staff of information offices for victims of crime and for representatives of non-governmental organisations. Last but not least, in March 2020, training of judges and senior court officials on issues of trafficking in human beings was also carried out in cooperation of the Information Centre with the Judicial Academy (see also Recommendation R4d).

In 2020, the Crime Prevention Department conducted a total of seven first contact training sessions (139 graduates), which were prioritised for a specific target group of participants (the so-called first contact staff) who, due to their position within the general government, may come into contact with victims or potential victims or their relatives (community and field social workers, municipal and town police officers, employees of the client centre/district office, etc.). Within each training, in addition to other areas (law, psychology or sociology), participants were also provided with information on the issue of trafficking in human beings (how not to become a victim of trafficking in human beings, what to do if you are a victim or suspect a case of trafficking in human beings). They also conducted 2 trainings for coordinators and assistants of information offices for victims of crime on "Work of law enforcement authorities with particularly vulnerable victims in criminal proceedings", which was an 8-hour training attended by 24 participants, and a 2-day training on "Crisis Intervention" and "Retraumatisation and Secondary Victimisation", which was attended by 24 participants.

A total of 350 people from the above target groups were trained in 2020.

As part of expanding the range of entities that are eligible to identify a potential victim, the Ministry of Interior conducted 62 training activities for more than 3,750 people from various professional groups in 2021. A series of in-person seminars for employees of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior was executed aimed at improving the identification of victims among foreigners, national referral mechanism and provision of assistance to victims with a focus on foreigners. The training was attended by 50 people - all decision-makers, first contact staff (including social workers) at the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior including asylum facilities, who come into contact with asylum seekers. At the same time, from September to December 2021, massive online seminars for professional staff from all Centres for Children and Families in the Slovak Republic were executed, which were attended by 2,773 professional employees. This cooperation will continue in 2022 in the form of prevention and education sessions for children aged 16 and over and young adults from the above-mentioned centres. In addition to the aforementioned, the Ministry of Interior also trained workers of the Slovak Catholic Charity, Greek Catholic Charity, 112 emergency line operators, workers of the Centres of Pedagogical and Psychological Counselling and Prevention, workers of the Slovak Humanitarian Council, members of the Police Force on duty at the NUFIM, workers of the organisation for homeless people DePaul Slovakia, attorneys associated in the Slovak Bar Association and, in cooperation with the NUFIM, also field social workers and field workers from the district of Michalovce and the vicinity of Michalovce. In September 2021, the Education Unit of the Directorate of Border and Foreign Police Sobrance trained on the issue of human trafficking through the MOODLE E-learning tool a total of 592 police officers assigned to the border control units of the Police Force in Čierna nad Tisou, Veľké Slemence, Maťovské Vojkovce, Vyšné Nemecké, Petrovce, Podhoroď, Ubľa, Ulič and Zboj, police officers of the mobile intervention unit and the operational centre of the Directorate of Border and Foreign Police Sobrance. In cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Methodological and Pedagogic Centre, on-line professional events were carried out thematically focused on the issue of trafficking in human beings (especially for the purpose of forced marriage against a child, trafficking in human beings in the online environment), which were intended for senior teaching staff, educational advisors and class teachers of schools in seven regions, in which 200 participants took part. Their aim was to strengthen awareness of the issue, to inform about the possibilities of effective prevention and cooperation in solving and preventing these phenomena within the scope of their competence in schools or school facilities. In addition, 8 workers with the youth of the children's organisation FÉNIX, a civic association, were also trained by the Ministry of Interior.

In cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, regular trainings on victim identification, on reporting and victim assistance procedures were organised in 2020-2021 for consular staff from the Department of Diplomacy in the framework of pre-departure training for the embassies of the Slovak Republic abroad and for diplomats in the framework of the attestation training programme.

In 2021, regular training sessions were held for the third year for commissioned members and investigators of the Police Force on the identification of trafficking in human beings within the framework of the project "Special interrogation rooms for child victims and other particularly vulnerable victims of crime" co-funded by the European Union. There is a separate block on trafficking in human beings.

In addition, training was carried out under the authority of the Ministry of Interior by a specialised unit with material competence for the detection and investigation of the crime of trafficking in human beings - the NUFIM, which annually improves and deepens the qualifications of its investigators, operatives and staff of the Coordination Unit by participating in professional trainings, lectures, conferences, workshops and working groups focused on the area of trafficking in human beings (prevention, detection, investigation, evidence and assistance to victims) at national and international level. The variability of trainings provides the best opportunity to educate police officers working at the NUFIM as the most effective tool in terms of raising their skills in the area of trafficking in human beings.

The Migration Office, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, informs that in 2021, one staff member was trained for the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) training module focusing on trafficking in human beings specifically for the asylum procedure. This worker has become a trainer for this module, and it is foreseen that in the next period other staff of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior will be retrained for this module.

3. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, did not provide any information.

4. By trainings organised by the Judicial Academy under the authority of the Ministry of Justice as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the Recommendation. Training in relation to judges, prosecutors, judicial officers and assistants to judges of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic and assistants to prosecutors is provided by the Judicial Academy. Following GRETA's recommendation, the Judicial Academy included in the curriculum an educational event on "Compensation for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings", which introduces the system of compensation of victims of violent crimes under the Act on Victims of Crime with an emphasis on victims of trafficking in human beings, the impact of the systematic change in the compensation of victims of violent crimes as of 1 July 2021 in relation to victims of trafficking in human beings. Furthermore, the training focuses on ways to help victims of trafficking and protection measures for victims of trafficking in human beings.

   In addition, the Judicial Academy offers seminars on "Rights of Victims of Crime".

5. Under the responsibility of the National Labour Inspectorate as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, the proposed implementation measure is mainly a plan for general competency-based training of job seekers and labour inspectors. The curricula for labour inspectors are methodologies that elaborate detailed procedures for specific labour inspection activities. The methodology for the control of illegal employment sets out the procedure and duties of labour inspectors for cases of identification of trafficking in human beings. In the context of the general competence training plan for applicants and labour inspectors, no face-to-face training has been carried out during the two previous years due to the constraints related to the

spread of the Covid-19 disease. Training during this period took place at the level of regional labour inspectorates.

6. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that in order to improve the content of work and internal processes in social and legal protection of children and social guardianship facilities, it is necessary to continuously create conditions for systematic lifelong learning of employees and deepening of their expertise and qualification associated with the acquisition of necessary skills - whether internal training events organised by Centres for Children and Families (for all employees - including professional foster parents), methodological training events (led by the methodologists of the Centre for Labour, Social Affairs and Family), or external training events (continuous education for pedagogical and professional staff, professional development, long-term therapeutic training, etc.), and the preparation and implementation of training modules focused on specific knowledge and skills in the field of support for work with original families and applicants for foster family care, but also e.g., in the field of personal finance management, sex education and preparation for responsible parenthood, etc. In terms of current needs, it is necessary to increase the knowledge and skills of the staff of Centres for Children and Families (including professional foster parents) in the field of intensive work with the child's family and in the field of family rehabilitation management, transcultural approach to child care. These training modules are embedded in the National Project of the Centre for Labour, Social Affairs and Family "Support for the deinstitutionalisation of foster care in institutions", of which the Centres for Children and Families are a partner.

   Centres for Children and Families have developed Professional Development Plans and Annual Education Plans (according to Act No.138/2019 Coll. on pedagogical employees and professional staff and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended), which reflect the needs of the facility with regard to the specifics of the care provided and the measures carried out so that the knowledge and skills of the staff are developed in a targeted manner.

   At regular intervals, working meetings are organised for the employees of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship facilities, thematically focused on the areas of work with the family and on professional procedures for working with individual specific problems, with a focus on the CAN syndrome, children as victims of violence and sexual abuse, the area of sexuality and children's relationships, support for responsible parenthood, sexual behaviour, with special attention paid to boys and men in social and legal protection of children and social guardianship facilities, financial literacy and others.

7. The Ministry of Health states that there is further training of health professionals on topics related to violence against people, which are implemented in the minimum standards in the specialisation fields of general medicine and sexology for doctors, in the specialisation fields of nursing care for adults and nursing care in the community for nurses, and in the specialisation field of care for the elderly for healthcare assistants; furthermore, the issue of violence against children in all its forms, the identification of violence against children in all its forms, as well as cooperation with the relevant state authorities is implemented in the minimum standards for selected specialisation study programmes in specialisation fields intended for doctors (paediatrics, paediatric surgery, gynaecology and obstetrics, paediatric gynaecology), for psychologists (clinical psychology), for nurses (nursing care in paediatrics) and for midwives (midwifery and care of women in the family and the community).

8. By trainings for employees of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation preparing for deployment to embassies of the Slovak Republic as consuls and temporary consuls in the framework of regular pre-departure consular training on the issue of cooperation of the authorities of the Slovak Republic in assisting victims of trafficking in human beings, which are implemented in the framework of the implementation of Task No.14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic of 6 November 2018 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023) - see also Point 1.

9. The Ministry of Defence, as the cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, provides the following overview of activities:

   The topic of trafficking in human beings is an integral part of the regular cycle of training of members of the Armed Forces deployed on missions abroad. Every year, the Ministry of Defence, through trained trainers in the field of trafficking in human beings, conducts prophylactic lectures to members of the Armed Forces in preparation for various foreign missions, as well as to employees of the Ministry, with the aim of early identification of victims and targeted dissemination of awareness about the establishment of contact points that provide their services to victims of crime. In the area of prevention of crime and other antisocial activities, the military police focused on raising legal awareness and preventing unlawful acts by expanding preventive activities among military police officers. To this end, educational lectures on victim identification, evidence, assistance, prosecution of potential perpetrators, and repeat victimisation were organised.

   As part of the prevention activities, lectures on victims' rights and gender-based violence were organised for the benefit of the Mobilization Replenishment Base Martin. Prophylactic lectures were organised in 2020 with the aim of early identification of victims and targeted dissemination of awareness on the establishment of contact points that provide their services to victims of crime.

At the same time, in 2022, the Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with the Information Centre, organised training focused on the issue of trafficking in human beings. The aim of the training was to provide members of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and civilian employees of the Ministry of Defence with the basic minimum in the field of identification of trafficking in human beings, assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, as well as the institutional and legislative framework of trafficking in human beings in the conditions of the Slovak Republic. The training activity was lectured by the Information Centre.

R9. International co-operation

GRETA welcomes the Slovak authorities' participation in multilateral and bilateral international co-operation, such as by means of JITs, and invites the Slovak authorities to strengthen international co-operation concerning the protection of victims of THB.

Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R9 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed by the following measures:

- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, by fulfilling Task No. 10 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 (strengthening of international cooperation non-state entities, responsible entity: The Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023) and Task No. 20 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 (deepening international police cooperation, including through joint investigation teams, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023),
- under the responsibility of the General Prosecutor's Office, the recommendation is sufficiently addressed in the area of international cooperation,
- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family by strengthening international cooperation in the performance of concerted and joint inspections on the basis of Regulation (EU) 2019/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a European Labour Authority, amending Regulations (EC) No 883/2004, (EU) No 492/2011, and (EU) 2016/589 and repealing Decision (EU) 2016/344,
- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs through cooperation with the Ministry of Interior on the basis of the methodology "Procedure of Embassies of the Slovak Republic in the Implementation of Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings".

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation by fulfilling Task No. 10 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved

by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 495/2018 of 6 November 2018 (strengthening of international cooperation, responsible entity: the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023) and Task No. 20 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 495/2018 of 6 November 2018 (deepening international police cooperation, including through joint investigation teams, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023):

The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, states that developing multilateral and bilateral international cooperation is essential for the successful investigation of human trafficking crimes with an international element. Cooperation and communication with foreign partners is carried out through the Bureau of International Police Cooperation and its EUROPOL and INTERPOL national units, and in the event of suspicion that a victim is being trafficked abroad, steps are taken towards their rescue, immediate assistance and return to their home country.

An excellent partner in this cooperation are also police officers seconded to perform state service abroad, with the closest and most intensive cooperation between the NUFIM and police officers in London and Berlin, the countries with the highest proportion of Slovak victims of trafficking in human beings. In case of suspicion of trafficking of the victim abroad, a seconded police officer is contacted, who, through the competent police unit abroad, verifies the suspicion and takes urgent steps to rescue and release the victim with the subsequent provision of assistance. The victim is offered entry into the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection and, if the victim agrees to enter, is subsequently provided with return to their home country and assistance and protection according to the victim's current needs.

The most effective means of conducting international investigations is through participation in joint investigation teams. The NUFIM has been involved in 5 joint investigation teams since 2014 (i.e. since the designation of selective jurisdiction for the investigation of trafficking in human beings offences in the Slovak Republic), all the agreements have been concluded with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In 2020, an operational task force was established between NUFIM officers and German police authorities on a human trafficking case to promote international cooperation in criminal proceedings, expedite the exchange of information with the common goal of obtaining evidence to secure criminal proceedings, identify suspects, dismantle the criminal group, and provide assistance and protection to identified victims.

Two working coordination meetings were planned to be held in 2021 under the project "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Applying Tools to Prevent it", but due to the ongoing constraints related to the Covid-19 pandemic, they have been postponed to 2022. The working coordination meetings will be carried out between NUFIM officers and officers of partner forces from Serbia and Germany and will also help to combat trafficking in human beings more effectively, strengthen international cooperation and improve coordination between partner forces.

In 2020 and 2021, the Slovak Republic, through the NUFIM, participated in Europe-wide Action Day targeting organised criminal groups trafficking vulnerable persons. Joint Action Days are regularly carried out by law enforcement authorities under the auspices of EUROPOL and FRONTEX and are aimed at detecting the crime and victims of trafficking in human beings.

As the designated national rapporteur, the Information Centre monitors trends in trafficking in human beings not only at the national level but also in the international context. In 2020 and 2021, it participated in the activities of several major international associations. The Information Centre also regularly participates in the meetings of the Committee of the Parties to the Convention, in particular because it is the contact point for communication and cooperation with the Committee of the Parties and the monitoring mechanism of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. It participates in the biannual meetings of the Platform of National Rapporteurs organised by the European Commission under the auspices of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. It also nominated a national expert to evaluate the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Additional Protocols, specifically focusing on the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The Information Centre also organises cooperation at the level of national rapporteurs with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The Migration Office, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, participates in international cooperation on the issue of trafficking in human beings. This issue, which is covered at European level by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), falls under the agency's network of experts dealing with vulnerable persons. The Migration Office has a representative in this network, who participates in international cooperation on trafficking in human beings in the case of asylum seekers or beneficiaries of international protection. The Migration Office is also involved in international cooperation and information exchange through the European Migration Network (EMN), where the topics of trafficking in human beings and their protection are also addressed.

2. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that it considers the international cooperation in terms of requirements and fulfilment of the General Prosecutor's Office's obligations towards other entities to be sufficient; it is primarily implemented through the International Department of the General Prosecutor's Office.

3. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family as a co-responsible entity states that the strengthening of international cooperation in the performance of concerted and joint inspections is carried out on the basis of Regulation (EU) 2019/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a European Labour Authority, amending Regulations (EC) No 883/2004, (EU) No 492/2011, and (EU) 2016/589 and repealing Decision (EU) 2016/344.

4. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation through cooperation with the Ministry of Interior on the basis of the methodology "Procedure of Embassies of the Slovak Republic in the Implementation of Assistance to Victims of Trafficking

in Human Beings", on the basis of which it coordinates and provides assistance in ensuring the assisted return of victims of trafficking in human beings to the Slovak Republic.

R10. Child-sensitive procedures for obtaining access to justice and remedies

GRETA urges the Slovak authorities to ensure that child victims of THB are afforded special protection measures in practice, including in the context of interviews, both as regards the competencies of the professionals present and the environment in which the interviews are conducted. In this context, GRETA refers to the Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice, which recommend that all professionals working with children receive necessary interdisciplinary training on the rights and needs of children.

Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Health

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R10 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed in the conditions of the responsible entities by the following measures:

- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior through the procedure in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure, training on psychologically correct interrogation of a severely traumatised victim, implementation of the course entitled "Particularly vulnerable victims of crime, investigation and approach to the victim" and implementation of the project "Combating trafficking in human beings and the application of tools for its prevention" and the project "Special interrogation rooms for child victims and other particularly vulnerable victims of crime",
- under the responsibility of the General Prosecutor's Office in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure,
- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice by trainings on the rights of victims of crime through the Judicial Academy, using the procedure under the Code of Criminal Procedure and through the implementation of the project "Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Judiciary through the Protection - Empowerment of Victims and Vulnerable Parties",
- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family through the implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Violence, under strategic objective No.3 Prevention of institutional and systemic violation of the rights of the child, a new task is included "Explore the conditions and promote the possibility of establishing comprehensive assistance homes for children at risk of violence for the purpose of comprehensive multidisciplinary care of the child in criminal proceedings" in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health,
- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, by further training of health professionals on topics related to violence against children in all its forms, the identification of violence against children in all its forms, as well as cooperation with the relevant state authorities is implemented in the minimum standards for selected specialisation study programmes in specialisation fields intended for

doctors (paediatrics, paediatric surgery, gynaecology and obstetrics, paediatric gynaecology), for psychologists (clinical psychology), for nurses (nursing care in paediatrics) and for midwives (midwifery and care of women in the family and the community).

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation through the procedure in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure as amended, training on psychologically correct interrogation of a severely traumatised victim, implementation of the course entitled "Particularly vulnerable victims of crime, investigation and approach to the victim" and implementation of the project "Combating trafficking in human beings and the application of tools for its prevention" and the project "Special interrogation rooms for child victims and other particularly vulnerable victims of crime" (see more detailed information in point R7.1a)).

   The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, states that under Article 135 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, if a person under the age of 18 is questioned as a witness in criminal proceedings about matters the reliving of which in their memory could, due to their age, adversely affect their mental and moral development, the questioning must be carried out with particular care and in terms of content so that the questioning does not have to be repeated in further proceedings. A psychologist or an expert who, having regard to the subject matter of the interrogation and the degree of mental development of the person being interrogated, will contribute to the proper conduct of the interrogation, and a representative of the authority for social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, if the guardian is not present, shall be brought in for the interrogation. If this contributes to the proper conduct of the interrogation, a legal representative or a pedagogue shall also be invited to the interrogation. Before the interrogation, the law enforcement authority shall consult the manner of conducting the questioning with the psychologist or expert who will be brought in for questioning, and, if necessary, also with the authority for social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, the legal representative or the pedagogue, so as to ensure that the questioning is carried out correctly and to prevent secondary victimisation.

   The law enforcement authority shall conduct the interrogation of a particularly vulnerable victim (including a victim of trafficking in human beings) with the use of technical equipment designed for sound and image recording and, if possible, shall ensure that the interrogation in the pre-trial proceedings is conducted by a person of the same sex.

   The investigators on duty at the NUFIM received training on how to conduct a psychologically correct interrogation of a severely traumatized victim. They were also required to attend a course organised by the Criminal Police Office of the Presidium of the Police Force under the title "Particularly Vulnerable Victims of Crime, Investigation and Approach to the Victim" in cooperation with the Police Academy in Bratislava.

The creation of special interrogation rooms for victims of trafficking in human beings is one of the priority activities under the project "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Application of Tools for its Prevention", implemented by the NUFIM within the framework of the Internal Security Fund (ISF). The project was planned to be implemented between September 2019 and December 2021, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this period has been extended by 12 months to December 2022. The project funds will also be used to build two special interrogation rooms for victims of trafficking in human beings, which will be located in the investigation departments of the NUFIM in Bratislava and Humenné. The interrogation rooms will be equipped with appropriate technical equipment and will be furnished in a manner suitable for child as well as adult victims of trafficking in human beings, in particular with a view to exerting a positive influence on the victim. The interrogation rooms will be built in such a way that the victims feel pleasant and comfortable in them, without any negative impact on their ability to testify and thus on the whole course of the evidence. An equally important objective is to prevent secondary victimisation of victims, whose interrogation will be carried out with the use of technical means of video and audio recording.

2. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the issue is sufficiently addressed in the provisions of Articles 135-139 of the Criminal Code and no legislative change is currently being prepared on this issue.

3. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation by trainings on the rights of victims of crime through the Judicial Academy and the implementation of the project "Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Judiciary through the Protection - Empowerment of Victims and Vulnerable Parties" funded by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the amount of EUR 1,020,000. The project focuses on caring for the most vulnerable groups, including children and victims of crime. Between March and May 2022, 8 courts (District Court in Galanta, Spišská Nová Ves, Rožňava, Rimavská Sobota, Zvolen, Bratislava II, Prešov and the Regional Court in Prešov) are to establish special rooms to assist in the interrogation of children and particularly vulnerable victims. At the same time, a handbook for judges entitled "Increasing the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the protection of minors as victims of crime and in family law disputes' was created and distributed. The aim of setting up special rooms and creating a uniform methodology is to create the most appropriate conditions for children and vulnerable victims during the court proceedings, but also to ensure that the process of ascertaining the child's opinion is not traumatic for the child. Particularly vulnerable victims targeted in this project are children, persons with specific disabilities, victims of sexually motivated crimes, persons over 75 years of age, and victims of crimes of abuse of a close person and a person entrusted to one's care. The interrogation of vulnerable victims has a special regulation in the criminal law regulations (legislative regulation in Articles 135-139 of the Code of Criminal Procedure). As part of the implementation of the above-mentioned project, the Ministry of Justice also plans to launch an educational programme in May 2022, which will include, among other things, the training of judges in the field of individual approach to minors when ascertaining their opinion in civil proceedings. The aim is to create an educational programme that will improve knowledge about the treatment of minor children, but also to create synergies between the courts and the prosecutor's office and to unify attitudes towards minor children (as well as victims) throughout the proceedings.

4. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that in order to improve the content of work and internal processes in Centres for Children and Families, it is necessary to continuously create conditions for systematic lifelong learning of employees and deepening of their expertise and qualification associated with the acquisition of necessary skills - whether internal training events organised by Centres for Children and Families (for all employees - including professional foster parents), methodological training events (led by the methodologists of the Centre for Labour, Social Affairs and Family), or external training events (continuous education for pedagogical and professional staff, professional development, long-term therapeutic training, etc.), and the preparation and implementation of training modules focused on specific knowledge and skills in the field of support for work with original families and applicants for foster parental care, but also e.g., in the field of personal finance management, sex education and preparation for responsible parenthood, etc. In terms of current needs, it is necessary to increase the knowledge and skills of the staff of Centres for Children and Families (including professional foster parents) in the field of intensive work with the child's family and in the field of family rehabilitation management, transcultural approach to child care. These training modules are embedded in the National Project of the Centre for Labour, Social Affairs and Family, of which the Centres for Children and Families are a partner.

   Centres for Children and Families have developed Professional Development Plans and Annual Education Plans (according to Act No.138/2019 Coll. on pedagogical employees and professional staff and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended), which reflect the needs of the facility with regard to the specifics of the care provided and the measures carried out so that the knowledge and skills of the staff are developed in a targeted manner.

   At regular intervals, working meetings are organised for the employees of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship facilities, thematically focused on the areas of work with the family and on professional procedures for working with individual specific problems, with a focus on the CAN syndrome, children as victims of violence and sexual abuse, the area of sexuality and children's relationships, support for responsible parenthood, sexual behaviour, with special attention paid to boys and men in social and legal protection of children and social guardianship facilities, financial literacy and others.

   Pursuant to Article 45(7) of Act on Social and Legal protection of Children and Social Guardianship, in order to increase the professionalism of the work in the facility, the facility develops and implements a supervision programme. The supervision programme also includes how the programme is to be provided.

   Overall, education in 2020-2021 has been affected by the adverse pandemic situation related to Covid-19. A number of planned staff trainings and methodological activities could not be implemented to the same extent, many of which were carried out by distance and online learning. Trainings were conducted on the provision of care during a pandemic situation, facilitated by a physician with a specialisation in immunology and a nurse from the Centre for Children and Families, primarily for centres providing care to UMs.

5. The Ministry of Health states that the recommendation is implemented by further training of health professionals on topics related to violence against children in all its forms, the identification of violence against children in all its forms, as well as cooperation with the relevant state authorities is implemented in the minimum standards for selected specialisation study programmes in specialisation fields intended for doctors (paediatrics, paediatric surgery, gynaecology and obstetrics, paediatric gynaecology), for psychologists (clinical psychology), for nurses (nursing care in paediatrics) and for midwives (midwifery and care of women in the family and the community).

R11. Role of businesses

GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should proactively engage with the private sector, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)3 on human rights and business, with a view to raising awareness of the important role and responsibility of businesses to prevent human trafficking in their supply chains, to support the rehabilitation and recovery of victims, and to provide access to effective remedies.
Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, National Labour Inspectorate

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R11 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed by the Act on Illegal Work and Illegal Employment.

The recommendation should be further addressed in cooperation with employers and trade unions, experts from specific departments of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, e.g., through the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as through regulation and control mechanisms, which requires further discussion. Another option is appropriately implemented preventive action aimed at consumers. Ensuring the rehabilitation and recovery of victims of trafficking in human beings and providing access to effective remedial measures should be implemented through a specialised Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior or through options under the Act on Victims of Crime.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The Information Centre under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, as a member of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, proposed the task "Implementation of the proposed ways of implementing the recommendations resulting from the Third Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)" in the Task Plan of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2021, with the deadline of 31 December 2021, and the Ministry of Interior as the designated responsible entity. The Plan of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was adopted by Resolution No. 2 of 9 March 2021, which was approved by the Chairperson of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and also by the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Subsequently, the proposed implementation of the GRETA recommendations by the responsible and cooperating entities was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 380/2021 of 30 June 2021. The implementation of recommendation R11 has been delegated to the Crime Prevention Department on behalf of the Ministry of Interior. The Crime Prevention Department states that in the

coming period it is planned to hold a working meeting with representatives of the ministries that have an impact on the business environment in terms of their material competence.

The Crime Prevention Department has created an information brochure (the so-called "infocard") on the topic of "Fraud and some new ways of fraudulent behaviour". The brochure also focuses on the topic of "Fraudulent Job Offers" with a bridge to the topic of trafficking in human beings. The public is informed, for example, about the recruitment methods used by traffickers, in which labour sectors the most fraudulent job offers have been identified, or on the basis of which warning signs it is possible to spot a fraudulent job offer etc. As part of the preventive recommendations, attention was also focused on informing about the National Line of Assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings (0800 800 818). The brochure is currently available to the general public on the website of the Ministry of Interior.

The Information Centre, as coordinator of the specialised Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, states that ensuring the rehabilitation and recovery of victims of trafficking in human beings and providing access to effective remedial measures should be implemented through the specialised Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, which is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior. The services of the programme focus on the specific needs of victims of trafficking in human beings in order to achieve the re/integration of victims of trafficking in human beings into normal life.

2. The National Labour Inspectorate, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, reports that cooperation with the private sector in the reporting period was mainly carried out through online meetings, as well as through the implementation of webinars - e.g., on the topic of seasonal employment. The National Labour Inspectorate has concluded a Cooperation Agreement with representatives of employers, on the basis of which it can carry out a number of activities related to raising awareness of business entities about working conditions and employment conditions.

R12. Measures to prevent and detect corruption

GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should include, as a matter of priority, measures against corruption in a THB context in the overall policies against corruption, as well as further develop the existing software by including a module related to THB.

Responsible entities: Government Office of the Slovak Republic
Cooperating entities: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Construction, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence, General Prosecutor's Office, Association of Chiefs of Municipal and City Police of Slovakia, Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia, Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, International Organisation for Migration

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R12 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The Government Office of the Slovak Republic, as the responsible entity for the overall anti-corruption policy of the Slovak Republic, included the task of developing a module on trafficking in human beings in the draft update of the National Anti-Corruption Programme, which includes two tasks in this regard, as follows:

- develop a module to detect, identify and analyse corruption risks in the area of trafficking in human beings,
- evaluating and implementing corruption risk management in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

The anti-corruption coordinators of the cooperating ministries are responsible for the identification and analysis of risks in the context of trafficking in human beings, as well as for their evaluation and for implementing corruption risk management in the fight against trafficking in human beings under the competence of individual ministries.
Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. On 30 March 2022, the Corruption Prevention Department of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic organised the first working meeting of the members of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings together with anti-corruption coordinators who have experience with the application of Corruption Risk Management in practice. The primary objective of the meeting was to arrive at the content of the risk management model for combating trafficking in human beings through a joint discussion. The meeting resulted in the identification of the penetration of corruption risks in the area of trafficking in human beings and the creation of a list of 32 penetration risks that were identified by the participants of the working meeting as directly or potentially relevant.

   The second working meeting organised by the Corruption Prevention Department of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic will be held on 4 May 2022. It aims to discuss the questions assigned to the 32 penetration risks, consider their relevance and develop a set of specific question and answer formulations for the Corruption Risk Management in Combating Trafficking in Persons module.

   The third phase of the initiatives of the Corruption Prevention Department of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic will be of an implementation and technical nature and will lead to the actual creation of a separate IT tool for Corruption Risk

Management in Combating Trafficking in Persons, which should be coordinated by the Ministry of Interior. This phase will be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Finance.

2. The Crime Prevention Department under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as the cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation states that the draft update of the National Anti-Corruption Programme was discussed by the Government of the Slovak Republic at its meeting on 24 November 2021. However, the resolution was not approved, new substantial comments on the material were raised and the Government eventually suspended the debate on the proposal. Despite this fact, the Government Office of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior organised on 30 March 2022 a working meeting, which was attended by some members of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (representatives of the Ministry of Health, Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, NUFIM, Ministry of Finance, Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, Crime Prevention Department, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family), as well as by anti-corruption coordinators who have experience in the application of Corruption Risk Management in practice. The primary objective of the meeting was to arrive at the content of the risk management model for combating trafficking in human beings and its organisational support through a joint discussion.

3. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, as a cooperating entity in the implementation of the recommendations, stated that it actively participated in the working group on the draft measure to ensure the implementation of the GRETA recommendation in question, which was held on 30 March 2022 for the purpose of developing a risk management model for combating trafficking in human beings. Following participation in the first working meeting on the development of a risk management model for combating trafficking in human beings, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family will participate as a cooperating entity in the second joint meeting on this issue on 4 May 2022.

4. The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, further informs that the National Institute for Education as a directly managed organisation of the Ministry in 2018 organised an event from the grant of the Council of Europe - ETINED (Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education). At this professional seminar for teachers from all over Slovakia, the Stop Corruption Foundation gave a lecture to 25 participants. In 2022, a themed week was held in the spirit of liberation from/getting rid of corruption, including with regard to unfair practices of fraudulent, dishonest behaviour within the school. Methodological sheets following the workshops (implemented by practitioners) were also an output of the seminar. Links – online: https://www.statpedu.sk/sk/metodicky-portal/metodicke-podnety/eticka-vychova-metodicke-listy.html (Ethics and corruption in the school environment); https://www.statpedu.sk/sk/metodicky-portal/metodicke-podnety/obcianska-nauka-metodicke-listy.html (Legal instruments to fight corruption).

Cooperation between the National Institute for Education and the Stop Corruption Foundation:

- in 2020, a Memorandum of Mutual Cooperation was signed between the National Institute for Education and the Stop Corruption Foundation;

- in the area of trans-subject value education oriented towards the elimination of dishonest/unfair behaviour in schools;
- creation of a working group of entities from different areas of their influence on value education, including anti-corruption behaviour (state institutions such as the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, the National Institute for Education, the Methodological and Pedagogic Centre, schools with examples of good practice, active non-governmental organisations...);
- development of a methodology for classroom teachers - how to develop pupils' competences and values in the classroom: honesty, justice, truth, open communication, cooperation, participation...;
- preparation of a methodological procedure (manual) for the implementation of ethical values in the new curriculum - the national programme of education and the school programme of education.

5. Further to the information provided in sub-paragraph 2, the Ministry of Finance, as a cooperating entity in the implementation of the recommendations, stated that its representatives had participated on 30 March 2022 in the 1st Working Meeting of Anti-Corruption Coordinators and Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings on draft measure 12 to ensure the implementation of the GRETA recommendation. The meeting produced a list of 32 penetration risks that were identified as directly or potentially relevant in relation to trafficking in human beings. At the next working meeting, specific questions assigned to corruption risks will be taken from the corruption risk register system and their relevance and specific wording will be assessed. The questions will be discussed individually and, if necessary, rephrased or deleted from the questionnaire. The anti-corruption coordinator of the Ministry of Health also attended the meeting. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Construction, Ministry of Defence, General Prosecutor's Office, Association of Chiefs of Municipal and City Police of Slovakia, Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia, Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, and International Organisation for Migration as entities cooperating in fulfilling the recommendation did not provide any opinion.

A. ***Follow up topics specific to the Slovak Republic***

R13. Developments in the institutional and policy framework for action against human trafficking

R13.1 GRETA reiterates its recommendation from the second evaluation report and considers that the Slovak authorities should examine the possibility of establishing an independent National Rapporteur or designating an already existing independent mechanism for monitoring the anti-trafficking activities of state institutions.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R13.1 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

We consider the current institutional functioning of the office of the national rapporteur, for which the Information Centre is designated, to be sufficient. From the point of view of financial efficiency, it is advisable to leave the delegation of the tasks of the national rapporteur to the existing mechanism covered financially by the budget of the Slovak Republic without the need for additional costs.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

According to the internal document of the Ministry of Interior - Measure of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior No. 58/2015 of 6 May 2015 on the tasks of the Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Preventing Crime, the Information Centre is established as a national rapporteur; it is namely the provision of point I (c) - "to fulfil the tasks of the national rapporteur in the field of trafficking in human beings in accordance with the applicable European Union legislation (Article 19 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA)". From this designated position of national rapporteur, the Information Centre also cooperates not only with the European Commission, but also with the Council of Europe, in fulfilment of Article 29(4) of the Convention, and with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The Information Centre is established on the basis of Article 7(3) of Act No. 583/2008 Coll. on the prevention of crime and other antisocial activities and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended, with the competence to collect data related to trafficking in human beings. The Act in question is currently undergoing a legislative process with proposed changes that may also affect the institutional arrangements for the performance of the national rapporteur's tasks.

Notwithstanding the above, the current institutional anchoring of the national rapporteur is the most appropriate solution for the fulfilment of the tasks arising from the resolutions of the Government of the Slovak Republic (No. 649/2020 of 14 October 2020, No. 577/2021 of 14 October 2021), which stipulate that in 2021 and 2022, ministries shall not submit proposals for legislative regulations and other materials that imply demands for an increase in the number of employees and an increase in expenditure or a decrease in revenue approved in the State budget for both years with budgetary implications for the State budget or for other budgets creating the budget of general government. The processes for drafting the materials falling within the competence of the national rapporteur include consultations and comment procedures with the participation of members of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which also includes the sector of non-governmental and international organisations active in the field of prevention and combating trafficking in human beings (Slovak Catholic Charity, Greek Catholic Charity, International Organisation for Migration).

We take into account the comments of non-governmental and international organisations and incorporate them fully into the materials. The materials also contain recommendations of the national rapporteur to improve the situation in the area of combating trafficking in human beings - e.g., the annually issued Situation Reports for the area of combating trafficking in human beings in the Slovak Republic or the latest Analysis of Court Judgments of the Slovak Republic for the years 2015 - 2020 - the documents are available in the Slovak language for download at the link: https://www.minv.sk/?informacne-centrum-na-boj-proti-obchodovaniu-s-ludmi-a-prevenciu-kriminality in the part "documents for download". We take a balanced approach to identifying gaps and, based on them, initiate or support activities towards optimal and sustainable solutions. The national rapporteur was also the initiator and compiler of the documents for the Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021 concerning the proposal of measures to ensure the implementation of the GRETA recommendations on the implementation of the Convention in the third round of the evaluation.

R13.2 GRETA welcomes the adoption of the fifth National Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings, covering the years 2019-2023, and considers that adequate funding should be ensured for its implementation.

Responsible entity: **Ministry of Interior**

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R13.2 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023, which was approved at a meeting of the Government of the Slovak Republic, states that funds to cover the tasks to be carried out in the following years will be secured as part of the preparation of the draft budget for the relevant calendar year within the approved limit of expenditure of the relevant budget chapters on the basis of the recommendations of the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, i.e. a designated State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior.

The Ministry of Finance stated that in the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019-2023, which was approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No.495/2018, the analysis of impacts on the general government budget quantified the budgeted expenditures only for the chapter of the Ministry of Interior, in the case of other general government entities participating in the implementation of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019-2023, no direct impact on their budgets was expected. In connection with the above, the Ministry of Finance pointed out that if any of the general government entities participating in the implementation of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 incurred additional expenses in connection with the implementation of the tasks in question, these expenses would have to be ensured within the approved limits of the general government entity concerned for the respective budget year, without additional requirements to the state budget.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

The Information Centre under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as the responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation states that in the submission report to the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 (approved at a meeting of the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 495/2018 of 6 November 2018) in the framework of the inter-ministerial comment procedure, it is stated that funds to cover the tasks to be carried out in the following years will be secured as part of the preparation of the draft budget for the relevant calendar year within the approved limit of expenditure of the relevant budget chapters on the basis of the recommendations of the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, i.e. a designated State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior.

For the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023, the analysis of impacts on the general government budget quantified the budgeted expenditures only for the chapter of the Ministry of Interior; no direct impact on their budgets was expected in the case of the other general government entities involved in its implementation. In connection with the above, the Ministry of Finance pointed out that if any of the general government entities participating in the implementation of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No.495/2018 of 6 November 2018 incurred additional expenses in connection with the implementation of the tasks in question, these expenses would have to be ensured within the approved limits of the general government entity concerned for the respective budget year, without additional requirements to the state budget.

The NUFIM under the authority of the Ministry of Interior states that the implemented international cooperation, participation in international working groups under the auspices of EUROPOL, participation and activities in joint investigation teams under the auspices of EUROJUST are financed from the budget of the European Union, as well as from the planned financial budget of the Ministry of Interior, which has annually earmarked funds for their implementation. The construction of special interrogation rooms is financed by the project under the Internal Security Fund (ISF) "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Application of Tools for its Prevention", with part of the cost of 25% covered by the budget of the Ministry of Interior.

R13.3 Given the absence of an independent National Rapporteur, GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should commission an external, independent evaluation of the implementation of the National Programme.

Responsible entity: **Ministry of Interior**

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R13.3 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The annual evaluation of the implementation of the National Programme is subject to a comment procedure in the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on the basis of an internal regulation - a measure of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic on the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, annexed to which is the Statute of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is an advisory, initiating and coordinating body of the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. From the point of view of financial efficiency, it is advisable to leave the evaluation of the implementation of the National Programme to the existing mechanism through the comment procedure in the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, without the need for additional costs.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

The Information Centre under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, as the responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the annual evaluation of the implementation of the National Programme is subject to a comment procedure in the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on the basis of an internal regulation - a measure of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic on the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings No. 16/2021 of 22 January 2022, annexed to which is the Statute of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is a permanent expert, advisory, initiative and consultative body of the Chairman, who is the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. From the point of view of financial efficiency, the most efficient solution is to leave the evaluation of the implementation of the National Programme to the existing mechanism through the comment procedure in the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, without the need for additional costs.

R14. Measures to prevent THB for the purpose of labour exploitation

While welcoming the legislation regulating temporary work, GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should ensure that the relevant legislation is effectively enforced and should take further steps to prevent trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, including by:

a) strengthening the monitoring of recruitment and temporary work agencies, as well as business supply chains;

Responsible entities: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, National Labour Inspectorate

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R14a) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the recommendation is addressed by the Act on Illegal Work and Illegal Employment and the Act on Employment Services. Under the responsibility of the National Labour Inspectorate, the recommendation in question should be implemented on the basis of specific labour inspections, which will be explicitly aimed at carrying out inspections in the entities in question.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, as the co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the conditions of providing employment for remuneration, as well as the conditions for the activities of temporary work agencies, are regulated by the Act on Employment Services.

   A legal or natural person may provide employment for remuneration only if it is authorised to do so by the trade licensing authority. The natural persons and legal persons holding the trade licence for providing employment for remuneration are obliged to observe the respective provisions of the Act on Employment Services in the area of providing employment for remuneration.

   The activity of a temporary work agency may be carried out by a legal person or natural person based on an authorisation issued by the Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. The temporary work agency is obliged to provide the temporary agency

employee with protection pursuant to special regulations regarding working conditions and conditions of employment. The provision of protection to a temporary agency employee is subject to control by the competent authorities provided for by a special regulation.

With the objective to obtain and maintain information on the number and activity of the entities providing employment for remuneration or the activity of temporary work agencies, the Act on Employment Services imposes upon the mediators of employment for remuneration and temporary work agencies the duty to submit annual reports on the activity and creation of conditions for the control of observance of generally binding legal regulations in the area of employment services including the duty to provide information and necessary documents to control authorities.

The control body of the Centre of Labour or the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family is entitled to control the fulfilment of obligations arising from the Act on Employment Services. The control of the duties of mediators of employment for remuneration under the Trade Licensing Act fall under the competence of trade licensing authorities.

In the case of a proven violation of the Act on Employment Services by a mediator of employment for remuneration, the administrative offence is sanctioned by a decision of the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family or the Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family with a fine of up to EUR 33,193.91. A legal person or natural person performing the activity of a temporary work agency without an authorisation shall be sanctioned by a penalty from EUR 5,000 to EUR 100,000.

2. Under the responsibility of the National Labour Inspectorate as a co-responsible entity, monitoring of temporary work agencies as well as commercial supply chains is continuously carried out by labour inspection in the area of control of illegal employment and in cases of complaints (including anonymous ones), which point to possible violations on the part of temporary work agencies, also by carrying out targeted inspections of the user employers.

b) strengthening the monitoring of foreign companies which send workers to the Slovak Republic and controlling the authenticity and legality of work contracts and other relevant documentation;

Responsible entities: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, National Labour Inspectorate

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R14b) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the recommendation is addressed by the Act on Illegal Work and Illegal Employment and the Act on Employment Services. Information on the recommendation in question can be found on the website of the National Labour Inspectorate (www.ip.gov.sk), as the monitoring of foreign employers who send employees to the Slovak Republic can be obtained from the registration form of the visiting employer, which every foreign employer who sends their employees to the territory of the Slovak Republic is obliged to fill in. At the same time, the labour inspection authorities also focus on checking the legality of the employment of contractors' employees when inspecting customer entities.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family as a co-responsible entity states that the recommendation is addressed by the Act on Illegal Work and Illegal Employment and the Act on Employment Services. Information on the recommendation in question can be found on the website of the National Labour Inspectorate (www.ip.gov.sk), as the monitoring of foreign employers who send employees to the Slovak Republic can be obtained from the registration form of the visiting employer, which every foreign employer who sends their employees to the territory of the Slovak Republic is obliged to fill in. At the same time, the labour inspection authorities also focus on checking the legality of the employment of contractors' employees when inspecting customer entities.

   The Act on Employment Services provides for a special information obligation towards the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family for the informing organisation to which employees of a foreign employer are sent to perform work, no later than seven working days from the date of sending and no later than seven working days from the date of termination of the sending of a third-country national. If the sending of a third-country national who has been granted a work permit has not taken place, the informing organisation must inform the Office in writing within seven working days of the date on which it became aware that the sending will not take place.

2. The National Labour Inspectorate, as a co-responsible entity, states that the recommendation in question is implemented through the monitoring of the visiting employer's obligation to notify the sending of its employees to the territory of the Slovak Republic through an online application and registration form available on the website of the National Labour Inspectorate, as well as through planned labour inspection activities. In cases of inspections of foreign companies, a mechanism is provided for the verification of labour-law relationships, working conditions and documents through cross-border cooperation with the inspection authorities of the home country, implemented within the IMI system.

c) encouraging businesses sending or receiving posted workers to guarantee the protection of human rights, as well as the principle of vigilance and due diligence, including measures to secure traceability and transparency;

Responsible entities: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, National Labour Inspectorate

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R14c) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the recommendation is addressed by the Act on Illegal Work and Illegal Employment and the Act on Employment Services. The labour inspection authorities contribute to the implementation of the recommendation by advising on the performance of labour inspections in the inspected entity concerned.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The National Labour Inspectorate, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendation, states that the labour inspection authorities provide free advice and information published on the website of the National Labour Inspectorate. A campaign targeting seasonal and third-country workers was also launched in May 2021 to raise awareness among both employers and recruiters.

d) continually assessing the implementation of legal provisions on corporate liability with regard to trafficking offences.

Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R14d) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed as follows:

- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior through the performance of cooperation inspections on the basis of the Agreement on the Performance of Cooperation Inspections of Business Entities concluded between the Ministry of Interior and the National Labour Inspectorate on 30 December 2013 and the Agreement on Cooperation in the Control of Illegal Work and Illegal Employment concluded between the Ministry of Interior and the Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family on 10 June 2013, which are also regularly carried out in order to increase the possibility of identifying victims of trafficking in human beings among business entities,
- under the responsibility of the General Prosecutor's Office, by carrying out a measure to evaluate and apply the possibility of imposing criminal liability on legal persons (recruitment agencies, temporary work agencies, monitoring of foreign companies) in terms of suspicion of committing offences related to trafficking in human beings.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior through the performance of cooperation inspections on the basis of the Agreement on the Performance of Cooperation Inspections of Business Entities concluded between the Ministry of Interior and the National Labour Inspectorate on 30 December 2013 and the Agreement on Cooperation in the Control of Illegal Work and Illegal Employment concluded between the Ministry of Interior and the Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family on 10 June 2013, which are also regularly carried out in order to increase the possibility of identifying victims of trafficking in human beings among business entities and to prosecute perpetrators including legal persons.

   Since 2012, the Police Force, in cooperation with the National Labour Inspectorate, has been carrying out cooperation inspections of business entities on the basis of the Agreement on Cooperation in Carrying Out Inspections of Business Entities Enabling Illegal Work, which was concluded between the Ministry of Interior and the National Labour Inspectorate on 13 April 2012, and subsequently replaced by the Agreement on the Performance of Cooperation Inspections of Business Entities on 30 December 2013. Inspections are also carried out in accordance with the Agreement on Cooperation in the Control of Illegal Work and Illegal Employment concluded between the Ministry of Interior and the Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family on 10 June 2013. In particular, inspections are aimed at detecting cases of illegal employment and illegal residence of third-country nationals and at detecting victims of trafficking in human beings. Inspections of business entities are carried out in order to ensure regulation and monitoring of business areas, identification of foreign nationals illegally residing in the Slovak Republic and victims of the crime of trafficking in human beings. The typology of business entities to be inspected is provided by the National Labour Inspectorate, the authorities of the Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the

Presidium of the Police Force, depending on the incentive received. The National Labour Inspectorate and the authorities of the Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family act on the basis of labour inspection initiatives and previous inspection and control practice. The Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force proposes entities for inspections on the basis of received operational information indicating suspicion of illegal employment of foreign nationals and suspicion of trafficking in human beings. During inspections of business entities, the police officers of the Bureau focus primarily on searching for persons - foreigners with illegal residence in the Slovak Republic and other violations of the provisions of the Act on Residence of Foreigners and on searching for and identifying victims of the crime of trafficking in human beings within the meaning of Article 179 of the Criminal Code. The collection of information from the performance of inspections is ensured by the NUFIM on the basis of the instruction issued by the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police dated 18 June 2015, on the basis of which the entities performing inspections on behalf of the Police Force are obliged to send this information and the results of the inspections carried out to the NUFIM for information. The summary results of the inspections carried out are sent annually to the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the form of "Summary information on the performed cooperation inspections of business entities" and, at the same time, they are provided to the National Labour Inspectorate as a basis for the "Informative report on the search for and combating of illegal work and illegal employment".
In addition to carrying out cooperation inspections, the Slovak Republic also participates annually in the pan-European joint action days carried out under the auspices of EUROPOL, which are thematically focused on various forms of trafficking in human beings (labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, forced begging, trafficking in children).

The NUFIM plans to continue to carry out cooperation inspections of business entities, the aim of which is also to identify potential victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, and in the event that the legal elements of the offence of trafficking in human beings are fulfilled, an investigation will be initiated and evidence will be taken in order to identify the perpetrator, obtain evidence on the amount of damage caused to the victim, and take further steps towards the conviction of the perpetrator. Other actions (measures) in relation to ensuring the implementation of the legal provisions on corporate responsibility are not within the competence of the NUFIM.

In the 2020-2021 reporting period, no legal persons were charged in investigated cases of trafficking in human beings.

2. The General Prosecutor's Office, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the role of the General Prosecutor's Office is primarily the implementation of the criminal policy of the state, and since this point does not relate to this issue, it does not submit proposals for solutions or additions to the recommendation in question.

R15. Measures to prevent trafficking in children

While noting the potentially important role which the Co-ordinator for the Protection of Children against Violence and the Commissioner for Children can play in respect of preventing and combating THB, GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should continue making efforts to prevent child trafficking, including

by sensitising and training child protection professionals across the country, raising children's awareness of their rights and the risks of human trafficking (including recruitment and abuse through Internet/social networks), paying particular attention to children leaving institutions, Roma communities and unaccompanied children.

Responsible entities: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Cooperating entity: Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R15 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed through educational measures in the framework of Task 15 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 (to provide current sources and information on the risks related to the problem of trafficking in human beings to pedagogues and students in schools and in school facilities with the emphasis on the risks of work abroad and prevention of abuse, responsible entity: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Interior, with a deadline for implementation on an ongoing basis) and also:

- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, to continue to actively cooperate with and support organisations from the private and non-governmental sector and to support projects aimed at assisting all victims of the crime of trafficking in human beings, including child victims, from the funds allocated to the fight against trafficking in human beings,
- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in the framework of the implementation of the strategic objective No.5 of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Violence "Increasing public awareness of the issue of violence against children" and currently also the National Concept of Child Protection in the Digital Space (Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 63/2020), the National Coordination Centre for Tackling Violence against Children regularly provides online, television and radio campaigns on various topics in the field of protection of children from violence at national level, and further dissemination of awareness is ensured through the coordinators of protection of children from violence at local, regional level - organising various events or meetings, as well as with the possibility of adapting the topic to the specific needs and peculiarities of individual regions,
- under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, by educating pedagogical and professional staff and youth workers within the framework of continuous and lifelong education for the prevention and protection of children from violence, by implementing educational and prevention programmes in formal and non-formal education for the prevention of violence against children and against trafficking in human beings, and by information campaigns and awareness-raising projects on trafficking in human beings and other forms of violence implemented in primary, secondary schools and universities in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, training activities aimed at raising awareness

of professionals working or coming into contact with children about the risks of trafficking in human beings have been carried out.

In 2020, the Information Centre carried out trainings for the staff of information offices for victims of crime established in client centres in each region of Slovakia, for the staff of Centres of Pedagogical and Psychological Counselling and Prevention, and regular trainings for officers in charge of the Police Force and investigators of the Police Force on the identification of trafficking in human beings within the framework of the project "Special interrogation rooms for child victims and other particularly vulnerable victims of crime". In 2020, the Crime Prevention Department conducted a total of 7 first contact training sessions with a total of 164 participants. The trainings were primarily intended for a specific target group of participants (so-called first contact persons, e.g. community and field social workers, municipal police officers, client centre/district office staff, etc.). Two trainings for coordinators and assistants of information offices for victims of crime were also carried out on "Work of law enforcement authorities with particularly vulnerable victims in criminal proceedings", and a two-day training on "Crisis Intervention" and "Retraumatisation and Secondary Victimisation". At the end of 2020, an online lecture for field workers of the organisation Smile as a Gift was conducted by the Crime Prevention Department.

In 2021, employees of the Information Centre conducted a series of in-person seminars for employees of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior aimed at improving the identification of victims among foreigners, NRM and provision of assistance to victims with a focus on foreigners, including child victims. The training was attended by 50 people - all decision-makers, first contact staff at the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior including asylum facilities, who come into contact with asylum seekers. At the same time, from September to December 2021, the Information Centre executed massive online seminars for professional staff from all Centres for Children and Families in the Slovak Republic which were attended by 2,773 professional employees. This cooperation will continue in 2022 in the form of prevention and education sessions for children aged 16 and over and young adults from the above-mentioned centres. On 16 March 2022, a training activity was held for all Preventive Officers of the Police Force on the issue of trafficking in human beings, also focusing on the treatment of minors. They will use the knowledge in practice as well as in discussions with children from centres for children and families. Other trainings, which included information on how to deal with child victims of trafficking in human beings, were carried out for workers of the non-governmental sector (Slovak Catholic Charity, Greek Catholic Charity), operators of the 112 emergency line, workers of Centres of Pedagogical and Psychological Counselling and Prevention, workers of the Slovak Humanitarian Council, and, in cooperation with the NUFIM, field social workers and field workers from the district of Michalovce and the surrounding area. In 2021, regular training sessions continued for commissioned members and investigators of the Police Force on the identification of trafficking in human beings within the framework of the project "Special interrogation rooms for child victims and other particularly vulnerable victims of crime" one separate block is dedicated to this issue.

In 2021, the Crime Prevention Department in cooperation with the Methodological and Pedagogic Centre, carried out professional online events thematically focused on the issue of THB (especially THB for the purpose of forced marriage against a child, THB

in the online environment), which were intended for senior teaching staff, educational advisors and class teachers of schools in 7 regions, in which 200 participants took part. Their aim was to strengthen awareness of the issue, to inform about the possibilities of effective prevention and cooperation in solving and preventing these phenomena within the scope of their competence in schools or school facilities. In addition, 8 workers with the youth of the children's organisation FÉNIX, a civic association, were also trained. In close cooperation with the Methodological and Pedagogic Centre and in order to provide up-to-date information as well as information on the risks of the crime of trafficking in human beings, the Crime Prevention Department published an article in the bimonthly professional-methodological journal for schools and educational institutions "Pedagogical Views" entitled "Trafficking in Human Beings and the Human-Legal Aspect".

At the same time, the Crime Prevention Department created "Regional Platforms for Assistance to Victims of Crime" (hereinafter referred to as "Regional Platforms") at the level of individual regions. Participants in the regional platforms include representatives of central and local government entities, law enforcement authorities, and the private and non-profit sectors. In 2021, one of the meetings of the regional platform in the Nitra region focused on the topic "Forced child marriages as a form of trafficking in human beings". The role of the regional platforms is to: assist victims of crime, set up and strengthen cooperation between institutions and service providers in the region, identify gaps in the access of victims of crime to the necessary services; propose solutions, both legislative and non-legislative, for the elimination of the identified gaps; strengthen prevention in the individual regions depending on their needs and coordinate prevention activities in cooperation with the entities of the platform.

Furthermore, as a contact point, we are aware of awareness-raising activities for professionals working with children from the non-governmental sector. The civic association Náruč - Assistance to Children in Crisis has made online education on Grooming available to employees of Centres for Children and Families throughout the Slovak Republic. This activity was implemented from the end of 2020 and completed in the first half of 2021. The aim of the activity was the primary protection of children and the identification of risk factors in the digital space. All centres in the territory of the Slovak Republic were involved in the training and a total of 3,237 professional employees, who are in direct contact with children, were trained. The civic association IPčko provided the professional staff of the Centres for Children and Families with mediated tools for the preparation and implementation of preventive activities with a focus on safety in the online space for children in the centres, which, as part of its campaign "stalosato.sk", created a manual entitled "Cyber-grooming and sexual abuse of adolescents in the online space - Handbook for pedagogical and professional staff". The Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology informed professional staff about the topic of human trafficking in the Manual for Beginning Psychologists (2021) Several methodological texts intended for teachers and available on the website of the National Institute for Education also contribute to the visibility and solution of problems arising from the risks of digital space, e.g., prevention is addressed in the context of the socialisation process at school, also in relation to the risk of gaming on the Internet associated with the danger of grooming and sexual abuse. Equally important is the awareness and understanding of the importance of critically

distinguishing between facts and opinions and recommendations on how to approach the prevention of hateful behaviour and actions in the educational process.

We also consider it appropriate to inform about the activities of local governments. In the Bratislava self-governing region, the members of the working group mainly share and exchange experience and information on the possibilities of assistance to victims, women and their children. The region implemented online education in cooperation with the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence on the topic "The situation of child witnesses of domestic violence". The Košice self-governing region is a member of the working group that cooperates in the prevention and elimination of violence against women in the city of Košice, which is led by the Fenestra civic association, and the working group at the information offices for victims of crime, focused on senior victims, victims of violent crimes, hate crimes, extremism, trafficking in human beings and youth victims.

2. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, as co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the basic principle in the care of children in centres for children and families is respect for children's rights and equal opportunity for all children in all comparable self-organised groups, groups and professional foster families. The care of children in institutions respects the European quality standards for helping children living away from their families.

   Care in centres for children and families is based on an individual approach so that the rights and opinion of the child are respected. For UMs, integration is also a goal (unless reunification with family or return is a permanent solution). Education is based on strengthening and activating the child's strengths and meeting their needs depending on the current life situation and their physical and mental state, as well as their opinion. Systematic and consistent planning in an individual plan for the development of the child's personality, which also includes an educational plan, directs the child's future towards their independence, self-development, and identity, even with their active participation in the process of co-determination and in matters relating to their life. The basic starting point for planning is the diagnosis of the child's current physical, mental, intellectual and health condition.

   n accordance with Article 12(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children placed in centres for children and families are involved in the decision-making process and in expressing their own opinion, in particular in the direction of co-determination of themselves, the activities, operation and objectives of the centre for children and families, and are involved in the preparation and evaluation of plans for their development, and are involved in the life of the activities of the centre for children and families (e.g., shopping and money management, help with food preparation, help with integration into the school environment, etc.), involved in everything that concerns their life and future (choice of school or other vocational training, preparation for independence).

   Each child has a social work plan, which includes a plan for preparation for independence. This is processed at least one year before the child reaches the age of majority. Independence is mainly understood as the provision of housing and the ability to support oneself. In the context of independence, special attention is paid to the prevention of trafficking in human beings.

The young adult may be cared for until they become independent, up to a maximum of 25 years of age (if they are continuously training for a profession, the length of stay may be extended by 24 months). The centre for children and families shall agree in writing with the young adult the terms and conditions of the young adult's stay at the centre. The written agreement also includes a plan to prepare the young adult for independence. The centre maintains contact with the young adult on the basis of their consent even after they have left the centre for children and families and provides them with the necessary counselling.

3. The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation further states in more detail that in cooperation with the directly managed organisation - the Methodological and Pedagogic Centre in accordance with Act No. 138/2019 Coll. on pedagogical employees and professional employees and on the amendment to certain acts, as amended, and Decree No. 361/2019 Coll. on education in professional development, it implements education for pedagogical and professional staff of schools, school establishments and social assistance institutions in the form of approved education programmes and in the form of professional events (professional seminars, information seminars, workshops, methodological days, etc.).

   At the same time, the Methodological and Pedagogic Centre in the framework of its activities:
   - provides professional and methodological advice to schools and school establishments, creates group counselling to schools and school establishments,
   - creates space for cooperation for pedagogical and professional staff in the form of teacher forums through the national project Professional Development of Teachers (TEACHERS) and coordinates the exchange of experience between pedagogical and professional staff of schools, educational institutions and social assistance institutions, link: https://mpc-edu.sk/sk/project/teachers/ucitelske-fora-info,
   - maintains and updates the school safety, prevention and health website http://bezpre.mpc-edu.sk/,
   - produces learning sources and publications, which it publishes on its website without restriction of access,
   - maintenance and updating of the school safety, prevention and health website, link: http://bezpre.mpc-edu.sk/, which provides a space for the exchange of information and experience from the implementation of projects in the field of education and school prevention, aimed at preventing and addressing risky behaviour of children and youth (prevention of drug addiction, violence, crime, bullying, truancy, trafficking in human beings, prevention of CAN syndrome, prevention of extremism and terrorism), the promotion of health and healthy lifestyles, and the improvement of safety of schools and school facilities. The website is currently being redesigned.

   The Methodological and Pedagogic Centre produces and publishes on its website teaching resources and publications in support of the above-mentioned topics, which are freely available on: https://archiv.mpc-edu.sk/sk/publikacie_vsetky, https://mpc-edu.sk/sk/materialy-na-stiahnutie/#sady.

In 2021, the Methodological and Pedagogic Centre in cooperation with the Crime Prevention Department carried out training in the form of professional events for 733 pedagogical and professional staff, which also included the issue of human trafficking.

Other educational activities under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport:

- in 2018-2021, the National Institute for Education and the Club of Teachers of Ethics Education at the National Institute for Education implemented professional seminars and webinars for teachers of civics and teachers of ethics education on value themes (including anti-corruption and respect for fundamental human rights): 6 events with 25-30 participants each,
- e.g., the following methodological materials are related to the events: https://www.statpedu.sk/sk/metodicky-portal/metodicke-podnety/eticka-vychova-metodicke-listy.html ; https://www.statpedu.sk/sk/metodicky-portal/metodicke-podnety/eticka-vychova-metodicky-list-sexualne-nasilie-zneuzivanie-deti.html,
- additional information: In 2018 and 2019, the Club of Teachers of Ethics Education implemented seminars and workshops for teachers of ethics education from the Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Trenčín, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov regions on "New trends in teaching ethics education (the path to decency and responsibility)" and "Dialogical essence of ethics education - developing creative and critical thinking (the path to the formation of a pro-social personality)". Their aim was, among other things, to get acquainted with the current challenges and documents ensuring the protection of children (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Optional Protocols on the Rights of the Child...), to help teachers to work with difficult topics in the field of human rights, children's rights and to exchange experience from school practice on the most frequent violations of children's rights.

Following the strategic documents - the National Action Plan for Alcohol Problems for 2021-2030, the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 and the National Drug Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the period 2021-2025, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport recommends that schools and educational institutions reflect the risks addressed in these documents through their own School Strategy for the Prevention of Risky or Unwanted Behaviour of Pupils, which schools create based on the current situation and needs.

Furthermore, the text on the website of the National Institute for Education can be used as a framework: https://www.statpedu.sk/files/articles/dokumenty/ucebnice-metodiky-publikacie/metodika_prevencia_rizikoveho_spravania_deti_ziakov.pdf. It is important to link teaching to the contemporary lives of children and pupils, to use targeted activities and to give pupils the opportunity to discuss the challenges or risks that are present in today's society. Some ideas for teachers can be found in the following texts: https://www.statpedu.sk/files/sk/metodicky-portal/metodicke-podnety/skolska-socializacia-nove-vyzvy-prevencii.pdf - prevention in the context of the socialisation process at school; the risk of children playing games on the Internet linked to the risk of grooming and sexual abuse https://www.statpedu.sk/sk/metodicky-portal/metodicke-podnety/metodicka-podpora-namety-k-rozvijaniu-emocionalnej-inteligencie-ziakov-k-vyucovaniu-psychologie-resp-psychologickych-t.html - why and how to develop emotional intelligence in pupils? https://www.statpedu.sk/files/articles/nove_dokumenty/metodiky/web_vystupy_nove-

vyzvy-potreby-globalizovaneho-sveta-vo-vzdelavani.pdf - why and how to influence pupils' attitudes, why it is important to understand identity, what is the importance of pupils' personal and social development in prevention, how to approach the perception of globalisation, human rights, radicalisation and the migration crisis in the education and training of pupils.

4. The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, as a cooperating entity for the implementation of Recommendation R15, states that its expertise related to Roma communities within the coordination and consultation role is oriented towards cooperation in the preparation and creation of prevention campaigns, leaflets, or content targeting of trainings within the competence of relevant institutions and organisations, with the proviso that the content of such campaigns will not be stigmatising or stereotyped. In case of the need to translate materials into other minority languages, it is advisable to contact the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities.

R16. Measures to discourage demand

R16.1 GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should adopt legislative measures to criminalise the use of services of a victim of trafficking, with the knowledge that the person is a victim of THB, regardless of the form of exploitation, as stipulated by Article 19 of the Convention.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R16.1 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is partially addressed by the Criminal Code. The topic should be included in the planned discussion on the amendment to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2021.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The Ministry of Justice, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, points out in this context that some such conduct and "use" of services by others may be qualified as one of the existing offences (e.g. rape, sexual violence, sexual abuse, production of child pornography).

   On the basis of the recommendation, a new offence of "Using the services of a victim of trafficking in human beings" should be introduced in the forthcoming amendment to the Criminal Code. This provision is an implementation of Article 19 of the Convention and criminalises persons who knowingly use the services of either a victim of trafficking for the purpose of sexual abuse or a victim of forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, oppression or trafficking in organs.

2. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, the NUFIM reports that the proposed amendment to the Criminal Code, which is expected to come into effect on 1 June 2022, has added a new offence of trafficking in human beings to the Act in question in Article 179a in response to GRETA's recommendation in this recommendation. This provision is an implementation of Article 19 of the Convention and criminalises persons who knowingly use the services of either a victim of trafficking for the purpose of sexual abuse or a victim of forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, oppression or trafficking in organs.

The object of this offence is social relations and values, which are protected by the Criminal Code, in particular moral principles, freedom and dignity of every human being, regardless of whether it is a woman, a man or a child. Every human being has the right to decide freely on questions concerning their existence.

The objective aspect of the offence under Article 179a consists, in terms of the conduct, in the use of the services of a victim of trafficking in human beings referred to in Article 179. These are services of prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or servitude, including begging, slavery, servitude or practices similar to slavery, forced marriage, exploitation for the commission of crime, and the removal of organs, tissues or cells, or other forms of exploitation. Under this provision, anyone who knowingly exploited a trafficked person would be criminally liable, e.g. a business owner, if they knowingly used trafficked workers, or a client of a prostitute who knew that the person was trafficked, would also be criminally liable under this offence.

The subject matter of this offence is general. The perpetrator can be any criminally responsible person.

In terms of the subjective aspect, it is a deliberate offence. To be criminally liable, the offender is required to have used the services of another person "knowing that the person is a victim of trafficking in human beings", i.e. the offender must be aware that the person is a victim of trafficking in human beings and cannot be punished if they are unaware of this fact.

R16.2 GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should strengthen legislative, administrative, educational, social, cultural or other measures to discourage demand for the services of trafficked persons, for all forms of exploitation, in partnership with civil society, trade unions and the media, including by:

a) implementing educational programmes at schools which stress the importance of gender equality and respect for the dignity and integrity of every human being, as well as the consequences of gender-based discrimination;

Responsible entity: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R16.2a) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed through the implementation of education and prevention programmes in formal and non-formal education to prevent violence against children and human trafficking.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, as responsible for the implementation of the recommendation, states that it has submitted the following documents to the Government of the Slovak Republic, which have been approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic:

- A strategy for an inclusive approach in education and training (https://www.minedu.sk/strategia-inkluzivneho-pristupu-vo-vychove-a-vzdelavani/), for which a first action plan has been prepared. The strategy for an inclusive approach in education and training is aimed at improving the current state of education for all children, pupils and students in schools without distinction. The main goal is an inclusive education system that provides education for all children, pupils and students, respecting their individual characteristics and diverse educational needs and enabling them to fulfil their potential to the highest possible extent. The amendment to the School Act, effective from 2022, identifies inclusive education as one of the basic principles of education and training and creates elementary possibilities for the introduction of inclusive education in all types of schools.

- Action Plan to Tackle Bullying in Schools and Educational Institutions 2022 - 2023 (https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/21853.pdf)

- The Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Youth for 2021-2028, which was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic in December 2021 and which contains some measures and indicators related to the implementation of this recommendation. Specifically, the following measures:

  - MEASURE 5. 1. 1 Ensure increased knowledge and competences of those working with youth in the field of inclusion, equality and non-discrimination
    INDICATOR 5. 1. 1. 1 Number of implemented training activities in the field of inclusion, equality and non-discrimination for those working with youth
    Deadline: On an ongoing basis 2022 – 2028
    Target value: 15
    Coordinator: IUVENTA (Slovak Youth Institute)

  - MEASURE 5. 1. 2 Promote young people's awareness of inclusion, equality and non-discrimination
    INDICATOR 5. 1. 2. 1 Number of projects supported to raise young people's awareness of inclusion, equality and non-discrimination
    Deadline: On an ongoing basis 2023 – 2028
    Target value: 7
    Coordinator: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport
  - MEASURE 5. 1. 4 Create, develop and implement programmes aimed at preventing and eliminating extremism, radicalism and violence.
    INDICATOR 5. 1. 4. 1 Funding mechanism available to prevent and eliminate extremism, radicalism and violence
    Deadline: 2026
    Target value: 1
    Coordinator: Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic

  - MEASURE 5. 1. 5 Promote human rights education and training for young people through formal and non-formal education

INDICATOR 5. 1. 5. 1 Number of projects implemented on human rights education and training
Deadline: On an ongoing basis 2023 – 2028
Target value: 7
Coordinator: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

- MEASURE 5. 1. 6 Promote the prevention of bullying of young people on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation
  INDICATOR 5. 1. 6. 1 Number of preventive activities implemented
  Deadline: On an ongoing basis 2022 – 2028
  Target value: 7
  Coordinator: Ministry of Justice, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

- MEASURE 5. 1. 8 Promote the prevention and elimination of sexual harassment, sexual, partner and domestic violence
  INDICATOR 5. 1. 8. 1 Number of implemented projects aimed at the prevention and elimination of sexual harassment, sexual, partner and domestic violence.
  Deadline: On an ongoing basis 2022 – 2028
  Target value: 7
  Coordinator: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport annually updates the materials for the School Year Guide (formerly the Pedagogical-Organisational Guidelines), and the School Year Guide is intended for all professionals participating in education and training in the scope of regional education - teachers, management and professional staff, local government, and founders.
Priorities and recommendations defined by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport:

- monitor and detect negative phenomena in pupils' behaviour and signs of bullying by using a variety of diagnostic tools;
- identify the sources of risky behaviour and socio-pathological phenomena and apply effective means to eliminate them;
- inform without delay the pupils' legal representatives of the occurrence of a problem in the pupil's behaviour or a deterioration in the pupil's results;
- raise pupils' awareness of their criminal liability in the event of bullying or other risky behaviour and raise awareness among teaching and professional staff of their criminal liability in the event of failure to deal with it in accordance with the above directive;
- in cooperation with the Centres of Pedagogical and Psychological Counselling and Prevention, to cooperate on bullying prevention programmes and to draw up a record of the handling of bullying in accordance with Directive No. 36/2018 on preventing and dealing with the bullying of children and students at schools and in school facilities, and to organise preventive activities in this area;

- conduct talks and prevention campaigns with trained professional staff from the Centres of Pedagogical and Psychological Counselling and Prevention on the risks of working abroad and on the prevention of inhuman treatment, trafficking in human beings, and slave labour;
- implement prevention of risky behaviour of children and pupils and prevention of drug addiction and prevention of the spread of legal and illegal drugs in schools as an integral part of the educational process under the responsibility of the regional Centre of Pedagogical and Psychological Counselling and Prevention;
- make pupils aware of helplines for victims of trafficking (e.g. the National Line of Assistance to Trafficking in Human Beings Victims 0800 800 818 - trained operators provide preventive information, but are also able to react adequately if the call is from a potential victim of trafficking in human beings);
- in order to prevent the provision or disclosure of information that could lead to various forms of intolerance, allow non-employees to participate in classes and activities organised by the school only with the consent of the school principal - it is necessary to check in advance the activities and programmes offered (if necessary, also with the religious department of the Ministry of Culture or through the Integra - Centre Sect Prevention civic association).

Methodological and support materials:

- (Microsoft Word - V\375chodisk\341 k strat\351gii \232koly v prevencii rizikov\351ho spr\341vania \(4\)) (statpedu.sk) – basis for the preparation of a school prevention strategy - prevention of risky behaviour of children and pupils (framework, ideas for schools and school establishments for the preparation of a school prevention strategy);
- Everybody does it! on prevention at school - National Institute for Education (statpedu.sk) – Everybody does it! – basis for prevention in the school environment (methodology aimed at prevention and promoting the use of activating methods, group work, discussion and cooperative problem-solving when working with pupils; prevention of smoking and alcoholism);
- skolska-socializacia-nove-vyzvy-prevencii.pdf (statpedu.sk) – challenges in the prevention of unwanted, risky behaviour of pupils, as well as methodological recommendations on how to respond to them;
- recommendations and tools for monitoring problematic situations in the classroom and school – https://www.komposyt.sk/pre-odbornikov/psychologicka-cinnost/prevencia
- 11678.pdf (minedu.sk) – Living with Controversial Issues - Teaching Controversial Issues through Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights (EDC/HRE) - a training package for teachers.

b) raising awareness of trafficking and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence;

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport
Cooperating entity: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R16.2b) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed in particular through educational measures in the framework of Task 15 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 495/2018 of 6 November 2018 (to provide current sources and information on the risks related to the problem of trafficking in human beings to pedagogues and students in schools and in school facilities with the emphasis on the risks of work abroad and prevention of abuse, responsible entity: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Interior, with a deadline for implementation on an ongoing basis).

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, awareness-raising on trafficking in human beings was carried out by the Information Centre, the Crime Prevention Department, officers of the Communication and Prevention Units of the Regional Headquarters of the Police Force and the internal units of the District Headquarters of the Police Force and the NUFIM.

   Despite the pandemic situation in 2020, the employees of the Ministry of Interior also carried out 66 lectures and discussions (65 in person and 1 online webinar) on the topic of trafficking in human beings, which were attended by a total of 2,352 pupils and students from primary, secondary and grammar schools. In 2020, officers of the communication and prevention departments of the Regional Headquarters of the Police Force and the internal departments of the District Headquarters of the Police Force continued to carry out preventive activities focused on the issue of trafficking in human beings. The aim of these activities was to prevent crime related to trafficking in human beings, to provide young people with information on how to look for a job abroad, to highlight the risks of working abroad, the risks of travelling and staying abroad, as well as the possibilities of assistance abroad. The lectures and discussions were intended mainly for secondary school students and upper primary school pupils, but also for crisis centres and centres for families with children. In total, there were 49 activities in which more than 1200 people participated.

   Preventive activities also took place in marginalised Roma communities in 2020. Community centres, which are located directly in Roma communities, in cooperation with police prevention officers carried out awareness-raising on the topic of prevention of trafficking in human beings, which also included information on whom people can contact in case of a threat.

   Also for the year 2021, we would like to report on the activities of non-governmental and international organisations aimed at raising awareness about human trafficking. In accordance with the contract of provision of support and assistance to victims between the Ministry of Interior and providers of services of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, preventive activities are also carried out by the service providers themselves. In 2020, unlike in the previous period, Slovak Catholic Charity devoted itself to a limited number of prevention and training activities due to the spread of Covid-19. As part of the prevention and search for victims, Slovak Catholic Charity carried out 2 visits to the detention camp in Humenné during 2020, attended by a total of 9 people. They were foreigners originally from Afghanistan, Syria, Vietnam and Ukraine.

Slovak Catholic Charity also implemented a nationwide campaign "Red Ribbons" as part of its project "STOP Human Trafficking" and on the occasion of the Day of Prayer and Awareness of Human Trafficking organised a prayer meeting for victims of human trafficking throughout Slovakia, with the aim of educating, arousing interest, increasing the sensitivity of the public and its active attitude towards addressing the issue of human trafficking. The prayer meeting was enriched with real stories of victims of trafficking in human beings. At these events, workers handed out campaign materials from the Slovak Catholic Charity and the Ministry of Interior.

Other preventive activities carried out by the Slovak Catholic Charity in 2020 include prevention in social centres, re-education home, community centres and Roma communities (Vranov nad Topľou - Charity House for Children and Youth, Humenné - Community Centre, Hlinné - Community Centre), in which 41 children and adults took part. In the framework of prevention, the Slovak Catholic Charity also focused on the prevention of homeless people, namely in the Depaul Night Shelter for 37 participants and prevention of migrants/refugees in cooperation with the Slovak Humanitarian Council through 3 discussions with the participation of 10 clients and 5 workers of the Slovak Humanitarian Council. Workers of the Slovak Catholic Charity also provided training for social workers at the non-profit organisation Alternativa-Centre of Independent Life in Lučenec, based on the demand for the continuation of the campaign "Don't get enslaved".

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has updated the free SAFE Travel & Work Abroad mobile app to prevent trafficking in human beings. The app was developed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in 2016 in Slovak, English, Czech, Hungarian and Polish versions, and in 2020, in cooperation with IOM Bern, it was expanded to include French and German versions. The app is freely available on Google Play and App Store and on the website www.safe.iom.sk.

In 2020, the issue of trafficking in human beings was also disseminated through campaigns. Within the framework of raising awareness on the issue and on the occasion of the European Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October), the Ministry of Interior implemented a number of activities in October 2020. In cooperation with the British Embassy, it issued a press release, according to which victims of trafficking in human beings in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have a chance to receive compensation from the seized assets of the Slovak perpetrator. This press release pointed to a specific case from August 2020, when a British court decided to compensate two Slovaks who had been victims of THB for six years. The court seized the perpetrators' property in the Slovak Republic and ordered financial compensation to be paid to the victims in the amounts of £52 thousand and £78 thousand respectively.

During October 2020, the Information Centre ran a nationwide billboard campaign called "Don't Close Your Eyes to It!" aimed at raising awareness of the existence of the National Line of Assistance.

The promotion of the European Anti-Trafficking Day was also carried out through the official Facebook page of the Ministry of Interior. Useful information focusing on the protection of citizens and assistance options for victims of trafficking in human beings was presented in a special TV news item. The Ministry of Interior also provides up-to-date and verified information on potential risks and prevention options for trafficking in human beings through the official website of the Ministry of Interior, thus contributing to the dissemination of information through this medium as well.

After the end of this campaign, a public opinion survey on trafficking in human beings was conducted, focusing on the general public's awareness of the issues in order to test the effectiveness and impact of the campaign. The outcome of the public opinion survey is the finding that from a representative sample of the population of the Slovak Republic aged 15 years and older from the selected regions, there is a very low awareness of the population not only about the issue but also about the means of assistance. Spontaneous knowledge of the National Line of Assistance to Trafficking in Human Beings Victims is low - only 2 people correctly identified it by phone number. At the same time, the implementation of education through the small amount of billboard space used appears to be insufficient. The advertising campaign "Don't Close Your Eyes to It!" was seen on a billboard by about a tenth of respondents. The survey also shows that the term "trafficking in human beings" mainly evokes forced prostitution (31%) and trafficking in human beings - the sale of people abroad (21%). Opinions on trafficking in human beings victims in Slovakia are consistent in terms of sex, age and education: the majority of respondents think that they are more likely to be women (90%), people of young age (89%), with lower education (82%). Opinions are less clear in the case of ethnic origin, where the victims are perceived to be mainly members of ethnic minorities living in the Slovak Republic, as well as Slovak men/women (more than a third). Views were also sought on the imposition of suspended sentences for trafficking in human beings offenders. Suspended prison sentences for trafficking in human beings offences are considered insufficient by the majority of respondents (up to 94% think so).

In 2020, the Ministry of Interior ensured the production and printing of 5600 copies of promotional materials with the number of the National Line of Assistance to Trafficking in Human Beings Victims 0800 800 818, the printing of an information leaflet on the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings in criminal proceedings with a print run of 500 copies, and the printing of a self-identification leaflet in an eight-language version with a print run of 1,500 copies. The aforementioned materials were gradually distributed to the non-governmental sector, the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior and for prevention purposes for schools and various events organised by the coordinators of the prevention of child protection against violence.

On the basis of the cooperation of the Information Centre with the coordinator of the protection of children from violence within the National Project "Support of Child Protection against Violence", an educational exhibition of paintings focusing on the issue of trafficking in human beings perceived through the eyes of pupils of secondary art schools entitled "Do you know what your child is doing now?" was carried out in 2020. The exhibition was visited by pupils of primary schools in Moldava nad Bodvou. The activity was carried out in accordance with current anti-epidemiological measures in several phases. A total of 200 pupils visited the exhibition during the month of September 2020.

Furthermore, the Crime Prevention Department in cooperation with the National Coordination Centre for Tackling Violence against Children implemented a campaign on the issue of forced marriages against children, which was shared on the websites of the Ministry of Interior, of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and of the National Coordination Centre for Tackling Violence against Children. The campaign appeared in various media and was shared on the websites of several cities and municipalities. The output of this campaign was a leaflet and brochure defining the identifying characteristics of victims of child arranged marriages. Their aim is to highlight the risk factors that could lead to child trafficking, as all the child's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child must be respected when assessing the best interests of the child. The Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Research and Sport, has made available to all schools in the Slovak Republic an infographic on trafficking in human beings and summer jobs.

The non-governmental sector also joined in raising awareness; in 2020, the Slovak Catholic Charity implemented a campaign called Online Cinema: Global Awareness Campaign - on modern slavery to raise awareness and combat the practice. The campaign was launched on the occasion of 2 December, which is International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. The Slovak Catholic Charity has established cooperation with The WHY, a non-profit organisation whose aim is to provide and mediate free access to information for all. Their main activity is the production and distribution of documentaries on human rights, democracy, justice and equality. The campaign is based on the belief that highlighting and discussing the issue of modern slavery is just as important, if not more so, at a time of pandemic. Due to measures related to the spread of Covid-19, movies dealing with current trafficking in human beings issues were made available online for two weeks in several languages.

An important part of prevention was the promotion of the topic of trafficking in human beings to the general public and especially to young people in 2021, and in this area, despite the pandemic situation, the Ministry of Interior has not slowed down and has implemented a number of activities.

The Crime Prevention Department carried out a total of 125 preventive activities - lectures, discussions focusing on the prevention of trafficking in human beings for pupils of 23 schools with a total of 3,000 participants, mainly pupils of higher grades of primary schools and secondary school students, job seekers at the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and children from the centres for children and families, in both the face-to-face and the online format. The aim of preventive activities was to prevent crime related to trafficking in human beings, in particular, how to look for a job abroad, what are the risks of travelling and working abroad, as well as the possibilities of assistance abroad. At the lecture activities, participants were provided with promotional and information materials produced by the Ministry of Interior. The leaflets were placed in publicly accessible places, e.g. school buildings. The activities were also publicised through the Police Force's Facebook social network and traditional media (13 posts in total). The information brochure on trafficking in human beings "It can't happen to me" was also updated and supplemented with information on child trafficking in Slovakia or in the online space. An information brochure (the so-called "infocard") on the topic of "Fraud and some new ways of fraudulent behaviour" was also created. The brochure also focuses on the topic of fraudulent job offers with a bridge to the topic of trafficking in human beings. The public is informed, for example, about the recruitment methods used by traffickers, in which labour sectors the most fraudulent job offers have been identified, or on the basis of which warning signs it is possible to spot a fraudulent job offer. As part of the preventive recommendations, attention was also focused on informing about the National Line of Assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings 0800 800 818. The Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, carried out a voluntary questionnaire survey between June and August 2021 focused on the presence of socio-pathological phenomena, including the issue of trafficking in human beings in Slovak schools. Out of a total of 1,112 participating primary and secondary schools, almost 23% of the schools had also encountered the concept of trafficking in human beings in practice. A total of 18 schools reported that they were aware that a pupil/student had been a victim of the offence of trafficking in human beings. The victims were supposed to be mainly primary school pupils/students, with the most common form of trafficking in human beings being forced marriage in the spirit of custom and tradition, followed by sexual exploitation in the form of forced prostitution or for the purpose of pornography and forced begging.

In the period under review, NUFIM members carried out awareness-raising through regular meetings with mayors of municipalities where there is a high probability that trafficking in human beings could occur (e.g. Roma settlements). The mayors were informed on possible recruiting of victims from socially disadvantaged families, forms of commitment of this criminal activity, the methods of prevention and detection. However, the frequency of face-to-face encounters was affected by the pandemic.

In 2021 too, the Ministry of Interior provided and distributed self-identification leaflets in 8 languages and information posters with the number of the National Line of Assistance to THB Victims 0800 800 818 to all asylum facilities.

The contact point was also informed about the involvement of local governments in preventive activities in the fight against trafficking in human beings. The Prešov self-governing region supports the Greek Catholic Charity, which carries out information and educational activities in schools, summer camps and shelters aimed at raising awareness of the issue of combating trafficking in human beings. The Prešov self-governing region, through its "Family Support Foundation", helps families and individuals who find themselves in need as a result of the deterioration of their living situation to bridge a difficult existential period through material assistance. Responding to individual needs of individuals, it also puts them in contact with professionals, and networks the best specialists, creating a space for mutual discussion and exchange of information. Community centres in the Banská Bystrica self-governing region stated that they also conducted preventive lectures on trafficking in human beings, or discussions with police officers, and drew attention to this issue in their counselling activities and provided information materials. The Nitra self-governing region at the regional level ensured multidisciplinary cooperation of entities participating in tasks related to the protection of children within the framework of the national project "Support of Child Protection against Violence". This includes the issue of trafficking in children, especially for the purpose of forced marriages, illegal employment of children and juveniles, screening of children at risk of violence, physical and emotional violence against children, bullying, cyber-bullying, etc. The aim of child protection coordination is to increase the effectiveness of the entities concerned in addressing violence against children in the areas of prevention, identification and intervention. A representative of the Department of Social Affairs also participated in the coordination meetings due to the seriousness of the issue. According to the approved "Concept for the development of social services in the region for 2018-2023", priorities are set in the field of social services for crisis intervention for people in an unfavourable social situation, social services to support families with children and social services to address the unfavourable social situation due to severe disability, adverse health condition or reaching retirement age. Working groups have been established for all the above-mentioned areas in order to coordinate the activities of entities and partners in the field of crisis intervention in the territory of the region, as well as to cooperate with towns and municipalities, with providers of social services, with entities implementing measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship and institutions in the field of social services for families with children in the territory of the region, as well as to support the development of community-based social services. The purpose of the working groups is networking, coordination and exchange of information of entities participating in the field of social services and social and legal protection of children and social guardianship. In 2010, the Bratislava self-governing region supported the establishment of a working group whose aim was and is the implementation of the "Regional Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women". The working group consists of representatives of central government, general government, local government and the non-governmental sector. Other activities of the region were aimed at ensuring awareness and education of the lay and professional public in the field of violence against women, development of a network of entities and institutions providing professional counselling to women subjected to violence, crisis intervention and creation of conditions for reintegration of women subjected to violence. The activities of the plan are divided into four areas, which focus on the provision of assistance and support to victims of violence through primary,

secondary and tertiary prevention and the provision of information, education of the public and professional staff and tertiary prevention activities. The working group is composed of representatives of various organisations and institutions - district offices, municipal offices, local police, the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Bratislava, civic associations, education and health departments, counselling centres and helplines. Within the social social programme "Assistance to women subjected to violence", the Bratislava self-governing region provides a financial contribution from the budget of the region to organisations focused on the provision of assistance, support, social, psychological and legal counselling to women subjected to violence.

In accordance with the contract of provision of support and assistance to victims between the Ministry of Interior and providers of services of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, preventive activities are also carried out by the providers themselves, i.e. the non-governmental sector. In 2021, the Slovak Catholic Charity provided education and prevention in schools, social centres, re-education homes, community centres, emergency housing facilities, Roma communities, Centres for Children and Families, halfway houses, parishes, people in prison, in dormitories for the homeless (DePaul), lecture activities for asylum seekers in cooperation with the Slovak Humanitarian Council and in the media (radio, television, internet). Every year, on the occasion of the Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking (St. Bakhita's Day, 8 February), throughout Slovakia, the organisation conducts a prayer meeting for victims, with the aim of raising awareness, interest, sensitisation of the public and their active attitude towards addressing the issue of trafficking in human beings. In 2021, it repeatedly organised the nationwide "Red Ribbons" campaign. It has also has been implementing the STOP TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS Project for a long time. The topic was also presented by the Slovak Catholic Charity in a reportage on public television and in the national media through articles as well as media appearances in the Catholic media. In addition, it presented its activities on its website, Facebook and Instagram.

In 2021, the Ministry of Interior implemented two awareness-raising campaigns with a visual "Don't Close Your Eyes to It!" also focused on promoting the National Line of Assistance to Trafficking in Human Beings Victims. One was implemented through online banners with a minimum of 4 million views on websites with a national reach, both on news portals and on personal portals (containing chat and job advertisements) to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings issues among the general public. The aim of publishing the banners in the required quantity was to best reach the target group, which is people aged 18-54 (the target group includes people mainly from poor social backgrounds, with primary and secondary education, looking for work). The campaign was carried out before the onset of the summer months, which we perceive as a risky period when there is an increased interest in temporary jobs. The second campaign was carried out during the autumn with a link to the European Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October. The campaign was run on Facebook with a precisely specified target group.

Activities of the Slovak Catholic Charity are also worth noting, such as the online campaign "YOU ARE NOT FOR SALE!", the continuation of the prevention campaign among marginalized groups, following the campaign "DON'T GET ENSLAVED" (a campaign targeting vulnerable groups and potential victims - women and girls). The campaign ran in May 2021 and included the sharing of 3 short videos made by well-known cultural personalities and a former client in the Programme. The campaign reached a large number of people in the online space and was also broadcast on several regional TV stations.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, the Ministry of Interior informed the general public about the issue of trafficking in human beings through participation in public and private media (radio, television), through social networks, and also issued press releases on the topic.

2. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, see response to recommendation R16.2a).
3. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the aim of the organisation of further training of general government employees and the exchange of experience and good practice is to promote the provision of qualified assistance and the strengthening of a non-victimising approach, which are prerequisites for effective protection against gender-based violence. In 2021, 57 training events were held, of which 2 were face-to-face and 55 online (the events held are listed below, along with dates and target groups).

   In 2021, the organisation of outreach events continued to be influenced by measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Epidemiological measures in education excluded the possibility of conducting outreach activities for pupils and students in secondary schools and universities.

   Nevertheless, on 8 June 2021, the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women conducted one workshop in online format in cooperation with the civic association Equilibrium (Rovnováha), which was attended by 14 girls entrusted to some form of foster family care, entitled Primary Prevention of Violence against Women. The content focused on creating meaningful relationships and identifying signs of violence in relationships. The lecturer was doc. Mgr. Monika Bosá, PhD.

   On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, on 25 November 2021, the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women, in cooperation with the Pavol Országh Hviezdoslav Theatre in Bratislava, organised a public discussion "It's never her fault", which was attended by Ms Barbora Burajová on behalf of the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women.

   As part of an information campaign on the topic of violence against women during the 16 Days of Activism, Barbora Burajová, on behalf of the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women, spoke at the online public discussion "Other Forms of Violence" on economic violence,, organised by the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights on 2 December 2021.

   As part of an information campaign on the topic of violence against women during the 16 Days of Activism, M. Šimon, K. Minarovičová on behalf of the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women, spoke at the

online public discussion "Human rights education as violence prevention", organised by the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights on 10 December 2021.

The recommendation is also addressed in general terms by the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2022-2027. Task 4.5 - Increase in the number of detected and prosecuted cases of trafficking in women and forced marriages outside and within the territory of the Slovak Republic, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, deals specifically with the issue of trafficking in human beings and is being implemented on an ongoing basis.

c) working closely with the private sector, in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, National Labour Inspectorate

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R16.2c) resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed by the Act on Illegal Work and Illegal Employment.

At national level, a dialogue should be initiated with the private manufacturing and commercial sectors, services and/or trade unions, based on the initiative of the members of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The Information Centre under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, as a member of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, proposed the task "Implementation of the proposed ways of implementing the recommendations resulting from the Third Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)" in the Task Plan of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2021, with the deadline of 31 December 2021, and the Ministry of Interior as the designated responsible entity. The Plan of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was adopted by Resolution No. 2 of 9 March 2021, which was approved by the Chairperson of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and also by the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Subsequently, the proposed implementation of the GRETA recommendations by the responsible and cooperating entities was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 380/2021 of 30 June 2021. The implementation of recommendation R16.2c) has been delegated to the Crime Prevention Department on behalf of the Ministry of Interior.

   The Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of Interior states that at the last meeting of the Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on 25 March 2022, the Chairman of the Expert Group and at the same time the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior proposed to establish a coordination group with entities that have competence in relation to the business environment. Based on the above mentioned, the Crime Prevention Department in charge of the coordination of this task plans, in the coming period, to address and hold a working meeting with representatives of the

ministries that have an impact on the business environment in terms of their material competence.

2. The National Labour Inspectorate, as co-responsible entity, states that in order to ensure closer cooperation between labour inspection bodies and the private sector, the National Labour Inspectorate has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Association of Industrial Unions and Transport. At the same time, cooperation continues at the tripartite level on the basis of the Cooperation Agreement concluded between the National Labour Inspectorate and the Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic and the Federation of Employers' Associations of the Slovak Republic in the field of labour protection, illegal work and illegal employment.

R17. Identification of victims of THB

R17.1 GRETA urges the Slovak authorities to sensitise labour inspectors and other relevant officials involved in labour inspections about THB for the purpose of labour exploitation and the rights of victims, and to instruct them to take a victim-centred approach, rather than one based on immigration control.

Responsible entity: National Labour Inspectorate
Cooperating entity: Ministry of Interior

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R17.1 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

Labour inspectors carry out labour inspections together with members of the Police Force in specific cases. Only members of the Police Force have competences in relation to the victim-centred approach, and these competences are not legislatively granted to labour inspectors. According to the developed methodological guidelines for the control of illegal employment, in the framework of the assessment of labour law relations, labour inspectors are obliged to inform and instruct the inspected foreigners about the possibility to file a complaint in case of non-payment of wages or to claim their labour law claims. However, labour inspectors will be instructed to comply with this recommendation as part of their general competence training.

Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, the recommendation is addressed by fulfilling Task No. 14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 495/2018 of 6 November 2018 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023).

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The National Labour Inspectorate, as the responsible body, states that the above recommendation is continuously followed through the training of labour inspectors and the principle of focusing the inspector's inspection on the employee as a potential victim and their working conditions is also emphasised at regular meetings of representatives of labour inspectorates with the National Labour Inspectorate.

R17.2 GRETA urges the Slovak authorities to pay increased attention to detecting victims of trafficking amongst asylum seekers and persons placed in immigration detention centres. In this context, further training on the identification of victims of trafficking should be provided to staff of reception centres and immigration detention centres, including medical staff present at, or visiting, such centres. The Slovak authorities should ensure that as soon as there are reasonable grounds to believe that a foreign national

placed at the Medveďov immigration detention centre is a victim of THB, he or she is moved to a shelter for victims of THB.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior
Cooperating entity: Ministry of Health

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R17.2 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

Within the competence of the Ministry of Interior, the police officers of the Border and Foreign Police Service and the staff of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior proceed in accordance with internal documents specifying the procedures for the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings. Trainings on the identification of victims of trafficking are solved by fulfilling Task No. 14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023).

The Ministry of Health fully supports the training of healthcare workers and professionals with a focus on the prevention of all forms of discrimination, as well as the development of ethical and social aspects of healthcare provision. The management and organisation of the health sector continues to be considered important and essential for the prevention of discrimination in the provision of healthcare.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. Within the competence of the Ministry of Interior as the entity responsible for the implementation of the recommendation, the police officers of the Border and Foreign Police Service and the staff of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior proceed in accordance with internal documents specifying the procedures for the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings. Trainings on the identification of victims of trafficking are solved by fulfilling Task No. 14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 approved by Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 495/2018 of 6 November 2018 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023).

The NUFIM under the authority of the Ministry of Interior states that the conduct of training has been very limited since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, access to police detention units for foreigners has not been possible, and for that reason training has not been conducted in these facilities. If the pandemic situation improves, training will be scheduled to be conducted in these facilities, focusing in particular on the identification of foreign victims of human trafficking, with training scheduled to take place in the first or second half of 2022. The trainings will be organised directly in the police detention units for foreigners in Medveďov and Sečovce, and as many police officers, medics and other employees working with foreigners in the units in question will be invited to participate in them as possible. If it is suspected that a foreigner in police detention for foreigners is a victim of trafficking in human beings, he/she is offered the possibility to enter the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, one of the services of this programme being the provision of accommodation in the facility of the entity providing the services of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, which is a contracted civil society organisation (non-governmental organisation). The NUFIM is mainly an executive unit of the Police Force, with training in the area of trafficking in human beings being provided as a priority by the Information Centre and the Crime Prevention Department.

The staff of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior proceed in the area of trafficking in human beings in accordance with internal documents specifying the procedures for identifying victims of trafficking in human beings. The Migration Office has developed a set of questions to identify an asylum seeker as a potential victim of trafficking in human beings. These questions are directly defined in Instruction of the Director of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior No. 13/2012, which issued methodological guidance to ensure the identification of potential victims of trafficking in human beings within the competence of the Migration Office. With regard to the retraining of Migration Office staff, the background to this issue is included above in the report on point 8.2.

2. The Ministry of Health as a cooperating entity states that it fully supports the training of healthcare workers and professionals with a focus on the prevention of all forms of discrimination, as well as the development of ethical and social aspects of healthcare provision. The management and organisation of the health sector continues to be considered important and essential for the prevention of discrimination in the provision of healthcare.

R18. Assistance measures

GRETA welcomes the issuing of a methodological tool for the provision of assistance to victims of THB, with a special focus on children and foreigners, as well as guidelines on social protection measures for children and the specialisation of the centre for children and families in Prešov to deal with child victims of THB. GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should examine the reasons for the low participation in the Victim Support Programme and ensure that all victims of trafficking receive assistance according to their needs.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R18 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The currently valid internal regulation of the Ministry of Interior on the support of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection dated 15 December 2020 obliges the specialised unit with material competence for the detection and investigation of the crime of trafficking in human beings (NUFIM) to create conditions for the victim of trafficking in human beings to contact non-governmental organisations, which are contracted by the Ministry of Interior, on the basis of public procurement, to provide services of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection (currently the Slovak Catholic Charity and the Greek Catholic Charity), in order to inform the victim of trafficking in human beings about the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The Information Centre as a coordinator of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection under the authority of the Ministry of Interior as the entity responsible for the implementation of the recommendation states that the currently valid internal regulation of the Ministry of Interior - Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 160/2020 obliges the specialised unit with material competence for the detection and investigation of the crime of trafficking in human beings (NUFIM) to create conditions for the victim of trafficking in human beings to contact non-governmental organisations, which are contracted by the Ministry of Interior, on the basis of public procurement, to provide services of the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection (currently the Slovak Catholic Charity and the Greek Catholic Charity), in order to inform the victim of trafficking in human beings about the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection. Such contact between the non-governmental organisation and the victim is carried out with the victim's consent before the first act of the criminal proceedings. We expected this measure to increase the number of victims who voluntarily join the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, also for the purpose of improving access to justice (e.g. the right to compensation). As of 28 March 2022, there are six victims of trafficking in human beings registered in the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, while for the same period in 2021 there were only two victims.

   Another option for victims of trafficking in human beings is to take advantage of the assistance provided by entities providing assistance to victims under the Act on Victims of Crime, which the victim should be informed about at the first contact with a police officer, prosecutor or healthcare provider. The system of assistance to victims of crime is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

2. On the implementation of the recommendation, the NUFIM reports that in order to ensure increased awareness and interest of victims of trafficking in human beings in joining the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection, and in an effort to take measures to improve the status of victims of trafficking in human beings and facilitate access to their rights, on 11 June 2020, an instruction was issued by the Director of the NUFIM, which obliged the NUFIM investigators to inform the service provider of the programme in question (currently the Slovak Catholic Charity and the Greek Catholic Charity) about the planned interrogation of a victim of trafficking in human beings and to allow a representative of this organisation to have a short interview with the victim before the actual interrogation; the purpose of the interview is to provide the victim of trafficking in

human beings with information about the programme in question and to stimulate the victim's interest in voluntarily joining the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection. The NUFIM investigators were also obliged to add information about the National Line of Assistance to Trafficking in Human Beings Victims 0800 800 818 to the witness-victim's briefing. The victim can also choose to join the Programme of Trafficking in Human Beings Victims Support and Protection at a later date.

R19. Identification of, and assistance to, child victims of trafficking

GRETA considers that the Slovak authorities should take steps to ensure that full use is made of the methodological tool and guidelines in training of relevant professionals.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior

Cooperating entities: Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, National Labour Inspectorate

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R19 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

Trainings on the identification of victims of trafficking are solved by fulfilling Task No. 14 of the National Programme of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 - 2023 (education of state and non-state entities, responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, with a deadline of 01/2019 - 12/2023), on the basis of a training plan for individual professional groups in cooperation with cooperating entities. The content of the training is modernised taking into account the current methodological tools and guidelines available at national and international level.

The Judicial Academy conducts training under the authority of the Ministry of Justice.

Under the authority of the Ministry of Health, the recommendation is implemented by further training of health professionals on topics related to violence against children in all its forms, the identification of violence against children in all its forms, as well as cooperation with the relevant state authorities implemented in the minimum standards for selected specialisation study programmes in specialisation fields intended for doctors (paediatrics, paediatric surgery, gynaecology and obstetrics), for psychologists (clinical psychology), for nurses (nursing care in paediatrics) and for midwives (midwifery and care of women in the family and the community).

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

1. The Information Centre under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, as the responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, is one of the entities conducting training for professionals who can identify child victims of trafficking in human beings, and states that the content of the training includes specific procedures for identifying and providing assistance to child victims of trafficking in human beings. These procedures are based on Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2021 and the Methodological Guidance on the Procedure for Providing Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, with a Special Focus on Children and Foreigners, developed in 2016.

   The Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of Interior states that the staff of information offices for victims of crime have available methodological material guiding the procedure for the identification and mediation of professional assistance

to victims of trafficking in human beings, with regard also to child victims. In case of identification of a child victim of trafficking in human beings, the staff of the information offices will alert the competent authorities to this fact (the NUFIM, the authority of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, the Information Centre), and will mediate the professional assistance of the entities to this fact.

The NUFIM, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, states that methodological aids and guidelines in the area of trafficking in human beings form part of the training sessions in which NUFIM officers regularly participate and are repeatedly familiarised with them. The issue of child victims of trafficking in human beings is part of the training for border and foreign police officers on the identification of trafficking in human beings. During the training activities of the NUFIM officers, brochures and leaflets on the issue of trafficking in human beings, which are provided by the Information Centre, are used and disseminated.

The NUFIM is mainly an executive unit of the Police Force, with training in the area of trafficking in human beings being provided as a priority by the Information Centre and the Crime Prevention Department.

In 2021, the Education Unit of the Directorate of Border and Foreign Police Sobrance trained on the issue of human trafficking through the e-learning online MOODLE software a total of 592 police officers assigned to the border control units of the Police Force in Čierna nad Tisou, Veľké Slemence, Maťovské Vojkovce, Vyšné Nemecké, Petrovce, Podhoroď, Ubľa, Ulič and Zboj, police officers of the mobile intervention unit of the Directorate of Border and Foreign Police Sobrance and the operational centre of the Directorate of Border and Foreign Police Sobrance.

As far as the identification of, and assistance to child victims of trafficking in human beings is concerned, the facilities of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior accommodate exclusively children within their families. Unaccompanied minor applicants are placed in the facilities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. As part of the asylum procedure, these persons are met by the decision-makers conducting the asylum procedure. As mentioned, all decision-makers were trained in human trafficking issues. In addition, a national training on the EUAA training module on interviewing vulnerable persons is currently under way and will be attended by all decision-makers, followed by training in the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) training module on conducting interviews with children. Thus, in 2022, all decision-makers should also be trained in the above-mentioned issues. Moreover, in the framework of the asylum procedure for minors, the decision-makers of the Migration Office closely cooperate with the specialised staff of the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, who act as guardians for unaccompanied minors.

2. The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, as a cooperating entity, states that the implementation of the task in question requires a systematic approach. In view of the limited human resources and the complexity of the matters of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, it does not implement targeted/topical trainings. As an implementer of national projects (NP Field social work and field work in municipalities with the presence of marginalized Roma communities II; NP Community services in towns and villages with the presence of marginalized Roma

communities - Phase II; NP PRIM II - Inclusion project in kindergartens), which support the helping professions, carry out thematic educational activities that take into account the needs of the helping professions. These activities are organised by external lecturers.

3. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, as the cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship are aimed at implementing or ensuring the implementation of professional methods to assist children or adult natural persons who have been victims of trafficking in human beings, the provision of social and psychological counselling, crisis intervention, field social work, as well as mediation of participation in programmes aimed at assisting the victims.

   If the co-operation of other entities is necessary in the implementation of measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship or assistance to children who are abused, sexually abused, neglected or who are reasonably suspected of having been abused, sexually abused or neglected or who have been victims of trafficking in human beings, the authority of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship shall perform the role of a coordinator. The authority collaborates with Centres for Children and Families, health care providers, municipalities, schools, law enforcement authorities, accredited entities, and other entities.

   The authority of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship assesses the situation of each child and their family and determines the level of risk of the child. It is obliged to receive and evaluate any complaint concerning a violation of the rights of the child. It may also involve the centre for children and families in the determination of the child's degree of endangerment, if measures carried out within its own competence have not been able to unambiguously determine the child's degree of endangerment. If the complaint is information about a threat to the child's life, health or favourable development or information about the use of harsh or degrading forms of treatment of the child and forms of punishment of the child, the authority of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship shall carry out a so-called preliminary assessment, if the current situation of the child allows it, no later than within 5 days from the date of receipt of the complaint. A comprehensive assessment of the situation of the child and their family, even in situations where any information, request or notification is received by the authority of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, can contribute to the early identification of victims of violence (which also includes trafficking in human beings) even in cases where the content of the complaint does not directly imply such suspicion. Such legal procedures support the early identification of child victims of violence, sexual abuse and victims of trafficking.

   Conditions for the implementation of measures in a residential form to prevent the emergence, deepening and recurrence of certain crisis situations of children, i.e., a specialised programme for children who have been subjected to the offence of trafficking in human beings, ill-treated and sexually abused children, or for the

implementation of measures to verify the degree of threat to children by ill-treatment, sexual abuse or other acts threatening their life, health or favourable psychological, physical or social development, are specifically regulated. Facilities of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship with a specialised programme implement measures in a residential form, in an outpatient form, as well as in a field form, while the residential form of implementation of measures does not have to be implemented only on the basis of a court decision, but also on the basis of an agreement with the child's parent, or with a person who is personally caring for the child. Bearing in mind the necessity of an individual approach for this target group of children and their subsequent integration into society, the intention is the gradual establishment of facilities for the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship with a specialised programme taking into account the field need developing over time. Last amendment to the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship brought to the Centres for Children and Families with a specialised programme the possibility to carry out measures in an outpatient or field form, which expanded the possibilities of assistance in the field of early intervention for this target group of children.

4. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice as a cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, the Judicial Academy carries out training - see point R4d).

5. The Ministry of Health as a cooperating entity states that the recommendation is implemented by further training of health professionals on topics related to violence against children in all its forms, the identification of violence against children in all its forms, as well as cooperation with the relevant state authorities implemented in the minimum standards for selected specialisation study programmes in specialisation fields intended for doctors (paediatrics, paediatric surgery, gynaecology and obstetrics), for psychologists (clinical psychology), for nurses (nursing care in paediatrics) and for midwives (midwifery and care of women in the family and the community).

6. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, as the cooperating entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that in the framework of pre-departure consular training it regularly conducts training on the issue of cooperation of the authorities of the Slovak Republic in assisting victims of trafficking in human beings, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Slovak Catholic Charity. The training is attended by employees of the Ministry preparing for posting to the embassies of the Slovak Republic in the position of consuls and temporary consuls. The aim is to familiarise the participants with the issue of trafficking in human beings, in particular with the specific procedures and measures of the embassies of the Slovak Republic in assisting victims of trafficking in the sense of the methodology "Procedure of Embassies of the Slovak Republic in the Implementation of Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings" elaborated in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Ministry of Interior. The training contributes to the effective orientation of consular authorities on the issue of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings and to the successful management of specific cases in this area.

R20. Recovery and reflection period and residence permit

GRETA once again urges the Slovak authorities to provide in the national legislation for a recovery and reflection period when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person is a victim of human

trafficking, as provided for in Article 13 of the Convention, and to ensure that all possible victims of trafficking are offered an effective recovery and reflection period, as well as all the measures of protection and assistance envisaged in Article 12, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention during this period.

Responsible entity: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice

Opinion on the implementation of recommendation R20 resulting from Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 380/2021:

The recommendation is addressed legislatively in the following acts:

- Act on Victims of Crime,
- Act on Residence of Foreigners.

Opinion of the entities at the mid-term of the evaluation process:

According to the experts from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior, as co-responsible entities for the implementation of the recommendation, the recovery and reflection period is sufficiently incorporated in the national legislation, namely in the following legislation:

- Act on Victims of Crime,
- Act on Residence of Foreigners:

1. The Ministry of Justice, as a co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that under the Act on Victims of Crime, every victim of trafficking in human beings is considered to be a particularly vulnerable victim, regardless of their nationality. In addition to the right to information (Article 4 of the Act on Victims of Crime specifically regulates the information obligation of police officers, prosecutors, assistance providers and healthcare providers), particularly vulnerable victims have the right to protection from victimisation and the right to receive specialised professional assistance for a particularly vulnerable victim.

   Specialised professional assistance pursuant to Article 5(4) of the Act on Victims of Crime includes:
   the provision and proper explanation of information pursuant to Article 4(2) and (5) (i.e., for example on victims' rights, necessary medical care, the right to interpretation and translation, access to legal aid, how to claim damages);
   legal aid to enforce the victim's rights,
   legal aid to enforce the victim's rights, where the victim has the status of an injured party or witness in criminal proceedings,
   psychological assistance,
   counselling on the risk and prevention of repeat victimisation,
   providing crisis psychological intervention,
   an assessment of the threat of danger to life or health,
   arranging for the provision of social services in an emergency housing facility and specialised social counselling if the life or health of a particularly vulnerable victim is in imminent danger.

Specialised professional assistance is provided to a particularly vulnerable victim within the meaning of Article 6(3) of the Act on Victims of Crime for a period of 90 days, regardless of the initiation of criminal proceedings and the active participation of the victim in the criminal proceedings. If necessary, this assistance shall be provided beyond this period, if justified and if the victim requests the provision of assistance.

The provision of specialised professional assistance to a particularly vulnerable victim, regardless of criminal proceedings, corresponds to a recovery and reflection period, as it provides the victim with a space to detach from the perpetrator, implies access to professional assistance (including legal and psychological) and allows the victim to make an informed decision, which is in line with Article 13 of the Convention.

The amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime introduced changes in the areas of compensation, legal aid and the establishment of intervention centres.

Under the Act on Victims of Crime, victims of trafficking in human beings, who are considered to be victims of trafficking in human beings until proven otherwise, have the right to receive specialised professional assistance by accredited entities for 90 days, regardless of the filing of a criminal complaint or their active participation in the criminal proceedings.

In justified cases, after the expiry of 90 days, at the request of a particularly vulnerable victim, the provision of specialised professional assistance may be continued, in accordance with their specific needs and to an extent proportionate to the harm caused by the offence, throughout the criminal proceedings and for a reasonable time thereafter.

2. The Department of Foreign Police under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, as the co-responsible entity for the implementation of the recommendation, states that the Act on Residence of Foreigners provides in Article 58(1)(c) for the possibility of granting permanent residence and in Article 58(3) for a period of 90 days for the victim to decide whether they will cooperate with law enforcement authorities in the clarification of a crime related to trafficking in human beings (which can be extended by additional 30 days). Since the period defined in Article 58(3) is considered a tolerated stay, the victim of trafficking in human beings is lawfully present in the territory of the Slovak Republic during this period (Article 2(1)(h)). Pursuant to Article 82(1)(b) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners, the police unit shall expel only the third-country national who is unlawfully staying in the territory of the Slovak Republic, i.e., the victim of trafficking in human beings cannot be expelled for this reason during the period referred to in Article 58(3) of the Act.

List of abbreviations:
Convention – Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
General Prosecutor's Office – General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic
GRETA - Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
Information Centre – Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and for Crime Prevention of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
UM – unaccompanied minor
Ministry of Transport and Construction - Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Finance – Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Defence – Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family - Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Justice - Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport - Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Interior – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs - Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Health - Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020 - Order of the Ministry of Interior No. 161/2020 of 15 December 2020 on the provision of a support and protection programme for victims of trafficking in human beings
NUFIM - National Unit of Fight against Illegal Migration of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force
Department of Foreign Police – Department of Foreign Police of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force
Crime Prevention Department – Crime Prevention Department of the Office of the Minister of Interior of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
Regional Platforms - Regional platforms for assistance to victims of crime
Criminal Code - Act No. 300/2005 Coll. Criminal Code as amended
Code of Criminal Procedure - Act No. 301/2005 Coll. Code of Criminal Procedure as amended
Act on Victims of Crime - Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on victims of crime and on the amendment to certain acts
Act on Illegal Work and Illegal Employment - Act No. 82/2005 Coll. on illegal work and illegal employment and on the amendment to certain acts as amended
Act on Residence of Foreigners - Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on residence of foreigners and on the amendment to certain acts as amended
Act on Employment Services - Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on employment services and on the amendment to certain acts as amended
Act on Social Economy - Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on social economy and social enterprises and on the amendment to certain acts as amended
Act on Healthcare - Act No. 576/2004 Coll. on healthcare, healthcare-related services and on the amendment to certain acts
Act on Experts, Interpreters and Translators - Act No. 382/2004 Coll. on experts, interpreters and translators and on the amendment to certain acts as amended