

EN

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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.1.2025)

The collection of accurate and coherent data is fundamental to ensure full knowledge on the scope of trafficking in human beings. Since 2013, Member States provide data to EUROSTAT on a voluntary basis according to agreed guidelines, indicators and templates. Since 2021, the data is collected annually, and the statistics are published on EUROSTAT website¹. The new amended Anti-trafficking Directive², to be transposed by 15 July 2026, introduces a requirement for Member States to collect and report to the Commission statistical data every year in a harmonised way to enhance the general understanding of the phenomenon and to ensure the adoption of data-informed EU and national policies, strategies and actions. With the support of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, the Commission is continuously working with Member States, in particular with the national statistical offices and the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinators and Rapporteurs to improve the quality of the data and coherence in combatting human trafficking.

Information campaigns on trafficking in human beings are important means to prevent and detect the crime. In line with the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings³, the Commission launched a campaign in October 2023 to raise awareness on the fight against trafficking in human beings, including for sexual and labour exploitation. The objective was to inform citizens, victims and potential victims of the risks of this crime. Member States and civil society organisations have been encouraged to use at national level the visual material which is available in the Europa website⁴. A second phase of the campaign is under preparation.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/home>

² Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (OJ L, 2024/1712, 24.6.2024, ELI).

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021- 2025, COM/2021/171 final.

⁴ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/whats-new/communication-campaigns/end-human-trafficking-break-invisible-chain_en