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Training platform against e-trafficking now open to professionals!

Athens, 7 July 2022 – A new training platform for the prevention of trafficking online is now available for professionals and civilians.

The platform is part of [Free2Link](#), a 2-year project against e-trafficking with a focus on the protection of women and girls. The project brings together key knowledge on legal context and terminology as well as updated information about online and technology enabled techniques that traffickers use nowadays.

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, restrictions on mobility, social isolation and the increased use of the internet exposed women and girls to a higher risk of gender-based violence and trafficking of human beings as their online presence can be used for profiling of potential victims, recruitment, movement restriction, real-time monitoring, and exploitation.

"While human traffickers have expanded their criminal activities online, there was previously no tailored support for frontline staff to identify their tactics and support potential victims at an early stage. This platform provides professionals who deal with trafficking cases with up-to-date knowledge and tools tailored to their needs" says Tracy Lucas, Head of Programmes of DRC Greece.

[The European Commission has also identified](#) a clear need to build capacity for professionals on early identification of victims and understanding of online recruitment and exploitation patterns.

The 3 modules on the platform include resources on trafficking terminology and legal context, early identification of potential victims, and many recent case studies. They also include material related to the psychosocial aspects of work against trafficking, such as power relationships and cultural sensitivity. These can support professionals reflect on their relationship with beneficiaries of their services and take a client-centered approach. The modules are available in English, Italian and Greek and it takes a minute to [register](#) on the e-learning platform.

To create the platform, the Free2Link teams in Italy and Greece explored professionals' training needs and completed a series of training in the previous months with more than 120 participants. In Greece alone, the F2L team received around 200 registrations in November 2021. Most of the selected participants were specialized in social support and legal aid, half of them were employed at that time in local NGOs and more than a quarter in public agencies. These trainings were based on the Free2Link survey launched in 2021, which asked 200 frontline staff and service providers to share their training needs on e-trafficking. The findings of the survey can be found in the relevant [report](#).

"Traffickers use the internet to recruit their victims fast and undetectably. Unless we invest in early identification, service provision and legal protection, people fleeing war and in particular women and children - as statistics show- remain amongst the most exposed populations," adds Angeliki Panagoulia, Protection Coordinator of DRC Greece.

The Free2Link project is implemented by [Progetto Tenda Torino](#), [DRC Greece](#), [LABC](#), and [CWEP Poland](#) and is funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020) of the European Commission. It will be completed in November 2022.

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