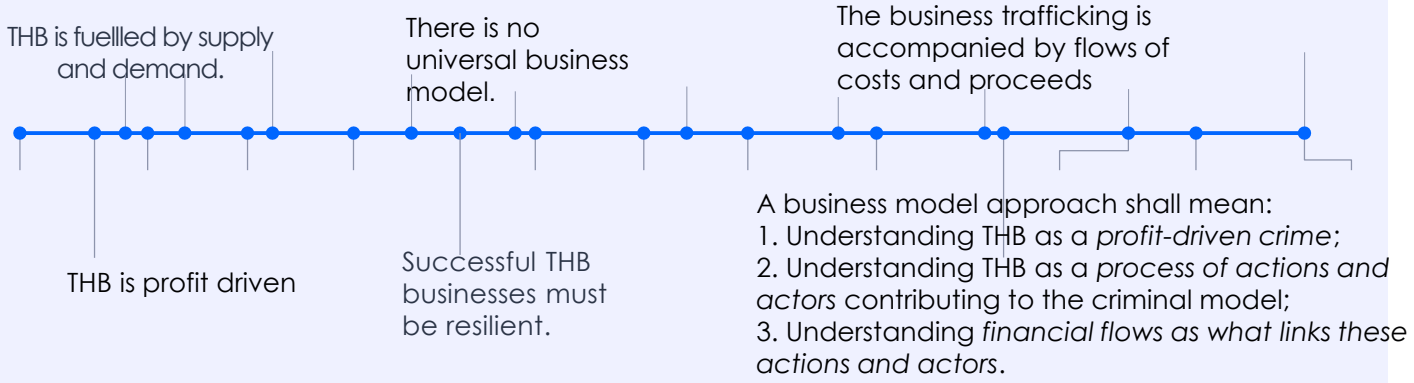




The **dynamic nature of trafficking in human beings (THB)** and the **plurality and complexity of its forms** make it notoriously **difficult to investigate**. Yet despite this complexity, it **remains a heavily profit-driven crime** that is profoundly difficult to operate without **leaving a financial footprint**. The **UNCHAINED project** aims **target this financial footprint** in order to **strengthen THB investigations** through a **follow-the-money approach**. By focusing on the **business models behind THB** and, through that, **its relationship to other crimes** (such as money laundering (ML), migrant smuggling, and fraud), the range of actors and decision makers involved (knowingly or otherwise) and **their modi operandi** can be exposed and prevented. The project will be **promoting collaborative information** sharing partnerships and **enhanced reporting of suspicious financial activity**.

> BUSINESS MODEL PERSPECTIVE:



> METHODOLOGY:

1. International Focus Group:

-  Spain: Child Exploitation
-  Italy: Sexual Exploitation
-  Germany: Labour Exploitation



2. Case Studies:

- ❖ Comparative Analysis Approach
- ❖ Timeframe: 2005-2019

3. Secondary Literature:

- ✓ Cross referencing among the analysis provided by FAFT, OSCE, EUROPOL; INTERPOL and EUROJUST.
- ✓ Review of legal literature on the topic.
- ✓ A desk based study into existing research on the business models.

> TRENDS IN MODUS OPERANDI AND BUSINESS MODELS:

Two key phenomena that are reported and/or expected to have impacted on how perpetrators ensure high profits from THB are: **the Covid-19 pandemic and the expansion of the internet**.

> The modus operandi used in each trafficking case will to a large extent dictate the financial business model behind it.

Covid-19 pandemic and its ensuing economic downturn has interrupted their business models, from supply and production, to transportation and demand. Human trafficking and associated criminal businesses were no exception to this.

The internet: { Hunting and fishing strategies }
 { Online exploitation }



> CURRENT EUROPEAN STRATEGIES UNDER THE “4 PS MODEL”



- EU Response:** Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2003)
- Council of Europe Convention on Action against THB (2005)
- New EU Strategy on Combating THB (2021-2025)

> REPORT ANALYSIS:

Eliciting seven critical elements in the implementation of the current European strategy to combat THB:

1. The Legislative Framework: crime qualification

- Criticisms of legal framework were raised
- Need of a more precise definition of THB
- Obstacles to effective financial investigations into THB

2. Crime classifications and Indicators

The important point to effective financial investigations is the use of accurate indicators of THB.

3. Multi-agency approach- Horizontal Cooperation Model

To reinforce a “coordinated investigative model” through new electronic tools and training activities.

4. Instruments of International Cooperation- JITs

The use of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) in THB can overcome the complexity from the use of multiple instruments.

5. The follow-the-money approach

Evolution of the business model of THB through the tools of virtual currencies and informal banking systems.

6. Technological Tools

Due to Covid-19, traffickers increasingly moved online. It is necessary to deploy tools designed to support investigators in OSINT operations.

7. Victim assistance and protection

Engaging and learning from survivors, including the perspectives of social actors and victim support agencies.

> MAIN CONCLUSIONS:

Key Messages that will be addressed in the UNCHAINED Project

More training is needed in order to support financial investigations.

It is essential a Multi-agency approach in countering THB.

Investigation approaches should seek international cooperation.

Counter THB strategies must capitalize on the state-of-the-art technologies.

> UNCHAINED PROJECT:

For the complete report visit our website:



<https://unchainedproject.eu/>

OUR PARTNERS

