

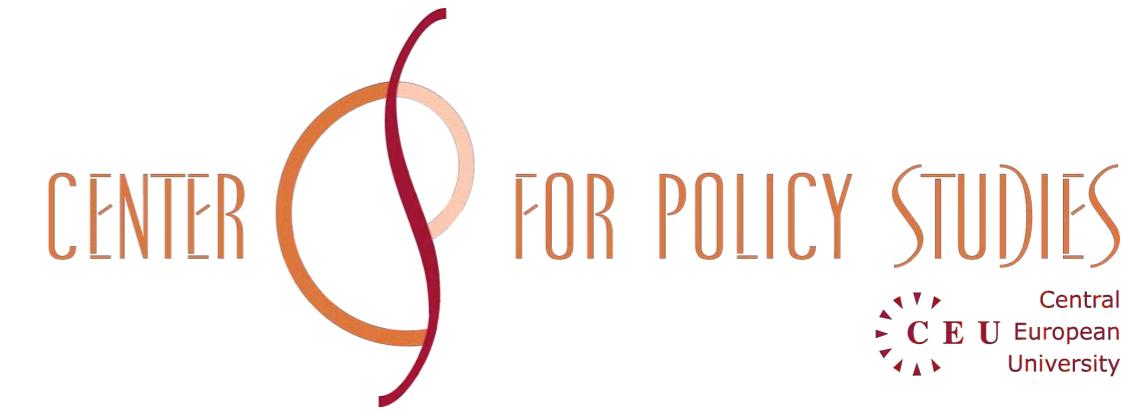
# human trafficking

Understanding Public Knowledge and Attitudes towards  
Trafficking in Human Beings: A Cross-National Study  
(UPKATCPS)

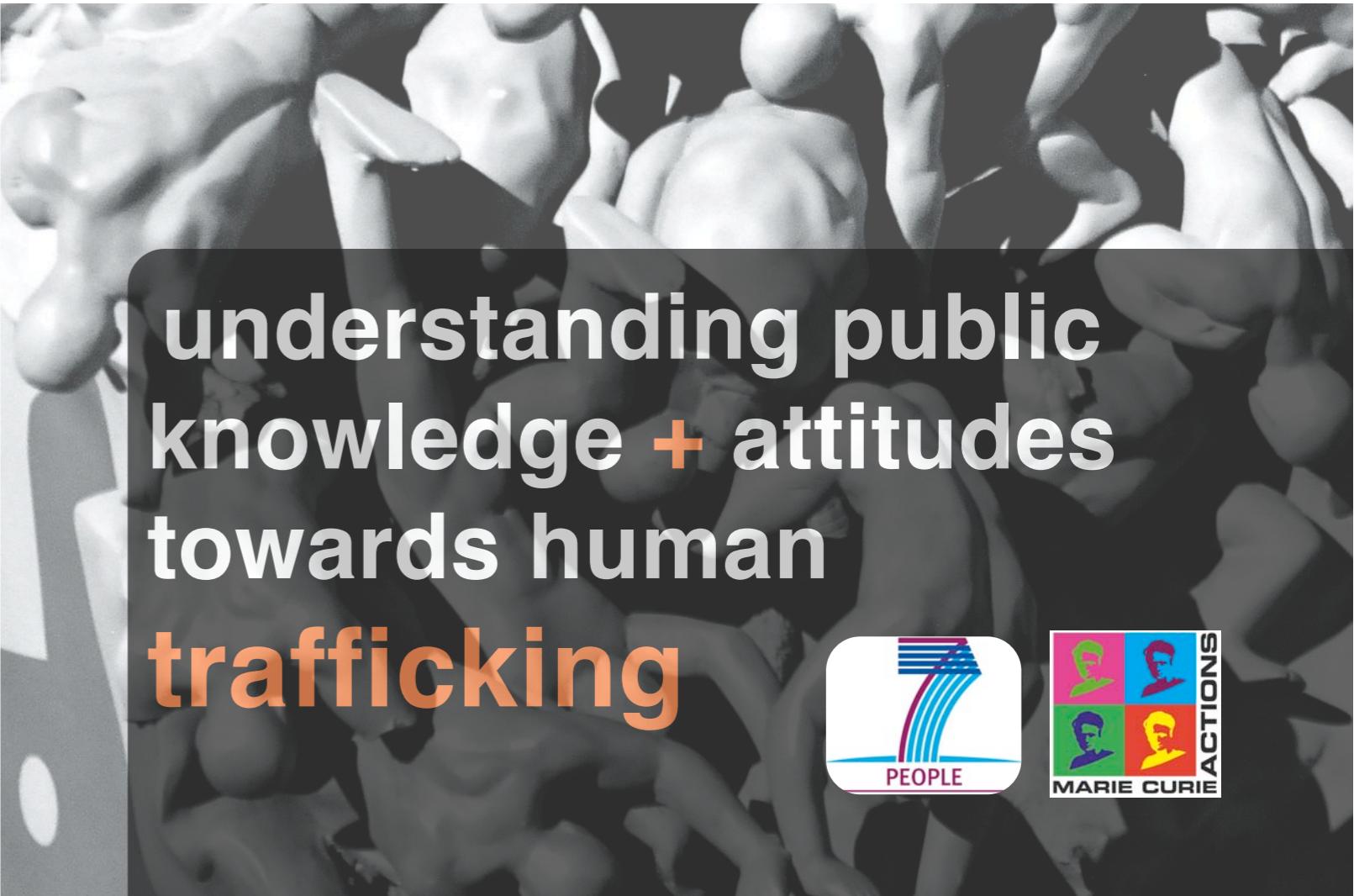


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# human trafficking



understanding public  
knowledge + attitudes  
towards human  
trafficking





## **Understanding Public Knowledge and Attitudes towards Trafficking in Human Beings: A Cross-National Study** (UPKATCPS)



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### → **Project dates: 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2014**

The EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012–2016 emphasises the need to increase understanding on the reduction of demand for and supply of services and goods by victims of trafficking and notes the lack of reliable statistical data impeding evidence-based decision-making. In 2009, the International Labour Organisation set out a broader agenda to encourage researchers to investigate how much people know about THB, what governments and institutions can do to encourage change in the way people think and respond to THB, and enable people to move from awareness to real understanding, and then to rejection and reporting. This research contributes towards the achievement of this agenda.

### → **The focus of investigation**

The project explores public knowledge and attitudes towards THB, what factors influence such knowledge, and the extent to which public attitudes influence or are influenced by anti-trafficking policies in the three case-study countries: Ukraine, Hungary and the United Kingdom. The research will generate and disseminate comparative evidence of prevailing attitudes among the general public in the countries of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking. This information will enable further mapping of the links between poor public understanding of THB, the role of the media in shaping public opinion, increasing demand for and supply of THB, and often inadequate and inefficient anti-trafficking policies.

### **Dr Kiril Sharapov**

Kiril Sharapov is a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellow at the Centre for Policy Studies. He comes to CEU from Glasgow Caledonian University, UK, where he is a Lecturer in Sociology. Kiril holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Glasgow and is a Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy and of the RSA.

### **The Centre for Policy Studies, Central European University**

The Centre for Policy Studies was established in 2000 to advance teaching of public policy in the CEE and CIS region and to promote greater use of social science research in policy making. It is dedicated to improving the quality of governance in the region by the provision of independent public policy analysis and advice.

### → **Methodology**

The research, dissemination and international networking activities address the following six objectives:

- a. Identify and critically assess current legislation, policies and strategies on THB in case-study countries. Methodology: Desk based research and comparative policy analysis
- b. Generate quantitative and qualitative data on public knowledge and attitudes towards THB. Methodology: cross-national surveys, focus groups, qualitative interviews and analysis
- c. Assess the role of printed media in shaping public opinion and policy-making processes in relation to THB. Methodology: printed media analysis
- d. Assess and compare public knowledge of THB in UA, HU and UK. Methodology: Gender analysis, regression and policy frame analyses
- e. In consultation with key stakeholders develop policy recommendations on increasing public awareness of THB. Various methods
- f. Communicate and disseminate research materials, data, outcomes through a range of outreach activities to a variety of stakeholders.

### → **Results and outcomes**

The research findings will directly assist in the development of context driven, targeted policies to raise public awareness of trafficking and its links to the factors of supply and demand. The research will:

- a. Provide a comprehensive mapping of public opinion on THB in the UK, Hungary and Ukraine
- b. Elaborate on how public opinion on THB is a function of individual demographic, socio-economic and attitudinal attributes, and of the discursive construction of national policies on gender equality, social justice and immigration.
- c. Identify what specific messages can be most effective in increasing public awareness of THB and make recommendations on delivering such messages to the general public
- d. Highlight the main gaps in knowledge on public understanding of THB and make recommendations regarding further data collection to remedy these gaps.

### → **Call for cooperation**

We are interested in setting up research links and cooperating with a range of agencies and institutions (governmental and NGOs) involved in research, policy-making or any other anti-trafficking initiatives, including those working in the area of public opinion and public policy. Consultation and dissemination events will take place during the course of the project in 2013 and 2014 in Budapest, London and Kiev.