

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Breaking the Chains: Evidence-Based Strategies in the Fight Against Trafficking

21–22 May 2026

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University, 3 Kalistrate Kutateladze Street, Tbilisi, Georgia,

Organised by Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University in association with the International Consortium for Research Excellence in Trafficking in Persons and the Netherlands National Police.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Day 1 – Thursday, 21 May 2026

Time	Session
09:30–10:00	Registration and welcome coffee
10:00–10:20	Opening speech and welcome remarks by the organisers and institutional partners
10:20–11:20	Panel I: Education, identification, and administrative barriers Speakers: Catruc Mariana and Zaharia Gabriel; Liwia Palus and Bartłomiej Krzan
11:20–11:40	Coffee break
11:40–12:40	Panel II: Legislative and structural vulnerabilities Speakers: Silvia Tabusca; Tsisana, Ucha Bakhtadze and Jorn van Rij
12:40–14:00	Lunch break
14:00–15:00	How to Fight a Wicked Problem with Upstream Disruptive Policing Strategies Speaker: István Szijártó (online)
15:00–15:20	Coffee break
15:20–16:20	Moderated discussion Comparative reflections on evidence-based anti-trafficking interventions and protection frameworks.
16:20–17:00	Networking and close of Day 1

Day 2 – Friday, 22 May 2026

Time	Session
10:00–10:15	Recap of Day 1 and introduction to Day 2
10:15–11:35	Panel III: Technology, data, and trafficking networks Speakers: Omar Margvelashvili; Catruc Mariana, Zaharia Gabriel, Toma Olga; Jorn van Rij
11:35–11:55	Coffee break
11:55–13:00	Panel IV: Organised crime and emerging perspectives Speakers: Mihaela Rotaru; Sanne Spronk
13:00–14:00	Lunch break
14:00–15:00	Concluding session and closing remarks Conference conclusions, key recommendations, and future cooperation opportunities
15:00–15:30	Closed session for THB consortium members

List of Participants and Presentation Topics

Participant(s)	Presentation topic
Omar Margvelashvili, Head of Anti-Discrimination Division LEPL Labour Inspectorate of Georgia	Artificial Intelligence for Early Detection of Labour Exploitation within Migration Contexts
Catruc Mariana, Zaharia Gabriel, Technical University of Moldova	Problem-Based Learning in Software Engineering Education: Integrating Technology and Legal Frameworks to Combat Human Trafficking
Catruc Mariana, Zaharia Gabriel, Toma Olga, Technical University of Moldova	Pattern Recognition and Data Analysis: Developing Technology for Identifying Human Trafficking Networks and Critical Hotspots Using Public Data
Sanne Spronk, Senior Researcher on Human Trafficking National Portfolio Team for Foreign Nationals Affairs, Migration Crime and Human Trafficking, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences	Presentation topic to be confirmed
Dr István Szijártó, University of Pecs (online)	Human Trafficking: How to Fight a Wicked Problem with Upstream Disruptive Policing Strategies
Liwia Palus, University of Wrocław, Bartłomiej Krzan, University of Wrocław (Online)	Trapped in Bureaucracy: How Administrative Barriers Create Vulnerability and Obstruct Victim Identification in Human Trafficking Cases
Silvia Tăbușcă, PhD, Romanian-American University, Director Center for Human Rights and Migration	An Analysis of Legislative and Institutional Gaps Increasing Romania's Vulnerability to Human Trafficking
Prof. Dr. Jorn van Rij, University of Pecs, National Portfolio Team for Foreign Nationals Affairs, Migration Crime and Human Trafficking	764 as a New Online Threat and Related Technological Challenges in the Field of Human Trafficking
Dr Mihaela Rotaru, Police Academy, Romania	Trafficking in Human Beings and the Organised Criminal Groups Behind It. New Legal Steps to Tackle the Phenomena
Tsisana Khundadze, Prof. Ucha Bakhtadze, Sulokhan-Saba Orbeliani University	Digital Sex Work in Georgia: Structural Vulnerabilities, Fragmented Protections, and the Persistence of Risk

Note: This programme is provisional and may be subject to minor adjustments.

