



# HEROES

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**Novel Strategies to Fight  
Child Sexual Exploitation  
and Human Trafficking  
Crimes and Protect their  
Victims**



The HEROES project aims to establish a coordinated contribution with LEAs by developing a suitable and victim-focused approach that is capable of addressing specific needs and providing protection.



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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101021801.

children

HEROES is structured as a comprehensive solution that encompasses three main components: **Prevention**, **Investigation** and **Victim Assistance**. Through these components, HEROES will establish a coordinated contribution with Law Enforcement Agents (LEAs) by developing an appropriate, victim-centred approach that is capable of addressing specific needs and providing protection. HEROES's main objective is to use technology to improve the way in which help and support can be provided to victims of Trafficking of Human Beings (THB) and Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSA/CSE).

## Components

1. **Prevention**: By a mixed approach of technology and social action.
2. **Investigation**: By developing technological tools that cover the most important needs of LEAs: data gathering and analysis while embracing the technical, ethical and legal challenges unique to fighting THB and CSA/CSE crimes.
3. **Victim Assistance**: By focusing on prevention and developing technological tools for more effective investigations.

## Objectives

### Prevention

- ✓ To provide a variety of preventive measures to reduce THB and CSA/CSE crimes.
- ✓ To reduce the demand of services that may be provided by victims in both legal and illegal sectors.
- ✓ To reduce the risk of (re-)offending by better understanding the behaviour of abusers and potential abusers.

### Investigation

- ✓ To analyse possible involvement of organised crime groups implicated in THB and CSA/CSE in other crimes.
- ✓ To develop new approaches to investigate THB and CSA/CSE crimes.
- ✓ To address new threats of child abuse and coercion and extortion of victims that have escalated in the last years.
- ✓ To provide Law Enforcement Agents with effective means to detect, investigate and bring down open and hidden peer-to-peer networks and websites.

### Victim Assistance

- ✓ To develop a set of holistic measures to ensure adequate THB and CSA/CSE victims' protection and assistance.
- ✓ To develop new approaches to investigate trafficking of human beings and CSA/CSE crimes.
- ✓ To develop new approaches to mitigate the impact on victims of THB and CSA/CSE and to reduce re-victimisation in the short and long term.

## Consortium

### Coordinator

