Innovative technology's rapid evolution has dramatically influenced how human trafficking is perpetrated. Criminals increasingly leverage technology at every crime stage – in the planning, recruitment, transportation, control, and exploitation of victims and the transferring and hiding criminal proceeds. This has made the crime even more challenging to tackle, as traffickers are exploiting technologies to remain hidden, to connect with vulnerable individuals, and to expand the number of users of victims' services.

As technology evolves, counter-trafficking efforts must keep pace with the developments to ensure effective prevention, protection, and prosecution. This side-event will gather leading experts from civil society organizations across the OSCE region and specifically focus on recent technology developments such as the rollout of end-to-end encryption, the emergence of AI Large Language Models, and the increase of Simulated Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Material.

The participants will also discuss the potential impact of recent progress on the ability to efficiently combat human trafficking and whether the anti-trafficking community has established itself with the necessary resources and strategies to keep up with what lies ahead and what is required to ensure that we do not lose the innovation battle against criminals.