



VICTIMIZATION AND TRAFFICKING IN human



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JeS Victimization and Trafficking in Human Beings

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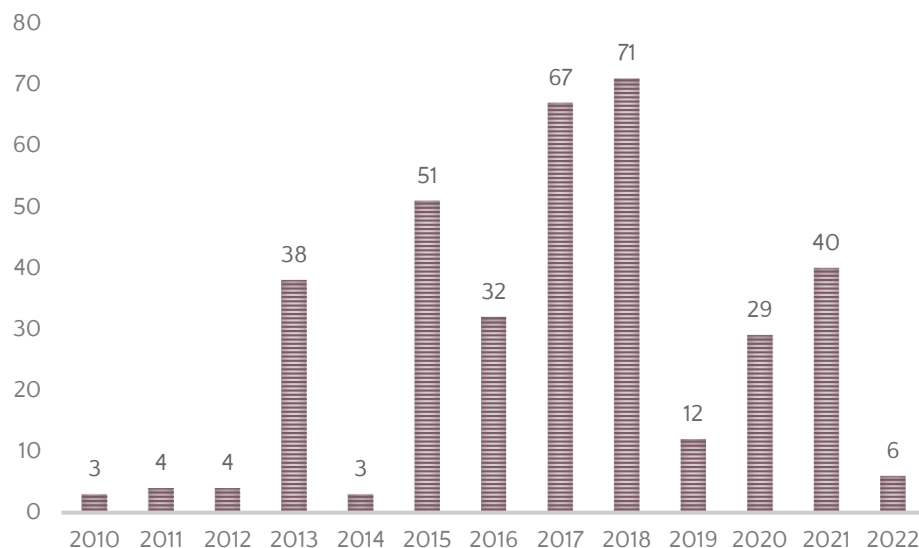
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SLOVENIA

PREFACE

Slovenia is a transit and destination country (Policija, 2021), as well as a country of origin for trafficking in human beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.–b). From 2010 to 2022, the police dealt a total of 360 cases of trafficking in human beings. The highest number of such cases was in 2018 (71), while the lowest number was recorded in 2010 and 2014, with three cases each year (Policija, 2012, 2014, 2019, 2023a) (graph 1).



GRAPH 1: NUMBER OF CRIMES OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN SLOVENIA IN THE PERIOD 2010–2022 (POLICIJA, 2012, 2014, 2019, 2023A)

From 2010 to 2022, 434 victims of trafficking in human beings were identified in Slovenia, of which 89% were women, 10% were men, and 1% were children. 90% were victims of sexual exploitation and 7% of forced criminality. 3% represent other forms of trafficking in human beings (forced labour, servitude, begging, and forced marriages). Most of the victims were from Ukraine, Romania, the Dominican Republic, China, Hungary, and Serbia. 6% of the victims were from Slovenia. In 2010–2022, out of 230 suspected men and women, 47% were accused, and 27% were convicted (Urad vlade RS za komuniciranje, n.d.). The police detect trafficking in human beings primarily through proactive work, as victims and other persons who might know anything about the crime rarely report it (Policija, 2023a).

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Results related to trafficking in human beings included the following forms of trafficking in human beings: prostitution (Kogovšek Šalamon et al., 2023b; Markelj et al., 2022; Pajnik & Renault, 2014; Radačič & Pajnik, 2017), forced labour and labour exploitation (Bučar Ručman &



Frangež, 2014), forced criminality (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014), forced begging (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014; Puppis & Sluga, 2016), domestic servitude (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014), trafficking in children (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014; Kovač & Kos, 2023; Narat et al., 2014), and trafficking in human organs, tissues, and blood (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014).

In terms of prostitution, it is often linked to human trafficking (Markelj et al., 2022). We can relate this with the conclusion of Pajnik and Renault (2014) that websites that focus on the trafficking in human beings recognize the connection to other related phenomena, such as prostitution, as well as with findings of research that address prostitution on general without specific gain on trafficking in human beings from which interrelation is visible, for example in research presented in scientific monography edited by Radačić and Pajnik (2017). Victims usually do not seek help due to a lack of interest because sex work is not taxed, and because they do not trust the Police (Frelj, 2017b; Markelj et al., 2022). Pimps are mostly Slovenian citizens who illegally engage in

various economic activities (e.g., night clubs). They recruit victims with the pretext of clients, medical doctors, or police officers (Frelj, 2017a). When detecting cases of abuse in prostitution the Police use proactive approaches (Frelj, 2017b). Regarding the theoretical approaches that countries use when dealing with the cases of sexual work Kogovšek Šalamon et al. (2023b) concluded that in Slovenia the restrictive model prevails, referring to rules under which the sale of sexual services is considered permissible, with some elements of both the repressive (e.g., public discourses condemning sexual work) and the integrative model (e.g., emphasizing victims' personal, labour, social, health rights).

Victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of forced labour and labour exploitation in Slovenia are mainly migrant workers. They are vulnerable because they are in a weak position socially and economically and have weak legal knowledge. Employers exploit their vulnerability and recruit them in the construction, catering, transport, forestry, etc. industries with false promises and information about working and living conditions and payment. Perpetrators are usually not physically violent. Instead, violence is carried out by violating workers' rights in the forms of non-payment of wages or salaries in full, holiday pay and sick leaves, reduction of wages without justification, exceeding the number of working hours as stipulated by law, non-payment of contributions for health and pension insurance, deregistration of workers from compulsory insurance and changes to contracts without their knowledge, transfers to subsidiaries that have gone bankrupt, and threats of dismissal. In some cases, migrant workers (e.g., truck drivers) were forced to violate traffic legislation (e.g., exceeding time limits) and thus were forced into criminal activities. Victims suffer their victimization due to existential work dependence, and they take responsibility for the victimization themselves. Some do not recognize the victimization (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014). Regarding domestic servitude, Bučar Ručman and Frangež (2014) found this form of trafficking in human beings is present as well in Slovenia.

Victims of forced begging usually come from foreign countries with poor social and economic conditions, e.g., Romania, Slovakia, and the countries of the former Yugoslavia (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014; Puppis & Sluga, 2016). Victims are usually disabled persons; the elderly and children can be victims as well. The perpetrators exploit their vulnerability and manipulate them with their seemingly successful appearance. The perpetrators threaten the victims and physically force them to beg. Victims cannot manage the funds they receive, as most of the money is taken from them by perpetrators (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014).



Begging usually takes place in such a way that the perpetrators bring the victims to the place of begging and take them away at the end of the day (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014; Puppis & Sluga, 2016).

The Slovenian Police do not often deal with cases of trafficking in children, as the children in Slovenia live with guardians and are not homeless. Still, they can become victims of the following forms of trafficking: 1) sexual exploitation, 2) economic exploitation, 3) forced marriages, 4) trafficking in human organs, tissues, and blood, and 5) illegal adoptions (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014). Ten percent of professional workers have concerns that children may be at risk of sexual exploitation in the past five years (Kovač & Kos, 2023). The recruiters are often, i.e., "loverboys" who establish intimate relationships with the victims. In terms of economic exploitation, forced begging has been detected several times, and it was quickly stopped due to social reaction and the quick response of the Police and the social services. Individual cases of exploitation for the purpose of labour exploitation show it occurs in connection with the separation of waste and work in the forest. Also, several cases of forced criminality were detected in Slovenia. With respect to forced marriages, these happen mainly among Roma communities, but also in some other communities (e.g., Albanian) (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014). According to the so-called Roma tradition, girls are suitable for marriage at the time of their first menstruation, mainly around the age of 15 (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014; Narat et al., 2014). The critical role has a father, whose debt to another family or potential partner is a common reason for marriage (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014; Narat et al., 2014). Motives are also related to the patriarchal social structure to preserve Roma culture, prevention free decision-making about the life of the child, and exist from poverty. In Roma tradition, the wedding is significant, and it can last several days and cause high financial costs. The groom's family pays the dowry or purchase price, which is a mechanism that prevents victims from expressing their will. If victims break the agreement, it represents severe shame for the family, and the purchase price is returned to the groom's father in double the amount. As a result, violations of the agreement are rare. After the victims are sold, they can suffer psychological, physical, and sexual abuse. The girls usually get pregnant and drop out of school. They rarely get a job later, typically take care of the children, and are excluded from society (Narat et al., 2014). In terms of illegal adoptions, suspicions raise cases of international adoptions of children from countries with poor conditions, cases where parents return to Slovenia with a child who was born abroad after emigrating abroad for several months, cases of adoptions from countries that are not signatories to the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and cases related to surrogacy. Slovenian Police have not yet detected any cases of trafficking in human organs, tissues, and blood, but this should not be interpreted as these are absent (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014; Frangež & Bučar Ručman, 2017).

RESEARCH METHODS

Using the PRISMA method (Moher et al., 2009), we reviewed the literature in Slovenian libraries' mutual bibliographic and cataloging database COBIB. Conducted from April 2023 to January 2024, the search used the following terms: »trgov* z ljudmi«, »trgov* z belim blagom«, »prostitu*«, »prisil* del* izkorišč*«, »prisil* kazniv* dejanj*«, »prisil* berač*«, »trgov* otro*«, »porok* otro*«, »prisil* poro*«, »nezakon* posv*«, »služabni*« and »trgov* člov* organ*«. In the review, we included scientific and professional contributions in Slovenian or English, which dealt with empirical research carried out in Slovenia or research related to Slovenia. The search was time-limited, covering results from 2014 and on. We excluded the contributions that were not written in Slovenian or English, did not deal with the required topic, were not empirical, and whose findings were not related to Slovenia. We excluded



diploma and master's theses, doctoral theses, conference abstracts, fiction, translations, and study material. The database retrieved 826. We included one result through additional research, i.e., grey field). The grey field involved the literature that we included based on the review of the websites of non-governmental organizations Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings), Slovenska karitas (Caritas Slovenia) in Slovenska filantropija (Slovene philanthropy) (Ministry of the Interior, n.d.). Duplicates included individual chapters in scientific monography that refer to the same research (Radačič & Pajnik, 2017). We included ten results in the analysis. Details of the literature review selection process are displayed in the Table 1.

TABLE 1: LITERATURE REVIEW SELECTION PROCESS WITH PRISMA METHOD

IDENTIFICATION OF RESULTS VIA DATABASE		RESULTS
Identification	No. of results identified through database searching	826
	No. of results identified through additional search (i.e., grey field)	1
Screening	No. of results reviewed by titles, keywords, and other information	827
	No. of results excluded after reviewing	801
	No. of excluded duplicates	8
Eligibility	No. of results reviewed by texts or abstracts	18
	No. of results excluded after reviewing the contents	8
Included	No. of all publications included in the analysis	10*
	No. of all research included in the analysis	8*

* There are a total of ten publications and eight empirical studies. The paper by Frangež and Bučar Ručman (2017) was based on the research described in Bučar Ručman and Frangež (2014). Additionally, a paper by Kogovšek Šalamon et al. (2023b) has the same content and describes the same research as an article by Kogovšek Šalamon et al. (2023a).

Of eight empirical research, four results were focused on trafficking in human beings (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014; Kogovšek Šalamon et al., 2023b; Narat et al., 2014), while four were not focused on this topic, but on identifying needs and problems of sex workers (Markelj et al., 2022), begging in the Municipality of Ljubljana (Puppis & Sluga, 2016), comparing Slovenian and Croatian policies related to prostitution (Radačič & Pajnik, 2017) and online discourses on the topics of prostitution and human trafficking (Pajnik & Renault, 2014). Three research are related to the projects that are linked to the topics we deal with in this project (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014; Markelj et al., 2022; Narat et al., 2014).



THE LATEST RESEARCH IN SLOVENIA

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings/Findings related to trafficking in human beings	Link
1	Bučar Ručman and Frangež (2014)	To research four forms of trafficking in human beings: trafficking in human beings for the purpose of forced labour and labour exploitation; trafficking in children; trafficking in human beings for the purpose of forced begging and other types of forced activities aimed at raising funds; trafficking in human beings for the purpose of forced criminality.	Qualitative study	Semi-structured interviews	Institutions, organizations working on the field of trafficking in human beings and are related to this field, professionals that meet with such cases, employers that employ foreign workers, and where the indices exist on trafficking in human beings, migrant workers and trade union representatives ($n=20$), purposive sampling.	The research suggests the presence of human trafficking, including forced labour exploitation, forced criminal activities, forced begging, and trafficking in children. Employers in Slovenia are aware of the poor social conditions of migrant workers in their countries of origin and exploit them by intentionally recruiting. Forced criminal activities occur together with labour exploitation. Victims of forced begging are brought in and taken away from the place of the begging at the end of the day. Children can be victims of sexual and economical exploitation, forced marriages, and illegal adoptions. There is no evidence of trafficking in human organs, tissues, and blood,	https://www.researchgate.net/publication/277197605_Zakljucno_porocilo_raziskave_Analiza_trgovine_z_ljudmi_z_namenom_izkoriscanja_delovne_sile_trgovine_z_otroki_prisilnega_beracenja_in_izvrsevanja_kaznivih_dejanj/link/55645dc608ae86c06b6a4238/download?tp



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings/Findings related to trafficking in human beings	Link
2	Kogovšek Šalamon et al. (2023b)	To analyse whether the regulatory framework in Slovenia regarding criminal offenses related to the exploitation of prostitution can be characterized as repressive, restrictive, or integrative.	Qualitative study	Content analysis of files from district courts	Files from district courts ($n=20$), purposive sampling	The prevailing model in Slovenia combines elements of both repressive and integrative approaches, leaning towards a restrictive framework.	https://www.policija.si/images/stories/Publikacije/RKK/PDF/2023/O3/NezaKogovsekSalamon_SocialnopravniVidiki.pdf



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings/Findings related to trafficking in human beings	Link
3	Kovač and Kos (2023)	To determine the perception of children abused for prostitution by professionals in high schools, educational institutions, residential groups, youth homes, non-governmental organizations, and social services.	Quantitative study	Questionnaires	Professionals in high schools, social services, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, youth homes, residential groups, youth centre, and crisis centre ($n=351$). There is no data about sampling in the report.	22% of respondents detected that it is possible that persons who were users of their programs were engaged in prostitution in the last five years. They were mostly women, followed by men and transgender people. 10% of professional workers had perceived the possibility of a child being the victim of sexual exploitation in the past five years. 26% reported detecting more than five such cases. The children were most often between 15 and 18 years old, and 19% were under 15.	https://drustvo-kljuc.si/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/RAZISKAVA_ZLO_RABA_OTROK_ZA_PR_OSTITUCIJO_V_SLOVENIJI_ANALIZA.pdf
4	Markelj et al. (2022)	To determine the problems and needs of sex workers in Slovenia.	Qualitative and quantitative study	Questionnaires, semi-structured interviews	Organizations in the field of trafficking in human beings and are related to this field ($n=20$), sex workers ($n=15$), and clients ($n=51$). Purposive sampling.	Prostitution is often related to human trafficking, violence, pimping, and various ways of exploitation. The victims of human trafficking rarely seek help because of their disinterest in resolving the problem.	https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/13607804211018480



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings/Findings related to trafficking in human beings	Link
5	Narat et al. (2014)	To determine the scope of premature and forced marriages of Roma children, to find out the main reasons and consequences of such marriage practices that victims face, and to prepare proposals and recommendations to the state for systematic solutions that would help to eliminate forced marriages in Slovenia.	Qualitative and quantitative study	Questionnaires, semi-structured interviews	Institutions, organizations working in the field of trafficking in human beings and are related to this field (including primary and high schools) ($n=417$), professionals that meet with such cases ($n=7$), and children that are victims of forced marriages ($n=7$). Purposive and snowball sampling.	Cases of forced marriages are often unreported. The factors that contribute to forced marriages are, for instance, the protection of family reputation, prevention of inappropriate relationships, protection of cultural values and norms, achievement of financial benefits, and long-standing family obligations. After the wedding, pregnancy and interruption of the school follow. Only a few victims join the labour market. The uneducated victim, whose primary concern is childcare, is strictly placed in the private sphere and can be the victim of domestic violence.	https://irssv.si/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Prisilne-poroke-romskih-deklic.pdf



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings/Findings related to trafficking in human beings	Link
6	Pajnik and Renault (2014)	To investigate if online discourses strength the divide between prostitution and trafficking in human being or offer new approaches to understanding these phenomena as interrelated.	Qualitative study	Content analysis of non-commercial websites	Non-commercial websites dealing with prostitution and human trafficking ($n=351$), purposive sampling	Non-commercial websites' discourses on prostitution and human trafficking display bipartite polarization, highlighting the persistence of the prostitution paradigm and the trafficking paradigm.	https://doi.org/10.1177/0539018414531677



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings/Findings related to trafficking in human beings	Link
7	Puppis and Sluga (2016)	To show the problem of begging in the Municipality of Ljubljana and offer long-term solutions at the level of the Municipality of Ljubljana and the Police Directorate Ljubljana for dealing with such cases.	Qualitative study	Interview	Institution, organization in the field of trafficking in human beings and are related to this field, and professionals that meet with such cases ($n=6$). There is no data on sampling in the research.	The most difficult form of begging is organized begging. Victims come to Slovenia with the purpose to increase their economic conditions. Perpetrators bring beggars to the streets and pick them up from there. Career criminals can be perpetrators of such crimes with the aim of extra income. The investigation includes covert investigative measures for which is difficult to obtain a warrant due to a lack of sufficient evidence.	https://www.fvv.um.si/programskaskupina/studentski-zbornik.pdf
8	Radačić and Pajnik (2017)	To compare Croatian and Slovenian policies related to prostitution.	Qualitative study	Semi-structured interviews	Professionals that meet with such cases, and ($n=3$) sex workers ($n=9$). Purposive sampling.	Pimps are primarily citizens of the Republic of Slovenia that legalize their activities through different economic activities (e.g., night clubs). They can come to prostitutes under the pretext of clients. The Police is proactive in identifying victims and pimps. They investigate with classic gathering statements and police undercover work.	https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321998770_Prostitution_in_Croatia_and_Slovenia_-_Sex_Worker's_Experiences_edited_by_Radacic_M_Pajnik



THE LATEST PROJECTS IN SLOVENIA

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	Bučar Ručman and Frangež (2014)	Analiza trgovine z ljudmi z namenom izkoriščanja delovne sile, trgovine z otroki, prisilnega beračenja in izvrševanja kaznivih dejanj (Analysis of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, trafficking in children, forced begging and forced criminality)	Funded by the Slovenian Government Communication Office	August–September 2014	Researchers conducted a qualitative survey by semi-structured interviews with various respondents (e.g., organizations working in the field of trafficking in human beings). The research represents the characteristics of crimes, victims, and perpetrators and involves detecting, investigating and preventing crimes.	To analyse specific forms of trafficking in human beings in Slovenia (forced labour and labour exploitation, trafficking in children, forced begging, and forced criminality).	https://www.researchgate.net/publication/277197605_Zakljucno_porocilo_raziskave_Analiza_trgovine_z_ljudmi_z_namenom_izkoriscanja_delovne_sile_trgovine_z_otroki_prisilnega_beracenja_in_izvrsevanja_kaznivih_dejanj



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
2	Dolinar et al. (2018)	Sem Ana in nisem tvoja Ančka (I am Ana and I am not your Ana doll)	Co-funded by the Public Scholarship, Development, Disability, and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia, and the European Social Fund	From June to September 2017	Qualitative and quantitative research was conducted by interviews with sex workers and organizations that are (in)directly related to the field of sex work and questionnaires for clients of sex workers. Research represents the needs and problems of sex workers in Slovenia.	To form rapid needs assessment in the field of prostitution, reduce harm, and improve the working conditions by awareness of clients of sex workers.	https://spol.si/blog/2018/01/17/sem-ana-in-nisem-tvoja-ancka/



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
3	Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (n.d.–a)	Celostna oskrba žrtev trgovine z ljudmi (Comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in human beings)	Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia	Since 2001	This support encompasses telephone counselling, psychosocial aid, help in relocating victims from threatening situations, crisis accommodation, accommodation in safe facilities, aid in connecting with law enforcement authorities, assistance in arranging the repatriation of victims in their country of origin if desired, and referral of victims to a relevant organization in their country of origin.	To provide tangible, no-cost support to victims, including foreign victims in Slovenia and Slovenian citizens.	https://drustvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/kurativni-projekti/celostna-oskrba-zrtev-tzl/



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
4	Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (n.d.–c)	Telesnica (The body)	Co-funded by the Slovenian Government Communication Office (in 2016, 2017) and by the Slovenian Government Communication Office, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Nationalities, and Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia	Since 2012	Telesnica is a virtual online store that shows what is sold in real trafficking in human beings in Slovenia. A man cannot buy anything from the store. With the help of an internet presentation, Ključ describes to the listeners the forms of trafficking in human beings, the real stories of the victims, the traps that perpetrators use to deceive and exploit the victims, and the procedure that follows the disclosure and report of such cases.	To raise awareness of students in high school, their parents, and school employees about trafficking in human beings.	https://www.telesnica.si/index.php?ro ute=information/information&information_id=4



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
5	Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (n.d.–d)	(Re)integracija žrtev trgovanja z ljudmi ((Re)integration of victims of trafficking in human beings)	Since its beginning, it has had different funders. Currently, it is funded by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia (the Police).	Since 2016	Offer support for starting an independent life, integration into the educational system, and help with learning, psychotherapy, psychosocial counselling, organization of leisure activities, and support for expanding the social network.	To establish system solutions for persons with the experience of trafficking in human beings in the process of (re)integration.	https://drustvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/kurativni-projekti/reintegracij-a/
6	Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (n.d.–e)	Da! življenju brez trgovine z ljudmi (Yes! to life without trafficking in human beings)	Supported by the sources of the Financial Mechanism EGP 2009–2014	2014–2016	The project implemented extensive preventative activities to reach as many children and young people as possible across Slovenia.	To raise awareness among children and young people throughout Slovenia and, in such a way, bring the issue of trafficking in human beings closer to them to the extent that they will be able to protect themselves and recognize the traps that perpetrators try to exploit them with.	https://drustvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/preventivni-projekti/zakljuceni-projekti/



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
7	Narat et al. (2014)	Prisilne poroke romskih deklic (Forced marriages of Roma girls)	Funded by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia	The research was conducted from April to July 2014.	Researchers conducted a qualitative and quantitative survey with different respondents (e.g., professionals who meet with such cases). Research represents the characteristics of crimes, perpetrators, and victims and provides proposals to improve this field's situation.	To find out what is the prevalence of premature and forced marriage of Roma children, what are the risk factors, and the consequences of victims of such crimes.	https://irssv.si/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Prisilne-poroke-romskih-deklic.pdf
8	Perger et al. (2015)	Preberi dvakrat! (Read twice!)	The project has been carried out as part of Master's degree studies in social pedagogy, specifically, the subject of Management in the Field of Social Pedagogy.	2015	Students posted fictitious and "suspicious" advertisements for babysitter and mobile secretary positions. The people who responded provided personal information and resumes to their emails.	To encourage users of online job agencies and the public to critically read job advertisements, to identify potential victims of human trafficking, and to raise awareness of job agencies and online forums about the importance of checking the content of advertisements.	https://www.dlib.si/stream/URN:NBN:SI:DOC-FL509IKR/cfae72db-203c-48a8-8ede-6d576ef06060/PDF



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
9	Slovenska filantropija (n.d.)	Boj proti trgovini z ljudmi – širjenje informacij je orožje proti izkoriščanju (2018) (Countering trafficking in human beings – spreading information is a weapon against exploitation)	Funded by the Slovenian Government Communication Office	1 st of April 2018 – 31 st of October 2018	It included 12 information workshops, with five targeting professionals and volunteers interacting with applicants for international protection and persons with recognized international protection. The remaining seven workshops were tailored for applicants for international protection, children, and persons whose applications were rejected.	To raise awareness among applicants for international protection, persons with recognized international protection, and persons whose applications for international protection was rejected about trafficking in human beings, and to identify potential victims who need additional support and protection and refer them to organizations that can provide them.	https://www.filantropija.org/boj-proti-trgovini-z-ljudmi-sirjenje-informacij-je-orozje-proti-izkoriscanju-2018/
10	Iz principa (n.d.)	Trgovina z ljudmi (Trafficking in human beings)	Co-funded by the Slovenian Government Communication Office	2014 (two days)	The opening of a »human store« in Ljubljana, into which passengers-by were invited with »live items« (e.g., prostitutes, forced beggars) packed in large packages that resemble toy packing in children's stores (e.g., Barbie).	To raise awareness about trafficking in human beings.	https://izprincipa.si/projekt/trgovina-z-ljudmi/



GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN SLOVENIA

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Slovenska karitas (Caritas Slovenia)	A charitable organization of the Roman Catholic Church in Slovenia with the purpose of realizing the charitable and social mission of the Church. In the field of human trafficking, their focus is on prevention, assistance to victims, education, and international cooperation.	Established in 1990, since 2006, they offer help and support to victims of human trafficking	They provide victims of human trafficking with a safe environment, including accommodation, food, and care. Additionally, they offer 24-hour phone support, healthcare, interpretation services in 19 different languages, safety, counselling (including psychosocial support, advice, and information about their rights in a language they understand), and assistance in arranging for the victim to return to their country of origin.	They offered preventative activities for primary and secondary schools, legal representatives of unaccompanied minors and other legal guardians in Slovenia, as well as the general public.	https://www.karitas.si/pomoc/pomoc-zrtvam-trgovine-z-ljudmi/kam-po-pomoc/



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Funding research project entitled “Analiza trgovine z ljudmi z namenom izkoriščanja delovne sile, trgovine z otroki, prisilnega beračenja in izvrševanja kaznivih dejanj” (Analysis of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, trafficking in children, forced begging and forced criminality) by the Government Communication Office of Slovenia	To analyse labour exploitation, trafficking in children, forced begging, and forced criminality in Slovenia.	August–September 2014	Semi-structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders and migrant workers.	Migrant workers in Slovenia are vulnerable due to poor social and economic conditions in their countries of origin. Employers exploit this by recruiting workers. Instances of human trafficking, including forced begging, forced criminality, and child trafficking, have been detected. However, there is no evidence of trafficking in human organs, tissues, or blood.	https://www.researchgate.net/publication/277197605_Zakljucno_porocilo_raziskave_Analiza_trgovine_z_ljudmi_z_namenom_izkoriscanja_delovne_sile_trgovine_z_otroki_prisilnega_beracenja_in_izvrsevanja_kaznivih_dejanj



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings)	The non-governmental organizational that works in the field of preventing trafficking in human beings and offers direct forms of help to potential and actual victims.	Established in 2001	Developing preventive and curative programs in the field of raising awareness among general and professional public, as well as potential and actual victims of trafficking in human beings; participating in the development of policies and programs that prioritize the needs of victims, implementing and developing programs in which victims are included, and offering emergency assistance and care to victims.	During the years of operation, they established crisis accommodation, opened the safe space, and published novels and monography. Every year they conduct activities for awareness and trainings (e.g., for professional workers, children, and the young, vulnerable groups of people, public). They carry out projects such as "(Re)integration".	https://drustvo-kljuc.si/o-drustvu-kljuc/



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
The National Working Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Medresorska delovna skupina za boj proti trgovini z ljudmi)	The aims include tasks related to legislation, prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes, as well as providing assistance to and protection of victims, and fostering cooperation within regional and international organizations. The working group consists of 18 members from different institutions and 7 independent external members from various institutions and organizations.	Established in 2003	Their activities include developing periodic action plans and supervising their implementation; creating periodic reports for the Slovenian Government; assisting the national coordinator in proposing improvements to policies and measures for combating trafficking in human beings, especially related to prevention and providing support to trafficking victims.	Annually, they publish action plans and reports of their work, which are available on their webpage.	https://www.gov.si/en/registries/working-bodies/the-national-working-group-for-combating-trafficking-in-human-being/



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
The project "Boj proti trgovini z ljudmi – širjenje informacij je orožje proti izkoriščanju" (Countering trafficking in human beings – spreading information is a weapon against exploitation)	To raise awareness among applicants for international protection, persons with recognized international protection, and persons whose applications for international protection was rejected about trafficking in human beings.	1 st of April 2018 – 31 st of October 2018	It involved 12 information workshops. Five of them were aimed at professionals and volunteers who come in touch with applicants for international protection and persons with recognized international protection. Seven workshops were aimed at applicants for international protection, children, and persons whose application for international protection was rejected.	Migrants, volunteers, and professionals are insufficiently familiar with forms of trafficking in human beings, with actions that reduce the risks of victimization, methods of identifying potential victims, and forms of help. The most vulnerable groups of people (e.g., children and unaccompanied minors) are at the most significant risk of becoming victims.	https://www.filantropija.org/b-oj-proti-trgovini-z-ljudmi-sirjenje-informacij-je-orozje-proti-izkoriscanju-2018/ https://www.filantropija.org/2018/10/29/boj-proti-trgovini-z-ljudmi-sirjenje-informacij-je-orozje-proti-izkoriscanju-3/



INFORMATION ON OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE SELECTED TOPIC

In Slovenia, there are several programs of treatments of victims of human trafficking (Table 5):

1. The Celostna oskrba žrtev trgovine z ljudmi–krizna namestitvev (Comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in human beings–crisis accommodation) program consists of care lasting to 30 days for identified victims who need immediate withdrawal to the sheltered environment. Slovenska karitas (Caritas Slovenia), which implements the program, offers accommodation, material help, assistance in providing primary health care, psychosocial help, counselling regarding victims' rights in a language they understand, translation and interpretation, and assistance returning to their country of origin Ministry of the Interior, n.d.). The program was established in 2006 and is funded by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia. Since 2016, 63 victims of human trafficking were included in the program (Tiegl, 2024).
2. The Celostna oskrba žrtev trgovine z ljudmi–varna namestitvev (Comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in human beings–safe accommodation) program is implemented by Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings). The program aims to provide victims with safe accommodation and involves victim's cooperation with the police. Victims who participate in the program receive counselling and crucial assistance, including support for attending court hearings or medical examinations. In addition to practical help, they also benefit from essential financial aid provided on a weekly basis. The program also includes thorough training for professionals responsible for providing care. To offer even more flexibility, victims have the option to return to their countries of origin within the program's framework. The program was established in 2001 and is funded by the Ministry of the Interior of Republic of Slovenia. Since 2016, 20 victims of human trafficking were included in the program (Tiegl, 2024).
3. In 2016, Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.–d) started with the project (Re)integracija žrtev trgovine z ljudmi ((Re)integration of victims of trafficking in human beings) intending to provide system solution for victims in the process of (re)integration. The program involves learning Slovenian, enrolling in educational systems, finding employment, and organizing free time through voluntary work and other activities, such as sports (Kovač, 2019). The individuals received psychosocial support, assistance in document organization, learning, job search, escorting to institutions, and inclusion in counselling activities (Kovač, 2019; Ministry of the Interior, n.d.). The program is funded by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia (the Police) (Ministry of the Interior, n.d.). Since 2019, 30 victims of human trafficking were included in the program (Tiegl, 2024).
4. The PATS project is dedicated to identifying, assisting, and protecting victims of human trafficking and sexual violence within the asylum system. Implemented by the Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings), the project involves providing asylum seekers with crucial information on human trafficking, sexual violence, and gender-based violence, as well as supporting. As part of this initiative, staff members from the Društvo Ključ – center za boj



proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) visit asylum centres to educate individuals on recognizing and reporting human trafficking, and where to seek help. Additionally, they ensure that asylum seekers have access to a range of support programs. Since 2016, 1,704 asylum seekers were offered help in the PATS program (Tiegl, 2024).

5. The project Podpora osebam v prostituciji (Support for people in prostitution) is implemented by Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings). The support program is designed for individuals involved in prostitution, recognizing that they may also be victims of human trafficking. The program aims to provide various forms of help and support, either in person (through meetings with professionals) or anonymously (via telephone, email, or social networks). Professionals in the project provide personalized care and guidance to individuals involved in prostitution. They work to raise awareness about improving overall health, including mental health, and empower individuals to take control of their lives. The program aims to enhance psychological well-being, build confidence, expand options, and offer support for a safe exit from prostitution, if the individual chooses to do so. The project is co-funded by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia (Tiegl, 2024).
6. The program Celostna oskrba MOL (Comprehensive care MOL) is funded by Municipality of Ljubljana (MOL). The program is similar to the program Celostna oskrba žrtev trgovine z ljudmi-varna namestitvev (Comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in human beings-safe accommodation). Within MOL program, the Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) offers five-day crisis accommodation to individuals who have not yet been identified by the police as victims of human trafficking but who need a rescue from their current situation (Tiegl, 2024).
7. In the program Prava zveza (Right relationship) the Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) collaborates with several other organizations, including the Legebitra Association (Društvo Legebitra), the Young Dragons Public Institute (Javni zavod Mladi zmaji), the SOS Telephone Association for Women and Children – Victims of Violence (Društvo SOS telefon za ženske in otroke – žrtve nasilja), the Reclaim the Power Association (Združenje za moč), Association for nonviolent communication (Društvo za nenasilno komunikacijo), Social marketing Out of principle (Socialni marketing Iz principa), and Association DrogArt (Združenje DrogArt). The project's main goal is to provide mutual education, share relevant information, and offer support and help in challenging cases. It aims to empower young people to recognize different forms of violence, identify their own violent behaviour, and take appropriate action in cases of violence. The project has been established in 2015 (Tiegl, 2024).



Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results	Link
Celostna oskrba žrtev trgovine z ljudmi – krizna namestitvev (Comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in human beings – crisis accommodation)	Crisis accommodation for victims of human trafficking implemented by Caritas Slovenia. The program is funded by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia.	Assistance to victims	To provide comprehensive care lasting to 30 days for identified victims who need immediate withdrawal from the sheltered environment.	Since 2006	The accommodation includes appropriate safe accommodation and material aid, assistance in providing basic health care, psychosocial support and assistance, information and counselling regarding victims' rights in a language they understand, translation and interpretation, and assistance in arranging the return to the country of origin.	Since 2016, 63 victims of human trafficking were included in the program (Tiegl, 2024).	https://www.karitas.si/pomoc/pomoc-zrtvam-trgovine-z-ljudmi/kam-po-pomoc/
Celostna oskrba žrtev trgovine z ljudmi – varna namestitvev (Comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in human beings – safe accommodation)	Safe accommodation for victims of human trafficking implemented by Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings). The program is funded by the Ministry of the Interior of Republic of Slovenia.	Assistance to victims	To provide victims who cooperate with the police with safe accommodation, help and support.	Since 2001	They help victims, both foreigners who are victims in Slovenia and Slovenian citizens. Victims who participate in the program receive counselling and crucial assistance, including support for attending court hearings or medical examinations. In addition to practical help, they also benefit from essential financial aid provided on a weekly basis. The program also includes thorough training for professionals responsible for providing care. To offer even more flexibility, victims have the option to return to their countries of origin within the program's framework.	Since 2016, 20 victims of human trafficking were included in the program (Tiegl, 2024).	https://drustvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/kurativni-projekti/celostna-oskrba-zrtev-tzl/



Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results	Link
(Re)integracija žrtev trgovine z ljudmi ((Re)integration of victims of trafficking in human beings)	(Re)integration of victims of trafficking in human beings. It is funded by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia (the Police).	Integration of victims	To establish a system solution for victims in the process of (re)integration.	Since 2016	(Re)integration includes learning the Slovenian language in cases of foreign victims, enrolment in the educational system of certification of already acquired education, assistance in finding employment, and organizing free time through voluntary work and other free-time activities (e.g., sports).	Since 2019, 30 victims of human trafficking were included in the program (Tiegl, 2024). They were included in the educational system, and were offered psychosocial support and help, support in organizing documents, learning, looking for a job, escorting to institutions, and inclusion in counselling activities.	https://drustvo-kljuc.si/nase-delokurativni-projekti/reintegracija/
PATS project	Identifying, assisting, and protecting victims of human trafficking and sexual violence within the asylum system. The program is implemented by Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings)	Assistance to victims	To provide asylum seekers with crucial information on human trafficking, sexual violence, and gender-based violence, as well as supporting	Since 2005	As part of this initiative, staff members from the Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) visit asylum centres to educate individuals on recognizing and reporting human trafficking, and where to seek help. Additionally, they ensure that asylum seekers have access to a range of support programs (Tiegl, 2024)	Since 2016, 1,704 asylum seekers were offered help in the PATS program (Tiegl, 2024).	https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/boj-proti-trgovini-z-ljudmi/pomoc-in-zascita-zrtev/ ; https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rc=t=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.drustvo-kljuc.si/files/PATS_PROJEKT.ppt&ved=2ahUKEwit6O7N_qGIAXlhp0HHX3eApAQFnoECA4OAO&usg=AOvVaw33nSjkHpophNziXQlSdn1F



Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results	Link
Podpora osebam v prostituciji (Support for people in prostitution)	The support program is designed for individuals involved in prostitution, recognizing that they may also be victims of human trafficking. The project co-funded by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia.	Assistance to potential victims	The program aims to provide various forms of help and support, either in person (through meetings with professionals) or anonymously (via telephone, email, or social networks).	Ongoing program	Professionals in the project provide personalized care and guidance to individuals involved in prostitution. They work to raise awareness about improving overall health, including mental health, and empower individuals to take control of their lives. The program aims to enhance psychological well-being, build confidence, expand options, and offer support for a safe exit from prostitution, if the individual chooses to do so.	The program is available to all, providing free and accessible support without any obligation to exit prostitution. This inclusive approach ensures that help is available to those who need it, regardless of their current situation.	https://drustvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/kurativni-projekti/podpora-osebam-v-prostituciji/
Celostna oskrba MOL (Comprehensive care MOL)	The program is funded by Municipality of Ljubljana (MOL).	Assistance to victims	To provide crisis accommodation	Ongoing program	The program offers five-day crisis accommodation to individuals who have not yet been identified by the police as victims of human trafficking but who need a rescue from their current situation (Tiegl, 2024).	/	https://dk.um.si/IzpisGradiva.php?id=89580



Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results	Link
Prava zveza (Right relationship)	Organizations in Slovenia are collaborating to achieve better results in their shared working field.	Multiagency cooperation	The project's main goal is to provide mutual education, share relevant information, and offer support and help in challenging cases. It aims to empower young people to recognize different forms of violence, identify their own violent behaviour, and take appropriate action in cases of violence.	Since 2015	Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) collaborates with several other organizations, including the Legebitra Association (Društvo Legebitra), the Young Dragons Public Institute (Javni zavod Mladi zmaji), the SOS Telephone Association for Women and Children – Victims of Violence (Društvo SOS telefon za ženske in otroke – žrtve nasilja), the Reclaim the Power Association (Združenje za moč), Association for nonviolent communication (Društvo za nenasilno komunikacijo, Social marketing Out of principle (Socialni marketing Iz principa), and Association DrogArt (Združenje DrogArt) (Tiegl, 2024).	/	More information in Tiegl (2024).



CASE STUDIES IN SLOVENIA

CASE STUDY 1: Police operation in a case of human trafficking in Slovenia

In a recent operation, the Ljubljana Police uncovered an extensive criminal organization involved in human trafficking, exploitation through prostitution, illicit drug trafficking, and illegal border crossings. According to Stojan Belšak from the Criminal Police Department, the investigation began near the end of 2021 after reports from two trafficking victims and was coordinated by the Specialized State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia. The organization, led by a 65-year-old man from Ljubljana, coerced victims into prostitution across various locations and collected a portion of their earnings. A Slovenian woman, one of his key aides, continued aiding the network even while serving a prison sentence. The operation revealed that nine suspects trafficked 43 victims from countries like Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, and Slovenia. At the end of the investigation 6 individuals in Ljubljana were identified as victims of human trafficking. The Police filed 17 charges for human trafficking and 26 for exploitation-related offenses.

Additionally, a suspect from Montenegro facilitated illegal crossings for 378 migrants *en route* to Western Europe with the help of taxi drivers and their associates, while Slovenian suspects managed logistics and payment channels, including Western Union and Revolut. The investigation also exposed connections to illicit drug trafficking using concealed surveillance measures. Two suspects, in collaboration with a 47-year-old from Ljubljana, engaged in illicit drug distribution, resulting in the seizure of cocaine (200 grams) and cannabis (2 kilograms). Police carried out 22 house searches among multiple locations in Ljubljana and Kranj, seizing illicit drugs, firearms, including a Scorpion automatic pistol, revolvers, and semi-automatic pistols, and approximately €30,000.

To date, 27 individuals face 113 charges for 113 organized crime-related offenses, including human trafficking, prostitution, smuggling of foreign nationals across borders, and illicit drug trafficking, with 12 suspects detained (eleven remained in custody and one under house arrest). The estimated illicit gains from these criminal activities amount to approximately €200,000 and financial investigations are still ongoing to track further illegal profits. The extensive investigation, concluding on the 5th of December 2023, was conducted in collaboration with other police directorates and the General Police Directorate of Slovenia with the aim to curb human trafficking, illegal migration, and illicit drug trade, which have continued to affect Slovenia and its role in European transit networks (Delo, 2023; Policija, 2023b; RTV Slovenija, 2023).

CASE STUDY 2: Forced marriages of children as a form of human trafficking

Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Human Trafficking) has drawn attention to the forced marriages of Roma children and young people with the traveling exhibition titled “My Dreams” which started in 2015.

The exhibition comprises seven portraits of children and youth, who are depicted in professions they dreamed of (e.g., a dancer, singer, basketball player, football player) but did not achieve because they could not choose their own future. Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi wanted to raise awareness about the fact that Roma children are often discriminated against and have their rights violated. Forced marriages, sexual abuse, labour exploitation, slavery, forced begging, and the commitment of criminal acts are a fact in some of the Roma communities. While Roma boys are mostly exploited for labour, Roma



girls are exploited for forced marriages. The offences are rarely prosecuted, and the perpetrators are convicted on even rarer occasions. The portraits were exhibited in multiple locations, such as Ljubljana, Maribor, Kranj, Kočevje, Novo mesto, Gotenica and Koper. In 2016, the exhibition was also displayed at the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor, in Ljubljana.

During the exhibition in Novo mesto there was a short conference, where Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) presented findings of a study about forced Roma marriages in Slovenia. In these cases, a child is not officially married to an adult; however, they begin living together after the first sexual intercourse, which is considered sexual abuse in the majority of cases. The study reveals that in the context of forced marriages, Roma girls from Slovenia are sold abroad to countries such as Italy and Germany for prices ranging from €15,000 to €30,000. Additionally, Roma girls sold to Slovenia often come from Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo, with a price ranging around €5,000. The findings reveal the humiliating position of girls in their so-called “husbands” homes, where they essentially become house servants to the entire family. They are punished for every mistake they make and are often unable to attend school. Many give birth very young, even as early as 11 years old, though most typically become mothers by the age of 15 (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, 2015a, 2015b, 2016a, 2016b; M., Ž., in L., M., 2015; Pokrajinska in študijska knjižnica Murska Sobota, 2016; Stanovnik, 2015).

Preventive campaigns, such as exhibition “My Dreams”, are crucial for raising public awareness that all children, including Roma children, have the same rights. Forced marriages of children are a crime, a form of human trafficking and a serious violation of human rights, and not a part of Roma tradition and culture.



Photograph 1. A Roma girl is posing in front of the camera for the exhibition “My Dreams”



Belgium

THE LATEST RESEARCH IN BELGIUM

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Raets and Janssens (2019)	Creating a picture of the state of affairs of the financing of human trafficking	Literature review & interviews	Literature, interviews & national databases	Different actors at different levels involved in tackling human trafficking in Belgium	Human trafficking is a persistent challenge with low risk and high profitability. Despite its grave consequences, convictions are infrequent and often result in lenient sentences. Efforts to combat trafficking must address its under-detected nature and the evolving tactics of traffickers, including a shift towards more private forms of exploitation facilitated by technological advancements. Collaboration between law enforcement and financial investigators and international cooperation is crucial to tackle the transnational nature of trafficking networks. However, disrupting trafficking operations requires a nuanced approach beyond solely focusing on criminal prosecution, including targeting the financial infrastructure of trafficking organizations to prevent their continued operation.	https://biblio.ugent.be/publication/8601398



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
2	Dienst voor het strafrechtelijk beleid, FOD Justitie (2023)	Annual review of the fight against human trafficking for the government	Quantitative analysis	Judicial databases and police records, ECOSOC	/	Human trafficking for economic exploitation occurs across various sectors, often in less regulated industries with labour shortages. Victims, typically low-skilled individuals in precarious situations, are exploited, sometimes by their own nationality, and forced into debt bondage. Vulnerable victims, including irregular residents and EU citizens, are affected. Detection varies by rural or urban settings and Belgian provinces, influenced by investigative resources. Myria urges authorities to enhance proactive controls in high-risk sectors and bolster front-line service capacities, including ECOSOC teams.	https://www.myria.be/files/2023_MYRIA Jaarlijks evaluatie verslag Mensenhandel en mensensmokkel-3.2.pdf
3	Raets and Janssens (2021)	Exploring the Role of Digital Communication Technologies in the Belgian Human Trafficking Business	Systematic literature review and qualitative interviews	Keyword search of electronic databases and face-to-face interviews	convicted trafficking offenders and professionals working in the anti-trafficking field in Belgium	The text challenges the notion that online platforms worsen human trafficking, emphasizing the varied use of technology by traffickers and law enforcement. While technology expands traffickers' capabilities, it doesn't replace traditional methods entirely. Instead, old and new techniques coexist, mainly affecting logistics. Technology also lowers entry barriers, enabling smaller networks to engage in trafficking. This sophistication requires a corresponding advancement in anti-trafficking efforts. The study suggests an adaptive approach to address the evolving landscape of technology-facilitated trafficking.	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10610-019-09429-z



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
4	Gawronski et al. (2022)	Examination of whether an offender could be prosecuted under both regimes simultaneously without violating the principle of ne bis in idem.	Case study	International and Belgian legislation	Case study of Belgium	The text discusses the overlap between legal frameworks for human trafficking involving organ removal and organ trafficking, which can lead to potential double prosecution for the same act. It highlights factors influencing this, such as concurrent or successive prosecutions and international recognition of court decisions. Recommendations include harmonizing legal interpretations, improving international cooperation, and providing guidance for prosecutors and law enforcement to prevent double prosecution and ensure fair treatment.	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10610-020-09466-z#Sec8
5	Camargo Magalhaes (2017)	Exploration of how different regimes interact with the anti-trafficking policy mechanism.	Case study	Belgian legislation and interviews	Experts on human trafficking and a recognized victim	The article discusses how Belgium's anti-trafficking framework falls short in addressing labour exploitation among migrant domestic workers. It suggests expanding protections beyond trafficking to cover all forms of exploitation, empowering workers and deterring exploitation. Recognizing and valuing domestic work, implementing international labour standards, and promoting a shift in societal attitudes are proposed as crucial steps in combating exploitation.	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15562948.2017.1305472



THE LATEST PROJECTS IN BELGIUM

No	Author	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	Myria and NICC (2023)	Onderzoeksproject TRAQ	Trafic Analyses Qualitatives	The end of 2023 - December 2025	Federal	The TRAQ project aims to advance the fight against human smuggling through qualitative research on the profiles of smuggling victims and their interactions with frontline services. Its objectives include gaining insight, identifying challenges, and informing stakeholders about these issues.	https://www.myria.be/nl/mensenhandel-smokkel/onderzoeksproject-traq
2	Sürya	/	Social organisation specialising in the reception, support and accommodation of victims of trafficking and international human smuggling.	Ongoing since 2013	Wallonia	The association's corporate purpose is to receive, support and accommodate victims of international trafficking in human beings and non-European victims of aggravated trafficking. It works to help victims integrate into society. Or, if they so wish, reintegration into their country of origin.	https://www.asblsurya.org/le-projet
3	PAG-ASA and Safe.Brussels (2019)	OUTREACH	Outreaching to presumed victims	Ongoing since 2019	Brussels	The project allows the organisation to meet other frontline services, to better understand their work and to establish closer collaboration by accompanying police and labour inspection services during their checks or by remaining 'stand-by' during their actions in order to come on site when they have found presumed victims.	https://pag-asa.be/support-to-victims
4	PAG-ASA	BABYSITTER	Supporting single mothers with small children who cannot afford a babysitter or do not have a social network.	Ongoing	Brussels	Allowing mothers to focus on the content of their important appointments in the frame of the victim protection procedure while their children are taken care of.	https://pag-asa.be/support-to-victims



No	Author	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
5	Payoke	Libes (Life Beyond the Shelter)	Produce and apply real-life solutions like a long-term intervention kit, and independent living skills training curriculum.	2019-2024	Federal (and multi-national)	Life Beyond the Shelter aims to ensure positive long-term integration for third-country national victims of trafficking in the host society by reinforcing support in the transition from shelter life to independence.	https://libes.org/project/

GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN BELGIUM

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Photo Voice	Giving victims a chance to share their stories and thus making other people aware of this.	Ongoing since 2014	Victims, with the help of professional photographers, can stage a moment from their past thus reach the general public and can express themselves without endangering their private lives.	Making invisible victims of human trafficking visible and thus promoting awareness of the problem among the general public.	https://pag-asa.be/nl/photovoice
Housing assistance	Integration of human trafficking victims	Ongoing	Transition apartments, housing coach, rental deposit fund	With transition apartments victims are offered the opportunity to experience an autonomous life, the housing coach supports victims with their house hunt and the rental deposit fund offers interest-free loans to victims who do not have sufficient resources.	https://pag-asa.be/support-to-victims
Group activities	Creating new connections in order to emerge from isolation	Ongoing	Group activities inside and outside the shelter house: talking spaces, yoga sessions, language courses, workshops on varying and diverse	The group activities help victims to recover after exploitation by building a social life and experiencing the joy of sharing. It helps creating new	https://pag-asa.be/support-to-victims



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
			themes and cultural and sporting excursions.	connections in order to emerge from isolation.	
EMN Belgium	To provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum in order to support policy-making in Belgium and in the European Union. Also to share this information with the public.	Ongoing since 2008	Exchange of information	EMN Belgium produces an annual policy report, does up to three thematic studies a year, produces information leaflets, quarterly reports, a glossary and other informative products, but also answers urgent ad hoc questions.	https://www.emnbelgium.be/nl/emn-belgie-0
First-line legal assistance	Offering legal assistance	Ongoing	Offering practical information, legal info and initial legal advice for free. If necessary, one is referred to a specialised organisation. This free service, organised by the Legal Aid Commission, is open to everyone, regardless of your income.	Offer people who may be victims of trafficking first legal help and refer them to the correct authority.	https://slachtofferzorg.be/mensenhandel



INFORMATION ON OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE SELECTED TOPIC

Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results
Belgian Helpline for Victims of Human Trafficking	Stop human trafficking	Detection	To detect trafficking victims faster by giving both victims and others the opportunity to report it.	Ongoing since 2022	Federal	The helpline engages with victims of trafficking and offers them support. https://www.stophumantrafficking.be/nl/
PAG-ASA	Training and awareness-raising tools for professionals	Detection	Informing professionals who could come into contact with groups at risk and/or (potential) victims	Ongoing	Federal	PAG-ASA has informed or briefed over 4.000 professionals over the last five years who consist of police, social services, magistrates, mentors, social workers, youth support services, health professionals and anyone who could come into contact with groups at risk and/or (potential) victims. The training courses are tailored to the needs and expectations of the participants. https://pag-asa.be/training
/	SAMILIA foundation	Prevention and detection	Warn, inform and raise awareness.	Ongoing since 2007	International	Samilia conducts awareness campaigns as well as field projects. This seeks to alert and sensitise potential victims and the environment (such as businesses) in the country of origin as well as in the country of destination. In addition, they create employment and/or training opportunities for victims and vulnerable populations in partnership with businesses and by supporting social entrepreneurship and job placement. http://samilia.org/a-propos/#humain



Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results
Blue Heart campaign	Support from the department of Federal Justice	Prevention and detection	Raise awareness	Since July 2023	Federal + local	The Federal Department of Justice aims to create awareness around the disturbing trends in human trafficking. Efforts are being stepped up to prevent, identify and support victims. To this end, the service makes awareness material available to other authorities and partners. The Interdepartmental Cell strengthens coordination in tackling human trafficking and the federal judicial police prioritises human trafficking. https://justitie.belgium.be/nl/nieuws/persberichten/elk_slachtoffer_van_mensenhandel_telt_laet_niemand_achter
Payoke	Teenage pimp examination	Creating awareness & detection	Making as many people, young people and their surroundings aware of the methods of teenage pimps as possible, as understanding the right words can help recognise the methods faster.	Ongoing since 2008	Federal	The information and testimonies raise young people's awareness, make them more resilient and arm them against exploiters. In this way, parents, friends, family, teachers, guardians and supervisors learn what exploitation looks like and where they can turn with questions. Anyone can become a victim of a teenage pimp. https://www.payoke.be/examen-tienerpooier/



Finland

THE LATEST RESEARCH IN FINLAND

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Koivukari et al. (2022)	This research report focuses on how criminal provisions on human trafficking and its associated crimes, most notably pandering and extortionate work discrimination, are applied in practice.	Qualitative analysis,	Semi-structured interviews (n=8), Data from police, prosecution service and Legal register Centre	Semi-structured interviews, Data from police, prosecution service and Legal register Centre. In the research pre-trial decisions, decisions made in prosecutorial stage and court decisions on human trafficking and associated crimes from 2010–2020 are analysed	One of the most crucial findings is that the nature or character of the act of human trafficking is not fully understood, and this also applies with the understanding of the purpose and the contents of criminal legislation on human trafficking. Human trafficking for forced labour, in turn, should be seen as economic crime, which would more often entail corporate criminal liability and more effective confiscation of the proceeds of crime. The challenges in applying the provisions on human trafficking and associated crimes mostly result from the sparsity of legal practice concerning human trafficking. Common knowledge on the phenomenon of human trafficking is not among the best ones and there is little legal literature and education on it. The status of the victim should also be improved. In addition, attention should be paid to obtaining evidence during criminal investigation and using appropriate and possible coercive measures in investigating human trafficking and associated crimes.	http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-330-2



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
2	Kervinen and Ollus (2019)	Construct a comprehensive picture of children and young people trafficking in human beings in Finland.	Survey Interview	Survey (n=117), Interview (n=16)	Professionals mainly at social field; social care professionals, health care professionals, and mental health professionals, pre-trial investigation authorities, curators, lawyers, representatives of minors, coordinators, youth workers, public administration officials, education professionals.	The abuse faced by children and young people is not always identified as human trafficking, but it is understood to be another use for good. Between municipalities and authorities understanding of children and trafficking in young people varies. Awareness of human trafficking should be increased with clear guidelines.	Report Series No 89: Lapsiin ja nuoriin kohdistuva ihmiskauppa Suomessa Heuni



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
3	Koskenoja et al. (2018)	The aim of the report is to produce information supporting decision-making and anti-trafficking activities, which benefits ministries and other public authorities, as well as non-governmental organisations that operate victims of human trafficking	Interviews, reports in client data base	Research of official documents (n=66), interviews (n=83)	Client records concerning assistance provided to 66 victims of human trafficking. Interviews a total of 83 specialists working in the field of counteracting human trafficking	The report shows that the social and health administration in municipalities is not familiar with the act that applies to the reception and assistance of victims of human trafficking and that the special status victims of human trafficking should have in receiving services is not realised in municipalities. Victims of human trafficking do not always receive the statutory services they would be entitled to. There are Finnish citizens belonging to the native population among the victims as well. The report also reveals that there are people in Finland who, in spite of their need for assistance for reasons related to human trafficking, do not get sufficient help from the system of assistance for victims of human trafficking or who do not find their way to or are not within the scope of the assistance provided by the authorities. According to the report, a central reason for this is the strong link between the provision of assistance for the victims of human trafficking and the process of bringing perpetrators to justice (the criminal process) that results from legislation and its application. This link seems to have strengthened with the legislative amendment that entered into force in 2015. The reception centre in Joutseno carries out good work with its clients as well as good cooperation with other authorities.	http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-287-528-Q



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
4	Pihlaja and Piipponen (2023)	Supporting the construction of a cooperation network between authorities and organisations and strengthening the competence of actors to identify trafficking in human beings related to gender-based violence and sexual abuse, to promote detection, and to assist victims to direct the district	Case study, quantitative and qualitative methods	Data ($n=184$) cases	Clients of Victim Support Finland's special support service for victims of human trafficking between 1 November 2022 and 31 January 2023.	This report examines the cases of victims of human trafficking who have experienced sexual violence, including persons in forced marriages, who were clients of Victim Support Finland's special support service for victims of human trafficking between 1 November 2022 and 31 January 2023. Based on the study, to provide comprehensive assistance for victims of human trafficking the reasons behind the exploitation first need to be identified and addressed. Multi-sectoral and flexible cooperation across a range of organisations can provide the most comprehensive forms of support, helping the victim to leave the abuser, recover and create stability for their life. On the one hand, comprehensive healthcare and social welfare services and other support services contributed to the success of the criminal investigation and therefore the entire criminal procedure. On the other hand, the success of the criminal procedure or being heard during the procedure supported the victim's recovery and future oriented attitude, preventing re-victimisation.	http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-400-771-9



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
5	Viuhko (2019)	The study yields an analysis of the human trafficking situation in Finland during the first 15 years of the 2000s.	Qualitative	The study makes use of different materials: official documents (court judgments and pre-trial investigation records), interviews with victims of human trafficking and related exploitation, and expert interviews.	It comprises four sub-studies dealing with the overall theme of the control perpetrators impose on victims.	The study shows that the identified cases of human trafficking and related exploitation have changed their forms in certain ways between the period from the late 1990s to the beginning of the 2010s. Instead of large-scale pandering operations, exploitation between individuals and, at times, in close relationships is nowadays better identified in Finland in the contexts of working and private life. At the centre of the study lies the control perpetrators impose on victims and how this control restricts the agency of the victims. According to the study, the agency of the victims is restricted by the perpetrators, exploitative situations, and social structures. The restrictions set by physical, psychological, sexual, and financial control define the scope for the victim's action. In addition, the intertwined individual and structural factors have an influence on how one might become exposed to exploitation and on the fact that disentangling oneself from an exploitative relationship is not possible or easy. For instance, gender, age, ethnic background, and poverty can be connected to whether an individual is exposed to exploitation, and, on the other hand, lack of money, lack of language skills and the residence permit status can create obstacles to leaving the exploitative situation and the exploitative relationship. These restrictive factors on the victims' agency do not mean, however, that the victims are merely passive objects who cannot make any decisions about their own lives. Instead, the victims act within the limits set by the control that has been imposed on them.	HEUNI_Report_90_WEB_wit_h_covers.pdf



THE LATEST PROJECTS IN FINLAND

No	Author	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	Pekkarinen and Jokinen (2023)	ELECT THB - hankkeen (Enhanced Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training on Trafficking in Human Beings)	European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police.	2021 – 2023	Finland, Estonia, Latvia	The ELECT THB project aims to enhance the identification and investigation of trafficking in human beings (THB) for sexual and labour exploitation and increase collaboration between law enforcement authorities and other key actors to combat it.	https://heuni.fi/-/elect_thb
2	Ministry of Justice	SEIVE	Rikosuhripäivystyksen koordinoima, Coordinated by Victim support Finland	1.12.2021–31.8.2023.	National	The identification of vulnerable victims of human trafficking who have experienced sexual violence will be improved so that more and more of them would be directed to the services of the authorities.	Seksuaaliväkivaltaa kohdanneiden ihmiskaupan uhrien avunsaantia parannetaan – Valtioneuvosto
3	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland	Adding wild berry collection to the scope of the Seasonal Work Act	Preparation of legislation	21.5.2024 – 31.3.2025	National	The task of the working group is to prepare legislative amendments to the Seasonal Work Act and Decree so that it would be possible for wild berry collectors to enter the country with a permit entitling them to seasonal work in the future.	Luonnonmarjankeräämisen lisääminen kausityölain soveltamisalaan – Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö (tem.fi)
4	Ministry of Justice	Tehoa-project (NRM), Strengthening the anti-trafficking response	EU Internal Security Fund	13.3.2023 – 31.1.2025	National	The project prepares a national mechanism for identifying and guiding victims of human trafficking (NRM) in order to promote victim identification and secure access to assistance.	Tehoa-hanke (NRM) – Valtioneuvosto



No	Author	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
5	The Assistance system for victims of human trafficking	IKUT- project. Project to develop the working life skills and capabilities of victims of human trafficking	Go-funded by the European union	1.6.2020–28.2.2023	National	The aim of the IKUT project is to strengthen the working life skills of victims of human trafficking, to develop working life services for victims, to increase information on the position of victims of human trafficking in working life and to increase private sector participation in the work against human trafficking.	IKUT-hanke - Ihmiskauppa

GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN FINLAND

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Service for victims of human trafficking and related crimes	Human trafficking victim support	Ongoing	You can get in contact with the special support service when: You need information about human trafficking, you wonder if you or your client may have been a victim of human trafficking or other similar exploitation, you need information or guidance about for example the victim's rights, services, reporting a crime or how it may affect the victim's situation.		Service for victims of human trafficking and related crimes - Rikosuhrapäivystys (riku.fi)



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
The assistance system for victims of human trafficking.	The Assistance System for Victims of Human Trafficking is a national expert authority on issues related to human trafficking and anti-trafficking work. The purpose of the assistance system is to help victims of human trafficking and to provide advice on matters related to human trafficking.	2006 – on-going	The helpline of the help system is open 24 hours a day, every day of the week.		Auttamisjärjestelmä - ihmiskauppa
Pro-tukipiste ry.	Pro-tukipiste is a support for anyone who sells sex services or works in erotic professions	Ongoing	Low-threshold health and support services are welcome for anyone who sells sex services or has paid sex or works in erotic professions. The Pro-tukipiste also supports people involved in commercial sex who have been victims of human trafficking offences.		protukipiste.fi
Pakolaisneuvonta.fi.	A law firm specializing in foreign law and an NGO engaged in advocacy and expert work.	Ongoing	Low-threshold health and support services are welcome for anyone who sells sex services or has paid sex or works in erotic professions. The Pro-tukipiste also supports people involved in commercial sex who have been victims of human trafficking offences.		Etusivu – Pakolaisneuvonta
Monika – Multicultural womens´s assosiation, Finland.	An umbrella organisation of multicultural women's organisations that helps and supports women in different languages. Promotes the equality, non-discrimination and inclusion of women who have moved to Finland from other countries. Prevents violence against women.	Ongoing	CRISIS CENTRE MONIKA Low-threshold crisis assistance, psychosocial support and supportive housing services after a period in a shelter for those who have experienced violence or the threat of it. SHELTER MONA Shelter Mona is only for women and offers crisis help and safe housing if it is dangerous to stay at home because of violence. INTEGRATION CENTRE MONIKA Individual guidance, group activities and mentoring promoting integration and employment. Helpline and chat.		Monika-Naiset liitto ry - Tehdään naisten oikeuksista totta! (monikanaiset.fi)



LAUREA UAS STUDENT CONTRIBUTION ON VICTIMIZATION AND TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In addition to the Bachelor Theses by Laurea Correctional Services students, Laurea Bachelor and Master students of Social Services and Correctional Services have written JeS topics related blogs and research articles as part of their studies both in Finnish and in English. These articles and blogs will be added to the JeS website and will additionally be modified for the WP4 purposes to meet the needs of varied educational materials.

Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Literature Review on the Situation of Human Trafficking in Finland	Anttila, E. and Mikkilä, D., 2024	Finland	Bachelor thesis	According to the research results, the most identified forms of human trafficking in Finland are labour exploitation, trafficking for sexual exploitation, and forced marriages. Regarding underage victims, the most identified form is trafficking for sexual exploitation.	https://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi:amk-202405049149



Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Ihmiskauppa ja sen uhrien tunnistaminen (Human trafficking and detecting the victims)	Behm, M., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	The aim of the article is to describe on a general level human trafficking as a term, its history and the challenges and possible solutions related to this and the identification of victims of human trafficking; Previous. The above themes are approached by scientific studies on the subject looking at it. In this way, the aim is to form as comprehensive an overall picture as possible terminology related to trafficking in human beings and its history.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/
Ihmiskaupan muodot suhteessa riskitekijöihin (Forms of human trafficking in relation to the risk factors)	Forsberg, A., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	The purpose of the article is to highlight different forms of human trafficking, to familiarize ourselves with human trafficking vulnerabilities and risk factors and examine the relationships between them. Forms of trafficking in human beings must: found to be diverse and difficult to identify, and are not always unambiguous but can also overlap with each other.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/



Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Ihmiskauppa ja sen tilanne Suomessa (Human Trafficking Situation in Finland)	Jäntti, V., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	The purpose of this article is to shed light on human trafficking situation in Finland. The article is intended for students and those interested in the topic, to raise awareness and assist in identifying potential victims of human trafficking. The article discusses human trafficking in general, as well as the specific situation in Finland. Human trafficking is a growing phenomenon within the EU, and more resources are needed to uncover it. Human trafficking is a hidden crime, and the number of victims is likely higher than reported.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/



Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Suomalainen marjabisnes ihmiskaupan näkökulmasta (The Finnish berry picking business from the human trafficking point of view)	Kankus-Mikkola, J., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	This article examines human trafficking from the perspective of labour exploitation. As work-related human trafficking has recently come up more and more in the Finnish media, let's stretch the perspective of a Finnish berry entrepreneur who was convicted of 26 human trafficking. The sentences handed down are linked to Finnish berry companies. The article discusses human trafficking cases from around the world, the definition and characteristics of human trafficking, the background factors leading to forced labour, and the productivity of work-related human trafficking.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/
Uhri ja tuomittu. Naiset ihmis-kaupan uhreina ja ihmis-kaupan tunnistaminen rikosseuraa-muksissa (Victim and convicted. Women as victims of trafficking in human beings and identification of trafficking in human beings in criminal sanctions)	Kannisto, E., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	Trafficking in human beings is a crime in which the victim is placed in a subordinate position or subjected to some form of exploitation, with the aim of obtaining financial or other benefits from the victim. Human trafficking involves international organised crime, but the offender can also be a smaller network, an individual actor or company, or even someone close to the victim.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/



Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Ihmiskaupan uhrit Suomessa (Human trafficking victims in Finland)	Katainen, M. and Kempas, P., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	Our article deals with human trafficking in Finland. However, the focus of our article is on victims of human trafficking in Finland, their identification and assistance, as well as on special issues such as the principle of impunity and the status of victims of human trafficking in Finnish prisons.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/
Ihmiskauppa ja uhrien auttaminen Suomessa (Human trafficking and assistance to victims in Finland)	Kylänpää, K. and Uustalo, H., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	Human trafficking is a global problem that has grown as migration and travel have increased. The root cause of human trafficking is considered to be inequality between people. Helping victims of human trafficking is difficult, as a person is not always identified as a victim of human trafficking and does not necessarily recognise himself or herself as a victim. One of the fastest growing sources of income for criminal organisations is trafficking in human beings.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/



Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Ihmiskaupan muodot ja tunnistamisen haasteet (Forms of trafficking in human beings and challenges of identification)	Muikku, E. and Niemi, J., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	In this article, we describe human trafficking in general, introduce the three most common forms of human trafficking in more detail, and examine the challenges of identifying human trafficking. Finally, we consider how the challenges of identifying human trafficking can be alleviated and how people who have become victims of human trafficking could be better identified.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/
Ihmiskauppa Suomessa: Mitä-missä-milloin? (Human Trafficking in Finland: What, Where and When?)	Seppälä, S., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	Human trafficking is a global, complex, and widespread problem, a serious crime, and a human rights violation that affects people all over the world, including us here in the cold North. The phenomenon does not necessarily discriminate against its victims, so anyone can be vulnerable to it. However, those who are particularly at risk include individuals who do not know the local language or laws, have limited livelihood opportunities, belong to minorities, or have disabilities.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/



Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Children and young people as victims of human trafficking in Finland	Suihkonen, S., 2024	Finland	JeS Article	This aim of this article is to tell about the fate of Finnish children and young people in the human trafficking network. Article examines how children become to victims of human trafficking, what forms of exploitation they encounter and what legislative and social measures have been taken in Finland to protect and help them. The article also offers perspectives on how international agreements and soft law instruments affect the rights and protection of children and young people in the context of human trafficking.	https://jointstories.eu/



Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Lapsi ihmiskaupan uhrina ja hyväksikäytön tunnistamisen haasteet (Child as a Victim of Human Trafficking and the Challenges in Identifying Exploitation)	Lopperi, L., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	The term 'human trafficking' might lead one to think of the buying and selling of people, while the English term 'human trafficking' suggests the movement of people as commodities across borders. However, human trafficking crimes take many forms. It is an insidious type of crime, as it can be extremely difficult to detect from the outside, and often the victim themselves may not realize they have become a victim of human trafficking. This makes eradicating human trafficking particularly challenging.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/
Sukupuolittunut ihmiskauppa ja ihanneuhri (Gendered Human Trafficking and the Ideal Victim)	Heino, E., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	The purpose of this article is to describe the gendered aspects of human trafficking and, in part, the notion of the 'ideal victim' that shapes public discourse on human trafficking and may categorize its victims. Human trafficking affects both adults and children, men and women, but there are particular characteristics in the trafficking experienced by women. Sexual exploitation and forced marriages are highly gendered forms of human trafficking.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/



Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Lasten seksuaalinen hyväksikäyttö ihmiskaupan muotona Suomessa – Suositukset ja toimenpiteet ilmiön torjuntaan ja uhrien auttamiseen (Sexual Exploitation of Children as a Form of Human Trafficking in Finland – Recommendations and Measures for Combating the Phenomenon and Assisting Victims)	Tuukkanen, S., 2024	Finland	JeS Article (in Finnish)	In this article, I focus on examining human trafficking targeted at children and young people, with particular emphasis on the sexual exploitation of children as a form of human trafficking. Children and young people are a high-risk group for human trafficking. In situations of exploitation, children often do not recognize that they are victims of human trafficking, and it appears that there are gaps in the detection of human trafficking even among professionals working in violence prevention.	https://jointstories.eu/fi/
Human trafficking in Spain	Blog by Sara A., 2024	Spain	JeS Blog	The topic I have chosen for my final project is women victims of human trafficking in Spain, which is my country of origin. I think that it is often a little-known reality, and we think that because we come from a fairly developed country, we do not have these problems, but nothing could further from the reality.	https://jointstories.eu/



Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Victimizing and Trafficking in Human Beings	Blog by Mirco I. and Annika Z.	Germany	JeS Blog	Human trafficking, a grave violation of human rights, continues to be a pressing global issue. This insidious crime involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of individuals through force, fraud, or deception, all with the sinister intent of exploiting them for profit. Victims of human trafficking come from diverse backgrounds, encompassing men, women, and children of all ages, making it an alarming and pervasive problem that knows no boundaries.	https://jointstories.eu/
Victims of human trafficking	Blog by Carolina P., 2024	Austria	JeS Blog	In this blog I will talk about victims of human trafficking. For this topic, I will compare Finland with my home country Austria. First, I would like to say that it was not easy to find up-to-date sources on this topic, as most of them are from 2021. Nevertheless, I wanted to make this comparison to best of my ability. To begin with, I asked myself the following question, which I would like to answer during this blog: How many victims of human trafficking are there in Finland?	https://jointstories.eu/



Title	Writer	Country	Type of product	Article / Blog topic/Theses results	Link (webpage or similar)
Victimization and Trafficking in Human Beings: A Hidden Reality	Blog by Julia G.D.V., 2024	Spain	JeS Blog	According to the United Nations, human trafficking is the third most lucrative illicit business globally, after arms trafficking and drug trafficking. In this blog we will learn the fundamental concepts of victimization and human trafficking, shedding light on the complexities and consequences.	https://jointstories.eu/



CASE STUDIES IN FINLAND

Case 1: Labour Trafficking in Berry Picking

This case study examines a significant instance of labour trafficking that has emerged in Finland. The topic has received extensive media coverage, with articles from Helsingin Sanomat (Kerkelä, 2024; Loula, 2023; Rosvall, 2024; Teittinen, 2023) and a press release from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (TEM, 2024) serving as the primary sources for this study. During the autumn of 2022, serious suspicions related to berry picking emerged in Finland. The police have been investigating suspected severe human trafficking, serious bribery, and gross abuse of office. The investigation centres around two berry industry companies operating in Finland and a Thai company that recruits berry pickers to come to the country. Additionally, the National Bureau of Investigation suspects a civil servant from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of gross abuse of office and serious bribery.

Background

Thai berry pickers have been coming to Finland since 2005, typically for a few months to pick blueberries and later lingonberries. They arrive on tourist visas, picking berries under the Everyman's Rights and do not pay taxes. Many Thais have been led to believe they can earn substantial amounts of money, leading some to take out significant loans to finance their trip to Finland. However, issues have arisen over the years, with many Thai pickers facing difficulties due to the loans they have taken. According to a Helsingin Sanomat article (Teittinen, 2023), the Thai Embassy in Helsinki warned pickers last year that the total cost of coming to Finland or Sweden as a picker is around 4,000 €. The Embassy noted that covering this amount requires picking at least 4,000 kilograms of berries, roughly 45 kilograms per day. Few pickers seem to earn enough to repay their debts.

The Thai Ministry of Labour conducted a survey of those who picked berries in Finland and Sweden last season. Only 10 percent of respondents reported earning around 2,700€ for the season, while nearly half earned between 800€ and 1,300€. Thousands of pickers did not respond to the survey. According to the survey, nearly 15 percent of berry pickers in Finland earned less than 800€ last year. Interviewed pickers reported that their flight tickets, among other expenses, were deducted directly from their wages. Additionally, many pickers took loans in Thailand to cover payments to various intermediaries, equipment, and living expenses for family members back home. These loans often come with high-interest rates. One picker was reported to have a loan agreement for approximately 150,000 baht (around 4,000€). Loans have been obtained from banks, relatives, unscrupulous moneylenders, or a combination of these sources. These loans are typically taken out before the berry picking season, with the intention of repaying them after the season ends.

Issues have arisen in previous years as well, such as in 2009 when a poor berry season resulted in low incomes for pickers. In 2013, fifty berry pickers accused a berry company of cheating them and filed a report of human trafficking, but the case did not lead to any action, and the pickers lost their compensation claim. In 2016, an investigation into human trafficking



was launched concerning the activities of a berry company named Marja-Matti, and the Supreme Court sentenced the entrepreneur to prison for 26 counts of human trafficking.

Berry picking and payment time

Thais came to Finland in July 2022, invited by two different berry companies. First they pick blueberry, then lingonberry. According to the pickers, the days stretched up to 18 hours, the food was poor and the conditions in the pickers' accommodation camps were poor.

Berry picking started early in the morning. The pickers woke up around three or four o'clock and started to drive to the berry sites. They went back to camp late at night, sometimes not getting to sleep until the early hours of the morning. The berries collected during the day had to be weighed first. Sometimes pickers would sleep in the woods if the distance to the camp was too long.

According to one interviewee, the conditions of the pickers were poor. There were too few beds and toilets and the interviewee says he slept on the ground. The food, which was charged for the pickers' fee, was, according to him, disgusting.

When the harvest season ended in September, berry companies paid pickers the whole season's fee. It has been a practice year after year. At the same time, any expenses are deducted from the fee. At the time of payment, the Thais understood what had happened to them. Many received a very small salary or even owed money to the company. As an example, one of the interviewees had collected berries worth a total of 4,191.60 euros. From this sum, the costs of housing, food, car use, air tickets, etc., were reduced by a total of EUR 4,249.84. Thus, the berry picker was left with a minus, so he owed a 58.24 euros debt to the berry picking company. Other interviewees also showed their pay slips; -90 euros, -32 euros, -23 euros, -50 euros, 134 euros, 140 euros. At its best, one of the pickers had earned 322.18 euros for the entire season. Someone outside of the interview was known to have earned about a thousand euros.

Criminal investigation and prosecution

The berry pickers became part of the human trafficking ring, which also extends to Thailand. According to the Helsingin Sanomat (Teittinen, 2023) story, the National Bureau of Investigation had been monitoring the situation of berry pickers for a long time. It followed, waited, and at the end of the season hit several camps around Finland. The investigation had been carried out together with the Border Guard and the Helsinki Police.

By the time the police began their investigation, the majority of the pickers had already left. Those who were still in Finland were able to live in the reception centre. Later, some of them got an apartment in Lappeenranta. They are waiting in Finland for the criminal investigation to proceed. Returning to the country without money is not possible.

Police sought two people to be arrested on suspicion of human trafficking. They were the owner of the berry company Polarica and his Thai business partner. In December 2022, suspicion of aggravated human trafficking also expanded to include another berry company and new suspects. Although the crime suspected by the police is trafficking in human beings, it is not a question of trafficking in human beings, but of forcing the victim to work by exploiting his or her vulnerable and dependent position. In the case of the Thais, this meant, for example, a high debt burden for pickers. Police said they suspected there were dozens of



victims. As the investigation progressed, there were more than 100 victims and the investigation only concerns the years 2020–2022. It is already one of the largest suspected human trafficking scams in Finland's history.

Police have received assistance from Thailand. A Thai police special investigation unit had raided Polarica's partner company's office in Bangkok. After the raid, Thai police issued a statement saying that debt-ridden pickers had had to work up to 18-hour days and had their passports taken from them. In addition, evidence had been found that scales used to weigh berries had been tampered with to make the berries appear lighter. The Thai police also thanked the Finnish organisation Victim Support Finland for its significant assistance. (Teittinen, 2023).

In the last harvest season of 2022, a record number of pickers came to Finland, about 4,000. Thais interviewed by Helsingin Sanomat worked for these companies. Pickers from both companies say they were lured to Finland by the same Thai woman who was now one of the defendants. The woman had previously said she had been recruiting pickers for about fifteen years. Thais say they were promised a record harvest, a berry price high enough, and a guarantee fee, or the minimum amount they would make anyway. Against these promises, Thais dared to take large sums of debt to reach Finland.

Helsingin Sanomat (Kerkelä, 2024) reported on 12 August 2024 that the human trafficking trial in the berry industry will begin. The CEO of the berry industry company and his Thai business partner have been charged with 77 counts of aggravated human trafficking. At least five years in prison for both. In addition, Polarica will be required to pay a corporate fine of at least 300,000 euros in court and a business ban of at least six years for Polarica's owner, Jukka Kristo.

According to the prosecutor, the charge concerns Thai berry pickers who had been brought into forced labour involving the collection of wild berries and other conditions that violated human dignity. The suspected acts took place in 2022 in different parts of Finland. Recruitment for berry picking took place in Thailand. Prosecutors say the suspects have denied being guilty (Rosvall, 2024).

Legislative amendment in preparation

On 2 February 2023, the Helsingin Sanomat reported that the Finnish Embassy in Bangkok suspended the issuing of visas to pickers of wild berries. The grounds were unclear about the picking, including the unreliability of the information provided in visa applications, the risk of human trafficking, the ongoing police investigation in Finland, and possible changes to the position of the pickers (Loula, 2023).

In December 2022, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland had started to prepare a proposal for an amendment to the Seasonal Work Decree, which would make the collection of natural products from employment relationships. Thailand has repeatedly insisted that collecting should be an employment requirement for the exodus of pickers. According to Helsingin Sanomat (Loula, 2023), it was decided at an early stage in Sweden that berry pickers are in an employment relationship. In Finland, the issue has been debated for more than a decade. The pickers are legally in some sort of grey area, but they are not workers. They come on a tourist visa, pick up under everyman's rights and pay no taxes. However, according to Helsingin Sanomat (Teittinen, 2023), berry companies themselves are still opposed to the employment relationship of pickers.



The preparation of the Act 'Increasing the collection of wild berries within the scope of the Seasonal Work Act' is ongoing between 21 May 2024 and 31 March 2025 in a working group appointed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (TEM, 2024). The task of the working group is to prepare legislative amendments to the Seasonal Work Act and Decree so that it would be possible for wild berry collectors to enter the country with a permit entitling them to seasonal work in the future. In addition, the aim is to correct the scope of the Seasonal Work Act so that it better responds to the sector-specific need for seasonal labour. The proposal aims to improve the position of wild berry collectors by guaranteeing them minimum earnings and transferring business risk to and from inviting companies. The aim is to bring the changes into force for the 2025 harvest season.



Italy

THE LATEST RESEARCH IN ITALY

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
Violence, trafficking and migration: post-traumatic disorder and the chronicisation of evil	Fantauzzi and Esposito (2023)	Exploring the difference between trafficking and the forms of violence to which most migrant women are forced as well as examining post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic forms of mental illness among victims of trafficking.	Ethnographic research	Oral interviews	Ethnographically researched by the authors from December 2022 to the present. The authors selected some guests from the reception centres of Paceco (Trapani, Italy) and Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto (Messina, Italy) of the Badia Grande Cooperative	Many different mental conditions and illnesses, which have been found more often related to traumatic migration experiences are worsened in victims of trafficking.	https://www.sasjournal.org/index.php/home/article/view/61
Addressing Migrant Women's Intersecting Vulnerabilities. Refugee Protection, Anti-trafficking and Anti-violence Referral Patterns in Italy	Degani and De Stefani (2020)	Explore anti-trafficking and anti-violence referral patterns in Italy to address migrant women's intersecting vulnerabilities	Qualitative	Literature review	No information	Intersectional lenses to analyse women migration; giving back agency to women migrants (no victimisation); for collaborative approach national between institutions	https://phr.g.padovauniversitypress.it/2020/1/5



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
Preventing and redressing exploitation. Methods of anti-trafficking social work outreach in Northern Italy	Zadra and Elsen (2022)	Preventing and redressing exploitation by analysing methods of anti-trafficking social work outreach in Northern Italy	Qualitative	Questionnaires and interviews	One public local authority and 8 NGOs relying on public funding	A holistic approach is preferred to issue-based approaches. Flexible and contextualised methods are better at facilitating autonomy development and integration	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13691457.2022.2139665
Gendered impacts of the war in Ukraine: identifying potential, presumed or actual women victims of trafficking at the Italian borders	Cimino and Degani (2023)	Investigate the actions which the Italian government has put in place to prevent the trafficking of women among the Ukrainians fleeing the war in Sept 2022.	Qualitative	Interviews	Seven street-level bureaucrats working for four organisations involved in the early screening of Ukrainians arriving at the border	There are gaps in identifying vulnerable individuals at the borders and also in the framework of accommodation systems. The system set in place at the Italian borders make the identification process of potential cases of trafficking challenging.	https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fhumd.2023.1099208/full



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
Protection of trafficked people in Italy: policies, limits and challenges	Palumbo (2015)	Analyse the Italian anti-trafficking system by examining its effectiveness in the protection of trafficked people	Qualitative	Legal analysis of the Italian anti trafficking model	No information	The article demonstrates that, though the Italian legal framework on trafficking is considered one of the most innovative and advanced, especially in the area of victim protection, a number of inadequacies in its implementation undermine the effectiveness of the measures aimed at protecting trafficked people. These concern the absence of a clear and appropriate victim identification procedure; the lack of adequate training in trafficking among professionals; the incomplete application of a procedure called the "social path" for the issuing of the residence permit; the narrow interpretation by competent authorities of the requirements for the residence permit granted to victims; the long lapse of time for the issuing of the residence permit; difficulties in the conversion of the residency permit granted to victims into a work permit; and the scarcity of economic resources	https://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/39354



THE LATEST PROJECTS IN ITALY

No	Author	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	University of Malta (coordinator); Law and Internat Foundation; CESIE; VICESSE; Victim Support Europe	DISRUPT – Enhance Digital led InvestigationS, pRosecutions and jUdicial resPonses for dismantling Trafficking chains of children	International Security Fund (ISF)	2023–2025	Europe (Malta, Bulgaria, Italy, Austria, Belgium)	National and European partnerships and capacity building to contribute to the fight against trafficking of children for sexual exploitation.	https://cesie.org/en/project/disrupt/
2	CESIE (coordinator); KMOP; SURT; PAYOKE; Libera contro le mafie	WINGS – Supporting Women survivors of trafficking through a Comprehensive Integration Programme	AMIF	2022–2024	Europe (Italy, Greece, Spain, Belgium)	Promoting a multi-layered action addressing third-country-national women survivors of trafficking and developing the WINGS generic framework on survivor-centred social and economic inclusion.	https://cesie.org/en/project/wings/
3	Cross Culture International Foundation (coordinator); Open Gate –La Strada Macedonia; Reaching Out Romania; CESIE	YU WOK 2 END HT – Youth Workers Key to end Human Trafficking	Erasmus+	2020–2022	Europe (Malta, Macedonia, Romania, Italy)	Equipping youth workers with the competences and skills required to identify and support young victims of trafficking through the development of tailored training activities and online learning tools.	https://cesie.org/en/project/yuwok2endht/



No	Author	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
4	The project is coordinated by: Dr. Luc Leboeuf	VULNER – Vulnerabilities Under the Global Protection Regime	Horizon2020	2020-2023	Europe vs. North America vs. Africa vs. Middle East	The VULNER project focuses on migrants seeking protection in Europe (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Norway), North America (Canada), the Middle East (Lebanon), and Africa (Uganda and South Africa). For the analysis, two different yet complementary perspectives are adopted. First, the investigation will consider the ways that the “vulnerabilities” of the migrants seeking protection are being assessed and addressed by the norms and practices of decision-makers.	https://www.vulner.eu/



No	Author	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
5	Safe the children Italy; Association Réflexion Action Prévention-communautaire (ARAP Rubis) Consorzio Agorà Network (enti anti-tratta) France Terre d'Asile Mission d'Intervention et de Sensibilisation contre la Traite des êtres humains (Mist) Regione Veneto - Numero Verde anti-tratta Save the Children Spagna	PROGETTO E.V.A - PROCEDURE OPERATIVE E INDICATORI PER IDENTIFICARE E PROTEGGERE PRESUNTE VITTIME DI TRATTA E SFRUTTAMENTO	AMIF	2023- 2025	Europe (France, Italy, Spain)	The E.V.A aims to activate mechanisms to ensure, in transit zones, the early identification of victims of trafficking and exploitation or persons at risk of re-trafficking. This process is carried out through the assessment of specific indicators that emerge during the interview with potential victims and must be implemented as soon as possible to facilitate the placing of victims in protection, thanks to the transfer to specific escape houses where the survivor can safely reconstruct her identity through a process of self-determination and social re-integration	https://www.save-thechildren.it/cosa-facciamo/progetti/progetto-eva



GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN ITALY

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
National Referral Mechanism (NRM)	Aim is to develop and strengthen the coordination between measures for the prevention of trafficking in human beings, assistance to victims, and the procedure for the recognition of international protection	Updated in 2023 – ongoing	The NRM in Italy involves coordinated efforts between government agencies, law enforcement, NGOs, and other stakeholders to identify and assist victims of trafficking.	Better coordination between all actors assisting victims of trafficking.	https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/library-document/italy-new-national-referral-mechanism-victims-trafficking-and-exploitation_en
Numero verde antitratta (Anti-trafficking hotline)	The anti-trafficking toll-free number 800 290 290 is active every day of the week, 24 hours a day, throughout the country, to encourage the emergence of the phenomenon and support victims of trafficking and exploitation.	Ongoing	Offering information on the possibilities of help and assistance and putting them in touch with territorial social welfare services.	Creation of a national reference point, which provides all necessary and current information on how to support victims of trafficking.	https://www.interno.gov.it/it/contatti/numero-verde-antitratta
Programma Unico di Emersione, Assistenza e Integrazione Sociale (Unified Programme for Emergence, Assistance and Social Integration)	The program aims to provide reception and protection to the person in the preliminary stage of ascertaining the status of trafficking victim and, subsequently, to provide him/her with the necessary tools to achieve full autonomy.	Since 2016 – ongoing	The assistance and integration programme offers reception, protection, assistance and accompaniment towards autonomy to victims of human trafficking. You may be hosted in a protected house with a secret address, receive psycho-social and legal assistance, and accompaniment for socio-economic integration. Services offered by these special centres may vary across Italy.	Protection and social inclusion of victims of trafficking.	https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/programma-unico-di-emersione-assistenza-ed-integrazione-sociale/5363



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Telefono Azzurro (Blue hotline)	Aims to promote total respect for the rights of children and adolescents.	Ongoing	Telefono Azzurro is an Italian helpline and support service for children and adolescents at risk of exploitation, abuse, or trafficking. It offers counselling, intervention, and assistance to vulnerable children, including victims of trafficking.	Supporting children's and adolescence potential for growth and protects them from abuse and violence that can impair their well-being and growth path.	https://azzurro.it/

INFORMATION ON OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE SELECTED TOPIC

Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results
National Action Plan against trafficking and serious exploitation of human beings	None	Detection, prevention and social inclusion	Preventing trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation in Italy	2022–2025	National – Italy	No information
Programma Unico di Emersione, Assistenza e Integrazione Sociale (Unified Programme for Emergence, Assistance and Social Integration)	None	Social Inclusion	The single program of emersion, assistance and social integration aims to provide reception and protection to the person in the preliminary stage of ascertaining the status of trafficking victim and, thereafter, to provide him or her with the necessary tools to achieve full autonomy.	Since 2016	National – Italy	No information



Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results
Osservatorio di tratta (Trafficking Watch)	None	Detection	Creating a centralized, computerized database capable of real-time processing, which will be a state-of-the-art tool in Europe, crucial for detecting early signs of the evolution of the trafficking phenomenon.	Ongoing	National – Italy	Creation of the The new SIRIT (Computerized System for the Collection of Trafficking Information) data collection system for Italy



Spain

THE LATEST RESEARCH IN SPAIN

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Defensor del Pueblo en España (2015)	To provide an in-depth analysis of the reality of trafficking in Spain, conclusions and recommendations addressed to the competent Administration bodies	Qualitative research	Interviews Administration research and complaints analysis	59 interviews to victims 61 ex officio investigations 32 complaints investigation	Globally, trafficking crimes are committed by people from the same nationality of the victims. Sexual exploitation is the most frequently detected form of human trafficking, followed by forced labour. The lack of data seriously compromises the adoption of measures against it. The fight against human trafficking cannot exclude identifying the victims at the borders and the persecution of criminals. The residence authorization for victims is an important guarantee for their protection. The development of a national protocol for detection and care of minor victims of trafficking is recommended. The identification of the victim needs time and specialized attention.	https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2012-09-Trata-de-seres-humanos-en-España-víctimas-invisibles-ESP-Resumen.pdf



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
2	Amnesty International (2020); Spain	Identification of traffic victims in Spain	Qualitative research	Interviews	60 representatives of the victims 22 NGOs 6 victims	Trafficking in persons hits women and girls the hardest. Problems in Spain in the identification of victims of trafficking: the organisations specialising in the issue are the ones who do most work in the detection of victims of trafficking in Spain, but, as there are no government resources for this detection, many people are left out of this network. The approach of treating them as evidence of the crime, in the absence of a victim protection perspective, results in far fewer people reporting being trafficked.	https://doc.es.amnesty.org/ms-opac/recordmedia/1@000032723/object/43787/raw
3	GRETA (2023)	Access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings in Spain	Qualitative research	Literature review, focus groups, interviews...		These are the aspects that GRETA considers should be improved in Spain: right to information; legal assistance and free legal aid; psychological assistance; access to work, vocational training and education; compensation; investigation, sanctions and measures; protection of victims; training and specialisation; assistance and recovery of victims of trafficking.	https://rm.coe.int/greta-evaluation-report-on-spain-3rd-evaluation-round-greta-2023-10-ac/1680ab8d0f
4	Ministerio del Interior-Secretaría de Estado y Seguridad (2022)	Trata y Explotación de Seres Humanos en España-Balance estadístico 2018-2022	Quantitative Research	Statistic study		Andalucía, Castilla y León and Islas Baleares are the regions in which more administrative inspections have been carried out in 2022. The number of people at risk in Spain in 2022, according to the Ministry of Interior, has decreased compared to 2018, but has increased compared to 2021. Andalucía es the region that, by far, has more people at risk. The nationality that presents more risk of being victim in Spain is Colombia. In 2022, only 129 victims were detected in Spain, of which 120 were women, 5 were men, and 4 were children. Andalucía is the region that presents more victims in total.	https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/export/sites/default/galerias/galeria-de-prensa/documentos-y-multimedia/balances-e-informes/2022/BALANCE-ESTADISTICO-2018-2022.pdf



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
5	Alonso García (2020)	Human trafficking in Spain. Critical analysis of the current legislation and proposals for a better protection of victims	Qualitative research	Analysis on the topic legislation applicable in Spain	Main applicable legislation (international, national and regional) in Spain Comparison with 7 European countries legislation 5 recommendations for the Spanish legislation improvement	5 recommendations for Spain concluded: -Humanization of the identification process to avoid Issues such as constant contact with police officers during the identification process, not having formal support from members of specialized associations or cultural mediators. - Offering the recovery and reflection period to victims who have not yet been formally identified (already carried out in Italy, the Netherlands or Norway) -Expansion of the situations in which the victim is granted a residence permit -Criminalization of the crimes of slavery, servitude and forced labour (in Spain a person can be a victim of trafficking for the purposes of slavery, servitude or forced labour, but cannot be a victim of slavery, servitude or forced labour) -Developing a comprehensive law against trafficking in Spain (the United Nations itself has developed a model of a comprehensive law against trafficking).	https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=7711733



THE LATEST PROJECTS IN SPAIN

No	Author	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	Acción Contra la Trata	AVANZANDO – AURRERA	Project created by the NGO	2021–2023	Spain.	AVANZANDO – AURRERA is a programme to promote employment for women at risk and in vulnerable situations. The AVANZANDO AURRERA programme integrates the psychosocial, training and employment integration areas. Its objective is inclusion through personalised and comprehensive attention. To achieve this, networks with companies and other institutions focused on inclusion are essential.	https://accioncontralatrata.com/avanzando-aurrera/
2	ASOCIACIÓN GLOBERES	International Dialogue on Migration	Erasmus+	2019–2022	Spain, Czechia, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland, and Türkiye.	The two-stage project aimed to cover, explore, open dialogue to address the challenges related to migration and its international management. Our mission was to empower and expand the network of non-governmental organisations working or wishing to work in this field. Furthermore, to promote new tools and methodologies among youth workers and trainers to explore the international legislative background of migration management and to explore them through non-formal education to contribute to the process of migration management, and at the same time to raise awareness among young people on this issue.	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2019-2-ES02-KA105-013470



No	Author	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
3	RED 2 RED CONSULTORES SL	MigrEmpower	Erasmus+	2017-2019	Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Germany, Austria and France.	The "MigrEmpower: Itineraries and resources for migrants and refugees' empowerment and integration" project, was aimed to contribute to migrants/refugees' social and labour integration in the hosting societies, involving 8 partner organizations from 6 EU countries: Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Germany, Austria and France.	https://www.migrempower.eu/en/
4	ASOCIACIÓN FRACTALS EDUCACIÓN ARTÍSTICA	Narratives of Resistance	Erasmus+	2020-2023	Spain, Czechia, and Italy.	Society, entities, and European governments must not forget the hundreds of thousands of people in refugee camps, who arrive with nothing and must face the unknown, misery, society's distrust, and recently even a pandemic without adequate preparation. Thus, we wanted to turn young people into active participating agents for diversity, teaching them the necessary processes to achieve full inclusion that makes life easier for many youth born outside Europe.	https://narrativesofresistance.org/
5	ADEFIS JUVENTUD INTERNACIONAL	PROTOCOLO DE ACCIÓN INTERCULTURAL Y SENSIBILIZACIÓN PARA COMBATIR LA TRATA DE JÓVENES	Erasmus+	2023-2024	Spain, Albania, Bulgaria, Italy, Moldova, North Macedonia, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Türkiye, Ukraine.	The objective is to carry out an in-depth study on the conflict of recruiting young people for the purpose of trafficking in order to find solutions, raise awareness and unmask a problem that still exists in the 21st century, raise awareness and empower young people and promote personal economic and social autonomy.	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2022-3-ES02-KA153-YOU-000093562



GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN SPAIN

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Código de Conducta para la Protección de los Niños en el Turismo y en los Viajes	To protect children and adolescents from sexual abuse and exploitation.		Promotion and dissemination of knowledge and research; information, training, and capacity building; networking.	Publications, training and capacity building. It is one of the most widely endorsed Codes on child protection and has been signed globally by more than 1,030 companies in 42 countries.	http://www.ecpat-spain.org/code.asp?sec=1
Stop the Traffick	The aim is to raise awareness among hotel companies so that all their staff can learn what human trafficking for sexual exploitation is and how to identify the signs of someone who might have been a victim.		Inform about the signs to detect it through publications, information, and an APP dedicated to it.	The STOP APP can be downloaded by anyone, anywhere in the world who has access to a smartphone. The app is anonymous, confidential and secure – it is available in 15 languages and allows you to submit suspicious activity quickly by sending text-based messages and uploading photos and videos.	https://www.stopthetraffik.org/what-we-do/stopapp/
Herramientas pedagógicas para la prevención de la trata con fines de explotación sexual	From the Cepaim Foundation's Equal Opportunities, Diversity Management and Non-Discrimination Area, we work against all forms of violence and discrimination based on sex or racial or ethnic origin and we consider it essential to provide ourselves with reflections, debates, tools and instruments that allow us to make progress in the eradication of such social scourges.	2015	Terminology/concepts, case studies; workshops with awareness exercises, and so on in topics like sexuality, trafficking, prostitution or how to develop an action plan.	Elaboration of an ACTION PLAN with the following general goals: • Reflect on the responsibility of civil society in sexual exploitation • Make visible their active role as agents of change. • Assess the strength of group action to achieve social changes. • Propose group actions that promote the sustainability of the educational intervention.	https://www.cepaim.org/publicacion/herramientas-pedagogicas-para-la-prevencion-de-la-trata-con-fines-de-explotacion-sexual-guia/



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
TRATAME bien- Notas sobre la trata con fines de explotación sexual	Guidelines to provide information and training on the different concepts and the actions that can be taken regarding this topic.	2015	The guide shows a comprehensive analysis to understand what's human trafficking, concepts, legislation on the topic and the steps to follow to identify and find solutions.	-Protocols to follow a standard to tackle human trafficking cases -Resources for the victims to legally report their situation -How to properly be a part of the solution according to your role in the situation: being a man, a professional, a victim, a company and so.	https://www.cepaim.org/publicacion/tratame-bien-notas-sobre-la-trata-con-fines-de-explotacion-sexual/
Diaconia School: Detection, Intervention and Awareness Raising against Human Trafficking	To provide you with the necessary tools to identify signs of human trafficking in different contexts, giving you the knowledge you need to deal with the issue effectively. To enable you to understand the complexity of the phenomenon and raise awareness of its causes, consequences and prevention.	2024		3 courses will Give you the tools you need to to recognise signs of trafficking in different contexts different contexts, providing you with the necessary knowledge to address this issue effectively.	¡Amplia tu conocimiento sobre la trata de personas con estos 3 nuevos cursos que hemos preparado para ti! - Diaconia España (diaconia.es)



INFORMATION ON OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE SELECTED TOPIC

Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results
Plan Integral contra la Trata de Mujeres y Niños con Fines de Explotación Sexual	Spanish Government	Prevention and assistance	This is a plan promoted by the Spanish Government to prevent and combat the trafficking of women and girls. It includes measures for the protection and assistance of victims, as well as for the awareness and training of professionals.	2015–2018	Spain	
Proyecto Esperanza	NGO	Comprehensive programme: protection, inclusion, support...	An organisation that offers comprehensive support to women victims of human trafficking. They provide safe housing, legal assistance, psychological and social support, training, and job orientation.	2004–currently	Spain	
Red Española contra la Trata de Personas (RECTP)	Network	Support, awareness, prevention...	A network of organisations and entities that work together to combat human trafficking. They offer support to victims, conduct awareness and training activities, and promote more effective public policies.		Spain	



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