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List of topics for national report:

- TOPIC 1: Victimization and trafficking in human beings.
- TOPIC 2: Undocumented migrants and fair-trade policies.
- TOPIC 3: Migrant women and female victims of trafficking.
- TOPIC 4: Digital literacy and social inequality.
- TOPIC 5: Creative methods supporting migrant integration.
- TOPIC 6: Successful integration process.

Content:

1	PREFACE.....	5
2	RESEARCH METHODS.....	6
3	TOPIC 1 – Victimization and trafficking in human beings.....	7
3.1	Theoretical background.....	7
3.2	The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country.....	9
3.3	The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country.....	13
3.4	Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country	20
3.5	Information on other important aspect of the selected topic.....	24
3.6	Case studies.....	30
4	TOPIC 2 – Undocumented migrants and fair-trade policies.....	32
4.1	The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country.....	32
4.2	The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country.....	35
4.3	Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country	40
4.4	Information on other important aspect of the selected topic.....	42
5	TOPIC 3 – Migrant women and female victims of trafficking.....	44
5.1	The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country.....	44
5.2	The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country.....	48
5.3	Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country	51
5.4	Information on other important aspect of the selected topic.....	54
6	TOPIC 4 – Digital literacy and social inequality	58
6.1	The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country.....	58
6.2	The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country.....	61
6.3	Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country	65
6.4	Information on other important aspect of the selected topic.....	70
7	TOPIC 5 – Creative methods supporting migrant integration.....	71
7.1	The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country.....	71
7.2	The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country.....	74
7.3	Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country	77
7.4	Information on other important aspect of the selected topic.....	81
8	TOPIC 6 – Successful integration process.....	82
8.1	The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country.....	82
8.2	The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country.....	86

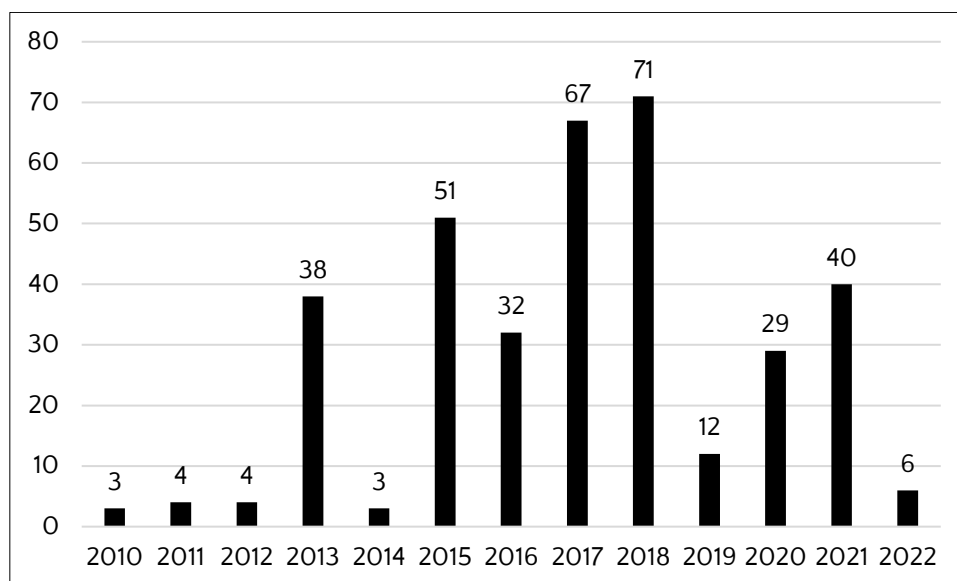


8.3	Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country	90
8.4	Information on other important aspect of the selected topic.....	93
9	REFERENCES.....	94

1 PREFACE

Slovenian WP2 report primarily centres on topic 1 (Victimization and trafficking in human beings). It presents theoretical background knowledge and information about the latest research and projects, as well as about good and sustainable practices and other important aspects that already exist in Slovenia.

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.–g). 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).

The following report includes information about other topics (Undocumented migrants and fair-trade policies, Migrant women and female victims of trafficking, Digital literacy and social inequality, Creative methods supporting migrant integration, and Successful integration process) as well, but in a lesser extent.

2 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 field¹. 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) (Ministrstvo za notranje zadeve, 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 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, Učakar, et al. (2023) has the same content and describes the same research as an article by Kogovšek Šalamon, Frelih, et al. (2023).

Of eight empirical research, four results were focused on trafficking in human beings (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014; Kogovšek Šalamon, Učakar, et al., 2023; 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).

3 TOPIC 1 – Victimization and trafficking in human beings

3.1 Theoretical background

Results related to trafficking in human beings included the following forms of trafficking in human beings: prostitution (Kogovšek Šalamon, Učakar, et al., 2023; Markelj et al., 2022; Pajnik & Renault, 2014; Radačić & 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 (Frelih, 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 (Frelih, 2017a). When detecting cases of abuse in prostitution the Police use proactive approaches (Frelih, 2017b). Regarding the theoretical approaches that countries use when dealing with the cases of sexual work Kogovšek Šalamon, Učakar, et al. (2023) 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 related to the patriarchal social structure, aiming to preserve Roma culture, limit free decision-making regarding children's lives, and help families escape 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).

3.2 The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country

We found eight research related to victimization and trafficking in human beings. Research by Bučar Ručman and Frangež (2014), which was part of the project funded by the Slovenian Government Communication Office, indicates human trafficking, including forced labour exploitation, criminal activities, forced begging, and trafficking in children. Slovenian employers exploit migrant workers due to poor social conditions, whereby, along with labour exploitation, forced criminal activities occur. Children may be victims of sexual and economic exploitation, forced marriages, and illegal adoptions. There was found no evidence of human organs, tissue, or blood trafficking. Kogovšek Šalamon, Učakar, et al. (2023) concluded that the prevailing model in Slovenia combines repressive and integrative approaches with a tendency towards a restrictive framework. The findings of Kovač and Kos (2023) show that 22% of respondents suspected their programs may have users engaging in prostitution in the last five years, primarily women, followed by men and transgender individuals. 10% of professional workers suspected children may be victims of sexual exploitation, with 26% detecting more than five cases, with most being between 15–18 years old. Markelj et al. (2022) conducted research as part of the project “Sem Ana in nisem tvoja Ančka” (I am Ana and I am not your Ana doll) and state that prostitution often involves human trafficking, violence, and exploitation, with victims often avoiding seeking help due to their disinterest in resolving the issue. Research on forced marriages (Narat et al., 2014), which was also a part of the project funded by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia, shows such cases often go unreported. They can occur due to family reputation protection, cultural norms, financial benefits, and family obligations. Marriages are followed by pregnancy and school disruptions. Uneducated victims, primarily concerned with childcare, are often private and may be victims of domestic violence. Pajnik and Renault (2014) found non-commercial websites discussing prostitution and trafficking in human beings often showcase a clear divide between two contrasting viewpoints – the prostitution and trafficking paradigm. In terms of forced begging, Puppis and Sluga (2016) found that organized begging in Slovenia is a challenging form, with victims seeking economic benefits. Perpetrators often bring beggars to the streets and pick them up from there. Criminal investigations are difficult due to the lack of evidence. Regarding prostitution, pimps legitimize their purposes of exploitation through various economic activities, like nightclubs (Frelih, 2017a), whereby police identify them and victims with proactive measures (Frelih, 2017b). More details about the research are displayed in Table 2.

Table 2: Empirical research on human trafficking in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	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_Zaključno_porocilo_raziskave_Analiza_trgovine_z_ljudmi_z_namenom_izkoriscanja_delovne_sile_trgovine_z_otroki_prisilnega_beracenja_in_izvrsevanja_kaznivih_dejanj/link/55645dc608ae86c06b6a4238/download?_tp
2	Kogovšek Šalamon, Učakar, et al. (2023)	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/2023/03/RKK2023-03_NezaKogovsekSalamon_SocialnopravniVidiki.pdf

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/RAZI-SKAVA_ZLORABA_OTROK_ZA_PROSTITUCIJO_V_SLOVENIJI_ALIZA.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
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

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
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.fv.v.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_ed_S_Radacic_M_Pajnik

3.3 The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country

Bučar Ručman and Frangež (2014) conducted the research project titled *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 to analyse these specific forms of trafficking in human beings in Slovenia. Their qualitative research examines the characteristics of crimes, victims, and perpetrators and involves detecting, investigating, collecting evidence, and preventing crimes. Project “Sem Ana in nisem tvoja Ančka” (I am Ana and I am not your Ana doll) lasted from June to September 2017 (Dolinar et al., 2018). It was co-funded by the Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia, and the European Social Fund (Dolinar et al., 2018; Markelj et al., 2022). The project aimed to form rapid needs assessment in the field of prostitution, reduce harm, and improve working conditions by awareness of clients of sex workers (Dolinar et al., 2018; Markelj et al., 2022). In this project, researchers conducted research by interviews with sex workers and organizations that are (in)directly associated with the field of sex work and questionnaires for clients of sex workers (Dolinar et al., 2018; Markelj et al., 2022). They represent the needs and problems of sex workers in Slovenia (Dolinar et al., 2018; Markelj et al., 2022).

Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.-a) has started with the project *Celostna oskrba žrtev trgovine z ljudmi* (Comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in human beings) in 2001. They offer support to victims, including foreign and Slovenian citizens, including phone counselling, psychosocial aid, crisis accommodation, law enforcement assistance, repatriation, and referral to relevant organizations. Since 2012 Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.-k) has carried out the project *Telesnica* (The body) to raise awareness among high school students, parents, and school employees about human trafficking. *Telesnica* (The body) is a virtual online store that showcases real trafficking in human beings in Slovenia (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.-h). In this project, an internet presentation human trafficking forms, victim stories, deception traps, and reporting procedures for victims are explained to the listeners (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.-k). Since 2016 Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.-i) has carried out the project *(Re)integracija žrtev trgovanja z ljudmi* ((Re)integration of victims of trafficking in human beings) intending to develop system solutions for individuals who have experienced human trafficking and are undergoing reintegration. They are assisted in starting an independent life, integrating into the educational system, learning, psychotherapy, psychosocial counselling, organization of leisure activities, and expanding social networks. In the period 2014–2016 Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.-l) carried out the project *Da! življenju brez trgovine z ljudmi* (Yes! to life without trafficking in human beings) to raise awareness among Slovenian children and young people about human trafficking, enabling them to protect themselves and recognize potential exploitative traps. In 2014, Narat et al. (2014) conducted the survey entitled *Prisilne poroke romskih deklic* (Forced marriages of Roma girls) that was funded by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social

Affairs, and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia. The goal of this research was to measure the prevalence of premature and forced marriage of Roma children and explore the risk factors and consequences of victims. The research examines characteristics of crimes, perpetrators, and victims and proposes to improve the situation in this field. Perger et al. (2015) carried out the project entitled *Preberi dvakrat!* (Read twice!) as a part of their master's degree studies in social pedagogy. The purpose of the project was to promote critical reading of job advertisements, identify potential human trafficking victims, and raise awareness about the importance of checking advertisement contents. In 2018 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) was carried out by Slovene philanthropy (Slovenska filantropija, n.d.-a). With the aim to raise awareness (Slovenska filantropija, n.d.-a) they organised 12 information workshops focused on various aspects of international protection, including professionals, volunteers, children, and those whose applications were rejected (Slovenska filantropija, 2018). In 2014, the “human store” was opened in Ljubljana for two days with the goal to raise awareness about trafficking in human beings. The store involved “live items” (e.g., prostitutes) that were packed in packages resembling toy packaging in children's stores (e.g., Barbie) (Iz principa, n.d.). The latest projects are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Projects on human trafficking in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Project period	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
2	Dolar 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/bl og/2018/01/17/se m-ana-in-nisem-tvoja-ancka/



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/
4	Društvo Ključ - center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (n.d.-h)	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?route=information/information&information_id=4

5	Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (n.d.-i)	(Re)integracija žrtev trgovanja z ljudmi ((Re)integration of victims of trafficking in human beings)	Since its beginning, it has had different funders ¹ . 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/reintegracija/
6	Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (n.d.-i)	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/
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 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	To find out what is the prevalence of premature and forced marriage of Roma children, what are the risk factors, and the	https://irssv.si/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Prisilne-poroke-romskih-deklic.pdf

¹ The project was in the period 2016–2019 co-funded by the Embassy of the USA in the Republic of Slovenia, in the period 2019–2020 by Slovenian police with the help of European Union funds from the internal security fund and in the period 2021–2023 by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi. (n.d.-i).



			the Republic of Slovenia		represents the characteristics of crimes, perpetrators, and victims and provides proposals to improve this field's situation.	consequences of victims of such crimes.	
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:BN:SI:DOC-FL5091KR/cfae72db-203c-48a8-8ede-6d576ef06060/PDF
9	Slovenska filantropija (n.d.-a)	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/trgovin a-z-ljudmi/
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3.4 Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country

Narat et al. (2014) state that an example of good practice in Slovenia is Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi). This non-governmental organisation was established in 2001. It works on the prevention of trafficking in human beings and offers help to victims of it. They develop preventive and curative programs, participate in developing policies and programs, and offer emergency assistance to victims (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.-f). Over the years, they have set up crisis accommodation and launched a safe space. Annually, they organize different awareness activities and trainings for various target groups (e.g., professionals, children, youth, vulnerable population, public) (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.-b, n.d.-c, n.d.-d, n.d.-e, n.d.-j). According to Group of experts on action against trafficking in human beings (GRETA) (2020), other examples of good practices are funding the 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 (Bučar Ručman & Frangež, 2014), and implementation of 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 by Slovene philanthropy in 2018 (Slovenska filantropija, 2018; n.d.-a). We have already described both of the projects earlier. Another good practice are activities by Caritas Slovenia (Slovenska karitas) and The National Working Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Medresorska delovna skupina za boj proti trgovini z ljudmi). All good practices are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4: Good and sustainable practices in the field of human trafficking in Slovenia

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Caritas Slovenia (Slovenska karitas)	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/
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_Zaključno_porocilo_raziskave_Analiza_trgovine_z_ljudmi_z_namenom_izkoriscanja_delovne_sile_trgovine_z_otroki_prisilnega_beracenja_in_izvrsevanja_kaznivih_dejanj

Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi)	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/
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/
The project “Boj proti trgovini z ljudmi – širjenje informacij je orožje proti izkoriščanju”	To raise awareness among applicants for international protection, persons with recognized	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	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	https://www.filantropija.org/boj-proti-trgovini-z-ljudmi-



(Countering trafficking in human beings – spreading information is a weapon against exploitation)	international protection, and persons whose applications for international protection were rejected about trafficking in human beings.	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.	help. The most vulnerable groups of people (e.g., children and unaccompanied minors) are at the most significant risk of becoming victims.	<u>sirjenje-informacij-je-orozje-proti-izkoriscanju-2018/</u> <u>https://www.filantropija.org/2018/10/29/boj-proti-trgovini-z-ljudmi-sirjenje-informacij-je-orozje-proti-izkoriscanju-3/</u>
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3.5 Information on other important aspect of the selected topic

In Slovenia, there are several programs of treatments of victims of human trafficking² (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. Caritas Slovenia (Slovenska karitas), 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 (Ministrstvo za notranje zadeve, 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 Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi). 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, Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.-i) 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; Ministrstvo za notranje zadeve, 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 Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi), the project involves providing asylum seekers with crucial

² Programs are thoroughly explained in Ana Tiegl's diploma thesis (Tiegl, 2024). She conducted interviews with Slovenian NGOs that provide assistance to victims of human trafficking.

information on human trafficking, sexual violence, and gender-based violence, as well as supporting. As part of this initiative, staff members from the Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi) 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 Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi). 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 Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi) 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 Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi) 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).

Table 5: Programs of treatments of victims of human trafficking in Slovenia

	Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results	Link
1.	Celostna oskrba žrtev trgovine z ljudmi-krizna namestitev (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/
2.	Celostna oskrba žrtev trgovine z ljudmi-varna namestitev (Comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in human beings-safe accommodation)	Safe accommodation for victims of human trafficking implemented by Ključ Society - Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ - center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi). The program is funded by the Ministry of the Interior of	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	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/



	Republic of Slovenia.				option to return to their countries of origin within the program's framework.		
3.	(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.
4.	PATS project	Identifying, assisting, and protecting victims of human trafficking and sexual violence	Assistance to victims	To provide asylum seekers with crucial information on human trafficking, sexual	Since 2005	As part of this initiative, staff members from the Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju	Since 2016, 1,704 asylum seekers were offered help in the PATS program (Tiegl, 2024).

<https://drustvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/kurativni-projekti/reintegracija/>

<https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/boj-proti-trgovini-z-ljudmi/pomoc-in-zascita-zrtev/>;
<https://www.goo>

	within the asylum system. The program is implemented by Ključ Society - Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ - center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi)		violence, and gender-based violence, as well as supporting.		z ljudmi) 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)		gle.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=http://www.drustvo-kljuc.si/files/PATS_PROJEKT.ppt&ved=2ahUKEwit6O7N_qGIAxXlhp0HHX3eApAQFnoECA4OAO&usg=AOvVaw33nSjkHpophNzixQlSdn1F
5. 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/
6. 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	/	https://dk.um.si/lzpisGradiva.php?id=89580



						trafficking but who need a rescue from their current situation (Tiegl, 2024).		
7.	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	The Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi) 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).

3.6 Case studies

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

Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi) 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. Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (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 Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi) 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”

4 TOPIC 2 – Undocumented migrants and fair-trade policies

4.1 The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country

The majority of the population in Slovenia has a multidimensional attitude towards immigration, immigrants and their integration. The respondents' opinions vary depending on their socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, age, immigrant or non-immigrant background, level of education, and urbanization level of their place of residence. Generally, it was found that individuals belonging to one or more of the following groups tend to have a more negative attitude or opinion: men, older individuals, people without an immigrant background, those with lower levels of education, and those living in rural areas (Medvešek et al., 2022). In Slovenia, there are two main reasons why consumers do not purchase fairly traded products despite being aware of unethical practices. The first group takes personal responsibility regarding unethical trade, listing reasons such as the product's features, distrust of the Fair-trade system, and lack of information. The second group, however, does not feel empowered to resolve this issue and believes they have no influence (Gomboc et al., 2021).

Jalušič (2019) conducted a qualitative study to understand common policing and criminalization practices of migrants and those providing them with assistance through the lens of actors. She discovered five crimmigration policies that decrease political and human action space: discursive criminalization, bureaucratic tightening, banning access, and substantial restrictions justifying penalization and surveillance. Vah Jevšnik (2016) conducted a qualitative study to examine the influence of migration statuses on the likelihood of domestic violence and the vulnerability of female migrant victims in Slovenia. She found out that undocumented migrant women often refuse to report violence due to a lack of knowledge and social networks, fear of deportation, and economic dependency. Social workers face challenges in dealing with these victims, causing feelings of helplessness and discomfort. Bučar Ručman (2014) conducted research on the exploitation of foreign workers facing challenging economic and social conditions. The study found that perpetrators exploit both Slovenian and foreign workers who are experiencing challenging economic and social situations. These workers are forced to rent apartments in designated workers' dormitories with poor living and hygiene conditions, deliberately isolating them from the rest of the population. Perpetrators systematically recruit victims through fraud, deception, false promises, and by providing misleading information about working conditions and payment. They commit criminal acts by violating labour rights and forcing workers to engage in illegal activities, with the goal of making a profit. Victims often do not realize that they are being exploited and are afraid to speak out due to the fear of losing their jobs and the precarious situation they are in. When workers resist, the perpetrators may threaten to send them back to their country of origin, and in some cases, report the workers to the police, for example, when their work permit has expired. The state played a significant role in such exploitation due to inadequate legislation, such as the conditions for obtaining a personal work permit (Table 6).

Table 6: Research in the field of undocumented migrants and fair-trade policies in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Bučar Ručman (2013, 2014)	To explore the link between international migration and criminal activity, and the influencing factors.	The author conducted both quantitative and qualitative research on migration and criminality in the Municipality of Velenje, Slovenia.	Statistical analysis, semi-structured live interviews, participant observation	Key stakeholders, general public, migrant workers ($n=73$), snowball sampling, non-representative sampling	The perpetrators exploit both Slovenian and foreign workers who are facing challenging economic and social situations. They systematically recruit victims through fraud, deception, false promises, and by providing misleading information about working conditions and payment. They commit criminal acts by violating labour rights and forcing workers to engage in illegal activities, with the goal of making a profit. Victims often do not realize that they are being exploited and are afraid to speak out due to the fear of losing their jobs and the precarious situation they are in. When workers resist, the perpetrators may threaten to send them back to their country of origin, and in some cases, report the workers to the police, for example, when their work permit has expired. The state played a significant role in such exploitation due to inadequate legislation, such as the conditions for obtaining a personal work permit.	Bučar Ručman, A. (2014). Migracije in kriminaliteta: Pogled čez meje stereotipov in predsodkov. Založba ZRC SAZU. https://plus.cobiss.net/cobiss/si/sl/bib/odklj/277053952
2	Comboc et al. (2021)	To identify various reasons against purchasing ethical products to enhance our understanding of this gap.	Qualitative study	Semi-structured interview	Theoretical and convenience sampling ($n=43$)	There are two main reasons why consumers do not purchase fairly traded products despite being aware of unethical practices. The first group takes personal responsibility regarding unethical trade, listing reasons such as the product's features, distrust of the Fair-trade system, and lack of information. The second group, however, does not feel empowered to resolve this issue and believes they have no influence.	http://www.dlib.si/stream/URN:NBN:SI:doc=SWIMYH05/9bb66f58-d478-499e-8e3d-0a81c3dc1221/PDF
3	Jalušič (2019)	To gain a deeper understanding of some of the most common policing and criminalization	Qualitative study	Semi-structured interview	Members, employees, and volunteers of various civil society	Five types of crimmigration policies and practices of authorities and other actors were identified which produce cumulative effects and decrease space for political and human action: discursive criminalization, involving intimidation and	https://www.dlib.si/stream/URN:NBN:SI:doc=KBMCA3EI/70

		practices of migrants and those providing them with different types of assistance through the lens of the actors.			associations or more loosely organized groups from Slovenia and four neighbouring countries ($n=10$). There is no data about sampling.	suspicion; the bureaucratic tightening of the space for civic action; banning access and the possibility of monitoring; the introduction of substantial restrictions and attempts to justify the whole process of penalization and surveillance by legal means.	c3ef51-6d30-4104-88d6-ea1f0b6ab8d2/PDF
4	Medvešek et al. (2022)	To understand the current attitudes of the majority population in Slovenia towards immigration, immigrants, and their integration. Additionally, the goal is to identify the factors that influence the formation of these attitudes and the relationships between them.	Quantitative study	Survey questionnaire	Random sampling, representative sampling ($n=5,000$)	The research showed that the majority of the population in Slovenia has a multidimensional attitude towards immigration, immigrants and their integration. The respondents' opinions vary depending on their socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, age, immigrant or non-immigrant background, level of education, and urbanization level of their place of residence. Generally, it was found that individuals belonging to one or more of the following groups tend to have a more negative attitude or opinion: men, older individuals, people without an immigrant background, those with lower levels of education, and those living in rural areas.	http://www.dlib.si/stream/URN:NBN:SI:doc=BE3C50TX/9e51453e-78b1-40c0-ae5e-abc87759ffe8/PDF
5	Vah Jevšnik (2016)	To analyse the impact of migration statuses on the risk of domestic violence and the vulnerability of female migrant victims of domestic violence in Slovenia.	Qualitative study	Semi-structured interview	Professionals who meet with the victims of domestic violence ($n=30$). There is no data about sampling.	Undocumented migrant women usually do not report violence because they do not know the aid system, do not have social networks, are afraid of deportation, and are economically dependent on their perpetrators. In emergencies, they might be transferred to a crisis centre and later to the Centre for Foreigners, or they may face deportation from the country. In such cases, social workers are faced with helplessness, uncertainty, and discomfort.	https://www.revija-socialnodelo.si/mma/Vpliv_URN_NBN_SI_DOC-A00YYR6L.pdf/2018112614315002/

4.2 The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country

The latest projects on the selected topic focused on migration and fair-trade policies include a range of initiatives addressing integration, education, and human rights. The MIND project (2017–2020), funded by the DEAR programme, involved 12 partners from 11 countries, including Caritas Slovenia and SLOGA. It aimed to enhance public understanding of the link between sustainable development and migration, engaging various stakeholders to address the causes of migration and promote development opportunities for migrants and refugees. The Holistic Approach for Successful Integration of Migrants project (2016–2018), funded by Erasmus+, included six partners from four countries, focusing on developing vocational education programs for professionals working with migrants and establishing a network for coordinated integration efforts. The MigratED project (2018–2021), another Erasmus+ initiative with nine partners from five countries, aimed to promote intercultural dialogue, migration awareness, and human rights through digital tools, engaging youth and educators. The Challenges of Immigrant Integration and the Development of Integration Policy in Slovenia project (2018–2021), led by Mojca Medvešek from the Institute for Ethnic Studies, analysed Slovenia's legal and political frameworks for integration, assessing attitudes toward immigration and integration policies. The Crimmigration between Human Rights and Surveillance project (2016–2018), led by Neža Kogovšek Šalamon from the Peace Institute, examined the criminalization of migration and border control policies, resulting in publications and an international conference. Finally, the Ethnic and Minority Studies and the Slovene National Question project (2009–2014), led by Sonja Novak-Lukanović from the Institute for Ethnic Studies, explored ethnic relations and minority issues, highlighting how economic crises have exacerbated intolerance and interethnic tensions.

In Table 7, we present six projects related to migration and fair-trade. Three of these projects were carried out in Slovenia, while the other three were international collaborations involving partners from different countries, including Slovenia.

Table 7: Projects in the field of undocumented migrants and fair-trade policies in Slovenia

No	Author	Title, Acronym	Programme	Project period	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	12 partners from 11 countries; from Slovenia: Caritas Slovenia (Slovenska karitas) and SLOGA	MIND – Migration. Interconnectedness. Development.	DEAR programme	2017–2020	The project's outcomes include enhancing public understanding of the connection between global sustainable development and migration, exploring its impact on the EU and developing countries, and the EU's involvement in development cooperation across 11 EU Member States. Government authorities, civil society organizations, individuals, and other potential development contributors are becoming more involved in tackling the underlying causes of migration and investing in migrants and refugees as participants in development across 11 EU Member States.	To promote positive perspectives and encourage active engagement from European society on development issues, including expanding opportunities for people to gain a better understanding of the connections between migration, sustainable development, and the need for compassionate and respectful responses to these issues.	https://dearprogramma.eu/project/mind-migration-interconnectedness-development/
2	6 partners from 4 countries; from Slovenia: Social Chamber (Socialna zbornica), Gerontological Research Institute (Gerontološki raziskovalni inštitut), Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (Center	Holistic approach for successful integration of migrants	Erasmus+	2016–2018	Project results include a vocational education and training program for professionals working with migrants; a catalogue of skills proficiency check for professionals and employees in the field of work migrants; professional basis for a new professional qualification "coordinator/counsellor working with migrants"; a guide for trainers/training providers; and a model of co-ordination	To design and implement a comprehensive approach for the successful integration of migrants, professionals from different fields such as education, social and health care, employment, and other areas should receive specialized training to work with migrants. This would involve standardized verification of professionals' qualifications to work with migrants and establish the foundational elements for a new national professional	https://www.szslo.si/integration-of-migrants; https://cp.i.si/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/IQ4_vodnik_slo.pdf

	Republike Slovenije za poklicno izobraževanje)				network of experts on the integration of migrants: https://www.hasim.eu/ .	competency of "coordinator/counsellor working with migrants." Furthermore, this initiative aims to standardize practices for working with migrants and provide opportunities for experts from various fields to participate in coordination networks for working with migrants	
3	9 partners from 5 countries; from Slovenia: SLOGA	MigratED, Migrations and human rights enhanced through technology in education	Erasmus+	2018– 2021	Youth and the educational community are participating in a digital awareness campaign to promote a culture of sharing and inclusivity in Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Cyprus, and Greece.	To advance impactful educational practices in the areas of intercultural dialogue, migration, and human rights. To empower teachers, educators, and younger generations with essential knowledge in these areas, utilizing digital and multimedia tools.	https://w ww.migra ted.eu
4	Project manager: Mojca Medvešek, Institute for ethnic studies, Slovenia	Izzivi integracije priseljencev in razvoj integracijske politike v Sloveniji (Challenges of immigrant integration and the development of integration policy in Slovenia)	ARRS J5-9351	2018– 2021	The project involves analysing the legal and political framework of integration, evaluating the content of integration policies and specific measures, assessing governance structures, examining the integration status of immigrants and their descendants across various areas, studying the perspective of immigrants and their descendants regarding integration and integration policies, and analysing the perspective of the majority of the population in Slovenia on immigration, immigrants, and integration.	To investigate the processes of immigrant integration in Slovenia. This includes identifying the needs and perceptions of immigrants and their descendants regarding their inclusion in Slovenian society. Additionally, it involves studying the attitudes of members and institutions of the majority society toward immigrants. The aim is to examine how Slovenian integration policy and legislation align with the practical needs that arise.	https://cri s.cobiss.n et/ecris/si /en/proje ct/17341

5	Project manager: Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, Peace Inštitut, Slovenia. Partner in project: Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law, Slovenia	Crimmigration between Human Rights and Surveillance (Krimigracije med človekovimi pravicami in nadzorom)	ARRS J5-7121 (B)	2016– 2018	Project results included the international conference "Understanding Causes and Consequences of the Criminalization of Migration" (May 2018) and the publication of several scientific articles and monographs: https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/crimmigration-between-human-rights-and-surveillance/	The project aims to achieve the following objectives: to enhance understanding of the processes of criminalization and the expansion of the punitive state before, during, and after migrants' entry into the EU; to gain insight into border management, externalization of border control, and the role of Frontex; to analyse crimmigration through the perspective of theories of equality, racism, and xenophobia; to deepen understanding of the underlying motivations of migration policies and criminalization; to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and ongoing challenges of EU legislation in balancing fundamental rights and the need for control; to develop new theoretical concepts in the field of criminal migration; to raise awareness of the relationship between control and fundamental rights within the Slovenian scientific community through the publication of research results in Slovenia; and to contribute to the academic discourse at the EU and international levels by publishing research results in international journals, thereby promoting Slovenian research achievements on the global stage.	https://cris.cobiss.net/ecris/si/en/project/10034
6	Project manager: Sonja Novak- Lukanović, Institute	Manjšinske in etnične študije ter slovensko	ARRS P5- 0081	2009– 2014	The project has successfully fulfilled its primary objectives by conducting ongoing and	The project explores the significance of ethnicity, minority membership, and ethnic identities	https://www.dlib.si/stream/

for ethnic studies, Slovenia	narodno vprašanje Ethnic and minority studies and the Slovene studies (Slovene national question)	thorough research on ethnicity and (inter)ethnic relations in Slovenia, Europe (with a focus on neighbouring countries), and globally. This has been coupled with the creation of original research data and databases to ensure the production of high- quality theoretical work.	in plural societies. It is based on the hypothesis that these factors play a vital role in shaping societies and their development, as well as contributing to their stability. The project specifically focuses on studying ethnic and minority issues in the context of economic and social crises, as well as the responses of societies and states to these challenges. The research found that minority and marginalized communities experienced a worsening of their position, along with frequent incidents of intolerance and xenophobia. Additionally, in some contexts, there was a deterioration of (inter)ethnic relations.	URN:NBN: :SI:DOC- MOVW4 DT7/aac4 4ad0- a0db- 4d23- ba74- ecf5989bf 056/PDF
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4.3 Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country

Table 8: Good and sustainable practices in the field of undocumented migrants and fair-trade policies in Slovenia

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Initiative for fair-trade cities in Slovenia	Establishing a program to grant Fair-Trade Town status to Slovenian cities.	Ongoing	In the first step, we will create a commission consisting of representatives from the non-governmental sector, the public sector, and companies to launch the initiative for designating fair-trade cities in Slovenia. This commission will provide diverse viewpoints on how Slovenian cities can incorporate the principles of fair-trade. The campaign aims to inspire municipalities, educational institutions, and local businesses to embrace the challenge of meeting the criteria and achieving Fair-Trade City status.	Publications available that provide information on how to attain Fair-Trade City status in Slovenia: - https://pravicna-trgovina-v-slove.shopamine.si/s/u/BROSpravL_AST12LINKI_Xaktiv.pdf - https://pravicna-trgovina-v-slove.shopamine.si/s/u/lezikovni_prirocnik.pdf	https://www.pravicna-trgovina.si/projekti/mesta-pravicne-trgovine
3 MUHE fair-trade shop	First fair-trade shop in Slovenia	Since 2004	To improve living conditions in economically neglected countries, eliminate exploitation, provide opportunities for change, and demonstrate fair-trade.	The fair-trade shop 3 MUHE offers both an online and physical store in Ljubljana.	https://www.pravicna-trgovina.si
EtnoBotanika	Fair-trade online shop	Ongoing	EtnoBotanika is a company that prioritizes sustainability and social responsibility. They focus on producing high-quality products and promoting fair-trade. EtnoBotanika aims to support modern ethnic communities and individuals with traditional knowledge to be integrated into society.	The shop assures that the products are chosen based on ethical and fair-trade principles. Everyone involved in the production process is paid fairly, and the process itself does not exploit animals or natural resources.	https://www.etnobotanika.eu
Free Slovenian	Initial integration	Ongoing	The single (ZIP) program is offering an integrated approach to learning the	The single ZIP programmes are provided free of charge to participants, with the associated costs covered by the	https://infotujci.si/en/integration-into-slovenian-



language courses	of immigrants		Slovenian language and gaining an understanding of Slovenian society.	Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants and the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).	society/free-slovenian- language-courses/; https://www.luniverza.si/file s/dokumenti/zip-kranj.pdf
Migrant Integration Academy (Akademija za integracijo migrantov)	Integration of migrants	6.-7. 2016	The training aims to provide 20 individuals with information and skills to organize events and workshops on migrant integration in their local environment. The goal is to promote a respectful and open attitude towards refugees.	The training was part of the project "Strengthening NGOs for Work with Migrants and Strengthening the Supportive Environment," supported by the United States Embassy in Ljubljana. It was free for all participants. To participate, individuals needed to commit to organizing at least two events on the topic of migrant integration in their living area and be present for the entire workshop.	https://www.sloga- platform.org/wp- content/uploads/2016/05/S LOGA-Vabilo-na- usposabljanje-za- integracijo.pdf

4.4 Information on other important aspect of the selected topic

Undocumented Migrants and Fair-Trade Policies is closely linked to criminal investigation, particularly in the areas of crime detection, prevention, and the protection of vulnerable populations. Undocumented migrants often face heightened risks of exploitation, trafficking, and illegal labour practices, which are areas of concern within criminal investigation. Law enforcement agencies are tasked with the detection of crimes like human trafficking, forced labour, and exploitation within industries that often employ undocumented workers.

Additionally, prevention plays a key role in criminal investigation. By promoting and enforcing fair-trade policies, authorities can help reduce the demand for illegal labour and ensure that undocumented migrants are not exploited in industries like agriculture, manufacturing, or service sectors. Fair-trade policies establish legal frameworks that promote ethical labour practices and reduce the conditions that lead to exploitation. By aligning these policies with criminal justice efforts, criminal investigation contributes to preventing crimes linked to undocumented migration, such as wage theft, unsafe working conditions, and human rights abuses.

In summary, the intersection of undocumented migrants and fair-trade policies with criminal investigation is multifaceted. Criminal investigation is integral to the detection of crimes such as exploitation and human trafficking, the prevention of these crimes through enforcement of fair-trade policies, and the protection of migrants through social inclusion efforts aimed at reducing vulnerability to criminal networks. This comprehensive approach helps ensure both the protection of human rights and the maintenance of legal and ethical standards within global trade and migration systems.

There are numerous NGO organisations in Slovenia that are helping undocumented migrants and educating them about fair-trade policies. The biggest one is PIC (Legal centre for the protection of human rights and the environment – pic.si) which provides you with free legal information about asylum in Slovenia and helps you file the asylum application. Their lawyer can also represent you in the asylum proceedings free of charge.

See website of UNHCR for further details about organisations that offer help from legal or family reunification advice to support on trafficking:
<https://help.unhcr.org/slovenia/services/>

Slovenia is taking part in the Empowering Migrant Voices on Integration and Inclusion Policies (EMVI) project, along with Austria, Germany, Greece, and Italy. The project aims to facilitate and enhance the involvement of migrants in shaping and carrying out policies that directly impact them, and to bring attention to the challenges they encounter to local, national, and European policymakers. The activities of the project involve creating practical tools and implementing tested activities in each partner country.

The participating countries have varying levels of migrant political participation. In Slovenia, third-country nationals with permanent residency permits have voting rights at the local level, while integration is based on social systems at the national level.

Further, The Peace Institute (Mirovni inštitut), the Gmajna Cultural Society (Kulturno društvo Gmajna), and the Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia (Skupnost občin Slovenije), Slovenian partners in the EMVI project, have put forth an initiative to collaborate with the Municipality of Ljubljana (MOL) to establish a council for migrant integration, inspired by the successful practice of Graz, Austria.

In 2023, a joint meeting was held between the EMVI project partners and MOL representatives, at the invitation of MOL's deputy mayor, Dejan Crnek. During the meeting,



discussions took place about MOL, the area with the highest concentration of migrants in Slovenia, establishing a council for migrant integration following the model of the Immigrants' Council of the city of Graz. The meeting concluded with an agreement for cooperation and further activities to establish such council in Ljubljana.

More information on EMVI project: https://diaspora-participation.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/EMVI_ENG_Flyer_A5_template.pdf

5 TOPIC 3 – Migrant women and female victims of trafficking

5.1 The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country

Since 2014, three crucial studies on human trafficking have been undertaken in Slovenia. To meet the minimum guideline of five such research endeavours, we have also incorporated studies in this field from 2005 onwards. Since 2014, three studies on human trafficking have been conducted in Slovenia. To meet the requirement of having a minimum of five such studies, we have also included research in this field dating back to 2005. In Table 9, we present seven research studies that analyse the trafficking of female migrant victims, either exclusively or in combination with other aspects.

Table 9: Research in the field of migrant women and female victims of trafficking in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Kogovšek Šalamon, Učakar, et al. (2023)	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/2023/03/RKK2023-03_NezaKogovsekSalamon_SocialnopravniVidiki.pdf
2	Pajnik and Kavčič (2006)	To discuss the demand side of the sex industry, and its connection with human trafficking and prostitution.	Qualitative and quantitative study	Telephone survey, semi-structured interviews both over the phone and face-to-face	Survey: general public, $n=306$, purposive, representative sampling; semi-structured interviews: key stakeholders, prostitutes, customers, nightclub owners, pimps, web forum administrator, $n=20$, purposive and snowball sampling, non-representative sampling	The majority of victims come from Ukraine, Romania, and Moldova. Some victims may be coerced into so-called voluntary prostitution. It is often difficult for people to identify victims of human trafficking. Victims may not even realize that they are being victimized, and their movement is often restricted. Perpetrators also take money from the victims. To prevent human trafficking, it is important to have discussions about prostitution and human trafficking in schools, and to raise awareness through workshops, advertisements, and visual materials such as pictures and videos.	https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/iom-the-demand-side-of-sex-perspective-s-on-trafficking-and-prostitution-the-case-of-slovenia/
3	Pajnik and Kavčič (2007)	To analyse statistical data and court cases in the	Qualitative study	Analysis of legal acts obtained online, and	Slovenian and foreign legal acts: sample size and sampling method are not specified; court	The victims include Slovenian and foreign citizens, while the majority of the perpetrators are male and from Slovenia. Many of the perpetrators are	https://www.mirovni-institut.si/pojekti/vzp

		field of human trafficking		court files obtained in person	files: $n=17$, all files from the period 2001–2005	unemployed and facing social and economic difficulties. Some of the wealthier perpetrators own businesses such as nightclubs, massage parlours, marriage agencies, and taxi services. The research includes recommendations for managing data on victims and ongoing cases, providing assistance and protection to victims, as well as conducting further research.	ostavitev-in-spremljanje-mednarodnoprimerljivih-kazalcev-o-trgovini-z-ljudmi/
4	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
5	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_Radacic_M_Pajnik



6	Šalamon (2006)	To assess the awareness of human trafficking among female asylum seekers, measure the prevalence of sexual exploitation among them, and investigate their motives for seeking opportunities in foreign countries	Qualitative and quantitative study	Survey, interviews	Interviewing: female asylum seekers, $n=7$, purposive, non-representative sampling; interviewing: key stakeholders, $n=2$, sampling method not stated	Asylum seekers often mention poor economic conditions, the possibility of earning extra income, and access to luxury goods as reasons why girls and women end up in prostitution. Many people in their home countries are not aware of the risks of international human trafficking. Slovenia is commonly used as a transit country for asylum seekers, who may become victims of prostitution or forced labour due to their low education, lack of knowledge of the language, and young age, which make it difficult for them to find employment or regularize their status without being exploited or abused. Research findings indicate that prostitution also occurs within the Asylum in Ljubljana.	https://plus.cobiss.net/cobiss/si/sl/bib/prflj/1859016
7	Šori (2005)	To explore the various forms of prostitution in Slovenia and understand the attitudes, lifestyle, and relationships of sex workers and their clients	Qualitative study	Semi-structured face-to-face, telephone and written interviews	Key stakeholders, female and male prostitutes, clients, sample size not stated; purposive, non-representative sampling	The victims of human trafficking in Slovenia can be Slovenian or foreign citizens. The most common forms of prostitution in Slovenia are residential prostitution and prostitution in nightclubs. Perpetrators deceive victims with false promises of payment and use the method of debt addiction. They recruit victims by pretending to be clients and then use threats, physical violence, and sexual violence to force them to work for them. The customers are mainly men who do not share their experiences with prostitutes with others.	https://www.etno-muzej.si/files/etnolog/pdf/0354-0316_15_Sori_Prostituci ja.pdf

5.2 The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country

The Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi, n.d.-l) has implemented the project Pogum [Courage] in 2022 to mitigate the challenges faced by the women displaced by the war in Ukraine and relocated in Slovenia, and to provide them with equal opportunities and empowerment. We did not find any information about the implementation level. In the period 1. 10. 2020 – 30. 9. 2022 The peace institute – Institute for contemporary social and political studies (Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije, n.d.-a) collaborated in the project Erasmus+ Glasovi migrantk (Voices of immigrant women (Viw)) whose aim was to help create inclusive higher education system by tackling the pressing social issue of women's immigration. Partners conducted case studies and analysed personal stories of the successful integration of immigrant women, developed an e-learning package, and formulated recommendations for policymakers (*Welcome to Viw project*, n.d.). The Slovenian partner, through the interview of a woman, discovered that the migration experience had a significant impact on her life. She noted improvement in her life compared to her country of origin, resulting in increased security (*Empowerment story: Escaping from war in Syria and changing the world-view in Slovenia*, n.d.). The projects are summarized in Table 10.

Table 10: Projects in the field of migrant women and female victims of trafficking in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Project period	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	Dolinar et al. (2018)	Sem Ana in nisem tvoja (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/
2	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://društvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/kurativni-projekti/celostna-oskrba-zrtev-tzl/
3	Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (n.d.-i)	((Re)integracija žrtev trgovanja z ljudmi ((Re)integration of victims of trafficking in human beings)	Since its beginning, it has had different	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://društvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/kurativni-projekti/reintegracija/

			fundings ³ . Currently, it is funded by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia (the Police).				
4	Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi (n.d.-I)	Pogum (Courage)	Co-funded by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia	2022	The POGUM project offered therapeutic and integration activities to empower Ukrainian women refugees, helping them build resilience and avoid exploitative work. The SOOS TzL project provided healthcare access and advocacy for trafficking victims while educating healthcare professionals on supporting these individuals. We did not find information about the implementation level.	To alleviate the hardships and create equal opportunities for women displaced by the war in Ukraine and brought to Slovenia, to empower them, and to inform them that because they are refugees, they do not need to accept risky offers for income.	https://drustvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/kurativni-projekti/zakljuceni-projekti/
5	Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije (n.d.-a)	Glasovi migrant (Voices of immigrant women (Viw))	Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union	1.10.2020–30.9.2022	During the project, partners conducted case studies and analysed personal stories of the successful integration of migrant women in European countries, established an e-learning package, and formed recommendations for politics. The Slovenian partner found that the migration experience significantly influenced the interviewee's life. She noted a considerable improvement in her quality of life in Slovenia compared to her country of origin, leading to feelings of increased security.	To contribute to establishing an inclusive higher education system by addressing the critical social challenge of women's migration in the current European context.	https://www.mirovni-institut.si/projekti/glasovi-migrantk/

³ The project was in the period 2016–2019 co-funded by the Embassy of the USA in the Republic of Slovenia, in the period 2019–2020 by Slovenian police with the help of European Union funds from the internal security fund and in the period 2021–2023 by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi. (n.d.-i).

5.3 Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country

Table 11: Good and sustainable practices in the field of migrant women and female victims of trafficking in Slovenia

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Caritas Slovenia (Slovenska karitas)	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/
Celostna oskrba žrtev trgovine z ljudmi-krizna namestitev (Comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in human beings-crisis accommodation)	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 namestitev (Comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in human beings-safe accommodation)	To provide victims who cooperate with the police with safe accommodation, help and support.	Since 2001	Safe accommodation for victims of human trafficking implemented by Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi). The program 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).	https://društvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/kurativni-projekti/celostna-oskrba-zrtev-tzl/
Prava zveza (Right relationship)	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	Organizations in Slovenia are collaborating to achieve better results in their shared working field.	The Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi) 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 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	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	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-



group consists of 18 members from different institutions and 7 independent external members from various institutions and organizations.	measures for combating trafficking in human beings, especially related to prevention and providing support to trafficking victims.	<u>trafficking-</u> <u>in-human-</u> <u>being/</u>
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5.4 Information on other important aspect of the selected topic

Table 12: Programs of treatments of victims of human trafficking in Slovenia

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 Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi). The program is	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	Since 2016, 20 victims of human trafficking were included in the program (Tiegl, 2024).	https://društvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/kurativni-projekti/celostna-oskrba-zrtev-tzl/



	funded by the Ministry of the Interior of Republic of Slovenia.				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.		
(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-delo/kurativni-projekti/reintegracija/
PATS project	Identifying, assisting, and protecting victims of human trafficking and sexual violence within the asylum system.	Assistance to victims	To provide asylum seekers with crucial information on human trafficking, sexual violence,	Since 2005	As part of this initiative, staff members from the Ključ Society - Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi) visit asylum centres to educate	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&rct=j



	The program is implemented by Ključ Society - Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ - center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi)		and gender-based violence, as well as supporting.		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)		http://www.drustvo-kljuc.si/files/PATS_PROJEKT.ppt&ved=2ahUKEwit6QZN_qGIAxXlhPOHHX3eApAQFnoECA4QAO&usg=AOvVaw33nSjkHpophNzixQlsdn1F
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 professional s) 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	/	https://dk.um.si/lzpisGradiva.php?id=89580



					trafficking but who need a rescue from their current situation (Tiegl, 2024).		
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	The Ključ Society – Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi) 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); and at https://drustvo-kljuc.si/nase-delo/preventivni-projekti/prava-zveza/

6 TOPIC 4 – Digital literacy and social inequality

6.1 The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country

Bertok and Frangež (2022) conducted a quantitative study to assess the effectiveness of utilizing a multisensory space for teaching digital skills and evaluate youth's proficiency in digital skills acquired during workshops as a part of the project Digitalne spretnosti za integracijo in aktivno državljanstvo (Digital skills for integration and active citizenship (DISC)). They found out that a multisensory space enhances digital skills. A reliable self-assessment tool showed improvement in areas covered, and youth did not claim knowledge in unaddressed areas. Gornik et al. (2020) conducted a qualitative study as part of the project Priseljenski otroci in priseljske skupnosti v spreminjajoči se Evropi (Migrant children and communities in a transforming Europe (MiCREATE)) to investigate the impact of school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic on the integration of migrant students in Slovenian schools and its role in perpetuating social disparities. Their findings suggest the shutdown of schools in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic heightened the vulnerability of students from migrant backgrounds. These children faced disparities stemming from factors such as the absence of inclusive intercultural educational approaches, limited language skills, inadequate digital literacy, lack of necessary technology, and insufficient family support. The study by Mirazchiyski (2016) investigates the gaps in students' Computer and Information Literacy (CIL) across various countries, focusing on how socioeconomic status (SES) affects these abilities. Using data from the International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS) 2013, which surveyed 8th-grade students from 21 countries (including 3,740 students in Slovenia), the study finds that SES significantly influences CIL. It shows that school-level SES has a stronger impact on CIL than individual SES. Although schools have access to various ICT resources, these resources did not notably reduce SES-related gaps. Students from higher SES backgrounds generally performed better in advanced ICT tasks, while lower SES students were limited to more basic ICT usage, thereby reinforcing the digital divide. The study "Digital Literacy of Slovenian High School Students" from Stanojev and Florjančič (2018) examines the digital literacy skills of secondary school students in Slovenia. It assesses their ability to use digital tools effectively and evaluates how well information and communication technologies (ICT) are integrated into education. The study found that students have basic digital literacy skills but struggle with more advanced competencies like critical evaluation and ethical use of digital content. Socioeconomic disparities and uneven school resources also contribute to these gaps, highlighting the need for improved digital literacy education across Slovenia. Another interesting research was compiled in a conference proceeding, from editors Hmelak and Marinšek (2024) titled "Rethinking Childhood III – Teaching for an Inclusive, Technologically Competent, and Towards Sustainability Oriented Society," which encapsulates 39 research contributions that collectively aim to advance educational practices with focus on digital literacy. The main finding was that teaching methodologies need to shift towards inclusivity, technological competence, and sustainability to meet the demands of the 21st-century education system. More information about them is presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Research in the field of digital literacy and social inequality in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Bertok and Frangež (2022)	To determine the usefulness of multisensory space as a method of teaching digital skills and the level of assimilated digital skills of youth included in workshops.	Quantitative study	Questionnaires	Young people included in CONA Moste, CONA Fužine, and CONA Polje activities ($n=22$). There is no data about sampling.	A multisensory space is a valuable tool for developing digital skills. The participants were willing to collaborate in a multisensory space and gained practical knowledge. The self-assessment tool was highly reliable, and children reported noticeable enhancements in areas covered during the workshops. The youth comprehended the survey and provided a truthful response, as they did not claim to have improved knowledge in the areas not addressed during the workshops.	https://www.dsps.si/index.php/dsps/article/view/95/98
2	Gornik et al. (2020)	To examine the consequences of school closures during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic on the integration process of migrant learners in Slovenian schools and how it contributes to the perpetuation of social inequalities.	Qualitative study	Semi-structured interviews and focus groups	Teachers, principals, and school counsellors, migrant learners. Convenience and snowball sampling	The closure of schools during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic posed an increased risk for learners with a migrant background. Migrant children have experienced inequality primarily due to the lack of inclusive intercultural educational practices, limited language proficiency, underdeveloped digital literacy, inadequate technical equipment, and insufficient family support.	https://www.dlib.si/stream/URN:NBN:SI:doc-L69SCSOK/a47ba1eb-97c3-4bc8-827f-a34f22689dd5/PDF
3	Mirazchiyski (2016)	To is to explore the gaps in students' abilities for effective participation in various domains, specifically focusing on Computer and Information Literacy. The study examines how socioeconomic status impacts these abilities, utilizing data from the International Computer and Information Literacy Study	Quantitative study	Questionnaires	8th-grade students from 21 countries that took part in the International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS) 2013. In Slovenia 3,740 students.	The study found significant gaps in Computer and Information Literacy (CIL) between students based on their socio-economic status (SES) in all countries. School-level SES had an even stronger influence on CIL than individual SES. Despite various ICT resources in schools, these did not significantly reduce the SES-related gaps. Higher SES schools and students were generally more advantaged, and lower SES students often used ICT for lower-order tasks,	https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311442323_Mirazchiyski_P_2016_The_Digital_Divide_The_Role_of_Socioeconomic_Status_a_cross_Country

		(ICILS) 2013, which includes data from 20 countries.				while higher SES students used it for more advanced purposes, exacerbating the digital divide.	es_Solsko_Polje_3-4_23-52
4	Stanojev and Florjančič (2018)	The study's purpose is to examine the digital literacy of Slovenian high school students, evaluate how information and communication technology (ICT) is integrated into education, and assess students' ability to use digital tools effectively.	Quantitative study	Questionnaires	The sampling involved a representative group of students from various secondary schools across. (n=545)	The main findings of the study revealed that while Slovenian high school students possess basic digital literacy skills, there are notable gaps in more advanced competencies, such as critical evaluation of digital information and ethical use of digital resources. The research also highlighted differences in digital literacy levels based on socioeconomic factors and school resources. Overall, the study underscored the need for enhanced digital literacy education to better equip students for future digital challenges.	https://www.hippocampus.si/ISBN/978-961-7023-78-7.pdf
5	Hmelak and Marinšek (2024)	The conference proceeding aims to explore innovative approaches to education. Its purpose is to promote teaching methods that foster inclusivity, technological competence, and sustainability in society. The research focuses on developing teachers' beliefs, attitudes, and knowledge to align with modern educational paradigms, including student-centred learning, digital integration, and fostering critical thinking and creativity.	Qualitative and Quantitative studies	Questionnaires and literature research	Various different sampling methods	The studies found that teaching methodologies need to shift towards inclusivity, technological competence, and sustainability to meet the demands of the 21st-century education system. Key findings include the importance of fostering critical thinking, creativity, and student-centred learning. Additionally, the integration of digital technologies is vital for improving teaching practices. Teachers' beliefs, attitudes, and knowledge play a significant role in adopting these new paradigms. The study emphasizes the need for continuous professional development and innovation in teaching methods to align with these evolving educational goals.	https://dk.um.si/Dokument.php?id=185364&lang=slv

6.2 The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country

The project Digitalne spretnosti za integracijo in aktivno državljanstvo (Digital skills for integration and active citizenship (DISC)) was co-funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union and lasted from 31. 12. 2018 to 31. 12. 2021 (Univerza v Mariboru, Fakulteta za varnostne vede, n.d.-b). The main objectives were to enhance the digital literacy of migrants and their integration, promote active citizenship and intercultural dialogue, empower higher education institutions, implement inclusive teaching practices, and create a network for educational integration (DISC, n.d.-c). Through the project, five partners conducted 17 pilots using the Multisensory Space method and self-assessment tool SMART+. The DISC training platform was also created (Räty & Wikström, 2022). The results of the University of Maribor that are presented in Räty and Wikström (2022) are related to research by Bertok and Frangež (2022). The project Digitalno vključeni – Medgeneracijska sinergija v digitalnem učnem okolju za kakovostno staranje (Digitally included – Intergenerational synergy in a digital learning environment for quality aging) lasted in the period 1. 1. 2022–31. 12. 2023 to promote active participation among older individuals and enhance their digital literacy (Simbioza Genesis, n.d.-a). Partners created an intergenerational digital platform and held live workshops and virtual events (Digitalno inovacijsko stičišče Slovenije, 2024; *Digitalno vključeni*, n.d.). The project E-zdravstvena pismenost (E-HEALth Literacy (HEAL)) lasted from 1. 1. 2022 to 31. 12. 2023 with the aim to enhance digital health literacy, particularly among vulnerable groups like the elderly and the socially disadvantaged (Simbioza Genesis, n.d.-b). Partners created the training program, Training Kit (*HEAL project aims to empower all people that can benefit most from using e-health services*, n.d.), consisting of five modules. Each partner tested the program, and the Slovenian partner tested it involving employees, educators, and volunteers, benefiting the general public through individual and group training (*Unlocking the power of multipliers: A guide for transferring knowledge on e-Health*, n.d.). Symbiosis Mobiln@ (Simbioza Mobiln@) is the sustainable project from 2021. It is a mobile classroom that offers digital workshops for older people over 55, along with individual counselling and other services to address ICT technology challenges. One of the goals is to bridge the gap between individuals at 55 years and above and the technological advancements (Simbioza Genesis, n.d.-c). The largest and oldest project in the field of digital literacy is the Safe Internet Centre project which plays a critical role in Slovenia by fostering a safer digital environment, particularly for younger users. Through its education programs, workshops, and online resources, it equips children, parents, and educators with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the digital world safely. With its collaborative and multifaceted approach, Safe.si has become a key player in Slovenia's efforts to improve digital literacy and protect citizens from the risks of the online world (Safe.si, n.d.). More information about the projects is displayed in Table 14.

Table 14: Projects in the field of digital literacy and social inequality in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Project period	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	DISC (n.d.-c)	Digitalne spretnosti za integracijo in aktivno državljanstvo (Digital skills for integration and active citizenship (DISC))	Co-funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union	31. 12. 2018–31. 12. 2021	Five partners applied the multisensory space method and SMART+ self-assessment tool with diverse participants groups in various environments. A total of 17 pilots were conducted. Maribor University implemented the pilots through workshops in daycentres, catering to children and adolescents with difficulties in growing up. Participants learned for instance, how to connect laptops and projectors, make presentations enjoyable, and concentrate on essential things during the presentation. Partners wrote the joint report that includes descriptions of pilots, results, and learned lessons. In addition, a DISC training platform for teachers, educators, volunteers, and anyone interested in intercultural topics and digital inclusion was designed.	To improve the digital skills of migratory individuals, promote integration and citizenship, foster intercultural dialogue, strengthen higher education institutions, provide inclusive teaching methods, and establish networks for educational integration.	https://discproject.eu/
2	<i>Digitalno vključeni</i> (n.d.)	Digitalno vključeni – Medgeneracijska sinergija v digitalnem učnem okolju za kakovostno staranje (Digitally included – Intergenerational synergy in a digital	Financed by the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia	1. 1. 2022–31. 12. 2023	An intergenerational digital platform was created. It offers the elderly the opportunity to lifelong learning to acquire functional digital skills, learn how to use the key e-services, access to content and programs on active and healthy aging, participation and learning in intergenerational virtual meetings. Additionally, 26 live	To enable the active involvement of older people and strengthen their digital literacy.	https://digitalnovkljuceni.si/

		learning environment for quality aging)			workshops and 31 virtual events were held.		
3	HEAL project aims to empower all people that can benefit most from using e-health services (n.d.)	E-zdravstvena pismenost (E-HEALth Literacy HEAL))	Co-funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union	1. 1. 2022–31. 12. 2023	Partners developed the training program Training Kit, which consists of five modules covering topics such as Skills and competencies to facilitate the usage of e-Health, Data privacy and digital health records, and searching and selecting health information. Each partner tested the program; the Slovenian partner included employees, experienced educators/trainers, and volunteers as multipliers that used a blended learning approach. The beneficiaries were the general public, trained individually and in groups. We did not find information about the results of the test of the Slovenian partner.	To bridge the gap to digital health literacy and increase the knowledge of digital health literacy, especially in vulnerable groups such as the elderly and the socially disadvantaged.	https://heal-digital.org/
4	Simbioza Genesis (n.d.-c)	Simbioza Mobiln@ (Symbiosis Mobiln@)	Support of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of the Republic of Slovenia	Since 2021	It is a mobile classroom where digital workshops for older people over 55 are held. Additional services are also included, such as individual counselling and other services to solve challenges related to ICT technologies.	To bridge the gap between urban and rural ICT education, as well as between Slovenia's elderly population (55 years and above) and the rapid technological advancements.	https://simbioza.eu/simbioza-mobiln-potujoca-ucilnica
5	Safe.si. (n.d.)	Center za varnejši internet	implemented by the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, the Arnes Institute, the Association of Friends of Youth of	Since 2005	Safe.si is Slovenia's national awareness centre for promoting safe and responsible use of the internet and digital technologies. It is part of the wider Safer Internet Centre Slovenia, which is integrated into the European Safer Internet Programme.	The main objective of the Safe Internet Centre project is to promote safer and more responsible use of	https://safe.si/



Slovenia, and the MISSS Institute (Youth Information and Counselling Centre of Slovenia). It is funded by the HaDEA Agency at the European Commission and the Ministry of Digital Transformation.

Safe.si was established in 2005, and since then, it has been playing a crucial role in educating children, parents, teachers, and the wider public about the opportunities and risks associated with using the internet and digital media.

the internet and digital technologies, particularly among children, young people, parents, and educators. The project aims to raise awareness about online risks, provide education on internet safety, and offer resources and support to ensure that users can navigate the digital world securely and responsibly.

6.3 Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country

An example of good states that good practice is the project Digitalne spretnosti za integracijo in aktivno državljanstvo (Digital skills for integration and active citizenship (DISC)) (*DISC – Digitalne spretnosti za vključevanje in aktivno državljanstvo*, 2022) which lasted from 31. 12. 2019 to 31. 12. 2021 (Univerza v Mariboru, Fakulteta za varnostne vede, n.d.-b). The project aimed to enhance the digital skills of migrants to enhance integration and citizenship, encourage intercultural dialogue, bolster higher education institutions, implement inclusive teaching approaches, and form networks for educational inclusion (DISC, n.d.-c). The partners conducted 17 pilots using the Multisensory Space method and self-assessment tool SMART+, whereby they created the DISC training platform (Räty & Wikström, 2022). The results of the University of Maribor presented in Räty and Wikström (2022) are related to research by Bertok and Frangež (2022). They found out that Multisensory Space enhances digital skills. Participants reported significant improvements in workshops without claiming improvement in unaddressed areas. Another example of good practice is the project Digitalno vključeni- Medgeneracijska sinergija v digitalnem učnem okolju za kakovostno staranje (Digitally included – Intergenerational synergy in a digital learning environment for quality aging) (*Slovenija – Digitalno vključeni*, 27. 7. 2023). Its goal is to promote active participation among older individuals and enhance their digital literacy (Simbioza Genesis, n.d.-a). An intergenerational digital platform was created that provides older people with four options: lifelong learning in digital skills, access to key e-services, content on active aging, and participation in intergenerational virtual meetings (*Digitalno vključeni*, n.d.; *Slovenija – Digitalno vključeni*, 27. 7. 2023). The project promotes digital literacy among older people, reduces the intergenerational digital divide, and promotes social inclusion (*Slovenija – Digitalno vključeni*, 27. 7. 2023). Another example of good practice is the project Simbioza Mobiln@ (Symbiosis Mobiln@) (*Slovenija – Simbioza mobiln@*, 2. 10. 2022), with the aims to bridge the educational gap in the field of ICT between urban and rural areas and at the same time reducing the gap between older people at the age 55 and above in Slovenia and unstoppable progress of technology in general. They conduct digital literacy workshops for older people in rural environments with a mobile classroom. Additional services are also available, such as individual counselling and other services to solve challenges related to ICT technologies (Simbioza Genesis, n.d.-c). Until 2022, 43 workshops were organized, providing 754 educational hours for 2,506 elderly participants. Additionally, 125 personal activities were conducted, totalling 750 educational hours for 6,412 older individuals (*Slovenija – Simbioza mobiln@*, 2. 10. 2022). Information about good practice is displayed in the Table 15. The eTorba project (e-bag) aims to create a national platform in Slovenia for electronic textbooks and learning resources, eliminating the need for printed books. Launched in 2023 and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, it focuses on enhancing teaching and learning through e-materials, with plans to add more functionalities (eTorba, n.d.). Similarly, the Digi Info Points initiative in Slovenia aims to provide citizens with accessible support and training for using digital public services. Initially launched with 222 locations across municipalities, staffed by consultants offering personalized guidance, the project has been optimized to 162 points as of April 2024 due to low visitor numbers at some sites. Despite this reduction, the project recorded 15,000 visits in four months, showing positive outcomes in its pilot phase (Ministrstvo za digitalno preobrazbo, 13. 9. 2023). Another project called the Digital and Sustainable Teacher project, launched in 2023, aims to



enhance educators' digital skills, computing knowledge, sustainable development competencies, and financial literacy in Slovenia. The initiative seeks to prepare teachers for the evolving digital landscape and foster sustainable education practices. Expected long-term impacts include the establishment of self-learning communities within higher education institutions (Digitrajni.si, n.d.).

Table 15: Good and sustainable practices in the field of digital literacy and social inequality in Slovenia

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Digi Info Points initiative	The primary goal of the Digi Info Points project is to provide accessible support and training to citizens on using digital public services ¹ . This initiative addresses the limitations of traditional training methods and aims to empower citizens of all backgrounds and skill levels to confidently navigate the digital landscape.		The Ministry has established 222 digital information points across all Slovenian municipalities, with additional locations in larger cities. Qualified consultants staff these points, providing in-person support five days a week. They offer practical solutions and explanations tailored to individual user experiences. The information points offer guidance on various digital services, including electronic identification tools, government portals and e-services, healthcare platforms and tax management systems.	The Digi Info Points project in Slovenia has undergone significant changes since its initial implementation. As of April 1, 2024, the number of active points has been reduced to 162. This represents a reduction of 60 points, or more than a quarter of the initial locations. Reasons for the optimization were that an extensive analysis of visitor numbers at individual points was conducted and some locations were not meeting expected visitor numbers. The project is described as a "pilot" study to assess feasibility. Despite the reduction in locations, the project appears to be showing some positive results because in four months, the Digi Info Points had recorded 15,000 visits.	https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/digiinfo-si/
Digitalne spretnosti za integracijo in aktivno državljanstvo (Digital skills for integration and active citizenship (DISC))	To improve the digital skills of migrants in order to promote integration and citizenship, promote intercultural dialogue, support higher education institutions, incorporate inclusive teaching methods, and establish networks for educational inclusion.	31. 12. 2019–31. 12. 2021	The partners utilized the Multisensory Space method and self-assessment tool SMART+ in 17 pilots. Additionally, they developed the DISC training platform.	The Slovenian partner found out that a Multisensory Space improves digital skills. The self-assessment tool proved to be highly reliable with children reporting significant improvements in the areas covered by the workshops. The youth understood the survey and accurately reported their progress, without claiming to have improved in areas that were not addressed in the workshops.	https://disproject.eu/the-project/
Digitalno vključeni-Medgeneracijska sinergija v	To encourage active participation among older individuals and	1. 1. 2022–	The intergenerational digital platform that offers the elderly four options was	The project enhances digital literacy among older individuals, decrease the intergenerational digital divide, and foster social inclusion.	https://digitalnovkljuceni.si/

digitalnem učnem okolju za kakovostno staranje (Digitally included – Intergenerational synergy in a digital learning environment for quality aging)	improve their digital literacy.	31. 12. 2023	developed: 1) to lifelong learning to acquire functional digital skills – with the help of videos for self-study, 2) learn how to use the key e-services – with the help of videos for self-study, 3) access to content and programs on active and healthy aging – with the contents created by the elderly, and 4) participation and learning in intergenerational virtual meetings		
Simbioza Mobiln@ (Symbiosis Mobiln@)	To narrow the educational divide in ICT between urban and rural areas, while also bridging the gap between the elderly population (55 years and above) in Slovenia and the rapid advancement of technology.	Since 2021	They offer digital literacy workshops to senior citizens in rural areas using a mobile classroom. Other services, including one-on-one counselling, are also provided.	Until 2022, 43 workshops lasting 754 educational hours for 2,506 older participants were conducted. In addition, 125 personal activities for older people were carried out for the duration of 750 educational hours for 6,412 older people. We did not find any other results.	https://simbioza.eu/simbioza-mobiln-potujoca-ucilnica
The Digital and Sustainable Teacher project (Digitrajni učitelji)	To strengthen several key competencies among educators: digital competences, core content knowledge of computing and informatics, competences for sustainable development and financial literacy.	Since 2023	This comprehensive approach aims to equip Slovenia's educators with the necessary skills to navigate the rapidly evolving digital landscape and promote sustainable development, ultimately benefiting the entire education system and preparing students for future challenges.	While specific outcomes are not yet reported, the project is expected to have a sustainable impact beyond its end date through the creation of active self-learning communities in higher education institutions.	https://digitrajni.si/



The e-Bag project (eTorba)	To create a national platform for electronic textbooks and various learning resources in Slovenia. The primary goal of this platform is to ensure that students can access all necessary materials for successful learning without relying on printed books.	Since 2023	Making of a national platform for electronic textbooks and other learning materials.	The eTorba 2023 project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and is a very recent project. The project team plans to develop additional functionalities to further support teaching and learning with e-materials.	https://etorba.sio.si/etorba/sl/home
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6.4 Information on other important aspect of the selected topic

Digital literacy has become a crucial skill in modern society, enabling individuals to access services, information, and communicate effectively in an increasingly digital world. For older adults, in particular, digital literacy is directly linked to independence and social inclusion, as many essential services have moved online, including healthcare, banking, and government services. In Slovenia we are facing a problem since a lot of medical institutions adopted an online only access via login portals etc. Most of the portals are however offering complete guides on how to use such portals and even have a telephone number one can call for support.

<https://dozdravnika.si/help>

Similarly, the Slovenian government's introduction of an online portal for filing applications, taxes, and other documents brings both benefits and challenges for the elderly. Benefits include greater convenience and independence, allowing older adults to manage essential tasks without needing to visit government offices, which is especially useful for those with mobility issues. The online system can save time and simplify bureaucratic processes. However, challenges arise due to lower digital literacy among the elderly. Many may struggle to use these online platforms, leading to frustration or dependence on others. The government's provision of telephone help and online guides is crucial in addressing this, helping seniors navigate the system and gain confidence in using digital tools.

Overall, while digital portals can enhance access to services, it is essential to support older users through education and guidance to ensure they are not left behind.

<https://e-uprava.gov.si/>

Elder abuse can take many forms, and one troubling form is when adult children exercise excessive control over their elderly parents. In such cases, the elderly are treated as if they cannot make decisions for themselves, and their independence is severely restricted. This type of abuse can manifest in controlling behaviour, where the adult children dictate every aspect of the elder's life, including finances, social interactions, and access to basic services like healthcare. Monika Klun's research, titled "Violence towards parents by adult children: detection, investigation and evidence collection", addresses the issue of elder abuse, specifically focusing on violence perpetrated by adult children against their parents. This form of abuse includes financial exploitation, physical violence, psychological abuse, and neglect. Klun highlights that, in many cases, adult children restrict their elderly parents' access to resources, such as finances or property, especially when motivated by financial difficulties or desires related to inheritance. The elderly often experience a loss of autonomy, where their adult children control their decisions excessively and prevent them from accessing services or making personal choices without permission. This control can manifest as a form of psychological abuse that goes unnoticed because of societal taboos or feelings of shame among the elderly. Klun also identifies how the victims often suffer from isolation and mental distress, feeling guilt or fear about seeking help because the abuse is being committed by their own children. The study emphasizes that this excessive control over the elderly is a significant issue that undermines their dignity, independence, and well-being (Klun, 2023).

7 TOPIC 5 – Creative methods supporting migrant integration

7.1 The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country

Bez nec and Gombač (2023) conducted qualitative research to analyse the integration policies and practices in Slovenia after the refugee crisis in 2015/2016. The study found that Slovenia has not made any significant progress regarding integration and participation policies and practices since the state considers itself a transit country. The state remains rigid and security-oriented towards migrants and changes are necessary. Dežan and Sedmak (2023) analysed the effect of school environment on migrant adolescents' well-being using questionnaires. The study discovered that while migrant students generally feel safe and enjoy school, they find it more challenging to form relationships with their peers compared to their teachers. It concludes that schools promoting intercultural education and fostering interpersonal relationships are crucial for the well-being and successful integration of migrant students. Pokorn and Čibej (2018) identified the most common mediation strategies used by asylum seekers and found which communication strategy enabled the highest level of linguistic inclusion. Asylum seekers consider learning the host state's language as the most preferred method for social and linguistic integration. They are hesitant to rely on translation technologies and interpreters. Pucelj and Gorenc Zoran (2024) examined the experiences and struggles of immigrant students' integration into Slovenian primary schools and the challenges that school staff encounter in this context. The study found that the integration of immigrant students involves extra hours dedicated to learning the Slovenian language, engaging in play and social interactions, participating in various activities, using bilingual books, and other adjustments. The primary challenges identified are language barriers and cultural differences. Samaluk (2020) explored the projects' tactics, drivers, and impact on different institutions through qualitative methods. The research found that migrant integration projects, funded by the EU, were initiated by activists who leveraged these resources to professionalize their efforts and create services tailored to the needs and empowerment of migrants. Simultaneously, they established standards and norms for effective integration. More about the research are presented in Table 16.

Table 16: Research on migrant integration in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Beznec and Gombac (2023)	To analyse integration policies and practices in Slovenia, particularly after the refugee crisis in 2015/16.	Qualitative methods	Focus groups, semi-structured interviews	Activists, NGOs, migrants, officials at a local and national level, stakeholders, academics, migrant women and women asylum seekers, several employers and employees, migrant children and parents.	Slovenia has not made significant progress regarding integration policies and participation practices of migrants or put in effort to find durable solutions to migrant inclusion, despite being a net immigration country, since the state considers itself a transit country. Migrant workers work in bad conditions. Slovenia has a strong civil sector implementing individual integration programs, but that is limited by state policies. Overall, the state remains rigid and security-oriented towards migrants and certain integration policies need to be transferred to the local level.	Full article: New migration policies and innovative practices. Slovenia between bordering and inclusion (ukm.si)
2	Dežan and Sedmak (2023)	To analyse the effect of school environment on migrant adolescents' well-being.	Quantitative methods	Quantitative data was collected in the form of questionnaires.	Participants were migrant adolescents (n=700) surveyed in 46 schools in 6 countries, including Slovenia. Places with a high percentage of migrant population were identified and students were surveyed in selected schools.	The study found that migrant students feel safe and like school but are less satisfied with establishing relationships with their peers rather than teachers. The study concludes that schools that encourage intercultural education and interpersonal relationships are essential for migrant students' well-being and their successful integration.	Frontiers How do you feel at school? A cross-country comparative analysis of migrant adolescents' school well-being (frontiersin.org)



3	Pokorn and Cibej (2018)	To identify the most common mediation strategies used by asylum seekers and observe which communication strategy offers the highest level of linguistic inclusion.	Qualitative and quantitative methods	Preliminary questionnaires and semi-structured interviews	Asylum seekers residing in asylum centres	Asylum seekers define learning the language of the host state as the most desirable strategy for social and linguistic integration, they are reluctant to use translation technologies and interpreters.	<u>"It's So Vital to Learn Slovene": Mediation Choices by Asylum Seekers in Sl...: EBSCOhost (ukm.si)</u>
4	Pucelj and Gorenc Zoran (2024)	To examine the challenges of immigrant students' integration into Slovenian primary schools, the challenges that school staff encounter in this context, and the experiences of immigrant students.	Qualitative methods	In-depth semi-structured interviews	10 teachers, 8 social workers, 19 immigrant students, and 3 parents of immigrant students were interviewed. A non-probability sampling method was used.	Integration of immigrant students is done through additional hours for learning the Slovenian language, play, and social interaction, inclusion in various activities, use of bilingual books, and other adaptations. The biggest challenge is found to be language barriers and cultural differences.	<u>Challenges of integration of immigrant students into Slovenian primary schools– Perspectives of teachers and other professionals (ukm.si)</u>
5	Samaluk (2020)	To explore the projects' tactics, drivers, and impact on different institutions.	Qualitative methods	Analysis of 15 individual or group interviews – qualitative data collection as well as analysis of secondary sources.	18 participants were selected for interviews – activists, policymakers at ministries, and other relevant workers. There is no data about sampling.	The migrant integration projects were established with the help of EU funds by activists who used them to professionalise their activities and develop a provision based on the needs of migrants and their empowerment, and at the same time create standards and norms for their integration.	<u>Integracija kot večsmerni proces: Študija primera inovativnih projektov integracije priseljencev v Sloveniji Andragoška spoznanja (uni-lj.si)</u>

7.2 The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country

The project *Krepitev migrantskih glasov v politikah vključevanja* (Empowering migrant voices (EMVI)) lasted from 1. 1. 2022 to 31. 12. 2023 and was funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. The goals were to empower migrants to participate in inclusive policies, enhance local authorities' capacity for consultation, and establish innovative collaboration tools and spaces for migrant voices (Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije, n.d.-b). The activities of the projects involved for instance identifying good practices, conducting focus groups, conducting local trainings, workshops, and developing innovative e-participation tools for migrants (EMVI – Project, n.d.). The project *Solidarnost-Enakost-Istost* (Solidarity-Equality-Sameness) lasted from 1. 1. 2020 to 30. 11. 2020 and was (co)-funded by the European Union, Bridge 47, the Slovenian Government Communication Office, and Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia. The goal was to educate students about migration, challenge stereotypes, and empower them to address the issue through understanding concepts of solidarity, equality, and sameness. The goal was gained through workshops in Slovenia focused on migration structural causes, asylum institutes, and terminology, using methods like group work, living libraries, and games like "local is global" (Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije, n.d.-e). The project *Širitev obsega integracije migrantk in migrantov na trga dela* (Extending the scope of labour market integration of immigrants (MIGRASCOPE)) lasted from 1. 1. 2017 to 31. 10. 2018 and was financed by the European Commission – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. The goal of the project was to enhance the capacity of migrants by facilitating their access to work and promoting their integration into the workplace (Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije, n.d.-d). The project *MULTIPLUS* lasted from 1. 10. 2020 to 30. 11. 2022 and was co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme. The goal was to enhance the competencies of multipliers, contributing to the integration and meeting migrants' expectations in and towards European society. The project produced a handbook on didactic methodology, a collection of didactic tools, and a handbook on political education (Slovenska filantropija, n.d.-c). The project *Podpora in pomoč pri integraciji imigrantk in imigrantov* (Support and assistance in integrating immigrants men and women) lasted from 1. 1. 2019 to 31. 12. 2021 and was funded by the Municipality of Ljubljana. The aim was to offer counselling, advocate for adult immigrants in Ljubljana, and actively promote their integration into the local community (Slovenska filantropija, n.d.-d). The project *Priseljenski otroci in priseljenke skupnosti v spreminjajoči se Evropi* (Migrant children and communities in a transforming Europe (MiCREATE)) lasted from 1. 1. 2019 to 30. 6. 2022 and was co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The aim was to foster the integration of diverse migrant children through a child-centred approach at educational and policy levels (The Peace Institut – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies, n.d.). The project involved various work packages, including state-of-the-art, perception communities, educational community, schools system, migrant children, cross-cutting, comparative analysis, and policy lab (Reports, n.d.). The Slovenian partners reveals a lack of comprehensive and systematic approach to integrating migrant children in Slovenian schools (Sedmak et al., 2020). More details about the projects are presented in Table 17.

Table 17: Projects focusing on creative methods supporting migrant integration in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Project period	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	EMVI – Project (n.d.)	Krepitev migrantskih glasov v politikah vključevanja (Empowering migrant voices (EMVI))	Funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	1. 1. 2022–31. 12. 2023	Activities included for example identifying good practices, conducting focus groups with migrant organizations, decision makers etc., local trainings, workshops with local migrants, Innovative e-participation tool for migrants, and innovative local migrant consultative bodies will. We did not find any other results.	To increase the participation of migrants based on the empowerment of migrants to become actors of inclusive policies, increase the capacity of local and regional authorities to effectively consult with migrants and establish innovative tools for collaboration and open new spaces for migrant voices and structured consultation methods.	https://diaspora-participation.eu/
2	Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije (n.d.–e)	Solidarnost–Enakost–Istost (Solidarity–Equality–Sameness)	(Co)–funded by the European Union, Bridge 47, the Slovenian Government Communication Office, and Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia	1. 1. 2020–30. 11. 2020	Conducting workshops in high school across Slovenia. The workshops included themes such as the structural causes of migrations, the modern asylum institute, and basic terminology (e.g. migrant). Workshop methods included for instance work in pairs and groups, a living library, and games as “local is global”. We did not find any other results.	To inform students about migration with the aim of breaking stereotypes and hatred, and to empower them to deal with the issue through learning about the concepts of solidarity, equality and sameness.	https://www.mirovni-institut.si/projekti/solidarnost-enakost-istost-2/
3	Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije (n.d.–d)	Širitev obsega integracije migrantov na trga dela (Extending the scope of labour market integration of	Funded by European Commission – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	1. 1. 2017–31. 10. 2018	We did not find data related to implementation level.	To facilitate access to work for migrants and encourage their integration into the workplace, more in detail, to increase the capacity of migrants by promoting their ability to find and maintain employment and	https://www.mirovni-institut.si/projekti/migrascope/

		immigrants (MIGRASCOPE))				to increase the capacity of employers and stakeholders.	
4	Slovenska filantropija (n.d.-c)	MULTIPLUS	Co-funded by the Erasmus+ program	1. 10. 2020– 30. 11. 2022	The project produced the following materials: a handbook on didactic methodology, a collection of didactic tools, and a handbook on political education. We did not find any other results related to the implementation level.	To contribute to integration and meet the expectations of migrants in and towards European society by improving the competencies of multipliers.	https://www .filantropija.o rg/multiplus/
5	Slovenska filantropija (n.d.-d)	Podpora in pomoč pri integraciji imigrantk in imigrantov [Support and assistance in the integration of immigrants men and women]	Funded by the Municipality of Ljubljana	1. 1. 2019– 31. 12. 2021	We did not find data about the implementation level.	To provide counselling, perform advocacy, and actively promote integration into the local environment for adult immigrants living in the Municipality of Ljubljana.	https://www .filantropija.o rg/podpora- in-pomoc- pri- integraciji- imigrantk-in- imigrantov- 2/
6	The Peace Institut – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies (n.d.)	Priseljenski otroci in priseljenske skupnosti v spreminjajoči se Evropi (Migrant children and communities in a transforming Europe (MiCREATE))	Co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation program	1. 1. 2019– 30. 6. 2022	The project encompassed various work packages such as state-of- the-art, perception communities, the educational community and schools system, fieldwork in schools, migrant children in transition, cross-cutting and comparative analysis, and policy lab. Partners wrote Living in multicultural schools: Handbook for teachers. The Slovenian partners found out that there is a lack of a comprehensive and systematic approach to addressing the issue of the integration of migrant children in Slovenian schools.	To promote the inclusion of diverse groups of migrant children by implementing a child-centred approach to their integration at both the educational and policy levels.	https://www .mirovni- institut.si/en/ projects/mig rant- children- and- communities -in-a- transforming -europe- micreate/

7.3 Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country

Ambasada Rog (Rog embassy) is a space managed by a collective of refugees, activists, squatters, artists, students, and workers working together to navigate administrative hurdles and adapt to the challenges of an inhospitable Europe. It has worked since 2017 (*Transnational report: Good practices fostering participation and inclusion of TCNs in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia*, 2019). It connects the community through music, cultural events, free meals, educational activities, language courses, dance lessons, and social and legal assistance (Avtonomna tovarna Rog, n.d.-a; *Transnational report: Good practices fostering participation and inclusion of TCNs in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia*, 2019). The community celebrates whenever an individual gets asylum or a positive response from the court (*Transnational report: Good practices fostering participation and inclusion of TCNs in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia*, 2019). The project Razkrite roke (Revealed hands) was established in 2013 to promote intercultural connections, educate young people in textile manual work, socialize vulnerable groups, and form groups of women from Bosnia, Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Kosovo. The design team created a contemporary collection of hand-made textile products, incorporating Slovenian tradition and the cultural heritage of vulnerable groups, redesigned in a modern spirit (*Transnational report: Good practices fostering participation and inclusion of TCNs in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia*, 2019). The project resulted in a series of photographs, a sale web, and a documentary film (*Razkrite roke III*, n.d.). The project was awarded the Alpine Pluralism Award in 2018 (*Transnational report: Good practices fostering participation and inclusion of TCNs in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia*, 2019). Related to good practice Štrikeraj (Creative women gatherings), which was established in 2016, Breja Preja, a knitting cooperative, aims to unite women of all ages for knowledge exchange and skill exchange, hosting weekly gatherings at asylum homes in Ljubljana (*Transnational report: Good practices fostering participation and inclusion of TCNs in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia*, 2019). It represents the integration process involving local women gaining insight into Slovenian women's priorities, concerns, and joys, and vice versa (Mohoric, 2016). The project involves enhancing manual skills, knitting, understanding refugee backgrounds, and creating crocheted blankets for newborns in asylum houses in collaboration with the Kvakvačkaš group (*Transnational report: Good practices fostering participation and inclusion of TCNs in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia*, 2019). Tovarna Rog – Drugi dom (Factory Rog – Second home) was established in 2016 to assist migrants in their daily activities, foster their connections, and engage them in a political sense (*Transnational report: Good practices fostering participation and inclusion of TCNs in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia*, 2019). Its activities include, for instance, workshops, socializing, political mobilization, migrant gatherings, cultural activities, advocacy, legal guidance, social services, employment opportunities, integration of migrants into political factions, and temporary accommodation for transit migrants (Avtonomna tovarna Rog, n.d.-b; *Transnational report: Good practices fostering participation and inclusion of TCNs in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia*, 2019). Začetna integracija priseljencev (ZIP) (Initial integration of immigrants) program was first introduced in 2012 as a way to help immigrants with their integration into Slovenian society. The program is executed through language courses in many different parts of Slovenia. The course consists of two modules, initial and advanced, that are



connected, and their contents are very practical, which at the same time helps teach immigrants about Slovenian culture, history, and norms (Pokrivač, 2018). More details about good practices are presented in Table 18.



Table 18: Good and sustainable migrant integration practices in Slovenia

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Ambasada Rog (Rog embassy)	The Rog embassy is a space managed by a diverse group of refugees, activists, squatters, artists, students, and workers, navigating bureaucracy and coping with hostile Europe.	Established in 2017	Connecting communities through music and cultural events, preparing free meals, organizing educational activities, language courses, and dance lessons, and providing social and legal assistance. Whenever an individual receives asylum or a positive response from the court, the entire Rog community organizes a party.	We did not find results related to this good practice.	http://atrog.org/prostori/ambasada-rog
Razkrite roke (Revealed hands)	The project aims to foster intercultural connections, educate young people in textile manual work, socialize vulnerable groups, design and sell textile products, and form a group of women in Jesenice who are immigrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo, generating textile products and teaching young people about manual work.	Established in 2013	Handcrafts are utilized as a means of communication and as a method of learning. The design team collaborated on a contemporary collection of hand-made textile products, redesigned in the modern spirit, incorporating Slovenian tradition and cultural heritage of vulnerable groups.	The project produced a series of photos, a sale web, and a documentary film. The project was honoured with the Alpine Pluralism Award in 2018.	http://www.razkriteroke.si/?lang=en
Štrikeraj (Creative women gatherings)	The knitting cooperative Breja Preja was initially established as a grassroots initiative, uniting women of various ages to exchange knowledge, skills, and concerns. It joined forces with Društvo Up, and together, they began hosting weekly knitting and crochet gatherings at an asylum home in Ljubljana. Occasionally, the meetings take place outside the	Established in 2016	Manual skills are a tool for communication, learning to knit, understanding diversity, and understanding the refugee background. Another significant activity involves creating crocheted blankets for newborns in asylum houses in collaboration with the Kvakvačkaš group.	We did not find results related to this good practice.	https://epale.ec.europa.eu/sl/blog/pletilska-srecanja-strikeraji-kot-dvosmerna-metoda-integracije



	asylum home. It is a two-way integration process – local women get to know the women who came to Slovenia, what is important to them, what worries and joys permeate their lives, and vice versa.				
Tovarna Rog – Drugi dom (Factory Rog – Second home)	To support migrants' daily tasks, facilitate their connections, and organize them in a political manner.	Established in 2016	Workshops, individual and group socializing, political mobilization, migrant gatherings, cultural and social activities, advocacy efforts, legal guidance, social services (assistance with job searches, housing, medical care, etc.), employment opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers, integration of migrants into various political factions, temporary accommodation for migrants in transit etc.	We did not find results related to this good practice.	http://atrog.org/prostori/second-home
Začetna integracija priseljencev – ZIP (Initial immigrant integration)	The program aims to provide immigrants with a knowledge of the Slovenian language needed for living and working in Slovenia and introduce them to Slovenian culture and history, which strengthens the integration of migrants into Slovenian society.	First introduced in 2012	The project is executed in the form of structured language courses, which are offered in an initial module (60 hours) and an advanced module (120 hours). The advanced module is only available to those who have completed the initial module. During the course, the participants get educated about the norms, history, and culture of Slovenian society. After they have completed the course, they may be assessed free of charge and upon successful completion receive a certificate.	We did not find results related to this good practice.	Brezplačni tečaji slovenskega jezika – InfoTujci

7.4 Information on other important aspect of the selected topic

In the context of creative methods supporting migrant integration into our society, it is important to mention the Multisensory Space Method. Essentially, it is an open learning environment that was first introduced in 2007 at Laurea University of Applied Sciences in Finland. The method is utilized through multisensory dialogue, which supports authentic interactions, and encourages thoughtful encounters between people of different backgrounds. It allows people to enter and experience different cultural and psychological situations from their own, which can highlight individual stories and promote better mutual understanding as well as empathy development. At the same time, the Multisensory Space Method may also help enhance active citizenship and help people form a sense of belonging and community. Practically speaking, multisensory space is an area that can be easily modified and where all senses are activated through different stimuli, which provoke thoughts and conversations between people, it can be a place of relaxation or exploration of a different world. The space promotes well-being and provides comfort through various activities supporting the culture of multiple communities, including migrants (DISC, n. d.-a).

Some other goals of multisensory space include learning through the process of creating, learning and creating through teamwork, strengthening digital skills by creating and using e-materials and creating an innovative approach to learning chosen topics (Frangež, 2024).

The two projects that utilize the Multisensory Space Method are DISC project and Zelen in odporen prehod za varno in uspešno družbo (eng. A green and resilient transition for a safe and prosperous society). DISC project's main goals are to enhance the digital skills of people with a migratory background, which would support their integration into society. At the same time, it aims to promote intercultural dialogue between locals and migrant communities through digital tools, promote inclusive methods of teaching for educational staff and enhance the role of educational institutions (DISC, n. d.-b).

The project Zelen in odporen prehod za varno in uspešno družbo focuses on preparing starting points for a sustainable transition into Society 5.0. During the project, the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security will utilize various activities, including teaching in multisensory space (Univerza v Mariboru, Fakulteta za varnostne vede, n. d.-a).

8 TOPIC 6 – Successful integration process

8.1 The latest research on the selected topic in partner's country

Bajt and Frelih (2022) conducted qualitative and quantitative research to examine the gender-specific aspects of migrant integration in Slovenia, highlighting the impact of language acquisition and institutional factors during the COVID-19 pandemic. They discovered factors influencing migration decisions, expectations, discrimination experiences, barriers to integration, policy mechanisms, strategies, and migration as a means of empowerment and personal achievement. They concluded that the success of integration hinges on the perspectives of both migrants and the host society regarding language acquisition. Gornik (2022) explored through qualitative methods how asylum policies affect unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in Slovenia through a child-centred approach and procedural justice perspective. The article examined the procedural safeguards and rights of unaccompanied minors as well as what struggles they might be facing. Migrant minors in Slovenia revealed that their experiences during reception and the asylum process were significantly influenced by how they were treated by police, social workers, and decision-makers. Medarić and Gornik (2023) analysed subjective perceptions of migrant students attending primary and secondary school regarding their fears, what they need to feel safe and accepted, and how they think about their future and past through participant observation, open-ended interviews, and focus groups. They found that most students highlight family, friends, language learning, and a welcoming school environment as very important for their well-being and inclusion. Older students put more emphasis on their friends as a source of support for their well-being and inclusion, while teachers play a more important role in the well-being and inclusion of younger ones. Kocijančič Pokorn et al. (2016) try to give answers through interviews and questionnaires to certain political statements, which say translation and interpreting services disable successful migrant integration and form relevant political suggestions and determine linguistic policies and strategies to achieve a compromise. They found that despite having interpreting services, migrants are aware of the importance of learning the host country's dominant language, however, they are also aware of the importance of interpreting services in certain important situations, such as judicial proceedings. Zorn (2009) critically examines the policies and practices surrounding the detention and deportation of migrants through a literature overview and case studies. The study finds that the policies surrounding detention and deportation often result in human rights violations and it puts a lot of stress on migrants. They also face several legal and social challenges, such as limited access to legal representation, healthcare and social services. It's important to mention that due to the lack of research on the relevant topic, we expanded our search radius below the year 2014. More details about the research are presented in Table 19.

Table 19: Research on successful integration processes in the field of migrants in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Bajt and Frelih (2022)	To explore migrant integration from a gender perspective, focusing on language acquisition and institutional dimensions. It also discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on female migrants' integration processes in Slovenia.	Qualitative and quantitative methods	In-depth individual interviews, questionnaires, focus groups	Migrant women (n=39), experts, working in with migrants ⁴ . There is no data about sampling.	Themes that emerged were related to factors influencing migration decisions, expectations, experiences of discrimination, barriers to integration, policy mechanisms, strategies, and migration as a means of empowerment and personal achievement. Authors concluded success in integration depends on both the migrants' narratives and the host society's perspective on language acquisition.	https://www.researchgate.net/publication/365960269_Empowerment_through_Migration_Narratives_of_Successful_Migrant_Womens_Integration_in_Slovenia
2	Gornik (2022)	To explore how asylum policies affect unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in Slovenia. The article uses a child-centred approach and procedural justice perspective to examine the procedural safeguards and rights of this vulnerable group of migrants. The article also highlights the struggles that these children face and how current policies can be improved to better	Qualitative methods	Non-structured group or individual interviews and participant observations	Unaccompanied minor migrants in a reception centre for vulnerable groups of migrants in Logatec and students' residence in Postojna, as well as security staff and social workers in Logatec. Seven interviews were	Interviews with unaccompanied migrant minors in Slovenia revealed that their experiences during reception and the asylum process were significantly influenced by how they were treated by police, social workers, and decision-makers. The ability to express themselves and have a voice, facilitated by professional translators or culturally sensitive, specially trained interviewers, was another crucial factor affecting their perception of fairness and respect for their rights in the asylum procedure. The analysis indicated that while being underage sometimes protects unaccompanied minor migrants from deportation, granting them temporary protection, it does not ensure the rights	Full article: Transcending non-citizenship? Looking at asylum policy through the lens of a child-centred approach and the procedural justice perspective (ukm.si)

⁴ There is no data about the number of included experts.



		protect their rights and well-being.			conducted with 19 unaccompanied minors aged between 13 and 17 in Logatec and two more in Postojna.	guaranteed by the legally binding provisions of the CRC.	
3	Medarić and Gornik (2023)	To explore subjective perceptions of well-being of migrant students such as what they need to feel safe and accepted, their fears and how they think of their past and future. It also sheds light on age-specific understandings of migration processes and perspectives that are underrepresented in integration policies.	Qualitative methods	Open-ended narrative interviews using a comparative perspective, participant observation method, focus groups	Two age groups of migrant children, one group of 27 students attending primary school (9-14 years) and another group of 34 students attending secondary school (15-18 years) in 7 schools in Slovenia. A non-probability sampling method was used.	The main findings were that no matter the age of students, friends, family, language learning and a welcoming school environment are vital for migrant children's well-being and life satisfaction. Some factors that influence their well-being differed between age groups, as older children considered their peers a more important source of their well-being than younger ones. On the other hand, younger students considered teachers more important for their well-being and they also considered a positive outlook on the future as an important factor in dealing with negative experiences related to migration.	Does age matter? The well-being of migrant children in comparative perspective (cobiss.net)
4	Kocijančič Pokorn et al. (2016)	To present how certain political environments talk about migrations and what consequences that has on migrant care and	Qualitative and quantitative methods	Interviews, questionnaires	Residents of the asylum centre in Ljubljana (n=19). The sample was	The results show that despite having interpreting services, migrants are aware of the importance of learning the host country's dominant language. Migrants don't see translation and interpreting services as the most ideal and wanted	Nočem biti odvisna»: Ali javne prevajalske in tolmaške storitve res negativno vplivajo na aktivno



		inclusion. The article tries to give answers to certain political statements, which say translation and interpreting services disable successful migrant integration. The study attempts to form politically relevant suggestions and determine linguistic policies and strategies, which would achieve a compromise.			created based on the geographical composition of the population in the asylum.	linguistic strategies, on the contrary, they find it uncomfortable that a stranger they don't trust helps them communicate. They also refuse interpreting and translation services because it does not allow them to be completely independent. Nevertheless, interviewees are aware that interpreting services are crucial in some situations, such as judicial procedures.	<u>vklučenost migrantov v državo gostiteljico? (cobiss.net)</u>
5	Zorn (2009)	To critically examine the policies and practices surrounding the detention and deportation of migrants. The article aims to highlight the human rights implications of these policies and advocate for the rights of migrants to remain in their host countries. It discusses social and legal challenges faced by migrants and argues against the use of detention and deportation as tools for migration control.	Qualitative methods	Literature overview, case study	There is no information about participants and sampling.	The policies of detention and deportation often result in significant human rights violations, including the deprivation of liberty and the right to family life. Additionally, the psychological impact on migrants is profound, causing stress, anxiety, and trauma. Migrants also face numerous legal and social challenges, such as limited access to legal representation and social services.	<u>Full article: The right to stay: challenging the policy of detention and deportation (ukm.si)</u>

8.2 The latest projects on the selected topic in partner's country

The project Celostni pristop za uspešno integracijo migrantov (Holistic approach for successful integration of migrants) lasted from 1. 9. 2016 to 1. 9. 2018 (Center RS za poklicno izobraževanje (CPI), n.d.). Financially, it was supported by the Erasmus + program (Lipič et al., 2018). The goal was to establish an integrated approach for successful migration integration, unified professional competence verification, and unified practice of working with migrants. The team developed a comprehensive vocational education program for working with migrants, updated skills catalogues, and developed professional frameworks, and a model coordination network for expert integration (Center RS za poklicno izobraževanje (CPI), n.d.). The project Mentorstvo za integracijo otrok migrantov iz tretjih držav (Mentoring for integration of third country national children affected by migration (MINT)) lasted from 1. 1. 2019 to 28. 2. 2021 and was co-funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia. The project aimed to integrate 120 children and youth affected by migration into partnering countries, enabling 1000 to acquire skills for inclusion, and empower 240 through awareness raising and advocacy, contributing to more inclusive societies and facilitating child integration (Slovenska filantropija, n.d.-b). The project promoted more inclusive societies in Romania, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia by using innovative mentoring program (European Commission, n.d.). The project Krepitev migrantskih glasov v procesih lokalne integracije in vključevanja (Empowering migrant voices) (EMV-LII) is an enhanced continuation of the EMVI project. It was launched on the 1st of April 2024 and is expected to last until the 31st of March 2027. It is funded by EU AMIF-2023 and it aims to strengthen and empower the cooperation between migrants and local and regional authorities in the area of migrant integration and inclusion (Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije, n.d.-c). The project Krepitev sistema socialnega varstva na področju varstva otrok in mladostnikov beguncev in migrantov ter otrok in mladostnikov brez spremstva (Strengthening the social protection system in the area of protection of refugee and migrant children and adolescents and unaccompanied children and adolescents) lasted from the 1st of April 2017 to 31st of August 2017. There is no information about funding. The project's aims were the development of additional professional skills of people, who work in the field of social security of migrants and refugees (Socialna zbornica Slovenije, n. d.). The project DRIM (Danube Region Information Platform for Economic Integration of Migrants) lasted from the 1st of January 2017 until the 30th of June 2019 and was funded by European Union from the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II under the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme. Its aims were to strengthen the abilities of public institutions to create a comfortable environment for the economic integration of migrants and improve the abilities of public servants to support the integration processes as a guide towards a more cohesive society (Employment Service of Slovenia, n. d.). The projects are presented in Table 20.

Table 20: Projects on successful integration processes in the field of migrants in Slovenia

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Project period	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	Center RS za poklicno izobraževanje (CPI) (n.d.)	Celostni pristop za uspešno integracijo migrantov (Holistic approach for successful integration of migrants)	Financial support from the Erasmus + program	1. 9. 2016– 1. 9. 2018	They developed an innovative vocational education and training program for working with migrants, an updated and upgraded catalogue of skills for the verification of professional competence for professional colleagues in the field of work with migrants, professional frameworks for the new professional qualification “coordinator/consultant” of work with migrants, trainer guide, and model coordination network of experts for the integration of migrants.	To establish an integrated approach for the successful integration of migrants, unify verification of the professional competence of the professionals working with migrants, and unify the practice of working with migrants.	https://cpi.si/mednarodno-sodelovanje/erasmus-plus/celostni-pristop-za-uspesno-integracijo-migrantov/
2	Mirovni inštitut (n.d.–c)	Krepitev migrantskih glasov v procesih lokalne integracije in vključevanja (Empowering migrant voices) (EMV-LII)	Funded by EU AMIF-2023: Integracija in vključevanje na regionalni in lokalni ravni	1. 4. 2024– 31. 3. 2027	EMVI-LII develops, improves, and spreads different methods of migrant participation in the formulation and implementation of local integration and inclusion strategies. Some of these methods include migrant councils, the internet and direct involvement in the process of asking questions and suggesting ideas, portals for online participation, and roundtables on migrant-led advocacies and policies. All of the methods were piloted and proven effective in the project EMVI.	Specific goals are the empowerment of migrant participation in local integration by training and capacity building, increased efficiency and willingness of local and regional authorities concerning the inclusion of migrants into local integration strategies, and strengthening cooperation mechanisms for local integration and inclusion.	Krepitev migrantskih glasov v procesih lokalne integracije in vključevanja (EMV-LII) Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije (mirovni-institut.si)

3	Slovenska filantropija (n.d.-b)	Mentorstvo za integracijo otrok migrantov iz tretjih držav (Mentoring for integration of third country national children affected by migration (MINT))	Co-funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia	1. 1. 2019–28. 2. 2021	The project utilized an innovative mentoring program to foster more inclusive societies in Romania, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia. The MINT project in Slovenia involved two cycles of mentoring programs in two cities, involving 37 children and 35 volunteer mentors. A child-friendly documentary was produced to explain Slovenia's cultural, social, and historical background. Online and offline Slovenian language courses were implemented. Awareness raising and advocacy activities were conducted, including events with local peers and teachers and the production of videos on migrant children's integration experiences.	To facilitate child integration, improve social relations, and empower local youth and third-country national children in Europe and contribute to more inclusive societies with innovative mentoring program. The project aimed to successfully integrate 120 children and youth affected by migration into all partnering countries, enabling 1000 children to acquire knowledge and skills for inclusion in social relations and empowering 240 children and young people through awareness raising and advocacy.	https://www.filantropija.org/mint-mentorstvo-za-integracijo-otrok-migrantov-iz-tretjih-drzav/
4	Socialna zbornica Slovenije and UNICEF Slovenia (n.d.)	Krepitev sistema socialnega varstva na področju varstva otrok in mladostnikov beguncev in migrantov ter otrok in mladostnikov brez spremstva (Strengthening the social protection system in the	No information on funding has been found.	1. 4. 2017–31. 8. 2017	Three-day educational programs were executed for teachers, social workers, volunteers, pedagogical staff, interpreters and cultural mediators, educational and medical staff, law enforcement, etc. A handbook has been published as part of the project and a catalogue of skills for working with migrant children and adolescents. All of the activities above have helped and enabled better and more efficient everyday work with migrant and refugee children and adolescents.	The purpose of the project is to develop additional professional qualifications of professionals, associates and all those working in the field of social security in the field of migrants and refugees, by providing a better response and services in accordance with social changes in this field as much as possible.	PROJEKT UNICEF – DELO Z OTROCI Socialna zbornica (szslo.si)



		area of protection of refugee and migrant children and adolescents and unaccompanied children and adolescents)					
5	Employment Service of Slovenia (n. d.)	Danube Region Information Platform for Economic Integration of Migrants (DRIM)	The project is funded by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II under the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme.	1. 1. 2017–30. 6. 2019	The project activities were the development of a conceptual framework for the development of an information tool (Danube Compass), the implementation of a pilot action that will verify the relevance and enable the improvement of the information tool for use in the transnational environment, the implementation of learning interactions for the use of the information tool and its dissemination among participants, and the preparation of a transnational strategy highlighting the need to include access to information for migrants' entry into the labour market in the strategic and legislative documents of the Danube countries.	Strengthening the capacity of public institutions to create a favourable environment for the economic integration of migrants through the effective dissemination of information on the transnational information platform Danube Compass, which is the main product of the project, and improving the capacity of civil servants to support integration as a guide to a more cohesive society.	Projekt DRIM – Zavod Republike Slovenije za zaposlovanje (gov.si)

8.3 Good and sustainable practices that already exist in the selected topic in partner's country

Zdravković (2022) writes Slovenia's citizenship status restricts political influence for asylum seekers and refugees, while permanent residency permits local voting at the local level. As an example of good practice that facilitates political integration and enlargement of migrants, contributing to establishing a more equitable and democratic political society highlights the right to vote in local elections. A review of Acts Amending the Local Elections Act (*PIS - Pravno - informacijski sistem*, n.d.) showed "Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah zakona o lokalnih volitvah [Act Amending the Local Elections Act] (ZLV-D)" (2024) introduced the foreign nationals who hold a permanent residence right to vote. The second good practice is the project *Mentorstvo za integracijo otrok migrantov iz tretjih držav* (Mentoring for integration of third country national children affected by migration (MINT)) which lasted from 1. 1. 2019 to 28. 2. 2021 with the goal to integrate 120 children and youth affected by migration in partnering countries, improve social relations, empower local youth, and increase integration capacity in other EU countries. The project encompassed mentoring, online language and cultural introduction courses, and child-led awareness raising and advocacy. The MINT project successfully facilitated the integration of children into the host communities targeted (European Commission, n.d.). Another good practice is the establishment of the Government Office for Migrant Care and Integration (*Urad vlade za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*), which was formed in 2017. The office provides helps asylum seekers exercise their rights following the law. After they are granted asylum, they are offered help with integration in Slovenian society and are given an advisor, which will help them with integration and create an integration plan in cooperation with them. They are also accommodated in one of the Office's integration houses (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*, n. d.). Slovenian philanthropy's Migration Programme Unit is a good practice dealing with different migration aspects. They offer counselling, psychotherapeutic and psychosocial assistance, information and advocacy to all types of migrants. They aim to assist migrants in integrating into a new environment and advocate for appropriate legislation in the field of migration in Slovenia as well as appropriate protection of unaccompanied minors and access to healthcare and other social services. The programme also organises conferences, roundtables and other public events to enable better integration of migrants into society (*Slovenska filantropija*, n. d.-b). The Day Centre for migrants in Ljubljana, Maribor and Logatec is another good practice that was launched on the 1st of January 2020 and is expected to end on the 31st of December 2017. The Day Centre provides psychosocial help to migrants through the organisation of their free time, helps establish and strengthen their social networks and helps with adjusting to a new culture. It offers a safe space for all migrants. Some activities that are being held as part of the program are gardening, music, drama, conversation, carpentry and other various workshops (*Slovenska filantropija*, n. d.-a). They are presented in Table 21.

Table 21: Good and sustainable practices in the field of successful integration process of migrants in Slovenia

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Day Centre for migrants in Ljubljana, Maribor and Logatec	To offer psychosocial help to migrants through the organisation of their free time, help establish and strengthen their social networks and help with adjusting to a new culture. It offers a safe space for all migrants.	1. 1. 2020–31. 12. 2027	As part of the program, gardening, music, drama, conversation, carpentry and other various workshops have been held so far.	We did not find results related to this good practice.	DNEVNI CENTER ZA MIGRANTE LJUBLJANA, MARIBOR IN LOGATEC – Slovenska filantropija
Slovenian Philanthropy's Migration Programme Unit	To assist migrants and refugees with their integration into a new environment, to advocate for appropriate practices and legislature in the area of migrations in Slovenia, and the protection of unaccompanied minors. They are also advocating for appropriate access to healthcare and other public services.	No information about the period was found.	They offer counselling, psychosocial and psychotherapeutic assistance, information, and advocacy to migrants, asylum seekers, persons with international protection, undocumented migrants, etc. They organise conferences, roundtables and other public events to enable better integration of migrants into society.	Different activities that were a part of this programme have outgrown Ljubljana and the number of users only keeps increasing.	Migration – Slovenska filantropija
The establishment of the Government Office for Migrant Care and Integration (Urad vlade za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov)	To ensure proper care, accommodation, and psychosocial support for applicants for international protection and their inclusion in Slovenian society.	Since 2017	Execution of different programs, which enable applicants to exercise their rights. After they are granted protection, they receive an advisor for inclusion, who then prepares a personal integration plan in cooperation with the migrant. The Office provides accommodation	We did not find results related to this good practice.	O Uradu vlade za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov GOV.SI

			in one of the integration houses.		
The project Mentorstvo za integracijo otrok migrantov iz tretjih držav [Mentoring for integration of third country national children affected by migration (MINT)]	To facilitate the integration of 120 children and youth affected by migration in all partnering countries, enhance social relations and empower local and third-country national children, and increase integration capacity in other EU countries through child- and youth-led interventions.	1. 1. 2019–28. 2. 2021	The project included mentoring, online language and cultural introduction courses, and child-led awareness-raising and advocacy.	The MINT project successfully promoted the integration of children into the targeted host communities. The project in Slovenia involved two cycles of mentoring programs involving 37 children and 35 volunteer mentors, a child-friendly documentary, online and offline Slovenian language courses, awareness raising, and advocacy activities, including events with local peers and teachers.	https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/integration-practice/mint-slovenia-mentoring-integration-third-country-national-children-affected_en
The right to vote in local elections	It gives the ability for political engagement and integration of migrants, thereby aiding in creating a more equitable and democratic political society.	Since 2002	Slovenia's citizenship status affects voting rights, limiting political influence for asylum seekers and refugees, while permanent residency allows local voting at the local level.	We did not find results related to this good practice.	http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO3345

8.4 Information on other important aspect of the selected topic

A part of a successful integration process is equal access to the labour market. In this context, it is important to shed light on forced labour, which has increased among the migrant population (Lewis et al., 2014). Forced labour affects 28 million people, including children, in all countries and all economic sectors, and it is a severe violation of human rights. The victims often hesitate to report the crime since there is very little benefit to it. First, someone who has paid a labour broker to find them a job certainly does not want to expose how they got it since they would lose the job. Second, if they are residing in the country illegally, they are at risk of prosecution if discovered, therefore reporting the crime is not an option. The third scenario involves getting cheated along the way and ending up working under a criminal organisation, which leaves no room for reporting it since the criminals involved make sure that the threat is severe enough to deter the victims. Few victims report the crime, but still, a large percentage do not for the reasons listed above (van Heerden, 2015).

Forced labour and labour exploitation include various types of criminal offences, such as: not being paid for overtime, working more than the working hours specified by the law, not being paid (partly or in full) for several months, not being paid for annual leave, not being registered by employers from obligatory health and pension insurance and failing to pay relevant contributions for several years, employer not paying for sick leave, modification of employment contracts without the employee's knowledge and worksite bullying and threats of dismissal. Some employees may also be forced into committing criminal offences and violating various regulations (Frangež & Bučar Ručman, 2017). All of this may help us recognize the signs that the workers are victims of forced labour or labour exploitation.

Migrant workers as potential or actual victims of forced labour, labour exploitation and similar may ask for help from several different organisations or institutions, such as: Migrant Counselling Office, which is available to users every working day from 8 AM to 5 PM via the toll-free phone number 080 14 34 and at the office located at the headquarters of ZSSS at Dalmatinova 4 in Ljubljana; Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia: Parmova 33, 1000 Ljubljana, phone: 00 386 1 478 47 45; Report of undeclared work: 00 386 1 436 14 11; Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia: anonymous phone: 080 11 22; email: prijave.fu@gov.si; Društvo Ključ – center za boj proti trgovanju z ljudmi: available every working day from 9 AM to 1 PM via a toll-free phone number 080 17 22 or email address info@drustvo-kljuc.si.

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