FOCUS ON

TRAFFICKING
IN HUMAN BEINGS
FII vs THB vs Refugee crisis

FII: people transported illegally over borders, and left alone / crime against state

THB: people transported from one place to another (not necessarily over borders) and exploited further / crime against persons

Refugee phenomenon: people fleeing from war zones, asking for asylum in MS – vulnerable to human trafficking
What is Trafficking in human beings?

“The (act) recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those persons,

by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person,

for the purpose of exploitation.”

EU Directive 2011/36 – When it comes to children – the means are irrelevant
Forms of exploitation

Sexual exploitation
Labour exploitation
Forced criminality
Sham marriages
Domestic servitude
Removal of organs
Illegal adoption
Most common form of exploitation in the EU

**Sexual exploitation**

- EU nationals and Third country nationals
- Both street and off-street prostitution
- Recruitment through a circle of persons often close to the victims or via internet
- Victims trafficked and exploited usually by their co-nationals.
- In some OCGs women may play a key role
Other forms of exploitation

**Labour exploitation**

**The “legal” sector**

- Vegetable picking, textile industry, construction work, low skilled labour
- Recruited through newspapers, word of mouth and local employment agencies
- Victims trafficked by their co-nationals but might be exploited by nationals of country of destination.

**Forced criminality**

Pick pocketing, ATM assaults, thefts, but also looking after cannabis cultivations
Other forms of exploitation

**Benefit fraud**
- For fraudulent social benefit claims
- After application victims might be sent back home
- Sometimes in combination with the other forms of exploitation

**Sham marriages**
- EU nationals (mostly women) forced into marriages with Third country nationals

**Illegal adoption**
- EU nationals (mostly women) forced into marriages with Third country nationals
Current trends

- Human trafficking for sexual exploitation – the most reported in the EU.

- The majority of traffickers are male; women are involved mainly in low-ranking tasks.

- Sexual exploitation – street prostitution, in brothels, clubs, apartments, hotels, escort services.

- Labour exploitation tends to take place in intensive and/or under-regulated industries (the agricultural sector, the construction industry and hotel/restaurant/catering businesses).

- Internet is increasingly used as a facilitator of human trafficking.
## Factors for human trafficking

<table>
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<th>Push factors</th>
<th>Pull factors</th>
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<td>• Family economic problems</td>
<td>• False promises (high salary, quality of life, good working conditions)</td>
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<td>• Violent and abusive situations</td>
<td>• Economic crisis</td>
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<td>• Lack of education</td>
<td>• Diaspora communities</td>
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<td>• Unemployment</td>
<td>• Increased demand for cheap products/services</td>
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<td>• Gender or other Discrimination</td>
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<td>• Conflict and war zones</td>
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*Push factors* are conditions that drive individuals to leave their home, while *pull factors* are what attract individuals to their destination.
Criminal networks – features

- The criminal networks use an extensive network of personal contacts across the EU.

- Most of the time the victims don’t perceive themselves as victims (they must repay the transportation and harbouring costs).

- Victims are reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement (they are instructed/threatened to do so).

- Victims are kept under control without violence; this is done through “soft methods” of psychological intimidation (digital surveillance systems, pictures posted on internet, voodoo rituals).

- Non-EU victims mainly use forged or look-alike documents provided by their traffickers.

- Trafficked workers use mainly legitimate identification documents and often have legitimate permits which expire over time. Some falsified travel documents and misuse of tourist visa regime were reported.
Measures taken by traffickers against detection

- Forcing victims to apply for asylum in transit countries
- Forcing victims to tell false stories to police in case of detection
- The rotation of victims, and the movement of the criminal proceeds, among different countries
- The use of guards and digital surveillance systems
- Physical and psychological violence towards victims
- The use of fraudulent identity documents
- The frequent change of vehicles
- The use of cash
Exploitation’s features

**Sexual exploitation**
- long hours, many clients, no freedom to choose their clients, little money given to them, moved often from one location to another, put into drugs addiction

**Labour exploitation**
- very long working hours, low wages, constrained in certain locations, poor living conditions, ID documents taken, no health or social assurances

**Forced criminality**
- children sent to steal, value threshold set daily, if not achieved not food given, no education allowed
Identifying potential child trafficking victims

- Unaccompanied children
- Children not accompanied by their parents
- Children already victimised back in the source country or during the journey are even more exposed to further victimisation
- Children with disabilities
- Level of maturity of children
- The attitude of the children (shy, frightened, no eye contact, children seeking approval from adult)
- Children approached by unknown adults mingling outside of the shelters/camps/reception centres
- Children with phone numbers from Europe – written notes
- Passports with Entry-Exit stamps or Visas (look-alikes)
- Not knowing any European language
- Content of the luggage
Challenges

- Dissemination and exchange of information
- Data protection
- Knowledge and awareness
- Legislation
- Language barriers
- Jurisdiction
- Criminal procedure and working practices
- Identifying responsible authority / agency
- Lack of network or point of contact
- Cultural barriers
- Capacity and resources
Lessons learned

- International cooperation is strongly required.
- Multi-disciplinary approach at national level is needed.
- Commitment from all the actors involved is essential.
- Profits gained by traffickers to be identified and seized.
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