

**TASK FORCE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, TF Tip
PROTECTION AND INCLUSION WORKING GROUP**

20.04.2023, 10:00

Palisády 29, Bratislava

Attendees:

In person:

Zuzana Čáčová (IOM), Soňa Grauzlová (Information Centre for Fight against Human Trafficking and Crime Prevention), Oľga Peitruchová (UNHCR), Katarína Štiglicová (UNHCR), Tatiana Zlatos (IOM)

Online:

David Baker (European Labour Authority), Katarína Božík (IOM), Renáta Brennerová (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the SR), Kamila Džurňáková (Ministry of Interior's Office, Crime Prevention Department), Martina Grošaft (IOM), Peter Halas (Migration Office), Zuzana Kaprálová (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the SR), Katarína Kožuchová (Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR), Darina Luščiková (Slovak Humanitarian Council), Iryna Mydlovets (IOM Ukraine), Igor Pacolák (The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR), Peter Piso (Caritas Slovakia), Paulína Pokorná (Association of Trade Unions and Transport), Ganna Schwachka (Sme spolu), May Shawawreh (UNHCR), Karina Trofimová (IOM), Anna Turus (UNHCR), Miroslava Vrabeľová (Ministry of Interior of the SR)

Zuzana Kianičková (interpreter), Miroslav Kováč (interpreter)

Agenda

- Approval of the minutes from the last meeting (Minutes from the last meeting are attached) and also the recommendations from the previous work of the TF
- Regular update of partners, the situation on borders, trainings focusing on prevention and beneficiaries: Update of the Situation from Information Centre, Department of Crime Prevention, Office of Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic
- Update of the situation in the theme from Slovak Catholic Charity, Program for support and protection of victims of human trafficking
- IOM Ukraine, update on the actual situation in the theme of trafficking
- ELA, European Labour Agency, Labour exploitation
- AOB (Any other business)

Ms Zuzana Čáčová (IOM) welcomed participants and thanked them for attending the seventh meeting of TF on TiP. She opened the floor to the update from **Soňa Grauzlová (Information Centre for Fight against Human Trafficking and Crime Prevention)**. The National Action Plan for the past year was evaluated and the Situation Report focused on the TiP was processed.

The Situation Report will be published online on the web of the Information Center until 30.4.2023. Tip Data for the previous year: **a total of 58 TiP victims**, of which 45 were formally identified by the police, 22 victims were included in the program of support and assistance to victims. Out of 58 TiP victims, 35 were women, 10 of these 35 were child victims, the youngest victim was 8 years old (attempted sexual exploitation of the child by a mother who was preparing the child for sexual exploitation and gave her instructions on what to do when the child will have clients). These 58 victims are an increase compared to the last year (In 2021 the decrease in the number of identified clients due to Covid – perpetrators withdrew from visible places which made identification difficult). The most common purpose was **labor exploitation** - 27 victims (21 were men, 6 were women). Victims of labor exploitation were not exploited in Slovakia, but were transported to other countries – DE , GB, CZ and RO. **Sexual exploitation** (24 victims last year) was the most common form of exploitation of child victims - 9 of the 24 victims are child female victims. Although sexual exploitation is present in the online space, the Information Center does not observe that the victims are recruited through social network or the Internet - the perpetrators use online space to offer the victims and get customers. **Forced marriages** - last year 3 female victims. 1 adult victim received an offer to get money to marry a third country national for 15000 EUR – although she initially accepted, later she refused and was forced to marry him. Another victim was forced to marry a third country national but after instructions from the registrar she no longer wanted to, the perpetrators restricted her freedom. In the past year, two victims were exploited for the purpose of **forced begging** - both men, one exploited in Germany, the other one in Romania and Slovakia (a combination of forced begging and labor exploitation). It remains a problem that foreign victims in Slovakia remain unidentified. Last year there were 3 suspicions on foreign victims in Slovakia - 1 Ukraine citizen, 1 Romania citizen and 1 Nepal citizen - none of them was formally identified as a victim of TiP. **Data on the perpetrators** – in 25 cases, criminal proceedings were initiated, and in 19 cases allegations have been made. A total of 34 perpetrators were prosecuted, the majority of perpetrators are men – 22, 12 women, and two juvenile perpetrators (in one of the cases a 14-year-old girl forced her peer into prostitution). In 2022 there is no record of a plea agreement in connection to TiP, there were 10 legally suspended offenders and 4 alleged perpetrators exempted from penalties (the reason in one exemption was that the act that happened was not a criminal act, in other case the reason was that the act that led to criminal prosecution did not happen and in the third case there was a failure to prove that the criminal act was carried out by the alleged perpetrator. **Ms Zuzana Čáčová (IOM)** thanked and added that a National Program is being prepared.

Ms Kamila Džurňáková (Ministry of Interior's Office, Crime Prevention Department) updated on the work and activities of Information Offices for Victims of Crime. Information offices also focus on victims who are Ukrainian – only in February they had more than 30 Ukrainian clients (these included victims of a civil dispute, labor dispute, war crimes, offenses, one case of human trafficking, extortion, offenses, blackmailing and threatening, fraud and other. The crime prevention department organized and carried out 185 discussions which were attended by Ukrainian refugees. Recently the Crime Prevention Department had a working meeting with the Labor Inspectorate and Information Offices to exchange

information on preventive activities and discuss cooperation. Yesterday, the government approved the crime prevention strategy (until 20280, which will strategically aim to minimize profits from criminal activity. **Ms Zuzana Čáčová (IOM)** thanked and added that UNHCR published GBV referral.

Ms Miroslava Vrábelová (Ministry of Interior of the SR) followed with an update. In 2023 they identified so far 10 victims, of which 6 are women and 4 are men (these 4 men are children from 9 to 12 years old). 3 of these were exploited for sex. Victims were exploited in Slovakia, Germany and Switzerland (in Switzerland the young boys were exploited for sex). No formally identified victims from Ukraine. Training of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police on the topic of TiP victim identification will take place, the focus will be on training of new members of the Bureau. In May the Slovak Republic is participating in „action days“, which will be focused on sexual exploitation and aim at finding the victims of this TiP purpose in nightclubs and on stations. **Ms Zuzana Čáčová (IOM)** thanked and added that the IOM team also trained some members of the Bureau in Sobrance this year – she suggested a discussion on possible cooperation.

Mr Peter Piso (Caritas Slovakia) gave an update on the calls received on the line for VoT in the last month. There was a raise in the number of foreign nationals calling – callers were from Serbia, Moldova, and Bulgaria and called concerning labor exploitation in their workplace (a workplace where Ukrainian nationals also work). In the upcoming months, they will train their employees who work in the 20 centers where Ukrainian refugees are accommodated/are receivers of services (these centers offer humanitarian aid, language courses, etc.).

Ms Zuzana Čáčová (IOM) thanked and opened the floor to a presentation and updates of **IOM Ukraine**, presented by **Ms Iryna Mydlovets** – the presentation can be found attached.

Ms Zuzana Čáčová (IOM) thanked and added that IOM Slovakia has prepared materials (poster and brochure) on safe employment and prevention of human trafficking – these can be found attached.

Mr David Baker (The European Labour Authority) shortly updated on the activities of ELA in Slovakia. ELA supports authorities in Europe and since the breakout of war focuses on the situation of vulnerable people. In this regard ELA can get in contact with enforcement authorities and in case of large-scale case reaching many countries ELA organizes the meeting and travel and all the logistics for the investigation to take place and tackle the issue. Recently they conducted cross-border inspections including one in the meat industry. Due to time constraints of the seventh TF TiP, Mr David Baker was kindly asked to proceed with the presentation on the next TF TiP on 22nd June 2023.