

**TASK FORCE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TF TiP)
PROTECTION AND INCLUSION WORKING GROUP – SLOVAKIA 2022**

Attendees:

In person:

Zuzana Bartalská (Čačová) (IOM), Katarína Štiglicová (UNHCR), Tatiana Zlatos (IOM)

Online:

Lucia Baloghová (Information Centre of Ministry of Interior of the SR), Pawel Barabasz (IOM Poland), Katarína Božík (IOM), Martina Grošaft Cebecauerová (IOM), Richard Koyš (UNHCR), Katarína Levčíková (Mareena), Miroslava Mošonová (National Labor Inspectorate), Elvir Music (UNICEF), Peter Piso (Slovak Catholic Charity), Paulína Pokorná (Association of Trade Unions and Transport), Daniela Repková (Úrad splnomocnenca vlády SR pre rómske komunity), Anna Turus (UNHCR), Viktor Valla (MZVEZ SR), Lenka Vestenická (Človek v ohrození), Vencel Vilagos (vilagos@unhcr.org), Miroslava Vrábeľová (National Unit to Combat Illegal Migration, ÚHCP P PZ)

Viliam Behran (interpreter), Miroslav Kováč (interpreter)

Agenda:

- Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting
- Presentation of the Experience with Trafficking in Persons from Poland, Pawel Barabasz, IOM Poland
- Labour exploitation – update on the situation, National Labor Inspectorate, Miroslava Mošonová
- Regular update of partners from Information Centre, Department of Crime Prevention, Office of Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Caritas Slovakia, Program for support and protection of victims of human trafficking, National Unit for Fight against Illegal Migration, IOM
- AOB (Any other business)

Ms Zuzana Bartalská (Čačová) (IOM) welcomed participants and thanked them for attending the meeting of TF on TiP. She opened the floor to **Ms Miroslava Mošonová** from the **National Labor Inspectorate**. The National Labor Inspectorate is monitoring the illegal employment and its occurrence in sectors and activities. Illegal employment continues to be most commonly present in the construction industry (often through temporary employment agencies) and also in accommodation and catering services. As far as the trends are concerned, abuse of the purpose of stay which was occurring among Ukrainians before the outbreak of the war has stopped as the temporary protection status provides the opportunity for Ukrainians to work legally. In 2023 National Labor Inspectorate conducted 4 special inspections, each of them in duration of several months. During the inspection which took place in April and May violations of legal employment were found. The inspection that started in September is still active and focuses on the adherence to (driving) time slots in transportation industry, especially among the members of third countries who work in this industry. Another inspection is ongoing in the accommodation and catering services. As far as other information are concerned, a cooperation with the Financial Administration (Finančná správa SR) focused on the employment of foreigners is ongoing. Labor Inspectorate plans trainings of inspectors in 2024. Furthermore, **Ms Mošonová** pointed out that the main obstacle that they encounter during inspections is a language barrier which makes understanding and instilling a sense of trust in people who are being investigated very difficult. This often results in their refusal to cooperate due to the fear of being returned to their country of origin. **Ms Mošonová** urges TF TiP participants that if anyone has information about any employment-related violation they can contact the National Labor Inspectorate.

Ms Zuzana Bartalská (Čačová) thanked **Ms Mošonová** and opened the floor to **Ms Baloghová** who provided an update of activities of the **Information Centre of Ministry of Interior of the SR**. In September and October, the implementation of training refresher for labor inspectors took place. In October and November, trainings for employees of Social Service facilities are taking place. Furthermore, two lectures on the identification of human trafficking victims by hotel staff are held in November as well. As part of the international cooperation with OSCE, workshop focused on unconditional access to services for victims of trafficking will take place at the end of November. **Ms Baloghová** further presented the new National Program to Combat Human Trafficking for 2024 – 2028. **Ms Levčíkova (Mareena)** asked **Ms Baloghová** about the activities of the Information Center in the near future - specifically with a focus on educational activities in Slovakia and on a meeting of stakeholders in this topic. **Ms Baloghová** answered that such a meeting in presence of various agencies was held in June and September and Information Center would like to implement such meetings also in the future and will inform the TF Tip when such meeting will be scheduled.

Ms Zuzana Bartalská (Čačová) thanked **Ms Baloghová** and opened the floor to **Mr Peter Piso** from **Caritas Slovakia**. **Mr Piso** informed that there are not any new developments regarding the TiP among the UA refugees. He added that during the previous months migrants from

Syria and surrounding countries were gathering in Slovakia and Caritas was responding to this situation - they provided tents, food and other assistance to refugees.

Ms Zuzana Bartalská (Čáčová) thanked **Mr Piso** and opened the floor to **Ms Miroslava Vrábel'ová (National Unit to Combat Illegal Migration, ÚHCP P PZ)**. **Ms Vrábel'ová** explained that their activity has been recently largely focused on smuggling. As far as trafficking is concerned, last year the National Unit started investigation of 25 cases, currently there are 18 under investigation. In 2023 32 victims have been identified so far, of which exactly half (16) are children. To compare, last year one quarter of identified victims were children, which underlines the necessity of the prevention among youth and children. These children victims were mostly sexually exploited, majority of these victims are girls. Other forms among identified victims include forced begging and forced crime. The victims were most often exploited in Slovakia, so far no criminal prosecution has been initiated. The National Unit currently implements the project focused on the creation of special interrogation rooms a priori for the victims of trafficking, one in Bratislava and one in Humenné. In addition, special rooms have been built for the interrogation of children and are available also for the interrogation of children victims of TiP. **Ms Vrábel'ová** further provided information on trainings – the National Unit retrained around 90 cadets in responding to recognizing a victim of trafficking. **Ms Božík** asked about the ratio of men and women out of the 32 identified victims. **Ms Vrábel'ová** answered: 8 men (of which 4 are **children**) and 24 women (of which 12 are children). **Ms Levčíková** asked about the criminal prosecutions initiated this year - how many of them are related to smuggling. **Ms Vrábel'ová** answered that the data presented were concerning only human trafficking and offered to share data on smuggling upon request. **Ms Vrábel'ová** further added that the data presented by the Information Center is more extensive because it also includes persons who do not appear as victims in criminal proceedings but have been identified as victims and thus were included in the National Program for Support of the Victims of Human Trafficking.

Ms Zuzana Bartalská (Čáčová) thanked **Ms Miroslava Vrábel'ová** and opened the floor to **Mr Pawel Barabasz** from **IOM Poland**, who provided update on the situation in human trafficking in Poland. The presentation of **Mr Barabasz** is attached.