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REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS REPORT



Department of Analyses and Migration Policy
Ministry of the Interior and Administration

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2. Introduction

We hereby wish to present the Report regarding traffic in human beings in Poland. Due to the situation related to the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, economic conditions and principles of movement have changed, which has affected the situation of victims of human trafficking as well as the behaviour of perpetrators of this crime. The year 2020 has brought a number of challenges which have to be faced by authorities dedicated to anti-trafficking. The impact of the pandemic on the economy and employment has further increased the risk of human trafficking for labour exploitation. With numerous employees experiencing a significant decrease in the income, they may have no choice but to go into debt, increasing the risk of falling into the trap of human trafficking and forced labour.

The prospect of finding a new job and to ensure good living conditions for themselves and their families prompts many people to leave. The victims are most often recruited in their countries of origin, very often through local recruitment agencies, where they are misinformed about the working conditions, remuneration and accommodation. Upon arrival, the dishonest employers take the identity documents away from the nationals, and the accommodation and working conditions are far from the generally accepted standards. The victims are not paid for their work and often additional dues (penalties) are charged; thus, the perpetrators create a fictitious “debt spiral” for the foreigners.

Due to its geopolitical location in the context of human trafficking, Poland is, at the same time, a country of origin, transit and destination for victims of human trafficking. Polish citizens, including both men and women, may be recruited and later used for forced labour, prostitution, begging, theft or extortion of benefits and loans abroad. Our country may also be a destination for organisers of human trafficking. In this sense, the exploitation of foreigners does occur in Poland. Most victims are citizens of European countries: Ukraine, Bulgaria, Belarus and Romania, as well as Asian countries (e.g., Vietnam, the Philippines, Sri Lanka). Foreigners are exploited in forced labour, prostitution, begging, and sometimes they are also victims of domestic slavery and criminal exploitation.

The year 2020 seems to confirm the thesis that the predominant form of trafficking in human beings for several years now remains the use of persons for forced labour. Therefore, the activities of institutions combating the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings were directed mainly at counteracting forced labour, both through active prosecution of perpetrators of this crime and information and education activities.

3. Legal basis

International law



Poland is one of many countries which actively counter human trafficking and also provide care and support for persons who have fallen victim to this practice. Poland is party to many regulations of international law, including the following:

[Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#)

[Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims](#)

[Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime](#)

[Council Directive 2004/81/EC of 29 April 2004 on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings or who have been the subject of an action to facilitate illegal immigration, who cooperate with the competent authorities](#)

[Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the](#)

[United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the UN General Assembly](#)

[Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly](#)

[UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others](#)

[Convention No. 182 of the International Labour Organisation concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Worst Forms of Child Labour, adopted in Geneva on 17 June 1999](#)

[Convention No 105 of the International Labour Organisation on the Abolition of Forced Labour](#)

National law

Apart from international obligations, Poland has developed a number of regulations of national law related to counteracting trafficking in human beings. The Polish legal bases for combating the phenomenon of human trafficking include:

The Penal Code

The concept of trafficking in human beings has been regulated in the form of a multi-element definition, which obligatorily consists of three parts: the modus operandi of the perpetrators, the means and methods used by them and the objective – the exploitation of a human being.

Pursuant to Article 115 §22 of the Penal Code (hereinafter: PC):

Trafficking in human beings is the recruitment, transportation, supply, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person through:

1. violence or unlawful threat,
2. abduction;
3. deception;
4. misrepresentation, or exploitation of a mistake or incapacity to adequately understand the undertaken activity;
5. abuse of a relationship of dependence, exploitation of a critical situation or a state of helplessness;
6. giving or accepting a financial or personal benefit or the promise thereof to a person having the care or supervision of another person;

for the purpose of exploitation, even upon their consent, in particular in prostitution, pornography or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, begging, slavery or other forms of exploitation degrading human dignity or for the purpose of procuring cells, tissues or organs in contravention of the law.

When the perpetrator's conduct involves a minor, it shall constitute trafficking in human beings, even if the methods or means listed in items 1 through 6 are not used.

However, the last paragraph of the quoted legal regulation refers only to the situation when the victim is a child. Taking into account the need to provide special protection to minor victims, the legislator limited the legal qualification of the perpetrator's act solely to the purpose of his or her action. Thus, in the case of minor victims, the second element of the definition (concerning methods and means) does not have to be disclosed for an act to qualify as trafficking in human beings.

In Poland, in accordance with Article 189a of the Penal Code:

§ 1 Whoever commits trafficking in human beings shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than 3 years.

§ 2 Whoever makes preparations to commit the offence specified in § 1, shall be subject to the penalty of deprivation of liberty for a term of between 3 months and 5 years.

Under Article 189a § 1 of the PC, trafficking in persons is punishable by a term of imprisonment of not less than 3 years, which means that it is a crime. The upper limit of the statutory threat is

imprisonment for up to 15 years. Due to the high degree of social harmfulness, the legislator has also introduced punishability of the preparation stage, i.e., preparation to commit the offence of trafficking in human beings (Article 189a § 2 of the Penal Code).

Crimes related to trafficking in human beings:

Other crimes regulated by the Penal Code, often related to human trafficking, include:

- deprivation of liberty (Article 189 of the PC)
Whoever deprives a person of liberty shall be liable to a penalty of deprivation of liberty of between 3 months and 5 years, whereas if the deprivation of liberty lasted for more than 7 days, in such a case the perpetrator shall be liable to a penalty of deprivation of liberty of between 1 and 10 years. In addition, if the deprivation of liberty has lasted for more than 7 days concerns a person who is incapable due to his or her age, mental or physical condition, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment from 2 to 12 years. On the other hand, if the deprivation of liberty was connected with particular torment, the perpetrator shall be subject to a penalty of deprivation of liberty for a term not shorter than 3 years
- forcing to a specific conduct (Article 191 § 1 PC)
Whoever uses violence against a person or an unlawful threat with the aim of forcing another person to perform a specific action, to desist or to endure, shall be subject to the penalty of deprivation of liberty for up to 3 years
- forced prostitution (Article 203 of the PC)
Whoever, by means of violence, unlawful threat, deceit or exploiting a relationship of dependence or critical position, induces another person to engage in prostitution shall be subject to a penalty of deprivation of liberty of one to ten years.
- forcing to and benefiting from sex work (Article 204 of the PC)
Whoever, in order to gain a material benefit, induces or facilitates another person to engage in prostitution, shall be subject to the penalty of deprivation of liberty for a term of between 3 months and 5 years. The same punishment shall be imposed on anyone who derives a financial benefit from the practice of prostitution by another person. If, on the other hand, the person is a minor, the offender shall be liable to a penalty of imprisonment of between one and 10 years.

Act on Foreigners

The legal act ensuring respect for the law, among others, in the area of counteracting human trafficking is the Act on Foreigners of 12 December 2013.

The Act on Foreigners (hereinafter: AoF) presents the rules on the entry, transit, stay and also departure of foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Poland. The law defines the procedure to be followed and the authorities that are competent in these matters. It points out, among others, that:

- a foreigner who is alleged to be a victim of trafficking in human beings within the meaning of Article 115 § 22 of the Penal Code shall be issued with a certificate confirming the existence of this allegation. [Article 170 of the AoF];
- the foreigner's stay in the territory of the Republic of Poland, in relation to which there is a presumption that he or she is a victim of trafficking in human beings, is considered legal for the period of validity of the certificate issued to him/her, referred to in art. 170 of the AoF. The stay of a foreigner who has been issued with a certificate is no longer considered legal as soon as the minister in charge of internal affairs records in the relevant register the information that the foreigner: actively, voluntarily and on his or her own initiative re-established contact with persons suspected of committing a crime of trafficking in human

beings (Article 189a § 1 of the Penal Code), or crossed or attempted to cross the border in violation of the law.

- a certificate, which is issued by the authority competent to conduct proceedings on a human trafficking crime (art. 189a § 1 of the PC), is valid for 3 months from the date of its issuance, and in the case of a minor foreigner - for 4 months from the date of its issuance [art. 172 of the AoF];
- a temporary residence permit for a foreigner who is a victim of trafficking in human beings shall be granted after meeting all of the following conditions: he or she resides on the territory of the Republic of Poland, he or she has cooperated with the authority competent for conducting proceedings on a human trafficking crime (art. 189a § 1 of the Penal Code), and in the case of a minor foreigner - he or she has been granted the status of a victim in the proceedings on a human trafficking crime (Article 189a § 1 of the Penal Code) and has severed contacts with persons suspected of committing a human trafficking crime (Article 189a § 1 of the Penal Code). [Article 176 of the AoF];
- the minimum period of validity of a temporary residence permit is 6 months [Art. 177 of the AoF];
- a permanent residence permit shall be granted to a foreigner for an indefinite period of time, upon his or her application, if: he or she is a victim of trafficking in human beings within the meaning of Article 115 § 22 of the Penal Code and: stayed on the territory of the Republic of Poland immediately before submitting the application for a permanent residence permit for a period of not less than 1 year on the basis of a temporary residence permit for victims of trafficking in human beings, cooperated with law enforcement authorities in criminal proceedings in the case of a trafficking in human beings offence (Article 189a § 1 of the Penal Code), has a well-founded fear of returning to his or her country of origin [Article 195(1)(5) of the AoF].

Act on Social Assistance

Another act that provides protection and has adequate tools to meet the basic needs of Polish and foreign victims of trafficking in human beings is the Act of 12 March 2004 on Social Assistance (hereinafter: AoSA).

The most important provisions of the Act on the issue of trafficking in human beings state that:

- foreigners staying on the territory of the Republic of Poland on the basis of a certificate referred to in art. 170 of the Act on Foreigners or on the basis of a permit referred to in art. 176 of the Act on Foreigners are entitled to benefits in the form of crisis intervention, a shelter, a meal, necessary clothing and a purpose-specific benefit [Art. 5a of the AoSA];
- social assistance is provided to individuals and families because of the need to protect victims of human trafficking [Article 7(7a) of the AoSA];
- the tasks of a voivode include coordination, within the social welfare system, of actions concerning the prevention of trafficking in human beings and support provided to the victims of trafficking in human beings [art. 22.15 of the AoSA];

Legislative changes regarding trafficking in human beings

On December 10, the Polish Sejm established *the Act amending the act on entering the territory of the Republic of Poland, residence and departure from this territory of nationals of Member States of the European Union and their family members and certain other acts.*

The Act introduces, as of 1 January 2021, to the Act of 14 July 2006 *on the entry into, residence in and exit from the territory of the Republic of Poland of nationals of the European Union Member States and their family members*, provisions analogous to the regulations of the Act of 12 December 2013 *on foreigners*, consisting in the possibility of issuing to a European Union/EEA/Swiss citizen and his or her family member a certificate confirming that there is a presumption that he or she is a victim of human trafficking within the meaning of Article 115 § 22 of the Penal Code. This solution will enable the right to social assistance benefits in the form of crisis intervention, shelter, meals, necessary clothing and purpose-specific allowance also to be exercised by EU/EEA/Swiss citizens and their family members.

In accordance with Article 41b(2) of the amended Act, the first certificate may be issued for the period of 3 months, and in the case of a minor EU citizen or a minor family member who is not an EU citizen - for the period of 4 months from the date of its issuance. In accordance with Article 41b(3), a further certificate can be issued for a period of at least 6 months, however not longer than 3 years, where the following conditions are met for an EU citizen or a member of their family:

- 1) remains outside the borders of the Republic of Poland.
- 2) has cooperated with a body competent to conduct proceedings in the case of an offence referred to in Article 189a § 1 of the Penal Code, and in the case of a minor foreigner - has been granted the status of a victim in proceedings in the case of an offence referred to in Article 189a § 1 of the Penal Code;
- 3) has broken contacts with persons suspected of committing the offence referred to in Article 189a § 1 of the Penal Code.

These provisions are modelled after the relevant provisions of the Act on Foreigners, i.e., Articles 170 - 176.

The Act provides for introduction of relevant amendments also to the Act of 12 March 2004 on social assistance, which enable the use of the right to social assistance benefits in the form of a crisis intervention, shelter, meal, necessary clothing and purpose-specific allowance also by the EU/EEA/Swiss citizens and their family members holding a certificate for victims of trafficking in human beings issued pursuant to the Act of 14 July 2006 on the entry into, residence in and exit from the Republic of Poland of nationals of the European Union Member States and their family members. These provisions constitute the implementation of Article 11 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA.

[Algorithms for officers](#)

Due to the needs reported by representatives of the Border Guard and the Police who are members of the Group for supporting victims of trafficking in human beings established within the Committee for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings, in 2020 the Ministry of Interior and Administration undertook works on updating two documents, i.e. "Algorithm of conduct for law enforcement officers in the event of disclosing a trafficking in human beings offence" and "Algorithm of identification and conduct towards an underage victim of trafficking in human beings for Police and Border Guard officers". In the course of the Group's work, the algorithms were updated and then developed graphically. They shall be used by current and future Border Guard and Police officers in their daily service and for training purposes. Algorithms were passed to the Commander in Chief of the Polish Border Guard and the Commander-in-Chief of the Police for official use by officers subordinate to them.



4. Organisation of the system for combating trafficking in human beings in Poland

National Action Plan



National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter: NAP) is a basic document concerning the functioning of the system for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings in Poland. It is a government document, adopted by the Council of Ministers, obliging its addressees to perform specific tasks in combating human trafficking. The addressees of NAP are particular units of central administration and other institutions and non-governmental organisations voluntarily involved in activities against human trafficking in Poland. The main objective of the NAP is to create conditions necessary for efficient preventing and combating of trafficking in human beings and protection of victims of such crimes in Poland. In this context, the specific objectives are:

- to raise the public awareness of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings;
- to increase the standard of support provided to victims of trafficking in human beings (including underage victims of trafficking);
- to improve the effectiveness of actions taken by institutions responsible for prosecuting human trafficking by means of enhancing legal tools and structures and implementing the best practices;
- to improve the qualifications of representatives of institutions and organisations involved in preventing human trafficking and supporting the victims;

- to extend the knowledge on trafficking in human beings and effectiveness of the actions;
- to consolidate international cooperation.

10 April 2020 the Council of Ministers adopted by circulation the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2020-2021.

Institutions involved in the system for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings

Committee for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings

By Ordinance No. 6 of the Minister of the Interior and Administration of 15 February 2019, the Committee for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings was established. The Committee is an auxiliary body of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration and continues the activities of the Interdepartmental Team for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings, which has been functioning since 2004.

The main tasks of the Committee include:

- evaluating the implementation of programmes aimed at combating and preventing trafficking in human beings;
- initiating action to combat and prevent trafficking in human beings;
- preparing draft NAP against trafficking in human beings, monitoring the feasibility of planned tasks and preparing annual reports on the implementation of NAP.

Two permanent groups were established within the Committee. In addition, two ad hoc groups were created in accordance with the Committee's Rules of Procedure.

Permanent groups

- Working Group for monitoring the implementation of the NAP.
- Working group on support for victims of trafficking in human beings

Ad hoc group

- Ad hoc Working Group for a handbook for judicial and law enforcement authorities, as well as other authorities involved in counteracting trafficking in human beings, on the handling of trafficking cases
- Working Group for the development of guidelines for labour inspectors on the methodology of carrying out inspection activities in cases of suspected trafficking in human beings, in particular forced labour

The Team for Countering Trafficking in Human Beings as of 2020 consisted of representatives of the following institutions: Ministry of Interior and Administration, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Ministry of National Education, Police Headquarters, Border Guard Headquarters, Office for Foreigners, Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, National Public Prosecutor's Office, Chief Labour Inspectorate, Office of the Ombudsman, Office of the Children's Rights Ombudsman, Centre for Education Development, National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution, La Strada - Foundation against Trafficking in Human Beings and Slavery, Henryk Sienkiewicz Association PoMOC for Women and Children. ITAKA – Centre for Missing Persons, Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre, Salvation Army,

International Organisation for Migration – IOM, Light House Foundation, Foundation “Give Strength to Children”.

Institutional level

Ministry of the Interior and Administration.



Ministerstwo
Spraw Wewnętrznych
i Administracji

Within the structures of the Department of Migration Analysis and Policy of the Ministry of Interior there is the Department for Counteracting Trafficking in Human Beings and Hate Crimes, which is responsible for:

- monitoring works related to the implementation of the tasks set out in the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings;
- proposing tasks in the next editions of the National Plan;
- monitoring the implementation of public tasks concerning support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings commissioned by the Minister of Interior and Administration (currently the task is called “Management of the National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking”).
- supporting the work of the Anti-Trafficking Group and the Working Groups;

Office for Foreigners



URZĄD DO SPRAW
CUDZOZIEMCÓW

The Office plays an important role in the preliminary identification of potential victims of human trafficking among foreigners applying for international protection in Poland. Within the framework of ongoing proceedings for granting the refugee status, the Offices employees may obtain information indicating that a foreigner has been a victim of human trafficking. In addition, a part-time Human Trafficking Coordinator is identified in the Department of Refugee Procedures, responsible for the coordination of activities and the proper flow of information.

Police



POLICJA

The Department for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Criminal Service Bureau (now the Criminal Bureau) of the Police Headquarters was established for activities in the field of combating trafficking in human beings by the decision of the Commander-in-Chief of Police of 22 January 2014. The Department’s main tasks include combating crime related to human trafficking, paedophilia and child pornography, as well as crime against sexual freedom and decency.

Within the scope of its tasks, the Department for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings cooperates with justice authorities, public administration and state control, non-governmental organisations, social organisations and public utility institutions. Moreover, the Department carries out activities of an international character through operational and investigative cooperation with law enforcement agencies of other countries. The Department for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, among other things, supervises and coordinates the work of units for combating trafficking in human beings established on the basis of the NPH Ordinance¹ in the criminal service in voivodeship headquarters.

¹ Order No. 14 of the Commander-in-Chief of Police of 22 September 2016 on certain tasks performed by the Police in the field of recognition, prevention and detection of the crime of human trafficking and other related criminal acts.

The tasks of the units for combating trafficking in human beings include, in particular, detection of trafficking in human beings, supervision and coordination of tasks performed by district police headquarters and subordinate police units within the scope of detecting trafficking in human beings, identification and support for the process of identifying victims of trafficking in human beings, participation in international operations, in particular participation in joint investigation teams created in order to detect trafficking in human beings, non-police cooperation, as well as organisation and conduct of professional training classes for police officers of the criminal service within the scope of detecting trafficking in human beings.

Border Guard



The Border Guard has a special function in the fight against human trafficking in relation to foreigners. It is the Border Guard officers who very often have the first contact with the victims of this crime and therefore often identify the victims. Like all the institutions described, the Border Guard participates in performing the tasks included in the NAP. The Operational and Investigative Board of the National Border Guard Headquarters coordinates the implementation of undertakings resulting from the NAP, as well as substantively supervises the activities of the Border Guard organisational units within the scope of combating and preventing trafficking in human beings in Poland.

Additionally, within the structures of the Operational and Investigative Board of the Border Guard Headquarters, within Division I, there is Section I dealing thematically with illegal migration and human trafficking, which is responsible, inter alia, for coordination and supervision over actions undertaken by the Border Guard in the area of combating human trafficking. In each of the Border Guard divisions in the operational and investigative department, a part-time coordinator for combating trafficking in human beings was appointed, responsible for coordination and cooperation between relevant organisational units of the Border Guard, the Police and other institutions involved in combating this phenomenon.



Public Prosecutor's Office

PROKURATURA
KRAJOWA

The Department for Organised Crime and Corruption is responsible for the fight against human trafficking in the National Prosecutor's Office. This unit coordinates the activities of the Public Prosecutor's Office in the prosecution of human trafficking. A special prosecutor-coordinator for human trafficking is appointed. Since 2007, prosecutors have been appointed in the former Appeal Prosecutor's Offices and now in each of the Regional Prosecutor's Offices and Regional Prosecutor's Offices to act as consultants on human trafficking. In 2014, the *Guidelines on the Investigation of Handling Human Trafficking Cases* were submitted for use by prosecutors.

Ministry of Family and Social Policy



Ministerstwo Rodziny
i Polityki Społecznej

Social assistance plays a key role in supporting victims of trafficking. Social assistance provides for the possibility of providing crisis intervention directly due to the need to protect victims. In 2014, the Ministry of Family and Social Policy adopted the *Standards for Safe Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking* and provided them to participants of specialised trainings titled: "Supporting the Victims of Human Trafficking", as part of the expertise in this area. Since 2008, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Administration, the Border Guard and non-governmental organisations, has been conducting an annual cycle of trainings for the personnel of social welfare organisational units on support for victims of trafficking

in human beings, including on the principles and cooperation with the National Intervention and Consultation Centre.

National Labour Inspectorate



The National Labour Inspectorate (NLI) is an authority appointed to control the observance of labour law regulations, including occupational safety and health and the legality of employment. The tasks of the National Labour Inspectorate include activities aimed at disclosing cases of work performed in violation of applicable laws. Labour inspectors of the NLI, within the framework of their competences authorising them to enter the premises of work at any time, to obtain information from employees and other persons present on the premises of the workplace, as well as thanks to their powers to inspect entities providing labour intermediation and temporary employment services and user employers, are able to uncover potential victims of trafficking in human beings for forced labour and notify the services competent for combating this type of crime. Due to the fact that foreigners are often victims of trafficking in human beings for forced labour, NLI control activities are carried out – in justified cases – in cooperation with Border Guard officers. Cooperation with the aforementioned formation is carried out, inter alia, on the basis of the provisions of the agreement on the principles of cooperation between the National Labour Inspectorate and the Border Guard of 10 December 2018 (which replaced the previously binding agreement of 12 May 2015). It provides not only for the implementation of joint controls regarding the legality of employment of foreigners, but also for joint informational and educational activities addressed both to entities employing foreigners and to foreigners working in Poland. Thanks to the cooperation implemented, identified cases of trafficking in human beings for forced labour can be investigated by the Border Guard. At the central level, the representatives of the National Labour Inspectorate participate in the works of the Committee for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings established by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration and in Working Groups of this Committee. NLI authorities implement – both centrally and locally – the tasks included in the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings. Cooperation of the National Labour Inspectorate with other institutions and organisations within the framework of voivodeship teams for combating trafficking in human beings and cooperation with the LA STRADA Foundation is not without significance for the implementation of the NLI tasks in the area of counteracting and combating trafficking in human beings for forced labour.

Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy



The Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy has a Team for Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility, which is a subsidiary body of the minister responsible for regional development. In its current form, it was established by Order of the Minister of Funds and Regional Policy of 21 January 2020. The team provides a platform for cooperation of the government administration with business representatives and socio-economic partners for adaptation to the challenges of sustainable development through the dissemination of social responsibility in market practices. The concept of social responsibility, around which the work of the Team is focused, relates, according to the ISO 26000 standard, to the following areas: organisational governance, human rights, labour practices, environment, fair operating practices, consumer issues, community involvement and community development. At the heart of social responsibility in the complex areas of human rights and labour practices is the need to ensure that the most severe form of violation of workers' rights – forced labour – does not occur. Each year, the Team identifies the most current

challenges for the development of corporate social responsibility practices, but also for public administration or universities, setting goals to be implemented by several working groups operating under its auspices. The following groups were active in 2020: Working Group on Labour Relations; Working Group on Consumer Affairs; Working Group on Innovation for Sustainable Development and CSR; Working Group on Social Responsibility of Universities; Working Group on Social Responsibility of Administration. Noting the great importance of the problem of forced labour in a situation where immigrants constitute a significant part of the Polish labour market, the Team assigned tasks to the Working Group on Relations with Workers to support the prevention and elimination of the phenomenon of forced labour. Having developed a definition of forced labour in 2019, the Working Group focused in 2020 on promoting the development of business practices that effectively detect and eliminate the risk of forced labour in the supply chain and when working with temporary agencies or subcontractors. Such practices and procedures are a real expression of social responsibility policies in the employee area. They can be used in enterprises and in all other types of organisations that benefit directly or indirectly from the labour provided (through a procurement system or by working with intermediaries to employ persons). Practical guidance in this respect is provided in the publication titled “Forced labour. A guide: how to recognise and counteract it” published by the Working Group in October 2020.

Regional level

Voivodeship Teams for Counteracting Trafficking in Human Beings

The Voivodeship Teams are composed of representatives of various public institutions, law enforcement bodies and non-governmental organisations at the regional level. The participation of representatives of individual institutions depends on the decision of the voivode. The representatives of voivodeship offices, the Police, the Border Guard, the prosecutor's office, the labour inspectorate, labour offices, local governments, school superintendents and educational institutions and non-governmental organisations take part in the work of the appointed teams so far.

The representatives of the institutions participating in the work of the regional teams increase the effectiveness of their activities through the ongoing exchange of information and coordination of all undertakings, including those of a preventive nature.

NGO level

Non-governmental organisations play a supporting role for state authorities and institutions in their efforts to combat human trafficking, assist victims and educate the public.

National Network of NGOs Against Trafficking in Human Beings



NGOs involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings are concentrated in the National Network of NGOs Against Trafficking in Human Beings, which was established in July 2014 as part of the implementation of a project funded by the Norwegian Fund. The Network currently brings together 19 NGOs. The main intention of the Network is to create a highly specialised network of organisations counteracting trafficking in human beings in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of their work, professionalise their activities and strengthen their potential so that they can be partners of public institutions and law enforcement bodies in joint activities aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings and supporting the victims of this crime. The Network's activities include strengthening provincial anti-trafficking teams, developing standards for providing services to victims of human trafficking, in particular maintaining safety and privacy and respect for victims' choices, and organising a series of workshops on human trafficking for NGOs. Due to the activities of the Network, selected NGOs from all over Poland are prepared to work with victims of human trafficking.

La Strada Foundation Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Slavery



Founded in 1996, the aim of the Foundation is to work for the respect of human rights, to combat human trafficking, slavery and forced labour and to counteract the exploitation of prostitution, as well as crimes against individual freedom and health. Since its inception, the Foundation has been active in helping victims. In 2020, the La Strada Foundation won the competition of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration to run the National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking, providing specialised personnel and a shelter for victims in

Warsaw.

The Po-MOC Association for Women and Children of St. Mary Immaculate



Po MOC

Stowarzyszenie

The mission of the Association, operating since 1998, is to provide comprehensive assistance to women in a crisis situation by: providing safe shelter, support in the process of personal development, prevention and educational activities in the field of violence, human trafficking and forced prostitution. The main

objective of the Association is to help women and their children at risk of or affected by sexual, physical and psychological violence, victims of trafficking in women and their families. The Association is involved in the operation of the National Intervention and Consultation Centre, as part of which it runs a shelter for battered women and women with children in Katowice.

Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre



A non-governmental public benefit organisation established in 2002 in Kraków. The HNLAC works to protect human rights, primarily by providing free legal assistance to persons from groups at risk of social exclusion and discrimination, including the poor, victims of domestic violence, foreigners and refugees, monitors compliance with human rights standards, undertakes legal interventions and advocacy work, and carries out research and educational projects. The Centre also

takes action to prevent trafficking in human beings, including children, by organising social campaigns and providing legal support to victims. The Centre also publishes periodic reports on trafficking in human beings in Poland, in which, in addition to an analysis of the scale and picture of the phenomenon, the system of assistance to victims is assessed

Foundation "Give Strength to Children"



Operating since 1991, the Foundation "Give Strength to Children" (formerly the Nobody's Children Foundation) supports children and their families by providing help in situations of abuse. Its facilities offer psychological and legal assistance to children who have experienced abuse (physical violence, psychological violence, sexual abuse, neglect, cyberbullying) and their families. Support is also offered to parents of young children aged 0-6 years who, for various reasons, are not prepared for the informed, safe care and

upbringing of their children. The aim of the Foundation is to support children in overcoming the traumas brought on by experiences of harm. The Foundation actively cooperates with the Police, in terms of combating crimes related to the sexual exploitation of children. The Foundation runs the

Helpline for Children and Young People 116 111, and is the initiator of the website stopsekssturystyce.fdds.pl, where cases of child sexual abuse can be reported directly to the Police.

ITAKA Foundation – Centre for Missing People



Founded in 1999, the NGO deals with the problem of disappearances in Poland. It is a public benefit organisation. Itaka finds missing persons, helps their families and prevents disappearances. It operates an online database of missing persons, a 24-hour support line for missing persons and their families and a *Missing Child* Helpline. All assistance is provided by Itaka free of charge. The Foundation cooperates with the Police Headquarters

and is a member organisation of the Missing Children Europe Federation.

Light House Foundation



The Light House Foundation is a Christian human rights organisation founded in 2017, but with a background of 10 years' experience fighting human trafficking and modern slavery internationally.

The aim of the Light House Foundation is to prevent and combat human trafficking, modern slavery, forced labour and forced prostitution, to help victims of these and similar crimes and to support victims in rebuilding their lives.

The Foundation offers shelter, counselling and support to victims and their families, including direct support during contact with law enforcement authorities. An important objective of the Foundation is to create new solutions and standards of assistance, including training for law enforcement agencies, institutions and organisations. The Foundation works by networking, actively raising public awareness through lectures, training and social campaigns.

The list of the above NGOs is not complete. Assistance to victims of human trafficking is provided by several dozen entities, including Caritas, the Polish Red Cross, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, the St. Vincent de Paul Aid Society, and the Polish Human Rights Foundation. There are also many other organisations, foundations and associations that provide various forms of support to victims, including victims of human trafficking.

Institutional support

National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Polish and Foreign Victims of Trafficking



National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking (hereinafter: NCIC) is a public task, implemented and financed by the Ministry of Interior and Administration, addressed to Polish and foreign victims of human trafficking. Every year the Ministry of the Interior and Administration

announces an open competition for the operation of the NCIC. In 2020, the Centre was run by the La Strada Foundation Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Slavery, and the Po-MOC Association for Women and Children of St. Mary Immaculate

NCIC was set up to help victims of human trafficking in Poland. Its tasks include identification of victims of human trafficking, intervention, preventive counselling, consultation for institutions and organisations and running a specialised shelter for victims. NCIC personnel provide counselling not

only to victims of human trafficking, but also to their relatives, organisations and institutions, persons at risk of human trafficking.

Crucial in assisting victims of human trafficking is their initial identification, which in most cases is carried out by law enforcement authorities. Once the victim is identified, the need to ensure their safety, isolate them from the perpetrators and place them in a safe place follows. This is the most important objective of the NCIC's work: comprehensive assistance to victims of the procedure, which is provided by NGOs. The assisted person can count on full support: accommodation, medical and psychological care, legal consultations.

National Office of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Warsaw

Victims of human trafficking are particularly vulnerable to the risk of secondary victimisation. In the event that they decide to leave Poland, they have the right to assistance in arranging their safe return to their country of origin. The Office of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Warsaw is implementing the Voluntary Return Assistance Programme. The programme is implemented on the basis of an agreement concluded in 2005 between the Minister of Interior and Administration and the IOM and is co-financed by the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

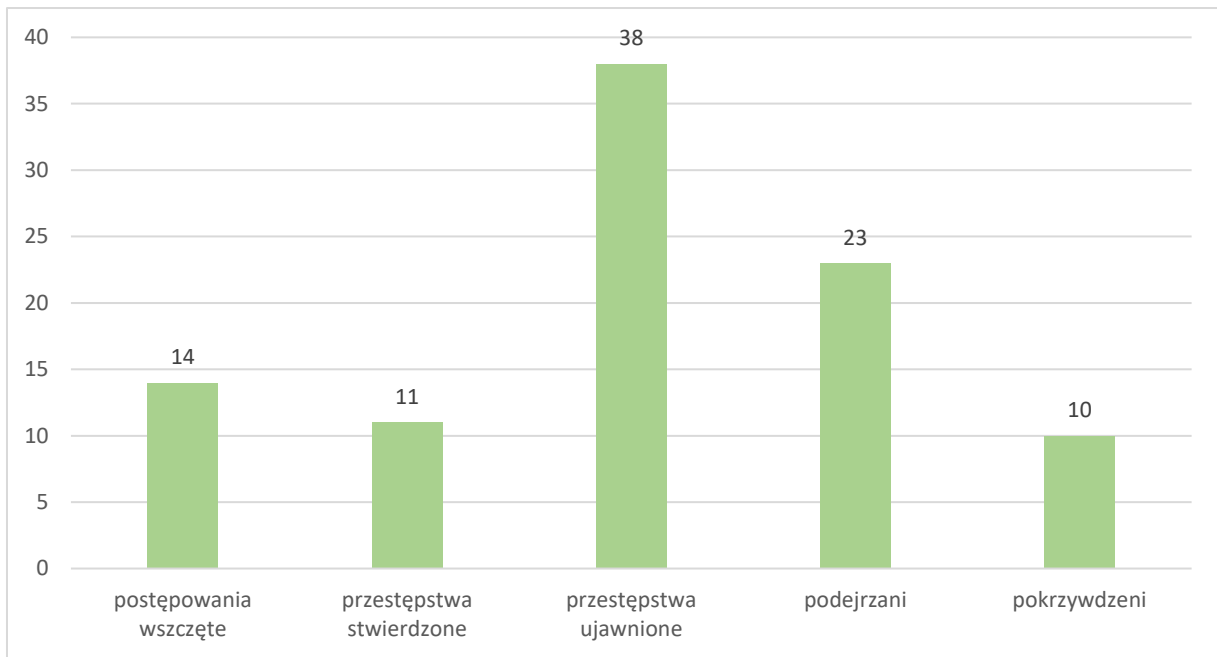
5. Figures on trafficking in human beings

Due to the different data collection methodologies adopted by trafficking entities, the following statistics are presented separately for the sake of transparency. Information from non-governmental organisations cooperating with law enforcement bodies and the judiciary in supporting the victims of this crime is also an important supplement to the current picture of the phenomenon.

Police

As a law enforcement agency, the police make every effort to detect and prosecute offenders. The intensified activities of the Police resulted in 2020: the initiation of 14 proceedings on human trafficking, the ascertainment of 11 offences, the disclosure of 38 offences, the identification of 23 suspects and 10 victims.

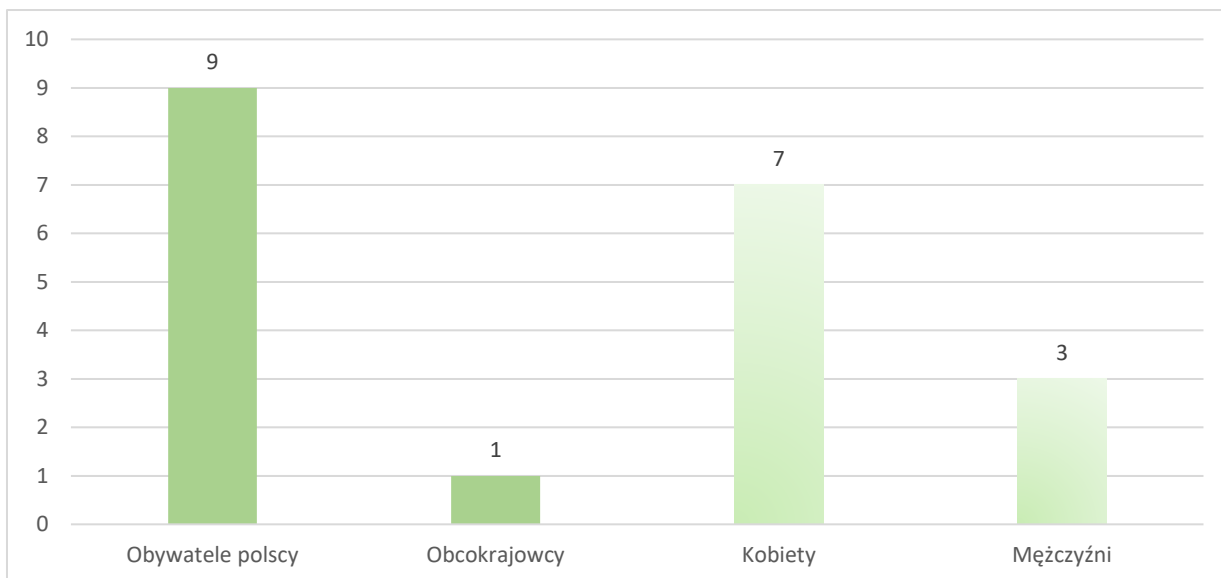
Diagram 1. Human trafficking. Offence under Article 189a § 1-2 PC in 2020.



Prepared based on data from the National Police Headquarters

Most of the victims were citizens of Poland - 9 persons and 1 person from Bulgaria. It should be noted that among the victims the majority are women (7 victims) against 3 male victims. Of the total victims shown in 2020 in completed proceedings and established offences, 7 victims were abused in Poland, 1 in Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany, 1 in the United Kingdom and 1 in Sweden.

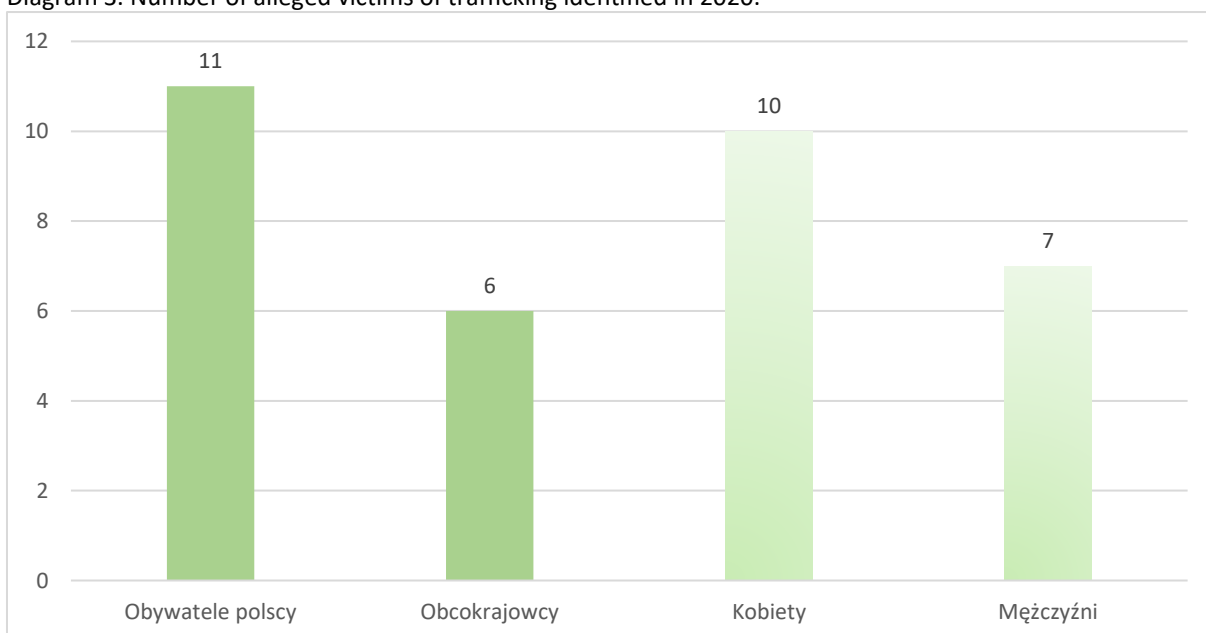
Diagram 2. Number of victims identified by the Police by nationality and gender in 2020.



Prepared based on data from the National Police Headquarters

In 2020, the majority of victims were those used for prostitution or pornography (7 persons). There were 3 persons in forced labour or services and 1 person in other forms of exploitation.

Diagram 3. Number of alleged victims of trafficking identified in 2020.



Prepared based on data from the National Police Headquarters

In 2020, 17 alleged victims of trafficking were identified, 10 women and 7 men. Most of the victims were Polish citizens (11 persons) and 6 foreigners (3 citizens of Bulgaria and 3 citizens of Colombia). 8 persons were exploited in forced labour or services while 9 persons were exploited for prostitution or pornography. Of the total alleged victims of trafficking identified in 2020, 9 may have been exploited in Poland, 3 in Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany, 3 in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1 in the United Kingdom and 1 in the Netherlands.

Example of proceedings/investigation:

“...in various places in Poland, including Radzyń Podlaski, Skierniewice and other places, as well as on the territory of EU countries, including Bulgaria and Germany, the perpetrators, as part of an organised criminal group aiming to commit crimes related to trafficking in human beings, in order to

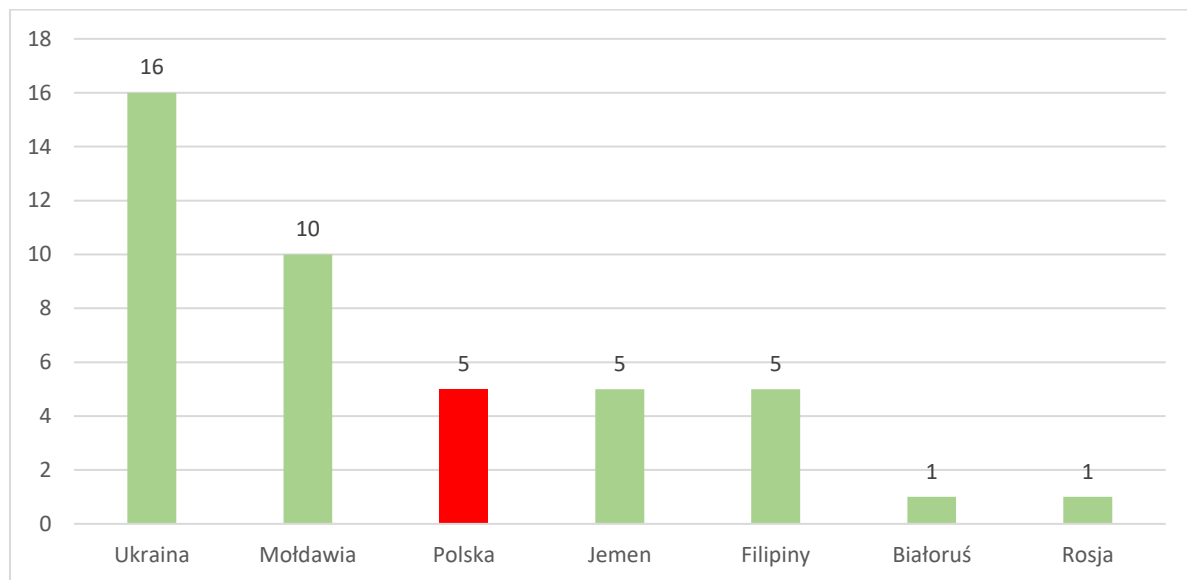
achieve financial gain and making a regular source of income from the committed crimes, took advantage of the critical situation of an as yet undetermined number of women in the form of a lack of means of subsistence and misrepresentation of the conditions of the offered work. The perpetrators used violence against women in the form of beatings, threats, starvation and sexual abuse, as well as selling them to others, recruiting and transporting women between the above-mentioned countries in order to use them, with their consent, in prostitution. The members of the criminal group were mostly Bulgarian citizens.”

Source: National Police Headquarters.

Border Guard

The Border Guard, as another law enforcement agency, identified 43 potential victims of human trafficking in 2020. Thirty-eight persons were forced into forced labour (16 citizens of Ukraine, 10 citizens Mexico, 5 citizens of Yemen, 5 citizens of the Philippines, 1 citizen of Belarus and 1 citizen of Russia). Five women, citizens of Poland, were forced into marriages of convenience.

Diagram 4. Nationality of potential trafficking victims identified by the Border Guard in 2020.



Prepared based on data from the Polish Border Guard

In 2020, 8 new investigations were opened: 5 from the area of exploitation for forced labour; 2 from the area of exploitation for prostitution and 1 from other forms of exploitation degrading human dignity. In the course of the investigations conducted in 2020, charges of trafficking in human beings were brought against 1 suspect - citizen of Poland.

Based on statistics on the number of disclosed victims as well as on pre-trial proceedings, forced labour remains the predominant form of exploitation. It should be noted that handling trafficking cases is a complex and lengthy process. The necessity to comprehensively explain the circumstances of a given trafficking in human beings procedure, collect evidence and record it for the court requires a number of procedural actions, which are also accompanied by secret, operational and exploratory activities.

Example of proceedings/investigation:

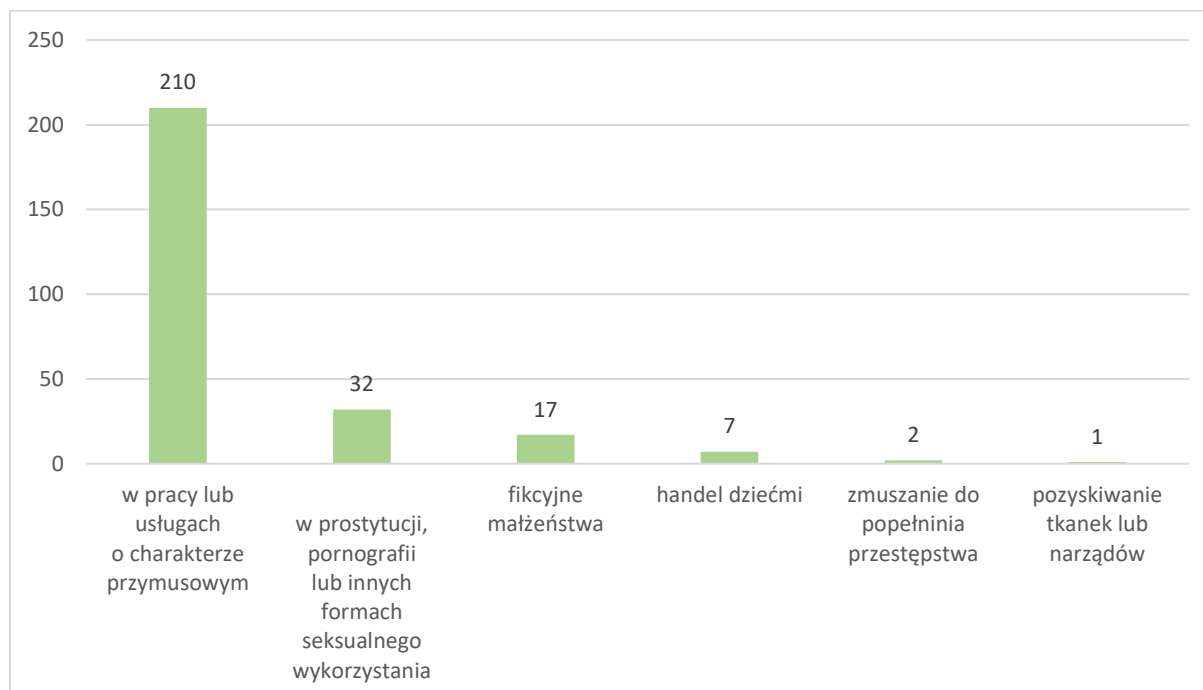
“In 2020, the highest number of victims from the area of exploitation in forced labour- 16 citizens of Ukraine, 1 citizen of Belarus, the Border Guard identified to a case conducted since 2018 by the Maritime Branch of the Border Guard and concluded at the end of 2020. In this very case, an indictment was sent to the district court on 29 December 2020, which included 3 citizens of the Republic of Poland (1 man and 2 women). The proceedings in question concerned human trafficking, which took place between 1 February 2017 and 23 April 2018. on the territory of the identified localities in Poland and Sweden. The area of exploitation was forced labour in the construction sector. The main perpetrator used his legitimate business activities to recruit workers to work in Poland and Sweden. He worked with a number of companies to which he referred recruits to work in the construction industry. Advertisements were placed on Polish and Ukrainian Internet portals. Both in Poland and in Sweden, the abused persons were not provided with decent living conditions. The work was done illegally. In addition, wages were only partially paid or not paid at all. The amounts were not sufficient to meet the needs of life. Money was deducted for housing, alleged insurance or work clothes. Threats of irrational financial penalties were used against workers to force them to follow instructions. They were also threatened with expulsion from the country and, if they escaped, with being found by themselves or their families. The critical position of these persons was exploited because the work offered was the only source of income for their families, living on the edge of poverty...”

Source: Border Guard Headquarters

Public Prosecutor's Office

According to data provided by the National Prosecutor's Office in 2020, the most common forms of exploitation of persons were forced labour or services of a forced nature, as well as prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. Cases of marriages of convenience, child trafficking and the procurement of tissue or organs have also been reported. The number of persons victimised by the crime of human trafficking in 2020 was 269 persons, including 8 minors.

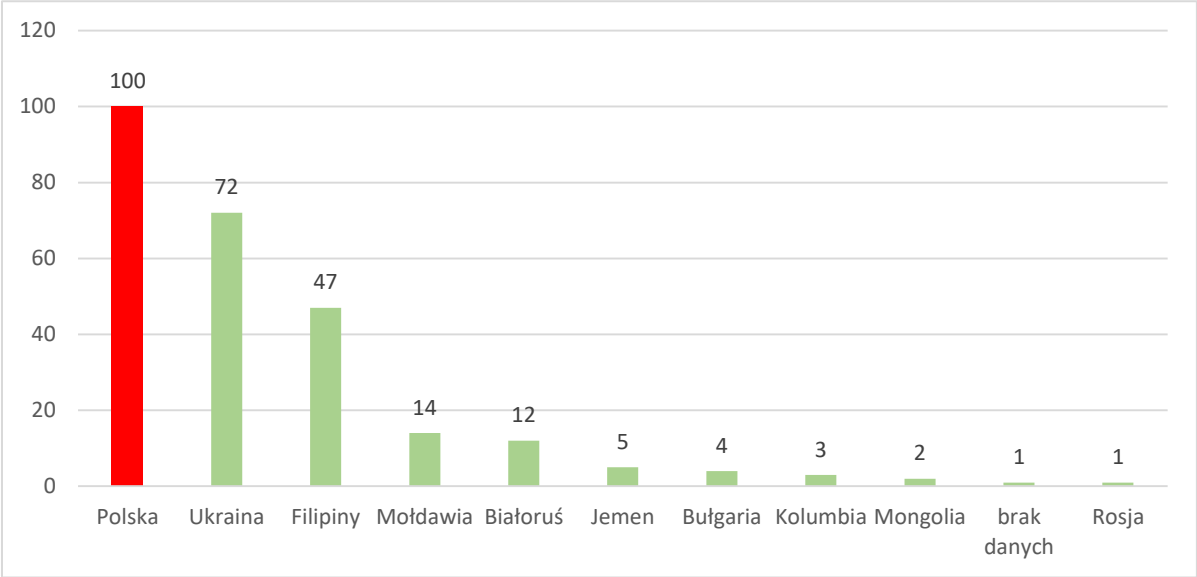
Diagram 5. The nature of the abuse of the victims in 2020.



Prepared on the basis of data from the National Public Prosecutor's Office.

Data provided by the National Prosecutor’s Office in 2020 details the nationality of adult victims, we can illustrate this in the diagram below. Most victims were citizens of Poland (100 persons) and Ukraine (72 persons). The lowest number of victims was recorded among Russian citizens (1 person), there was also 1 person whose nationality was not established.

Diagram 6. Country of origin of adult victims in 2020.

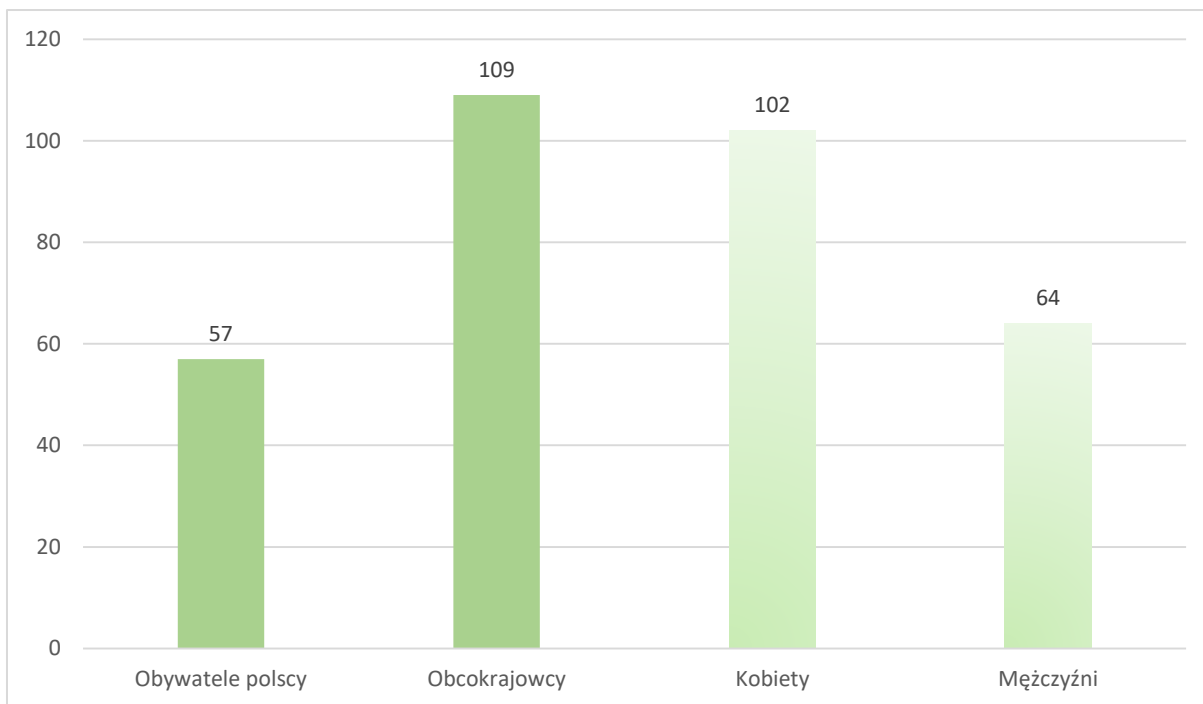


Prepared on the basis of data from the National Public Prosecutor’s Office.

[National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking](#)

According to NCIC data for victims of trafficking in human beings, in 2020, 166 persons (57 Polish citizens and 109 foreigners), including 16 minors, benefited from the support. The majority of persons supported were women.

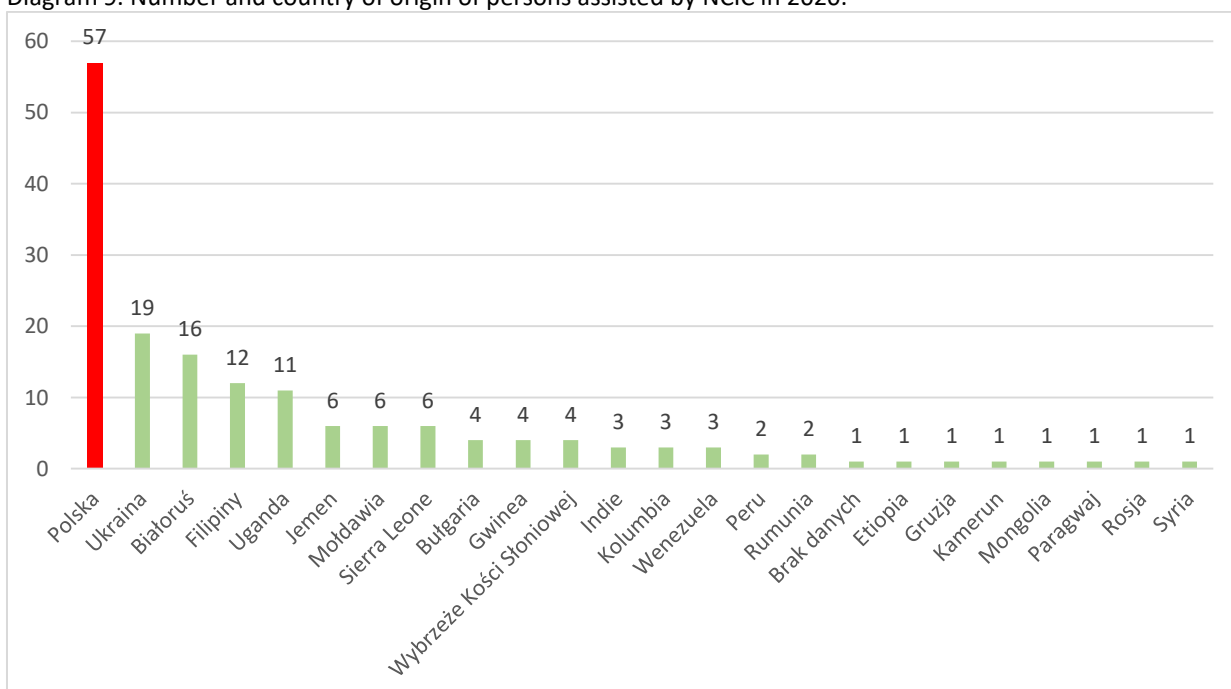
Diagram 8. Number of persons assisted by NCIC in 2020, by citizenship and gender



Prepared on the basis of NCIC data.

The chart below shows the number and origin of victims of trafficking in human beings in 2020. The most represented group of persons benefiting from NCIC's support were citizens of Poland (57 persons) and Ukraine (19 persons). A sizeable group of beneficiaries were also citizens of Belarus (16 persons) as well as the Philippines (12 persons) and Uganda (11 persons).

Diagram 9. Number and country of origin of persons assisted by NCIC in 2020.

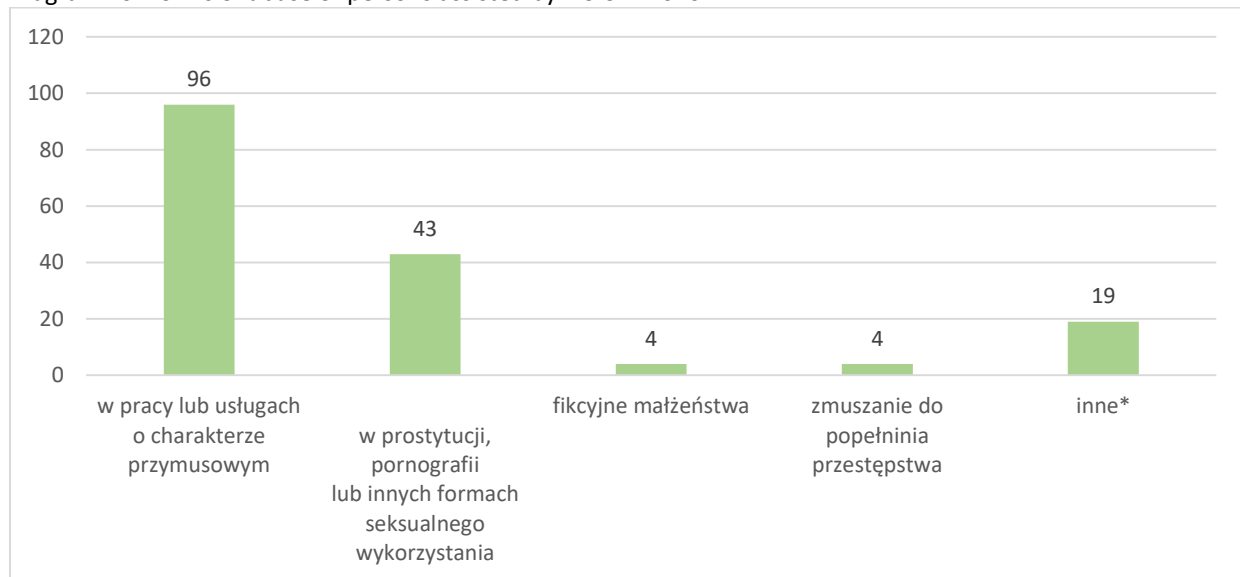


Prepared on the basis of NCIC data.

The chart below illustrates the forms of exploitation of persons assisted by the NCIC in 2020. The predominant form of exploitation, was exploitation in forced labour and sexual exploitation. On a

much smaller scale, persons were used for domestic slavery, violence or forced to marry or commit crimes.

Diagram 10. Forms of abuse of persons assisted by NCIC in 2020.



Prepared on the basis of NCIC data.

*Other (includes cases where more than one form of exploitation was found; including violence, fraud, slavery, getting into debt, no information on the form of exploitation, etc.).

Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy

As of 20 January 2021, in the months I-VI 2020, under Article 5a of the Act on Social Assistance, support was provided to 13 foreign victims of trafficking in human beings of which:

- 13 foreigners received a special-purpose benefit (in the form of cash)
- 3 foreigners received assistance in the form of benefit in kind (shelter, meal, necessary clothing).

Due to the need to protect victims of trafficking in human beings, social assistance was extended to 340 families on the basis of Article 7, paragraph 7a of the Act of 12 March 2004 on social assistance.

Due to the data collection methodology, the 2019 report does not provide complete data for the year in question. The updated information allows us to state that:

1. throughout 2019, support was provided to 32 foreign victims of human trafficking under Article 5a of the Social Assistance Act, including:

- 24 persons received a special-purpose benefit (in the form of cash),
- 9 foreigners received assistance in the form of benefit in kind (shelter, meal, necessary clothing).

2. Social assistance was provided to 326 families due to the need to protect victims of trafficking in human beings on the basis of Article 7(7a) of the Act of 12 March 2004 on Social Assistance.

6. Measures carried out in 2020

In 2020, the Ministry of Interior and Administration, in cooperation with other ministries, institutions and non-governmental entities, implemented a number of activities addressed both to the general public and to specific social and professional groups particularly vulnerable to the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, e.g., young persons and the unemployed, as well as foreigners looking for work in Poland. Due to the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, most of the activities such as conferences, trainings and workshops took place online.

Selected major projects

Information campaign “Human trafficking is a crime!”

The economic situation related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus pandemic can be used to employ persons under unfair conditions or use them for forced labour. That is why the Ministry of the Interior launched the information campaign “Human trafficking is a crime”. As part of the first phase, billboards were prepared to provide information on where victims of human trafficking can seek help.



The Interior Ministry wanted to reach out primarily to Vietnamese and Ukrainian citizens – persons from these countries have so far been the most numerous groups of victims. As a result, two billboards telling persons where to find help have been erected on the road to Wólka Kosowska, and another near Bakalarska Street. The billboards contained information in Polish, Vietnamese and Ukrainian. The information was displayed at these locations for a fortnight (from 1 to 15 December 2020). Billboards promoted the 24-hour hotline number for victims and witnesses of human trafficking +48 22 628 01 20.

The next stage was to develop information leaflets in four language versions, including Ukrainian and Vietnamese, and posters. The distribution of materials was carried out in early 2021.

Educational campaign titled: “Do not become a victim of human trafficking”.

In 2020, a joint education campaign was implemented under the title “Do not become a victim of human trafficking”. The campaign was prepared by the Ministry of the Interior and Administration and the British Embassy in Warsaw together with partners: Police, Border Guard and NGOs. It aimed to inform about the risk of becoming a victim of modern slavery (human trafficking).

The campaign was organised with the support of the biggest job boards in Poland and focused on the issue of forced labour.



Szukasz pracy za granicą?
Interesują Cię oferty pracy za wysoką stawkę przy minimum kwalifikacji?

**NIE STAŃ SIĘ
OFIARĄ HANDLU LUDŹMI**

Każdego roku wielu polskich obywateli staje się ofiarami pracy przymusowej, która jest formą handlu ludźmi. Dzieje się to zarówno w Polsce jak i za granicą.

Sprawdź jak bezpiecznie szukać pracy za granicą oraz jak przygotować się do wyjazdu:
<http://www.kcik.pl/profilaktyka.html>
<http://safe.strada.org.pl/>

Jeśli masz wątpliwości, sprawdź, czy Twoja oferta pracy jest bezpieczna i uzyskaj pakiet informacji o kraju, do którego podróżujesz:
<https://www.armia-zbawienia.pl/przeciw-niewolnictwu.html>

Jeśli Ty bądź osoba, którą znasz potrzebujesz pomocy, wszystkie informacje znajdziesz na tej stronie.
<http://www.handelludzi.eu/hl/o-handlu-ludzmi/informacje-dla-ofiar>

Organizatorzy kampanii:



Workshop and handbook for employers on the prevention of forced labour

In October 2020, a handbook for employers entitled “Forced labour. A guide: how to recognise and prevent it”. The handbook has been developed as part of the work of the Working Group on Relations with Workers operating within the structures of the Team for Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility at the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy. Information regarding the handbook was disseminated among others to organisations forming part of the Team for Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility (Business Centre Club, Federation of Polish Entrepreneurs, Employers of the Republic of Poland, PKPP Lewiatan, Polish Craft Association) and member organisations of the Social Dialogue Council at the national and regional level, which were encouraged to use and further promote it.

WARSZTAT
28 PAŹDZIERNIKA 2020
GODZ. 10:30 - 14:00

**IDENTYFIKACJA
I ZAPOBIEGANIE
PRACY PRZYMUSOWEJ
NARZĘDZIA DLA FIRM**

Wydarzenie bezpłatne. Szczegółowe informacje i rejestracja na stronie: <https://tinyurl.com/y27u39e7>
Wydarzenie będzie transmitowane na kanale YouTube Ministerstwa Funduszy i Polityki Regionalnej

Ministerstwo Funduszy i Polityki Regionalnej

Grupa Robocza ds. Relacji z Osobami Świadczącymi Pracę działająca w ramach Zespołu ds. Zrównoważonego Rozwoju i Społecznej Odpowiedzialności Przedsiębiorstw

Polski Instytut Praw Człowieka i Biznesu

The promotion of the guide in the business community was supported by a 3.5-hour online workshop organised on 28 October 2020 by the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy in cooperation with the Polish Institute for Human and Business Rights and members of the working group. Experts, practitioners from companies and representatives of institutions responsible for monitoring and prosecuting forced labour shared their experience and guidance. They presented the various tools included in the guide and gave a number of practical tips on how to implement them in the most effective way.

The publication “[Forced Labour. A guide: how to recognise and prevent it](https://www.gov.pl/web/fundusze-regiony/grupa-robocza-ds-relacji-z-osobami-swiadczacymi-prace)” and a link to the recording of the workshop are available at: <https://www.gov.pl/web/fundusze-regiony/grupa-robocza-ds-relacji-z-osobami-swiadczacymi-prace>.

Measures implemented in the regions

Podkarpacki Voivodeship Office

- Distribution of materials was carried out, e.g.: posters: *National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Victims of Trafficking (Only 1 in 100 persons affected by trafficking seek help!)*, et al;
- The Voivodeship Labour Office in Rzeszów was a contents partner of another edition of Podkarpackie Job Fairs organised by the Career Office of the University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów in Podpromie Hall in Rzeszów. At the exhibition stand, visitors to the fair could talk directly to careers advisers and a EURES adviser, who helped to prepare application documents and Europass. They also provided information on current job offers abroad and explained how and where to look for work both in Poland and in the countries of the European Union and the European Economic Area. Information materials were distributed at the stand, including the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy publication “Safe Trips to Work”. According to the information received from the organiser of the fair, the fair was visited by approximately 2,000 persons interested in pursuing further education and employment.

- Group careers advice entitled “For Work – Abroad” was carried out. The thematic scope of the counselling included the topic of human trafficking and the dangers of travelling abroad. Brochures and leaflets were handed out, and educational companies were displayed about the risks and situations that can be encountered when looking for work abroad.

Łódzkie Voivodeship Office

In order to bring the issue of human trafficking closer to the 45 employees of the Voivodeship Office in Lodz, it was proposed to take part in a performance entitled “The Jericho Rose” by Diana Meheik. The play was educational for the employees of the Office.

A mobile exhibition titled “Faces of Trafficking in Human Beings” was organised.

- at the headquarters of the Border Guard Division at Lublinek Airport,
- at the Regional Police Headquarters,
- at the District Employment Office in Rawa Mazowiecka,
- at the Association for Health Promotion and Psychotherapy in Łódź,
- at the “Wytwórnia” Club in Łódź.

The exhibition was then transferred to the Light House Foundation headquarters.

Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Office

- Representatives of the Voivodeship Teams for Counteracting Trafficking in Human Beings took part in work on the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund project – a project aimed at the integration of foreigners residing in the Świętokrzyskie Province, to be implemented in 2019 and 2020;
- A mobile exhibition entitled “Faces of trafficking in human beings” was organised and handed over to the Jedrzejow district, which was used, among other things, to organise a district campaign against trafficking in human beings.
- The Voivodeship Labour Office in Kielce held meetings aimed at the unemployed and jobseekers, which were devoted to seeking work abroad, safe travel to work, including the dangers of human trafficking, and living and working conditions in EU/EFTA countries. In addition, a EURES standby service was organised for students at the Świętokrzyska Technical University and for those registered at the Powiat Labour Office in Opatów. Those interested could benefit from individual consultations with a EURES assistant and learn how to prepare for work abroad and what dangers to look out for. A total of 6 group meetings were held in 2020 in the Świętokrzyskie region, attended by 82 persons. During the second half of 2020, articles were published on social media and on the Authority's website on the topic of safe travel to work and possible risks such as human trafficking.

Małopolski Voivodeship Office

In 2020, counselling and information activities for foreigners were continued as part of cooperation with the Zustricz Foundation operating in Kraków. The cooperation was initiated two years earlier as part of the “I am legally employed” information campaign. Observing the growing interest of foreigners in the advice provided by employees of the Labour Inspectorate, the Office decided to continue the cooperation in 2020. The cooperation included, among others:

- legal consultations for foreigners within the framework of the campaign “I am legally employed: every second Thursday of the month (also online),
- distribution of NLI publication materials,
- 15 counselling meetings for foreigners were organised in 2020.

Warminsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship Office

- Elbląg Association of Social Welfare Organisers in Elbląg conducted lectures on counteracting human trafficking among participants of 2 Community Self-help Homes (in Jegłownik and Kwietniewo).
- An exhibition of a mobile exhibition titled “Faces of trafficking in human beings” was organised at the Pedagogical University in Warsaw. Janusza Korczaka in Warsaw, Faculty of Humanities, Branch - Olsztyn and in the District Court in Olsztyn.

Podlaskie Voivodeship Office

- A mobile exhibition “Faces of trafficking in human beings” was organised in the Community Social Welfare Centre in Suwałki and at the Faculty of Education Sciences of the University of Białystok
- Employees of the Voivodeship Labour Office in Białystok conducted 3 information meetings targeted at young persons from the Group of Trade and Economics Schools in Białystok, which were attended by a total of 49 persons;

Lubelskie Voivodeship Office

- The Crisis Intervention Centre in Lublin presented the issue of human trafficking during internships, student placements and voluntary work organised at the CIC in Lublin, using information and education materials (leaflets, films, talks). A crisis guide for foreigners has been prepared, containing the data of institutions, the scope of their tasks and the assistance provided to foreigners on the territory of the city of Lublin. It was handed over to the Centre for International Cooperation of the Lublin City Hall in order to translate the guide into several foreign languages and publish it.
- A mobile exhibition titled “Faces of Trafficking in Human Beings” was organised.

Wielkopolska Voivodeship Office

- A programme was recorded and broadcast on Radio Centrum 106.4FM, during which police officers of the KMP in Kalisz provided advice and basic safety rules to be observed when planning a business or tourist trip abroad;
- Police officers of the District Police Headquarters in Koło organised in the Municipal House of Culture in Koło, with the participation of the local community, a lecture with the screening of the film “Your name is Justine”;
- Police officers of the Chodzież Police Station gave a lecture on human trafficking at the University of the Third Age;
- Training in the Social Economy workshop titled “Nice Things” on procedures to support foreigners, protect human rights and prevent crimes;
- A mobile exhibition titled “Faces of Trafficking in Human Beings” was organised.

Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship Office

A mobile exhibition entitled “Faces of trafficking in human beings” was organised, which was displayed on the premises of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship Office in Bydgoszcz throughout 2020.

Mazowiecki Voivodeship Office

The Mazovian Centre for Social Policy has made available a photographic exhibition on human trafficking and methods to combat it until December 2020. The exhibition was made available at the headquarters of the Mazovian Centre for Social Policy in Warsaw.

Śląskie Voivodeship Office

- Meetings were organised with representatives of district labour offices of the Śląskie Voivodeship within the framework of the campaign against human trafficking conducted by the Committee for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings (Voivodeship Labour Office in Katowice);
- A mobile exhibition was organised in the field units of the Silesian Police Garrison and at Katowice International Airport Pyrzowice;
- During the XXII Labour and Entrepreneurship Fair in Gliwice, an expert stand was exhibited, where information and educational materials related to human trafficking and forced labour were made available (District Labour Inspectorate in Katowice).

Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship Office

- In 2020, a total of 553 individual contacts were recorded with unemployed jobseekers, including clients at job fairs. The meetings consisted in particular of promoting safety rules when working abroad, thus contributing to the fight against human trafficking;
- A mobile exhibition entitled “Faces of trafficking in human beings” was lent to the Szczecin-Goleniów Airport for presentation.

Pomeranian Voivodeship Office

A 3-hour block of educational (on-line) classes was conducted entitled. “Human trafficking as a modern form of slavery.” The training was addressed to pupils of class VII of Primary School No. 10 in Rumia.

Opolskie Voivodeship Office

- The District Labour Inspectorate in Opole, within the framework of disseminating knowledge on the phenomenon of human trafficking among school pupils and students, organised in January 2020 an information meeting for 65 pupils of the last class of the Complex of Schools in Wołczyn devoted to the subject: “Know your rights”. Among other things, the training provided information on the dangers of working abroad and of human trafficking.
- On-line group information was provided to 85 students of the final year of secondary school No. VIII in Opole as part of the Entrepreneurship Week. The topics of the meeting concerned, among others, ways of seeking legal employment in the country and abroad, dangers that a young person may encounter on the labour market and issues related to human trafficking.

Lubuskie Voivodeship Office

Another regional edition of the National Labour Inspectorate competition “Know your rights at work” was held. The competition was organised as part of the “Culture of Safety” educational programme. The aim of the measure is to increase the level of knowledge about legal labour protection, safe and

hygienic working conditions among secondary school pupils and students. The programme aims to increase the awareness of the risks present in the working environment and popularise issues related to compliance with labour law, civil law contracts and fixed-term agreements, and the legality of employment. In 2020, 18 Lubuskie secondary schools participated in the programme. During the final of the competition, students and teachers listened to a lecture by a specialist on the basics of work provision.

7. Summary



Analysing data submitted by organisations dealing with combating the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, one may notice that the number of cases of trafficking in human beings for forced labour is definitely increasing. At the recruitment stage, victims are misled about working conditions and accommodation. In the course of their work, they are not paid or paid less than declared, they are detained at their place of residence, they are placed in accommodation that is often of a poor standard, their freedom of movement is restricted, their conversations are monitored, their mobile phones and identity documents are taken away, and they are forced to pay for accommodation, food and transport, causing a growing spiral of debt. In forced labour cases, there is a problem of wide interpretation of the causative behaviour, ranging from violation of labour rights through exploitation for forced labour or services to the characteristics of slavery. This procedure concerns Polish citizens abroad (especially in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany), as well as Poles in Poland and foreigners residing in Poland (mainly citizens of Ukraine, the Philippines, Vietnam and Romania).

The pandemic of the SARS-CoV-2 virus may cause adverse changes in the labour market. The current situation can be used to employ persons under unfair conditions or use them for forced labour. Therefore, anti-trafficking institutions must adapt their activities to the changing dynamic situation. An efficient fight against human trafficking is possible thanks to, among other things, the coordinated implementation of the NAP for 2020-2021.

8. The ABC of assistance

Contact details of institutions and non-governmental bodies providing assistance to victims of trafficking

Ministry of the Interior and Administration.

National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking

As part of the public task titled “Management of the National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking” the Centre’s objective is to secure the needs of victims of trafficking in human beings – Polish citizens, EU citizens or foreigners, as well as persons threatened by the procedure.

Tel. +48 22 628 01 20

24/7 helpline

National Police Headquarters.
Department for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Tel. (22) 60-148-33 (registry)

E-mail: handelludzmibsk@policja.gov.pl or by calling the number: 664 974 934.

Police officers operate the helpline from 6am to 10pm. Reports and any information can be recorded on an answering machine during the night and officers will contact those interested in providing information.

In life or health emergencies, call the emergency number 112 or 997.

National Office of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Poland

Poland has been a member of the IOM since 1992. The IOM Country Office in Warsaw has been operating since 2002 and carries out projects mainly in the field of assisting migrants, supporting regular migration and integration of migrants, combating trafficking in human beings, preventing irregular migration and raising awareness about migration phenomena.

Migrant Info Hotline: 22 490 20 44 - open Monday to Friday from 9.00 to 17.00

Foreigners interested in obtaining assistance for voluntary return are asked to call IOM personnel:

22 628 24 13

22 623 81 76

or by email: iomwarsawvr@iom.int

<https://poland.iom.int/kontakt>

Non-Governmental Organisations

[La Strada - Foundation Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Slavery](#)

Helpline: +48 22 628 99 99* (help, advice)

- Monday to Thursday, 9 am – 6 pm
- on Fridays from 9 am – 2 pm

*On Wednesdays from 2 pm – 6 pm on duty in Russian

Telephone for Vietnamese-speaking customers: +48 22 621 56 18

Office of the foundation: +48 22 622 19 85 (administration and office phone)

E-mail: strada@strada.org.pl

<https://www.strada.org.pl/>

[PoMOC Association for Women and Children St. Mary Immaculate](#)

Emergency phone: 511 801 161

Information on assistance options - pomoc@Po-MOC.pl

Association Office: Phone. **+48 32 255 38 69**

E-mail: biuro@Po-MOC.pl

<https://www.po-moc.pl/pl>

Light House Foundation

E-mail: biuro@fundacjalighthouse.pl

Emergency phone: **881 22 33 33**

Salvation Army

E-mail: armia.zbawienia@armia-zbawienia.pl

Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre

E-mail biuro@pomocprawna.org, porady@pomocprawna.org

Foundation "Give Strength to Children"

E-mail: <https://fdds.pl/szukasz-pomocy/>

tel. 116 111 Helpline for Children and Young People (open 24 hours)

tel. 800 100 100 – Phone for parents and teachers on child safety

ITAKA Foundation - Centre for Missing People

Support line numbers

+48 22 654 70 70 – for landline calls in Poland

+48 22 654 70 70 – for calls from abroad

+48 22 654 70 70 – for calls from a mobile phone

Caritas Polska

<https://caritas.pl/szukam-pomocy/>

Warsaw 2021

The material was prepared in the Division for Counteracting Trafficking in Human Beings and Hate Crimes in the Department of Migration Analysis and Policy of the Ministry of Interior and Administration