

Crime prevention policy	
EU- priority	Trafficking in Human Beings
Country	Cyprus
Year	2019

## 1. Overview of the field

### Definition of the crime

The definition of trafficking in human beings is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or reception of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

### Assessment of trends and developments

The Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group (MCG), the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the National Action Plan (NAP), and the various risk assessments conducted are the means by which current trends in THB are assessed. For the purpose of preparing, monitoring, and evaluating anti-trafficking policies, comprehensive and coherent statistical data is maintained at the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OoCTHB). The statistical data include measures to protect and promote the rights of the victims as well as data concerning investigation, prosecution and presentation of cases before the court. Statistics allow the disaggregation of the data by sex, age, type of exploitation, country of origin, etc.

### Recent overview of statistics and research

Each year the statistical data is analysed and numerical data is extracted. The number of victims, country of origin of the people involved, known perpetrators, cases investigated, and convictions are gathered. This is conducted by comparing with previous years in order to establish trends and course of action to combat THB. A piece of research is expected to be conducted by an external associate within the year concerning the gaps in investigation and presentation of THB cases before the court with the aim of increasing the number of successful convictions.

#### **Statistics for the year 2017:**

#### **VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING FOR THE YEAR 2017**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	GENDER				NUMBER OF VICTIMS
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULT	MINOR	ADULT	
BULGARIA	-	-	-	2	2

ROMANIA	-	2	-	4	6
ERYTHREA	-	-	-	1	1
CAMEROON	-	-	-	4	4
RUSSIA	-	-	-	1	1
IVORY COAST	-	1	-	-	1
MOLDOVA	-	-	-	1	1
CYPRUS	-	-	-	1	1
INDIA	-	2	-	-	2
UKRAINE	-	-	-	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>5</b>	-	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>

**TYPE OF EXPLOITATION OF VICTIMS FOR THE YEAR 2017**

TYPE	GENDER				TOTAL
	MALE		FEMALE		
	MINOR	ADULT	MINOR	ADULT	
HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	-	-	-	13	13
HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR LABOR EXPLOITATION	-	5	-	-	5
HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR FORCED MARRIAGE	-	-	-	2	2
HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL AND LABOR EXPLOITATION	-	-	-	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>5</b>	-	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>

**2. Crime strategy and coordination**

**Objectives of the crime strategy**

The **main objective** is to ensure that victims of trafficking in human beings are protected and supported, informed of the rights so they can exercise them. These

rights are specified in the national anti-trafficking legislation and in the NRM.

The **second objective** is to locate and dismantle organised criminal groups involved in THB, by successfully prosecuting them bring the culprits to justice. THB is a form of organised crime with large profits for the traffickers which make it difficult for the law enforcement authorities to trace them. Traffickers work covertly, hiding their identities from the victims. Assisting the victims and ensuring their mental and physical health, increases the chances of providing law enforcement authorities with the information needed in order to trace and locate the traffickers.

#### **Role of prevention in the crime strategy on a state/regional/local level**

The role of prevention is to educate the general public and inform the front line officers on trafficking and victimization in order to locate and identify potential victims, and refer them to the competent authorities for accessing their rights.

#### **Implementation of the policy (which level is responsible for the implementation and how is the implementation coordinated?)**

The National Action Plan (NAP) on combating trafficking in human beings is in effect, and it applies for a three year period, before being revised and updated. In the NAP the actions are assigned to the various competent authorities, be it governmental or non-governmental. The National Coordinator for trafficking in human beings is the Ministry of the Interior.

#### **Stakeholders (working groups, specialized agencies, partners, etc)**

The Ministry of the Interior is the National Coordinator on trafficking in human beings issues. The Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Cyprus Police, the Social Welfare Services, the Mental Health Services, and NGO's, are involved in dealing with potential victims of trafficking and exploitation. The competent authority for officially recognizing victims of trafficking is the Cyprus Police, and specifically the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, while the Social Welfare Services are responsible for ensuring that victims are aware of and have access to the rights they are entitled to. The Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group comprises of the governmental agencies and departments dealing with trafficking in human beings as well as non-governmental organizations. The responsibilities and tasks of the MCG are specified in the national anti-trafficking legislation.

#### **Participation in European/ international networks, working groups, etc.**

The Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is in close cooperation with other countries through the channels of Europol and Interpol. In addition, members of the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings participate in several working groups, such as the EMPACT THB groups and the Interpol – Human Trafficking Expert Group. The Head of the Office has been a member of the GRETA evaluation committee for two consecutive terms.

### **3. Good practices**

#### **Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.**

Over the last two years, it has been noticed that an effective tool to minimize this phenomenon is the cooperation established between the Registry and Migration Department and the Police. Based on this cooperation, preliminary interviews are

conducted with the potential VoT when the couple applies at the Migration Department for a clearance certificate before the marriage is performed.

Forced marriage can be considered as a THB offence, as it falls under the legal definition in Law 60(I)/2014 of the exploitation of a person for other criminal activities. To establish forced marriage as a THB offence, the above law needs to be read in conjunction with Article 150 of the Criminal Code, according to which anyone using coercion persuades another to marry against her or his will, is guilty of a misdemeanour, or in conjunction with articles 2 and 7D, Cap. 105 of the Aliens and Immigration Law.

Since 2015, a total number of 13 cases have been investigated by the Cyprus Police. Three cases resulted in convictions of suspects, while there are cases pending for trial before the Court.