

Crime prevention policy	
EU- priority	Trafficking in Human Beings
Country	Finland
Year	2018

## 1. Overview of the field

### Definition of the crime

In Finland, trafficking in human beings is a crime under chapter 3, section 25 and section 3a of the Criminal Code.

<https://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/1889/en18890039.pdf>

### Assessment of trends and developments

Finland is a transit, destination, and limited source country for women and girls subjected to sex trafficking and for men and women subjected to forced labor. The form of THB most often observed in Finland is *trafficking related to exploitation of labour* (restaurants, cleaning, domestic work, farming and construction). A few cases of *human trafficking related to sexual exploitation* are identified in Finland every year (female victims have been pressured into selling sex using means such as forced indebtedness, threatening the victim or her loved ones with violence, exploitation of the victim's illness or substance abuse or other exploitation of the victim's vulnerable position). A few cases of *forced marriage related human trafficking* has also been identified in Finland. The least identified forms of trafficking in Finland include forced criminal activity, forced begging and forced criminal activity. Observations related to the removal of organs have not yet been made in Finland.

Both Finnish nationals and foreign nationals have been found among the trafficking victims as well as the offenders. The victims have included children. Traffickers operate from abroad using threats of violence, debt leverage, and other forms of coercion. Victims originate primarily in Eastern Europe, West Africa, and Asia.

The national victim assistance system admitted 127 potential trafficking victims in 2017 (including 58 labor and 46 sex trafficking victims), of which 14 were children; most were exploited prior to their arrival in Finland. Comparably, the assistance system admitted 130 victims in 2016 (21 were children). The majority of victims who sought assistance were subjected to work-related exploitation. See below the table 1.

In 2017, the government reported initiating 77 investigations of trafficking cases (including 22 labor and 30 sex trafficking cases), compared with 74 cases in 2016 (including 16 labor and 35 sex trafficking cases). Authorities initiated prosecution of 11 cases (approximately two thirds labor and one third sex trafficking) involving an unknown number of suspected traffickers in 2017 (four and eight, respectively, in 2016). Finnish courts convicted six traffickers, five for labor and one for sex trafficking, (six in 2016); sentences ranged from 12 months to 29 months imprisonment.

[http://www.ihmiskauppa.fi/en/human\\_trafficking/human\\_trafficking\\_in\\_finland](http://www.ihmiskauppa.fi/en/human_trafficking/human_trafficking_in_finland)

## Recent overview of statistics and research

Recent research:

Maija Koskenoja, Natalia Ollus, Venla Roth, Minna Viuhko & Laura Turkia (2018): An unknown future: A report on the effectiveness of legislation concerning assistance for victims of human trafficking, Publications of the Government's analysis, assessment and research activities 24/2018. (English summary is soon available.)

**Table 1. Persons accepted into the Assistance System and all referrals into the Assistance System (type of victimization), years 2006-2017**

Year	persons accepted into the AS, altogether	trafficking related to sexual exploitation	trafficking related to labour exploitation	others	All referrals into the AS
2006	6	1	5	-	6
2007	3	-	3	-	3
2008	12	4	8	-	12
2009	19	7	11	-	41
2010	45	17	19	9	52
2011	51	14	31	6	64
2012	48	14	34	-	63
2013	56	33	18	5	129
2014	50	32	11	7	74
2015	52	18	27	7	75
2016	130	45	61	24	182
2017	127	46	58	23	177
<b>Altogether</b>	<b>599 +31*=630</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>878</b>

\*According the data from Oulu Reception Centre, Oulu was helping altogether 31 child victims under 18 years (by November 2012). The table is not including the under-age children of victims accepted into the Assistance System.

## 2. Crime strategy and coordination

### Objectives of the crime strategy

The Government Action Plan against Human Trafficking 2016-2017 emphasized the prevention of human trafficking, protection of victims, measures related to bringing offenders to justice, and collaboration with various actors (the '4 Ps': prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership).

Objectives and measures in the Action Plan were:

1. Development of the coordination of anti-trafficking action and national cooperation
2. Enhancing the efficiency of outreach work and improving the identification of and assistance for victims of human trafficking
3. Monitoring of legislation related to assistance for victims of human trafficking
4. Detection of human trafficking in official proceedings
5. Measures taken by the criminal investigation authorities
6. Enhancing the effectiveness of training related to action against trafficking in human beings, and increasing awareness
7. Development of international anti-trafficking cooperation

8. Development of research
9. Taking account of children's circumstances, best interests and rights during anti-trafficking activities

[http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/79762/Ihmiskaupan%20vastainen%20toimintaohjelma\\_eng.pdf](http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/79762/Ihmiskaupan%20vastainen%20toimintaohjelma_eng.pdf)

Currently there is no new national action plan against THB in Finland. The national coordinator departed his position in February 2018 and the evaluation on co-ordination and reporting arrangements for Government matters concerning human trafficking was published in June 2018.

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

Training is a key prerequisite for ensuring effective action against trafficking in human beings, preventing such trafficking and increasing awareness. Key parties providing training in action against trafficking include the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, the assistance system for victims of human trafficking, the Finnish Immigration Service, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Police University College, the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and non-governmental organisations specialising in human trafficking issues.

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

Cooperation with various actors and the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator

### Stakeholders (working groups, specialised agencies, partners, etc)

In Finland, many organisations from government agencies to municipalities, trade unions and NGOs combat trafficking in human beings. Effective action to combat human trafficking cannot take place without efficient and confidential cooperation.

#### ***The Assistance system***

*The Assistance system* for victims of human trafficking is an authority responsible for helping people who may have become victims of human trafficking, their underage children and the persons assisting with the investigation. The Assistance system's activities are based on law, and it has a legal obligation to offer its services to the customers admitted to the system, who are victims of trafficking. Provisions on the assistance to the victims of human trafficking are given in chapter 4 of the Act on the reception of persons seeking international protection and on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking (746/2011).

The Assistance system gives victim-centered help; The Assistance system works everywhere in Finland and has been helping trafficking victims since 2006. If a victim has been admitted to the Assistance system and has a Finnish municipality of residence, the *municipality* is responsible for providing the assistance. In practice, this means that the victim becomes a customer of the municipality's social services. The Assistance system is therefore a **one-stop service**: it will find the services which the customers have the right to receive as trafficking victims.

### ***The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman***

*The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman* is the National Rapporteur on THB. The rapporteur monitors actions against human trafficking in Finland, human trafficking at large, compliance with international obligations and the effectiveness of national legislation. The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman submits a report on human trafficking and the related phenomena to the Government each year and to Parliament at four years intervals.

### ***The coordination structure***

The coordination structure for action against trafficking in human beings includes the ministerial working group on internal security and the administration of justice and the meeting of permanent secretaries both of which oversee the related activities, *the Secretariat Coordinating Government Action against Human Trafficking*, *the Government Anti-Trafficking Coordinator*, and network cooperation led by the Anti-trafficking Coordinator, all of which were appointed for the term 19 August 2015 to 31 May 2017. The representatives of all key ministries engaged in anti-trafficking efforts are members of the Secretariat Coordinating Government Action against Human Trafficking.

Experts from bodies considered key in terms of anti-trafficking activities were invited to join the Government anti-trafficking network. The network has a broad-based membership including representatives of various authorities, such as the assistance system for victims of human trafficking and the National Police Board, as well as civil society (including labour market) organisations.

The national anti-trafficking coordinator implemented the national action plan for 2016-2017; the government provided €280,000 (\$336,130) for implementation. The national coordinator maintained a government-wide coordination structure of trafficking prevention offices within each ministry and engaged regularly with NGOs. The national coordinator departed his position in February 2018; the government was in the process of filling the position at the end of the reporting period.

### **NGOs helping and supporting victims:**

*Victim Support Finland* <https://www.riku.fi/en/home/>

*Pro-tukipiste* <https://pro-tukipiste.fi/en/frontpage/>

*MONIKA - Multicultural Women's Association in Finland* <https://monikanaiset.fi/en/>

*Finnish Refugee Advice Centre* <http://www.pakolaisneuvonta.fi/en/legal-services/>

*International Organization for Migration (IOM)*, Finland country office <http://www.iom.fi>

*Global Clinic* [http://www.globalclinic.fi/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/esite\\_englanti\\_verkkoon-1.pdf](http://www.globalclinic.fi/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/esite_englanti_verkkoon-1.pdf)

*Samaria* <https://www.samaria.fi/web/en/>

*Churches* may also offer social services (such as housing in crisis, food), particularly to those victims of human trafficking who are not entitled to access the services offered by local and central government.

More actors in outreach-work:

- [http://www.ihmiskauppa.fi/en/human\\_trafficking/anti-trafficking\\_action\\_in\\_finland/outreach\\_work](http://www.ihmiskauppa.fi/en/human_trafficking/anti-trafficking_action_in_finland/outreach_work)

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

The EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms (NREMs) Group on Trafficking in Human Beings (THB), Meetings of National Anti-Trafficking Coordinators and Rapporteurs co-organised by the Council of Europe and OSCE

### 3. Good practices

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

The Assistance System for Victims of Human Trafficking implements a project (*IHME*) to improve the operational preconditions for anti-human trafficking efforts in Finland.

The aim of the project is to strengthen efforts to prevent human trafficking, and enhance expertise in identifying and helping victims and in the pre-trial investigation of human trafficking in Finland, while promoting the equal treatment of victims by public authorities.

- Training modules on the identification of human trafficking, victim assistance, and the pre-trial investigation of the phenomenon are being created for the pre-trial investigation authorities (police, border guards), which will receive practical training
- The key website providing information on human trafficking, , is being redesigned to better serve the needs of victims, the authorities and civil society from June 2018.
- A study is being conducted on child trafficking, on the basis of which two training seminars will be held on the theme.

International Organization for Migration, FIN (IOM) is implementing a project *Caring for Trafficked Persons* in Finland ([HOIKU](#) 2017-2018). The aim of the project is to enhance skills for early identification of victims and directing them to services.

#### [Leaflet for social and health workers on recognizing victims of trafficking](#)

Pro Tukipiste NGO is implementing a project “Askelmerkkjeä dialogiseen tunnistamiseen” aiming at raising awareness and enhancing skills to identify victims.

<https://pro-tukipiste.fi/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/indicators-of-human-trafficking.pdf>