

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

## 1. Overview of the field

### Definition of the crime

**In Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code**, which entered into force on 1 July 2013, the formulation of the legal definition of the crime of human trafficking complies with the expectations of international conventions (Act CII of 2006 on the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Act XVIII of 2013 on the Convention of the Council of Europe 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, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA).

Under Section 192 of the Criminal Code, the particular legal definition of trafficking in human beings rules, by keeping the provisions formerly in force and at the same time complementing them, on trafficking with the purpose of exploitation as a new element. While the specific feature of the phenomenon of trafficking in humans was kept in view, the exploitation nature of the criminal act was given sufficient emphasis in addition to its transaction feature. Under the Criminal Code, trafficking in human beings with the purpose of exploitation is punishable by one to five years' imprisonment. In the case of perpetration through a criminal organization, the ceiling of punishment has risen to ten years' imprisonment. Under the Criminal Code, the central conceptual element of exploitation is the attempt to benefit from misusing the position of a victim brought into or kept in a vulnerable position. Thus, actually obtaining a purchase price by selling victim or depriving victim of their earnings or income are no essential criteria for an act to qualify as exploitation. Benefit does not only mean financial benefit; it means any other benefit, advantage or advantageous position that is gained by misusing the position of the victim. Vulnerable position may refer to a single factor or factors that make the victim vulnerable to the perpetrator. The vulnerable position may arise through the perpetrator's behaviour or action, or irrespective of these. In the latter case, misuse is implemented by perpetrators through maintaining the existing vulnerable position (e.g. homelessness or financial plight) or by preventing the victims from recovering from it.

### Assessment of trends and developments

Hungary is fundamentally a source and transit country within the European Union. The

victims are exploited mainly with the aim of sexual exploitation, but labour exploitation is also present. The main destination countries are the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom. Hungary maintains close cooperation with these countries to counter trafficking. The principle countries of origin for victims of trafficking through Hungary are Romania and Bulgaria. In the light of experience over recent years and on the feedback from international cooperation Hungarian persons becoming victims abroad are primarily deriving from Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, (North-Eastern part of Hungary) Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (North-Eastern part of Hungary) and Baranya County (South-Western part of Hungary) but Tolna County (South-Western part of Hungary) and Békés County (South-Eastern part of Hungary) are also significant source regions. Victimization in Hungary has several root causes like poverty, high unemployment, and inequality in the labour market. Regarding the suspected traffickers it can be established that they have low educational background, they are repeat offenders or already have criminal records, or tend to live solely from criminal activities.

### Recent overview of statistics and research

Data provided by the Unified Statistical System of Investigations and Prosecutions (ENyÜBS)

Number of procedures of human trafficking related crimes ended in 2017

Sexual exploitation	21261
Forced Labor or Forced Service (slavery)	18
Organ trafficking	3
Other form of exploitation	19

Number of offenders and accused of human trafficking related crimes ended in 2017

Number of offenders	232
Number of accused	208

Number of victims of human trafficking related crimes ended in 2017

Sexual exploitation	417
Forced Labor or Forced Service (slavery)	10
Organ trafficking	0
Other form of exploitation	9

## 2. Crime strategy and coordination

<sup>1</sup> Out of the 2126 procedures 1519 were related to child pornography. Due to the Hungarian regulation these cases do not represent the real number of crimes committed.

### Objectives of the crime strategy

The National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings mainly addresses victim identification, investigation, prosecution, prevention and victims support. The essential objective of the strategy is to roll back all manifestations of violence present in Hungary as a destination country, source country or transit country, from the external or internal points of view, including the comprehensive specification of tasks and challenges arising from the government's responsibility for the victims of human trafficking and the finding of the suitable responses to these.

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

Prevention has an important role in the combat against human trafficking through both the reduction of demand and the reduction of supply. In order to make prevention more efficient, it is necessary to coordinate the already existing projects, work out new projects and efficient measures, coordinate the action of civil actors, raise social sensitivity, make communication conscious and coordinated and make the results of measures measurable. Prevention can only be efficient if it is implemented through the cooperation of government and non-governmental organs and actors and if special attention is paid to more vulnerable groups as regards the triggering reasons: e.g. to women and children in vulnerable positions, communities living in extreme poverty, people with disabilities, unregistered employees and youths at reform schools or in state care.

By addressing members of the potential victim groups, state authorities and NGOs organise awareness programmes and campaigns to disseminate information on the dangers of human trafficking, especially those of forcing to prostitution, begging or labour, in order to foster the development of aversive behaviour.

The national anti-trafficking coordinator, who is the Deputy State Secretary of EU and International Relations of the Ministry of Interior, chairs the meetings of the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM), which is the main forum of cooperation of the relevant organisations in Hungary. The mechanism meets 2-3 times per year. Besides the formal coordination an informal NGO Roundtable is operating too which started its activity in 2011. Mission of the NCM and the NGO Roundtable are to increase the effectiveness of the fight against trafficking in human beings, strengthen the cooperation and enhance dialogue between the national coordinator and the concerned authorities. These forums contribute to the mapping of areas of cooperation and help to avoid duplications.

One of the activities laid down in the Strategy is set up local coordination mechanisms modelled on the example of the national mechanism. Action against human trafficking may be efficient if it is implemented incorporated into the local social policy, i.e. if the local and a wider community participate in it. The coordinated and coherent actions of authorities, local authorities, institutions, civil organisations, churches and civil communities of the region or micro region concerned have priority role in prevention. The best forum for coordinating the activities of the civil and government organs participating in the cooperation, for mapping new directions in the cooperation and for creating dialogue is to set up an informal round table at local level, i.e. create a local coordination mechanism. To achieve this, a project, financed by the Internal Security Fund, was initiated. The counties involved are Baranya,

Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Győr-Moson-Sopron, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, where a cooperation model similar to the Ministry of Interior's National Coordination Mechanism is being developed. Law enforcement agencies, courts, prosecutors, immigration authorities, labor organs, public education institutions, municipalities, victim counselors, child welfare and family support staff, civil society organizations and churches take part in the work of forums at local level.

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

The Ministry of Interior is responsible for the implementation of the policy.  
Email address: [thb@bm.gov.hu](mailto:thb@bm.gov.hu)

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

##### **Members of the National Coordination Mechanism:**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ministry of Human Resources

Immigration and Asylum Office

National Police Headquarters

National Bureau of Investigation

Office of the Public Prosecutor

Metropolitan Court of Budapest

National Bureau of the Courts

Ministry of Justice

National Employment Service

National Crisis Telephone Information Service

##### **Members of the NGO Roundtable:**

International Organisation for Migration

MONA (Foundation for the women in Hungary)

European Roma Rights Center

Indit Public Foundation

Periféria Association

Blue-line Child Crisis Foundation

Sex Educatio

NANE Women's Rights Association

Hungarian Baptist Aid

Halfway Foundation

Anthropolis Anthropological Public Benefit Association

Anonymous Ways Foundation

The Salvation Army Hungary

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

EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms

## 3. Good practices

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

#### **Anonymous Ways Foundation**

##### **What are you worth?**

The goal of the campaign is to raise social awareness and initiate a change of perspective, which replaces victim accusation with understanding the process of becoming a victim and helping them break out of this lifestyle and recover.

In March 2018 Anonymous Ways Foundation organized a two-day exhibition and professional forum for the third time in order to demonstrate how we can help, what we can do, and how we can fight against human trafficking. The exhibition employs full sensory

channels in order to demonstrate the steps of becoming a victim, and to show how a person can drift off to slavery. Most frequently victims come from the most vulnerable and exposed circumstances. Traffickers target two main groups: young girls growing up in orphanages who are hungry for love and easy to mislead, and teenagers growing up in rural villages with an absent healthy father figure, who is missing because of alcoholism or death. There are many ways of luring them, including seduction, verbal and physical threats, etc.



#### **“I stand for you” theatre piece**

The play holds a mirror up the harsh reality of becoming a victim. The production is primarily of preventative nature for the vulnerable youth living in orphanages, but anyone can see it as another face of Hungary and the sorry fate of some. For this reason, Anonymous Ways Foundation wanted the play to be available for the general public as a part of the campaign “What are you worth?”.

#### **National Crime Prevention Council EUMelo website**

The number of victims of forced labor has been increasing. In order to raise awareness among job seekers - especially among those undereducated citizens who would like to get a job abroad without speaking any foreign languages - the National Crime Prevention Council created a fake website where a non-existing labor agency offers help for the applicant to find the most suitable job with suspiciously outstanding salary, social benefits and perfect working conditions. For the list of available jobs the applicants have to send an email to a given address. In an automatic reply the Council sends them back an infographic with useful information about what they should have paid attention to on the website and what to keep in mind when applying to a job. The campaign was implemented between 21st and 25th May 2018. The website had approximately 37 000 visitors and 1700 automatic replies were sent out.



The screenshot shows the EUMELO website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'FŐOLDAL', 'JELENTKEZÉS', 'RÖLUNK', 'KAPCSOLAT', and 'ÁSZF'. The main header features a large image of silhouettes of people working on a complex metal structure against a background of the European Union flag. The text 'Elhelyeünk tged Európában' is positioned above the 'EUMELO' logo, which is centered. Below the logo are two buttons: 'JELENTKEZÉS' and 'RÖLUNK'. The main content area is divided into three columns. The first column on the left contains three progress bars: 'Sikeres közvetítések aránya' at 100%, 'Egy hónapon belül' at 80%, and 'Egy héten belül' at 50%. The middle column is titled 'Garantált munka' and includes a sub-heading 'A biztonságos szerződéséért'. The text below states that they provide guaranteed work with no experience required, and that payment is made immediately upon completion. The right column is titled 'Lakhatás' and includes a sub-heading 'Jó minőségű lakások'. The text states that no deposit is required and that they offer quality accommodation, often in shared spaces with other workers. At the bottom of the page, there are two icons: 'Jelentkezz most!' and 'Vinnéd a családod is?'.