

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

1. Overview of the field

Definition of the crime

The basic merits of the criminal offence of human trafficking under Article 179 (1) of the Criminal Code read as follows:

„(1) Whoever with the application of fraudulent conduct, deception, the restriction of personal freedom, kidnapping, violence, threats of violence, threats of other grievous harm or other forms of coercion, by accepting or providing monetary fulfilment or other benefits in order to gain a person’s consent on whom another person is dependent, or the abuse of their position or vulnerability or otherwise vulnerable position, entices, transports, harbours, transmits or accepts another person, even with their consent, for the purpose of prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, including pornography, forced labour and services including beggary, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, forced marriage, misuse for committing criminal activities, removal of organs, tissues or cells or other forms of exploitation shall be punished by a prison sentence of four to ten years.”

Assessment of trends and developments

The Slovak Republic may continue to be considered as a country of origin, or a source country for human trafficking victims (hereinafter “HT”), a transit country but less a target country. SR is a source country to the greatest extent for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter “Great Britain”) and other countries from predominantly Western Europe: The Federal Republic of Germany and Italy, and to a lesser extent Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Ireland, Switzerland and Slovenia. Despite there being the assumption that the SR is one of the transit countries for HT’s, there is no official statistical data available for HT’s from third-countries confirming this fact. The exploitation of citizens of the Slovak Republic who were in particular victims of sexual exploitation occurred on the territory of the Slovak Republic in the monitoring period. Another important trend is the increasing ratio of male victims of HT. Nevertheless, the most common purpose of HT remains sexual exploitation that occurs almost exclusively in female victims, although we have recorded male victims for this HT’s purpose for the first time. In the exploitation of male victims, labour exploitation and forced begging prevail. Only one case of HT was detected in the evaluation period when the Slovak Republic was the target country for the labour exploitation of citizens of Romania. There were also suspicions the labour exploitation of Serbian and Ukrainian citizens in the territory of the Slovak Republic, which have not been confirmed as a form of criminal activity. In the context of HT, the related criminal activities, such as sexual abuse of children, corruption and economic crime were referred to the National Rapporteur.

Recent overview of statistics and research

As of 2016, the complete statistical overview of identified and formally identified victims is available in the Slovak Republic. In 2016, there were 45 victims of human trafficking identified in Slovakia, out of the overall number 32 victims were formally identified by the police and 21 victims were assisted from the specialized programme of assistance and support. In 2017 the number of identified victims doubled, there were 88 victims identified in Slovakia (30 men and 58 women, out of it 11 girls), out of the overall number 75 victims were formally identified by the police and 19 victims were assisted from the specialized programme of assistance and support. Some of the victims were identified by the police, cooperated with the police and at the same time were assisted from the programme.

More detailed overview of victims of human trafficking is available for those who were included in the programme.

| Statistical overview of victims included in the Programme of Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking in years 2015 - 2017 | | |
|--|---|---|
| No. of included victims | Purpose of exploitation | Destination country |
| 2015 | | |
| 25 of them 8 women 17 men | Sexual Exploitation (2) Forced labour (17) Exploitation of criminal activities (1) Forced begging (5) Forced marriage (4) | United Kingdom (18) Germany (4) Slovakia (2) Kuwait (1) |
| 2016 | | |
| 21 of them 4 women 17 men | Sexual exploitation (3) Forced begging (2) Forced labour (12) Forced marriage (1) Combination of purposes Forced labour+ Forced begging (1) Forced labour+ Forced marriage (1) Sexual exploitation+ Forced marriage (1) | United Kingdom (12) Germany (4) Hungary (3) Poland (1) Czech Republic (1) |
| 2017 | | |
| 19 of them 8 women 11 men | Sexual exploitation (6) Forced labour (9) Forced marriage (1) Forced begging (2) Combination of purposes Sexual exploitation+ Forced labour (1) | United Kingdom (12) Germany (2) Slovakia (3) Austria (1) Switzerland (1) |

The National Unit of Combating Illegal Migration of the Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Police Force Presidium (hereinafter referred to as „National Unit“) has been responsible for combating human trafficking at the national level since 1 July 2013 and performs operational-search activities, gathers information and participates in detection and investigation of the mentioned crime. The National Unit has its specialised investigators for the field of human trafficking and ensures and coordinates cooperation with foreign services

in the field of international organized crime connected with human trafficking as well as with state entities and third sector.

| Year | Nr. of Detected cases |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2015 | 9 |
| 2016 | 14 |
| 2017 | 19 |

2. Crime strategy and coordination

Objectives of the crime strategy

The objective of the actual valid National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking for years 2015 – 2018 is to effectively and comprehensively combat human trafficking in order to support the development of coordinated activities of all entities involved in eliminating risks and preventing criminal activities related to human trafficking as well as to create conditions for providing support and assistance to victims of human trafficking and to ensure protection of their human rights and dignity having regard to gender aspects. Its performance implies the necessity to adhere to the principle of active participation of the government and close cooperation with relevant civil society organizations active in this field, respecting human rights and interdepartmental cooperation.

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

The prevention is a part of the National Action Plan within the National Program for Combating Human Trafficking. At the actually valid National Action Plan the primary objective of prevention is to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking, especially within the most vulnerable groups of population by awareness raising about the existence of human trafficking as well as adopting supporting social and economic measures. At the same time it is essential to increase professionalism and sensitivity of representatives of the state and non-state entities, self-government and NGOs to identify victims of particular forms of human trafficking and to refer them to the system of assistance. Extensive enforceable measures implemented in cooperation with the respective state administrative bodies in order to discourage potential human trafficking and map the situation in the field of human trafficking on the labour market in relation to avoidance or failure to follow administrative measures must be a part of administrative control instruments.

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

The first conceptual document at the national level was approved announcing the fight against this serious criminal activity in the form of the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking for the Years 2006-2007. This document prepared by the Expert Group to prevent and assist the victims of human trafficking established at the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic to prevent criminal activity was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic Decree No. 3 of 11 January 2006. The National Action

Plan for Combating Human Trafficking for the Years 2006-2007 was replaced by the National Program for Combating Human Trafficking for the Years 2008 through 2010 passed by the Government of the Slovak Republic Decree No. 251 of 23 April 2008. The following strategic document was passed by the Government of the Slovak Republic Decree No. 96 of 16 February 2011 as the National Program for Combating Human Trafficking for the Years 2011 – 2014. And actually valid is National Program for Combating Human Trafficking for Years 2015 – 2018 passed by the Government of the Slovak Republic Decree No. 52 of 4 April 2015.

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

The first step in combating human trafficking in the Slovak Republic was performed by the Government of the Slovak Republic Decree No. 668 of 7 September 2005 approved in connection with the report on activities of the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2005 focusing on preventing and elimination of human trafficking. Based on the above-mentioned Decree, the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic appointed **the National Coordinator** to Combat Human Trafficking; consequently the first conceptual document at the national level was approved announcing the fight against this serious criminal activity in the form of the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking for the Years 2006-2007. This document prepared by the Expert Group to prevent and assist the victims of human trafficking established at the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic to prevent criminal activity was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic Decree No. 3 of 11 January 2006. It contained a summary of available information on the situation in the field of human trafficking as well as proposals in line with trends and recommendations of international organisations and the European Union. The first task assigned by this Action Plan was to create a mechanism for the control and coordination of activities in the field of combating human trafficking. In order to fulfil this task, the State Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic was appointed in October 2006 to serve as the National Coordinator for Combating Human Trafficking. Consequently, at the end of 2006, the internal regulation of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic establishing the Expert Group for the Field of Combating Human Trafficking (hereinafter referred to as “Expert Group”) was issued. This supra-departmental group is an advisory, initiative and coordinating body of the national coordinator and consists of representatives of relevant departments of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, the Government Office of the Slovak Republic, the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities, General Prosecutor’s Office of the Slovak Republic, Association of Towns and Townships of Slovakia and the International Organization for Migration.

The actual enactment regulating performance of the **Expert Group** is represented by the Order of the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 126/2012 on the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings of 24 September 2012. In compliance with the above mentioned order, the chairman of the Expert Group establishes multidisciplinary working groups to resolve practical problems and tasks related to combating human trafficking.

The **National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking** for the Years 2006-2007 was replaced by the National Program for Combating Human Trafficking for the Years 2008 through 2010 passed by the Government of the Slovak Republic Decree No. 251 of 23 April 2008. The following strategic document was passed by the Government of the Slovak Republic Decree No. 96 of 16 February 2011 as the National Program for Combating Human Trafficking for the Years 2011 – 2014. And actually valid is National Program for Combating Human Trafficking for Years 2015 – 2018 passed by the Government of the Slovak Republic Decree No. 52 of 4 April 2015.

The Information Centre as a facility of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic for the field of combating human trafficking is the sponsor of the programme as well as it performs tasks of a **national rapporteur** or equivalent mechanism, providing for international cooperation in the European Union.

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

The Information Centre as a facility of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic for the field of combating human trafficking is the sponsor of the programme as well as it performs tasks of a national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism, providing for international cooperation in the European Union.

3. Good practices

Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.

Working group of stakeholders involved in the assistance to victims of trafficking was established in 2015. The working group consists of representatives of the Ministry of the Interior (gestor of the specialized programme and specialized police unit for combating human trafficking), NGOs providing assistance and care to victims of trafficking within the specialized programme and several ministries (especially Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Affairs). They meet each 3 months and discuss challenges and necessary improvements in providing assistance to victims of trafficking using the victim centered approach.