



THB: from exit to insertion, barriers and leverage
HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/THB/4000005340
Co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight against
Crime Program of the European Union



The research has been conducted within the project “THB: from exit to insertion, barriers and leverage” (HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/THB/4000005340), implemented in France and Bulgaria by Amicale du Nid and Gender Alternatives.Foundation.

Resume – Report on finalized cases of THB

1. Number of cases
11 cases were initiated in the Plovdiv Regional Court in the last 5 years (2010-2015) - as a first instance court. 8 of them were finalized with a verdict which entered into force. 3 cases are still pending.
2. Traffickers
13 traffickers were convicted in the 8 finalized cases. Only one of them was a woman.
3. Victims
50 victims were identified in the 8 finalized cases. All of them were women.
4. Demographics
Most of the traffickers are males, above 35 years old, born in small towns or villages, with secondary education, married, with no information on children and religion, not working, using alcohol.
All the victims are females, mostly between 19 and 35 years old, often born in small towns or villages, with primary or secondary education, not married, with no information on children and religion, not working legally, financially dependent on the perpetrators or relatives.
5. Social background
Most of the defendants lack of parental control, they also lack of strong mother/father figures.
Most of them have strong social bonds with both persons who were interested in buying sexual services and persons who were willing to sell sex. A lot of them developed well organized networks in which they offered “good” conditions for seeking, finding and using sexual services. Most of the victims claimed that they sought the defendants in their wish to earn money through selling sex. Under these circumstances, the victims actually try to diminish the graveness of the crime.
6. Childhood and Development
Most of the convicts and the victims were born in small towns and villages where there were few educational and working opportunities. People living in these parts usually deal with agriculture and livestock breeding. Most young people in Bulgaria either work abroad or settle in big Bulgarian cities. The fact that most of the convicts settled in big cities as well shows that they searched opportunities for personal, social and financial development.

7. Health

Only in one of the cases there was a medical record for mental disability which lowered the sentence of the defendant.

8. Methods of recruitment

Main method: Promises for good life and easy money. Secondary: "in relation" with the trafficker.

9. Motives

The defendants are mostly motivated to make "fast" money. The first act of trafficking usually only motivated the convicts to expand their "sex business" and generate more profit.

In one of the cases, a witness testified that in an informal conversation with a friend, the defendant shared pride in having "hores" and making BGN 1000 – 1500 daily. This attitude signals for lack of respect. It shows objectivization of women as a means to make profit. Traffickers want to be in control.

The victims were mostly motivated to receive money for living and for ensuring "good quality of life" as well as to have a relationship with a man who will take care for them.

10. Technologies

Often, hotels, taxis, small business are used to "motivate" women and girls to "work" in "safe" places and to make "a lot of money".

Mostly, the argument for making large profits is used.

There were no specific technologies used in the cases on question.

Quantification file study

General information	Number	Percentage
Number of perpetrators in this case 1 2 3 4 > Unknown	13	100
Sentence: Imprisonment: < 6 months 6-12 months 12-24 months 24-36 months 36-48 months 48 > months	6 traffickers received suspended sentences	46.15 %
	2 cases – 12 months	15.38 %
	3 cases – up to 24 months	23.07 %
	1 case – 36 months	7.69 %
	1 case – more than 48 months	7.69 %
Financial fine	Between 2 000 BGN and 35 000 BGN	
Paying compensation	No compensation was requested and paid	100
Unknown		
Type of exploitation Sexual exploitation Labour exploitation Agriculture Construction	13	100

Hotel/cleaning Domestic work Meat processing other Forced begging Forced criminal activities Unknown		
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Demographics	Number	Percentage
Age		
12-18		
19-25		
26-35	1	7.69
36 >	12	92.30
Gender		
Male	12	92.30
Female	1	7.69
Nationality		
Dutch		
Double nationality		
Romanian		
UK		
Cypriot		
Bulgarian	13	100
Other		
Unknown		
Education		
Primary school	2	15.38
Secondary low	10	76.92
Secondary mid		
Secondary special		
Practical education	1	7.69
Unknown	bachelor	
Employed		
Yes	6	46.14
No	7	53.84
Unknown		
Social security funds		
Yes		
No		
Unknown	13	100
Marital status		
Married	8	61.53
Divorced	4	30.76
In relationship		
Single	1	7.69
Living together with Relationship		
Unknown		
Children		

Yes	2	15.38
No		
Unknown	11	84.61
Religious?		
Christian	2	15.38
Muslim		
Buddhism		
other		
None		
Unknown	11	84.61
In debt?		
Yes		
no		
Unknown	13	100
Addictions	Number	Percentage
Alcohol abuse		
Yes	5	38.46
No	8	61.53
Unknown		
Drugs abuse		
Yes	2	15.38
No	11	84.61
Unknown		
Criminal record	Number	Percentage
Yes	5	38.46
No	8	61.53
Unknown		
Age at time of first crime		
12-18		
19-25		
26-35		
36>		
Unknown	13	100
Involved in:		
- Theft	3	23.07
- Traffic / road offence	3	23.07
- Drugs related	3	23.07
- Violence related	5	38.46
- Sexual violence or rape	5	38.46
- THB	2	15.38
- Other – Attempted murder	1	7.69

Mental Health problems		
Yes	1	7.69
No	12	92.30
Unknown		
Specify:		
Narcissism		
Anti-social		

Psychopathy Borderline Sexual obsessed PTSD ADHD NOS Low cognitive skills Other		
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