



**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
GENERAL POLICE INSPECTORATE**

**Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons**

**REPORT**

**“Monitoring trafficking in human beings –  
analysis of status and dynamics of crimes for 2013”**

Chisinau, 2014

## **REPORT “Monitoring trafficking in human beings – analysis of status and dynamics of crimes for 2013”**

Ministry of Internal Affairs of RM  
General Police Inspectorate

### **Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons**

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## FOREWORD

This Report is the result of the analytical activity of the Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons, which competence falls within both: investigation and prosecution of crimes related to trafficking in human beings, as well as collection and analysis of data on the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings. This is the first attempt of Police to develop a comprehensive and thorough analysis of criminal cases, which aims both: monitoring and description of the specificity of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings in Republic of Moldova.

*The MIA Automated System of Criminal Records, Penal Cases and Offenders*, on the basis of which the present Report was elaborated, and methodology of analysis and interpretation of data collected within the system are at the stage of elaboration. Development of the present Report contributes not only to studying the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, but to development of the System and methodology of data processing necessary for policy-makers, law enforcement bodies, other structures and organizations working in the relevant field.

The report summarizes the information about the profile of the victim of trafficking in human beings and the trafficker, based on average statistics, main signs and elements of trafficking in human beings – specificity of recruitment and transportation, forms of exploitation and modus operandi of traffickers/illegal methods of influence/control of victims, etc. Although this is the first analytical attempt of this kind made by the Police, the Report refers to the new trends/changes in manifestation of the phenomenon. In the future, this will take the form of periodical publication, which will make possible development of comparative analysis, with the possible extension of the research methods.

Analysis of manifestation of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, as well as new trends arising in its evolution is not an easy task, taking into consideration its latent and hidden nature, which is not manifested openly, but which can emerge at any time, especially that at the moment there is not credible baseline. External evaluation of the problems – assessments by international experts, researches, investigative journalists and other professionals – is characterized by high amplitude. Thus, while some make sensational statements (with reference to ill-grounded hypothesis, without any conclusive evidence of a hypothetically large number of victims of trafficking in human beings arrived in slavery,) others are reserved in comments, as a rule based on statistics collected from various organizations.

Although we are well aware of the danger of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings in Republic of Moldova, being firmly convinced of the need to continue combating this phenomenon, we have to point out that in the recent years its character has changed, the methods used are more subtle compared to the 90's, when victims of trafficking in human beings faced obviously violent methods to be kept in exploitation. As to the extent of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, numerous researchers and analysts consider that it is not correct, and almost impossible to quantify such a latent phenomenon as trafficking in human beings.

We believe that a balanced analysis of real cases of trafficking in human beings based on the materials comprised in criminal cases, will allow to know better the nature and current manifestations of trafficking in human beings, to highlight the risks of this phenomenon, and thus it will allow to conduct the decision-making process in relation to measures necessary for effective management of these risks in the context of the country's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings.

*Ana Revenco, Head of the Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This Report is a pilot one which tested the indicators and analysis methodology, activities implemented in partnership with the International Center “La Strada”, including with the support offered by the European Union within the project “Combating trafficking in Human Beings – Phase 2 (THB/IFS/2)” implemented in 4 countries (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Turkey) by ICMPD (International Center for Migration Police Department), Vienna in cooperation with FEI (France Expertise Internationale), France and FIIAPP (International Foundation of Administration and Public Policies), Spain.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

CC – Criminal Code

CCTP – Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons

CIS – Commonwealth of Independent States

EU – European Union

GPI – General Police Inspectorate

MIA – Ministry of Internal Affairs

RM – Republic of Moldova

THB – Trafficking in Human Beings

UAE - United Arab Emirates

## METHODOLOGY

This Report “Monitoring trafficking in human beings – analysis of status and dynamics of crimes for 2013” (hereinafter – the Report) was elaborated in compliance with the legal framework and competence of the **Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons** (hereinafter CCTP), with reference to monitoring and analysis of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings.

The present Report was developed in order to study the situation in trafficking in human beings and forms of manifestation of this phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova by analyzing data on crimes related to trafficking in human beings/children comprised in the *Integrated Automated System of Criminal Records, Penal Cases and Offenders*<sup>1</sup>, which is a multifunctional system designed not only to record crimes, but also to collect and process data, to elaborate analytical reports etc.

The main objectives of the research are data processing and analysis of various aspects of crimes related to trafficking in human beings/children in order to highlight specific features/signs of the phenomenon of trafficking:

- a) **direct elements** – components of crimes related to trafficking in human beings/children (based on art. 165 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova), which in their turn reflect the 3 groups of elements of the definition of the phenomenon of “trafficking in human beings”, accepted internationally:
  - *acts* – recruitment, transportation, transfer, etc.;
  - *means of illegal influence* (methods of control used criminals) – deceit, violence, abuse of the position of vulnerability, etc.);
  - *the purpose of exploitation* – sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, exploitation in begging, etc.);
- b) **indirect elements** – information about the personality and life of victims of trafficking in human beings and traffickers, as well as other circumstances related to trafficking in human beings.

The results of this study can be used to forecast criminal situation in trafficking, to elaborate appropriate policies and recommendations to make more effective prosecution on criminal cases related to crimes of trafficking in human beings/children, prevention of these crimes, protection and assistance to victims, improvement of training materials for specialists, etc.

The present Report has been elaborated on the basis of primary evidence documents from the *Integrated Automated System of Criminal Records, Penal Cases and Offenders* (crime record and subject-matter) completed by the experts of the criminal prosecution body – the participants of this System (CCTP and other subdivisions of the General Police Inspectorate, Prosecution). The missing data was obtained through telephone conversations with the relevant specialists.

Totally, there was analyzed data from **155 criminal cases of trafficking in human beings/children initiated in 2013, of which:**

- **135<sup>2</sup>** criminal cases under the **Article 165 “Trafficking in Human Beings”** (adults) of the Criminal Code (125 – cross-border/external traffic and 10 – internal traffic);
- **20** criminal cases under the **Article 206 „Trafficking in children”** of the Criminal Code (10 – external traffick and 10 – internal traffick).

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<sup>1</sup> Art. 11 of the Law on prevention and combating trafficking in human beings No. 241-XVI as of October 20, 2005 (Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, 2005, no. 164-167, art. 8 12)

<sup>2</sup> 77 cases opened by CCTP, 55 – by GPI territorial subdivisions and 3 – by the Prosecutor’s Office

Also, it is necessary to point out that Republic of Moldova is mainly the country of trafficking origin, the victims are transported and exploited outside the country and in most recorded cases in the recent years adults were the victims (125 cases or 81% of the total number of cases). Therefore, the analysis of cases of trafficking in the present Report is mainly focused on cross-border trafficking cases, in the result of which adult victims suffered. The analysis of child trafficking cases (external and internal), as well as internal trafficking (adults and children) was carried out separately to highlight its specific features.

The analysis was conducted separately on each of the 3 main goals of exploitation of the trafficking victims recorded in 2013 – sexual exploitation, labor exploitation and exploitation in begging. 2 cases of trafficking with the purpose of organ retrieval, recorded in 2013, were not included in this research due to small number of cases recorded in the period of study. However, the goal of the analysis is to identify the **correlation between the goals of exploitation and main geographical destinations of THB, modus operandi of traffickers and other specific features of THB.**

It should be noted that within the research was mainly applied method of qualitative data analysis; sometimes there was used method of quantitative data analysis. Each criminal case was considered as a source of information related to manifestation of certain specific features/signs of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings. Empirical information obtained in the result of processing and analysis was compared with the theory in the field, international law documents, Moldovan legislation and recommendations from the literature dedicated to this issue. In order to develop this methodology there were studied and used the following sources of information:

- *Trafficking in Human beings Report, Eurostat, 2013;*
- *European Statistics Code of Practice for the national and community statistical authorities, adopted by European Statistical System Committee, 28.09.2011;*
- *UKHTC: A Baseline Assessment of the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking in 2011, SOKA, 2012;*
- *Situational Overview on Trafficking in Human Beings, European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX), Warsaw, 2011;*
- *Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Republic of Moldova, GRETA, 2012;*
- *Handbook on Anti-trafficking Data Collection in South-Eastern Europe: Developing Regional Criteria, ICMPD, 2010;*
- *Guidelines for the Collection of Data on Trafficking in Human Beings, Including Comparable Indicators, IOM and Federal Ministry of the Interior of Austria, 2009;*
- Other publications.

Following further the subject of limitations, it should be noted that the study **was not elaborated to provide quantitative assessment of the rate of expansion of trafficking** in human beings/children trafficking, taking into consideration **the high degree of latency of the phenomenon.**

Also there were not analyzed all particularities of manifestation of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings as a social phenomenon, which can differ from the elements of Articles 165 and 206 of the Criminal Code, because criminalization does not involve all forms of trafficking, but only those which are very and extremely dangerous for the society. Although, the



analysis was focused on initiated criminal cases, and not on those which had been closed, for which judgments had been pronounced, which extends the range of research (the research is focused not only on established victims and sentenced traffickers, but on supposed victims and suspected traffickers, as well), the mildest form of trafficking, which do not involve criminalization, were not included in the present research.

It is necessary to mention that recording of criminal cases is performed not since the year of commitment, but since the initiation of the prosecution, which can differ in dates. Although, the majority – 55% of victims recorded in 2013 have been trafficked this year, the rest were recruited and exploited in previous years – 2002 – 2012, which is a rather long period of time, during which these cases occurred.

Taking into consideration all limitations of the present research, interpretation of data and drawing conclusions were discussed in advance with the experts working in this field. There were made corrections, taking into account their observations and suggestions in order to exclude any possible mistakes.

All names of persons mentioned in this Report as being involved in the situations of trafficking in human beings are fictitious.

## DEFINITIONS

The terminology used in the present report is mostly taken from criminal law of the Republic of Moldova in the field of human/child trafficking and related issues, as well as from the Decision of the Plenum of the Supreme Court of Justice on Application of Legislative Provisions in Cases of Trafficking in Human Beings and Trafficking in Children №37 of 22.11.2004, adopted for the purpose of ensuring correct and uniform application of legislation in the field of human and child trafficking in our country.

Below are given the definitions of the terms used in this Report:

**Trafficking in human beings** — recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons for the purpose of commercial or non-commercial sexual exploitation, exploitation of forced labour or services, exploitation in slavery or conditions similar to slavery, use in armed conflicts or criminal activity, removal of organs or tissues for transplantation by means of threat of use or use of physical or psychological violence, which is not detrimental to the life and health of a person, including means of abduction, suppression of documents and keeping in servitude for the purpose of repaying of an unreasonable amount of debt; deception; abuse of vulnerability or abuse of power, giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, using force, which is detrimental to the life, physical and mental health of a person; with use of tortures, inhuman or degrading treatment for the purpose of obedience of a person, or rape, use of physical dependence, arms, threat of disclosing confidential information to family or other persons, and other means.

It should be noted that according to the definition, trafficking in human beings represents a combination of **three groups of elements**:

- a) **acts** (recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person);
- b) **methods of influence** (threat of use or use of violence, abduction, suppression of documents etc.) and
- c) **objectives** (different forms of exploitation).

Trafficking in human beings represents exactly a combination of the three mentioned elements, but not each of them taken separately<sup>3</sup>.

**Child trafficking** – recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child, as well as giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over a child, perpetrated with the scopes as follows: commercial or non-commercial sexual exploitation in prostitution or porno industry; exploitation of forced labour or services; exploitation in slavery or under conditions similar to slavery, including such in cases of illegal child adoption; use in armed military conflicts; use in perpetrating acts of crime; removal of organs or tissues for transplantation purposes; leaving a child abroad; and the same actions related to: use of physical or psychological violence against a child; sexual abuse against a child, commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation; use of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment with the aim of obedience of a child or rape, use of physical dependence, arms, threat of disclosing confidential information to family of a child or to other persons; exploitation in slavery or conditions similar to slavery, use in armed conflicts, removal of organs or tissues for transplantation.

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<sup>3</sup>See <http://www.coe.int>. Explanatory Report to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking, para 74 and 75.

Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered trafficking in human beings even in the case when some of the specified means of influence were not used.

***Child /minor*** — a person aged under 18 years.

**Recruitment** — involvement of persons by means of selection in a situation of trafficking in human beings. It includes actions aimed at concluding an agreement between parties when one of the parties undertakes to fulfil certain work/services on certain conditions, for certain fees, at a certain place etc., while the other party undertakes to render assistance (assistance in making arrangements to reach place of destination of work etc.) and/or to pay out for that certain amount of money.

**Transportation** — transfer of a person from one place to another in the territory of a state or abroad, by feet, or using different transport means.

**Sexual exploitation** — coercion of a person to prostitution or other sexual activity. **Commercial sexual exploitation** implies profitable activity, as a result of which property assets of executor or other persons increase due to compulsory use of the victim in prostitution or pornographic industry. **Non-commercial sexual exploitation** implies activity, which does not influence directly onto the size of assets owned by the perpetrator of such action or by other persons, which manifests itself through marriage (including polygamy), concubinage or other similar types of cohabitation etc.

***Exploitation in labour or forced services*** – **(a)** forcing victims by coercion to perform labor which they would never perform on their own initiative or will; **(b)** putting victims into situation of performing work, which they are not obliged to perform; **(c)** keeping the person in servitude to pay the debt; **(d)** obtaining labor or services by deceit, coercion, violence or threatening with the violence.

***Victim of human/child trafficking*** — individual affected human/child trafficking.

***Trafficker*** — a person involved in organisation and realisation of human/childtrafficking.

## **I. THE SYNTHESIS OF THE PHENOMENON OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

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In **2013** there was registered a total number of **155 criminal cases of trafficking** in human beings (**135** – within the Article 165 of the CC “Trafficking in Human Beings” and **20** – within the article 206 “Trafficking in Children). We point out that the number of THB crimes recorded in 2013 has not changed significantly compared to the same period last year. Thus, in **2012** there were totally registered 171 criminal cases related to trafficking (151 – within the Article 165 of CC and 20 within the Article 206).

In 2013 there were identified **262 victims of THB**, of which **233 are adults** and **29 – minors**. Of the total number of adult victims:

- 153 people are women or 66% of the total number of adult victims of THB
- 80 people or 34% are men

Of the total number of minor victims 21 are girls or 72% and 8 are boys or 28%

According to the statistics, most victims are female which proves the hypothesis that women remain the most vulnerable category to the dangers of trafficking in human beings. Also, we would like to mention that the number of men identified as victims of trafficking in human beings is increasing, which is due, in our opinion, to higher capacity of identification by law enforcement bodies and the level of awareness of victims, which is confirmed by the increasing number of complaints and notifications received at the Center.

Trafficked persons were subjected to exploitation in various forms:

- **131** people (50%) – **sexual exploitation**;
- **105** people (40%) – **exploitation of forced labor and services**;
- **24** people (9%) – **exploitation in begging**;
- **2** people (1%) – were trafficked for **removal of organs for transplantation**<sup>4</sup>;

55% of victims recorded in 2013 have been trafficked this year, the rest was recruited and exploited in previous years (2002-2012).

In 2013, in the country there were identified **169 people as suspected traffickers**. The law enforcement bodies failed to establish the identity of 19 suspected traffickers, despite all investigative actions taken to establish their identity.

Of 169 identified traffickers 97 people (58%) are men, 72 people (42%) are women. Their age is between 18 and 60 years. Most prosecuted people are Moldovan, but also citizens of Romania, Israel, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, Turkey and Lebanon are accused.

Of the total number of identified traffickers, 99 people (58%) are suspected for involvement in THB with the purpose of sexual exploitation, 47 people (28%) – exploitation of forced labor, 21 people (13%) – exploitation in begging and 2 people (1%) – removal of organs.

The analysis of the criminal past of traffickers (prior criminal records) demonstrates that only 22% of them had been previously prosecuted or sentenced for such crimes as: prostitution, trafficking in human beings, theft, fraud, extortion, rape, etc).

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<sup>4</sup> See: <http://www.coe.int>. Explicative Report on the Council of Europe Convention on Acts against Trafficking in Human Beings, p.p.74 and 75

Moreover, it is necessary to mention that 36 people (21% of the total number of identified traffickers and 36% of the total number of traffickers specialized in trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation) were divided into **7 organized criminal groups**, specialized in THB **with the purpose of sexual exploitation** (Article 165 par. 3, letter “a” and Article 206, par. 3, letter “d”).

Republic of Moldova, in fact, remains **the country of origin of THB** – **87%** of THB cases recorded in 2013 were cases of **cross-border/external traffic** and **13%** - **internal traffic**/within the country. In the reporting period there was recorded only one unusual case, when a foreign citizen was exploited in the Republic of Moldova. Thus, a citizen of Lebanon organized trafficking of his countryman, whom he later exploited in forced labor, forcing him to perform different kinds of labor on a farm in the Republic of Moldova.

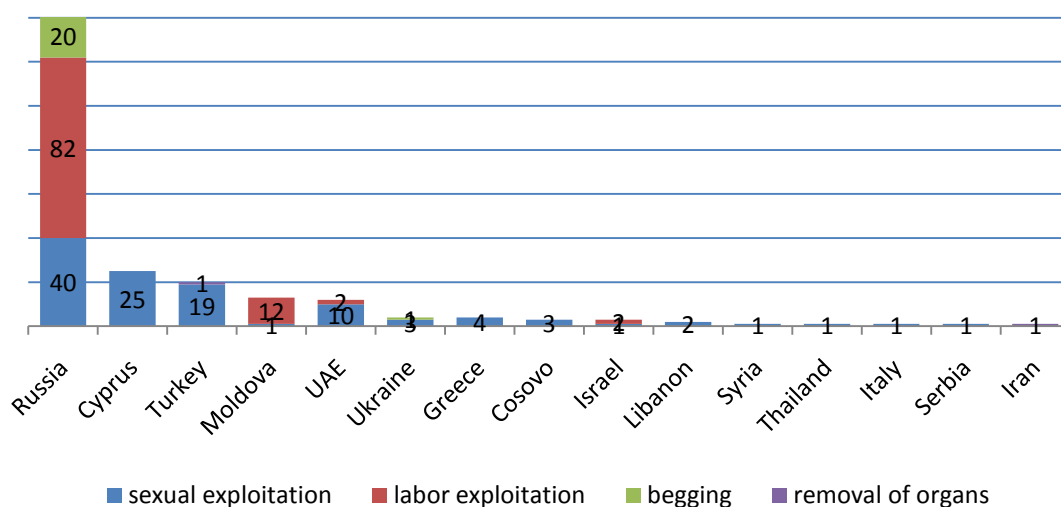
*In the period 2011 – May 16, 2013 the citizen of Lebanon T, staying in Republic of Moldova, by common consent and together with other people not identified by the criminal investigation agency, for the purpose of forced labor and services, abusing victim's position of vulnerability due to poor social conditions created by the civil war in Syria, by deceit, under the pretence of employment to well-paid job as a farm manager, recruited, transported, received and harbored in the Republic of Moldova a Syrian citizen A, where he was subjected to forced labor exploitation.*

*Thus, on 06.08.2013 the Syrian citizen A came to Chisinau International Airport, RM, where he was met by an unknown person who worked as a driver of the citizen T, the persons presented himself as Kosteia. Then the citizen A was brought to a livestock farm near the town of Cahul, where his documents were confiscated, and under the pretence that he would receive a salary in the amount of \$ 800-1000 per month, he was persuaded to work as a manager. Then, in winter 2011, the citizen A was transferred to another job in the same position at livestock farm in village Ghindesti, Floresti district, where he worked in the same working conditions until the winter 2013, also unpaid.*

*Later, in winter 2013, the citizen A by reason of demanding the citizen T to pay the salary for the period of employment and to return his documents, was threatened with physical and psychological violence, not dangerous to his life and health and was forced by the citizen T to execute all kinds of physical labor on the farm until May 2013, when he escaped from the farm and addressed Immigration and Refugee Board within the MIA, where he demanded shelter.*

As to **destination countries**, we find out that geographical dimensions of trafficking is various, while the main destination countries of external trafficking remain Russian Federation, “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (hereinafter – Northern Cyprus), UAE, Turkey, Greece and other countries (Figure 1).

**Figure1. Geographical dimensions of trafficking in human beings in relation to the purpose of exploitation (nr. of identified victims)**



The analysis demonstrates that Russian Federation became the main destination country for victims of THB from Moldova – 142 trafficked people suffered on the territory of this country, mainly from forced labor exploitation – 82 people (mainly men), sexual exploitation – 40 people (only women) and 20 people – exploitation in begging. As to Northern Cyprus and Turkey, these countries remain to be the main destination countries for sexual exploitation.

CCTP experience and analysis of THB statistical data **in 2013** demonstrated that we can point out that:

- 1) Most of recorded THB cases represent **cross-border/external traffic**, which had impact on adult victims (125 cases or 81% of the total number of cases);
- 2) **3 goals of exploitation** of THB victims/main forms of exploitation, most frequently encountered in the recent years:
  - a) Sexual exploitation;
  - b) Forced labor exploitation;
  - c) Exploitation in begging;
- 3) **3 main geographical directions/areas of THB destination** for the Republic of Moldova:
  - a) CIS countries (Russian Federation and Ukraine);
  - b) Middle East (Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Israel, Iran, etc) and Northern Cyprus, which can be conditionally referred to as the area of Middle East, because trafficking route to Northern Cyprus passes via Turkey;
  - c) European Union (Greece, Italy, etc).

Taking into account the facts mentioned above, **the analysis of THB cases referred to in the present Report is mainly focused on cross-border traffic, in the result of which adult victims suffered**, and mainly aims to identify correlation between the three most frequent goals of THB victims exploitation and main geographical areas of THB destination, modus operandi of traffickers and other specific features of THB.

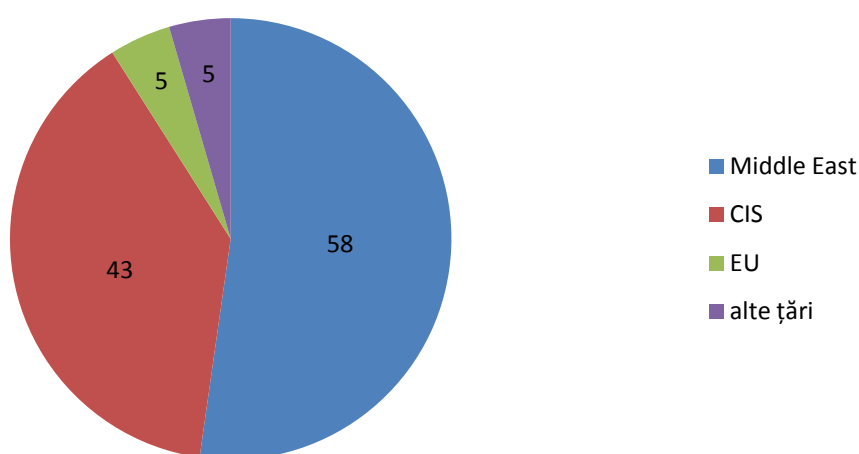
## II. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS WITH THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Cross-border THB with the purpose of sexual exploitation is the most common form of THB in Republic of Moldova – **79 criminal cases** have been initiated on this issue (59% of criminal cases initiated within the Article 165 of CC) and **111 victims** of THB were involved in sexual exploitation (48% of the total number of victims recorded within the article 165 of CC).

### Geographical areas of destination

As to trafficking destinations we can point out that this type of exploitation is the most widespread and diverse – it is present in all 3 identified areas of THB destinations and, respectively, comprises the largest number of countries.

**Figure 2. Geographical areas of destination of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation (nr. of identified victims in each of 3 areas)**



The area of **Middle East** is prevalent in this regard and involves **58 victims** of THB (52% of the total number of victims trafficked for this purpose), but it is also necessary to mention that this area comprises the largest number of countries, such as Turkey (*19 people*), Northern Cyprus (*25 people*), UAE (*10 people*), Lebanon (*2 people*), Israel (*1 person*) and Syria (*1 person*).

**CIS area** is also an important destination for sexual exploitation – **43 victims** of THB (39% of the total number of victims trafficked with this purpose) were recorded in this area, which is limited only to two countries – Russian Federation (*40 people*) and Ukraine (*3 people*). Russian Federation is the country with the largest number of victims trafficked with the purpose of sexual exploitation, with the individual rate of about 36% of the total number of victims trafficked with this purpose.

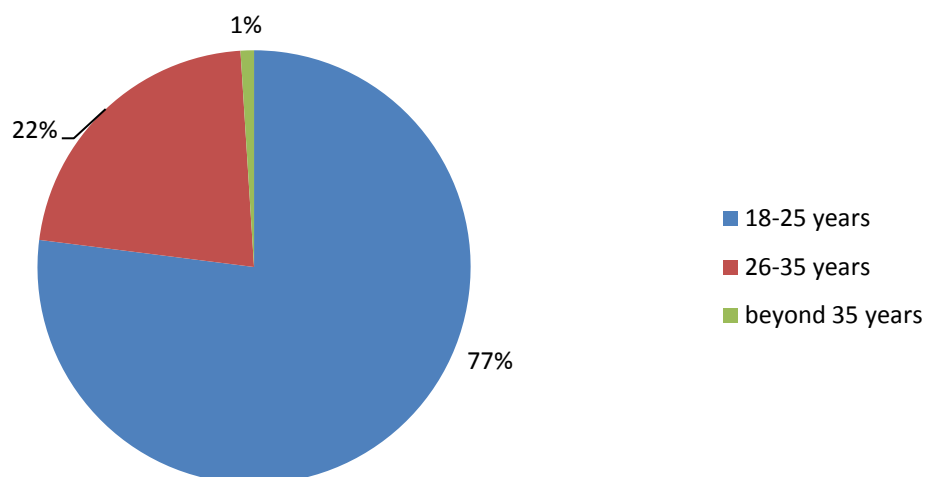
Sexual exploitation is the only area of exploitation, where **EU** appears. Thus, there were identified **5 victims** (5% of the total number of victims trafficked with this purpose) trafficked in EU states, namely Greece (*4 victims*) and Italy (*1 victim*).

5 THB victims were subjected to sexual exploitation in other areas/countries – Kosovo (*3 people*), Serbia (*1 person*) and Thailand (*1 person*).

### **Profile of the Victim**

Absolutely all identified victims, who were subjected to sexual exploitation, are female (100%). According to the analyzed data, **the majority of victims of sexual exploitation are young women aged 18-25** (77%), 22% are aged 26-35 and 1% - beyond the age of 35 years.

**Figure 3. Age of THB victims subjected to sexual exploitation (%)**



In most cases, the victim of sexual exploitation comes from a socially vulnerable family (poor – with no permanent source of income); incomplete (without a parent) or families with many children or alcoholic parents. The victim, being the eldest or among the eldest children in the family, since the youngest participated in maintenance of the family, suffered parental neglect since their childhood and/or domestic violence. The level of their education is no more than secondary education. They have no profession, no permanent job or salary.

*In June 2013, citizen C, being in town Ocnita and acting by common consent with his mother – citizen P, and with other people not established by criminal investigation agencies, abusing victims' position of vulnerability, being aware of their difficult social situation and lack of money, recruited citizen M and citizen T with the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.*

*Later, citizen C, acting by common consent with other people not established by criminal investigation agencies, with the purpose of realization of his criminal intentions, organized in June 2013 transportation of victim M, and in July 2013 – victim T in the city of Odessa, Ukraine for the purpose of sexual exploitation.*

*On their arrival to Odessa, the victims were harbored in an apartment, where their documents were confiscated and they were forced to provide commercial sexual services for different men.*

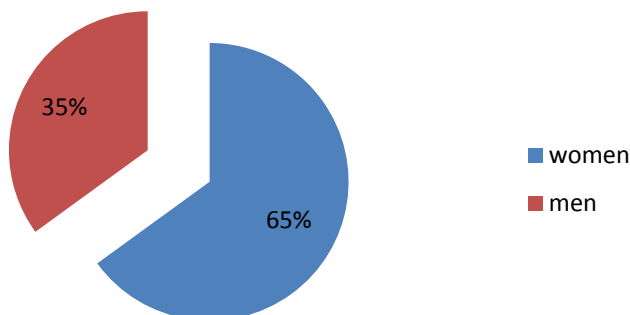
As to appearance of THB victims subjected to sexual exploitation, they can be divided into two obvious categories. The first category includes people with no prior experience in provision of sexual services, with a high and visible degree of vulnerability. The second category includes people with previous experience in the provision of sexual services, i.e. their behavior and appearance, clothing and make up have specific characteristics/provoking behavior, impolite manners, excessive make up, tattooed lips and long eyelashes, excessive jewelry, pungent smell of perfume, etc).



### **Profile of the Trafficker**

In THB with the purpose of sexual exploitation, from the point of view of gender of traffickers prevail women – about 65% (65 people) and only 35% (35 people) are men.

**Figure 4. Gender of suspected traffickers, specializing in THB with the purpose of sexual exploitation (%)**



This can be explained by the fact that, probably, women-recruiters inspire more confidence in victims. Women-traffickers often directly participate in recruiting, organization of transportation of victims, their accommodation and more often get into direct contact with victims/potential victims. At the same time, they more often come into the view of law enforcement bodies.

Most of female traffickers are young women – 65% aged 18-30 years, 30% are aged beyond 30 years and 5% - are not known (their identities were not established during the prosecution). It is necessary to mention that the average age of female traffickers is younger than the male traffickers. 46% of male traffickers are aged 22-35 years, 45% - aged beyond 35 years, and the remaining 9% - not known (their identities were not established during the prosecution).

Of all suspects specializing in trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation were grouped into **7 organized criminal groups** (4-6 people each group). 6 groups specialized in trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation to **Russian Federation**, and one group – trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation to **Greece**. From the actions of the organized criminal groups 50 victims have suffered (45% of all people trafficked with the purpose of sexual exploitation) and 3 minor victims.

Men usually plan criminal schemes, conduct, in shadow, criminal groups and often are not established. It is necessary to specify that among unidentified/not established criminals (about 18% of the total number of suspects) are mainly men, especially foreigners.

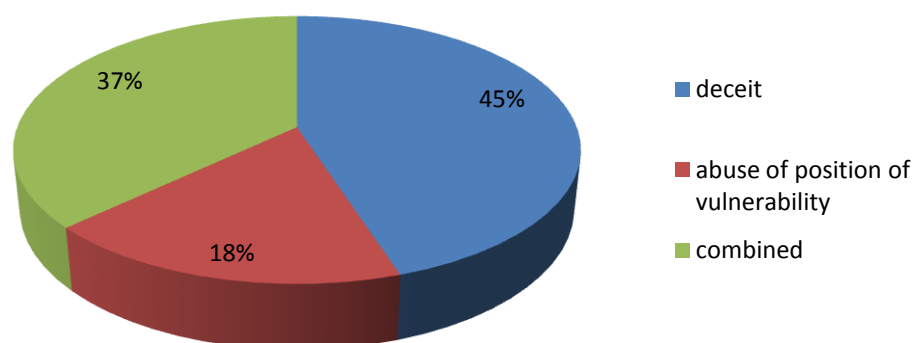
It is necessary to mention that the most (68%) of identified traffickers with previous criminal records are people involved in THB with the purpose of sexual exploitation.

There is an interdependence between the role of traffickers and their gender. Thus, women are more likely to be involved in the activities of identifying potential victims, their recruitment and making arrangements related to documentation and transportation. Men are mainly involved into direct transportation to the place of destination, accommodation, exploitation and coercion of victims. Also, it is necessary to mention that female traffickers are frequently former victims of THB, who, in the exchange for certain financial benefits get involved in this criminal activity.

## Recruitment

The analysis of **control methods** used by the traffickers at the stage of recruitment in trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation demonstrates the prevalence of **deceit** – **45%** of victims trafficked with this purpose (*51 people*), followed by the **combination of deceit and abuse of the position of vulnerability**, which makes up **37%** (*40 people*) and, finally, **abuse of the position of vulnerability** – **18%** (*20 people*).

**Figure 5. Methods of control used by recruiters, specialized in THB with the purpose of sexual exploitation (%)**



It is necessary to mention that deceit is an essential element in the process of recruitment, used either independently or in combination with the abuse of the position of vulnerability. However, the accumulated data demonstrates that, at least, for the purpose of sexual exploitation, deceit changes consistency into independence and the manner in which it is applied. Thus, if deceit is used independently, recruiters use false employment proposals abroad, *with specification of exact working place*, where the victim is to work.

*In November 2011, citizen P, involved in a criminal group, being in district Soroca, following the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, by means of deceit, under the pretense of employment to well-paid job as a waitress, recruited Alexandra and persuaded her to travel to Russian Federation. Obtaining victim's agreement, citizen P paid in advance amending her passport and bought her ticket for the route Chisinau-Moscow, and organized in December 2011, her transportation to Moscow, Russian Federation, accompanied by a member of criminal group named Elena.*

*Arriving to Moscow, Alexandra was taken and housed by Elena in an apartment from the town Balasiha, Moscow region, where her documents were confiscated, she was kept under surveillance and threatened with physical and psychological violence, and was forced to provide commercial sexual services for different men.*

If deceit is combined with the abuse of the position of vulnerability, it is resumed only to some *vague proposals of employment abroad to a "well-paid" job*. Thus, in the second case, deceit has less exact character, the abuse of the position of vulnerability is the main determinant in the combined method of victims recruitment.

*On an unidentified data, in June 2011, citizen E, born on 1988, being in one of the villages of Falesti district, intentionally, for the material interest, acting together and in advance consent with other people not established by criminal investigation agencies, sharing their roles in advance, following discussions with Svetlana T, born in 1986, abusing her position of vulnerability, manifested by poor social conditions,*

*lack of financial means, recruited by deceit, under the pretense of employment to well-paid job in Moscow, Russian Federation.*

*Then, on 18.06.2011, to achieve his criminal intentions, citizen E, acting together and in advance consent with other people not established by criminal investigation agencies, organized amending victim's passport and her transportation to the country of destination, where she was transported and harbored by citizen E in an apartment, where she was forced to provide sexual services to different men until May 2012.*

Analysis of the methods of recruitment/control at the stage of recruitment in relation to the area of THB destination with the purpose of sexual exploitation demonstrates that recruitment to **CIS countries** is carried out *by combining deceit with the abuse of the position of vulnerability* – 53% of the number of identified victims, followed by *deceit* – 33% and, respectively, *abuse of the position of vulnerability* – 14%. Deceit for the respective area is usually limited to false **employment proposals** as **shop assistant, waitress, nurse, or even in construction**. In most cases victims were recruited in their place of residence – in village or hometown.

Establishing contact is often carried out, in 90%, through personal contact, victims are directly approached by the recruiters (*in the case of other 10% - there are no data available*).

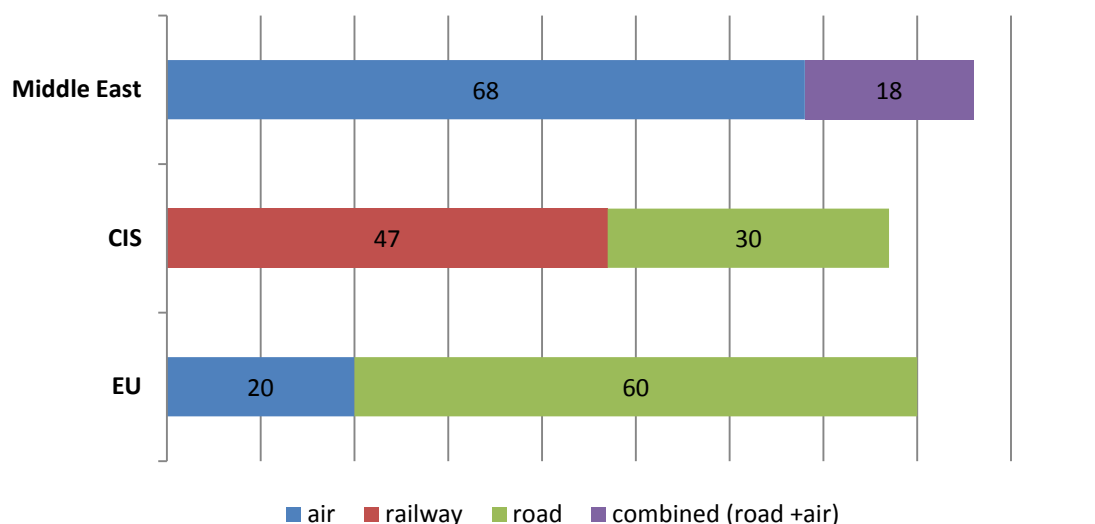
Recruitment to the **Middle East** is mainly carried out by *deceit*, in 48%, followed by *combination of deceit with the abuse of the position of vulnerability*, in 28% and *abuse of vulnerability* – 24%. It is necessary to mention that deceit in this case, in 65%, refers to false employment proposals in **entertainment**, as dancers in nightclubs. As to establishing contact between the recruiter and the victim, it is necessary to point out that for the Middle East, especially for Northern Cyprus, unlike other areas of destination, **recruitment is carried out through social networking** (was used in 11%). This creates obstacles in identifying the recruiter.

Recruitment for the **EU countries** is mainly carried out by combination of deceit and abuse of the position of vulnerability.

### **Transportation**

For transportation of THB victims with the purpose of sexual exploitation, traffickers use different means of transport, depending on the area of destination.

**Figure 6. Methods of transportation used by criminals, specialized in THB with the purpose of sexual exploitation (%)**



Thus, **transportation to CIS countries** is mainly carried out by railroad transport (47%), followed by road transport (30%). In other cases the information about the transport used was not possible to determine. Travel expenses are covered by traffickers, it refers either to buying tickets for train or bus, or to organizing transportation by personal car.

In case of road transport, in about 70% of cases, traffickers use their personal cars or rented cars for the purpose of victims' transportation. Almost all victims transported to CIS cross the state border legally, presenting valid identity documents of citizens of Republic of Moldova. They need no visa. The traffickers mainly use state border crossing point in village Valcinet, Ocnita district – for railroad transport and in town Otaci – to cross the border by road transport.

For **transportation of victims in the Middle East**, in all cases, traffickers use air transport or combination of air and road transport. Thus, for transportation of 68% of trafficked victims in this area only air transport was used, either by direct routes or with transfer at airports (depending on destination) and in 18% of victims traffickers combined air and road transport. In 8% of cases, exploitation of victims was prevented before the stage of exploitation and in other 6% of cases the method of transportation was not established.

The most common air route is Chisinau – Istanbul (direct flight), where Turkey may be the country of final destination, when victims are subjected to sexual exploitation in Turkey, but it also may be a transit country. Thus, about 60% of victims trafficked to Northern Cyprus were transported in this country by air, using the following route: Chisinau-Istanbul-Ercan (Leftcosia).

In case of victims transported by combination of road transport with air transport, they are initially transported to Odessa, Ukraine, using road transport, leaving the country via Transnistrian region or border crossing point in village Palanca. From Odessa they fly to Istanbul and then they can reach any destination country. This route is mainly used for Northern Cyprus (in 9 of 25 cases) and very rarely for Turkey and UAE.

Transport expenses are mainly covered by the criminal, including by sending electronic tickets to the victim (Northern Cyprus and UAE).

**Transportation of victims to the EU area** is mainly carried out by buses (60%) and rarely by air (20%), other 20% is not known/not established. In order to cross the state border of the Republic of Moldova authentic identity documents and visas were used. Almost all perfectly meets the legal norms, but, basically, transportation of victims to the place of destination occurs through abuse of legal options. For example, to Greece (the main destination country of EU region) there meet two ways of transportation of victims:

- on the basis of authentic Schengen visas issued by Polish consulate, however, the methods of their obtaining include certain criminal elements, i.e. by presenting fake employment contracts or other fake confirming documents. The same method is used for organization of illegal migration (smuggling of migrants) of citizens of RM to the EU;
- initially they legally travel to Turkey, from where they illegally cross the border Turkey/Greece by sea.

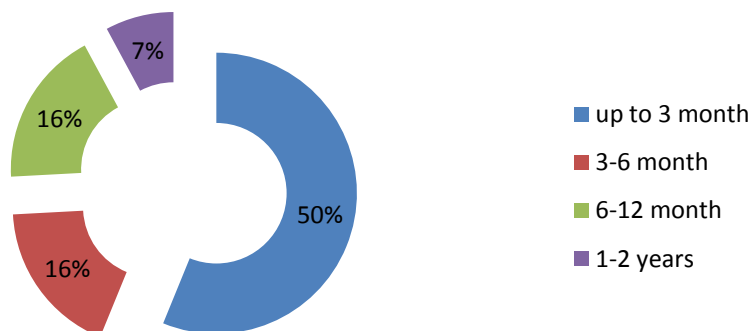
### **Exploitation**

Analysis of THB cases with the purpose of sexual exploitation demonstrates that **duration of victims' exploitation** varies as follows:

- up to 3 months – 50% of identified victims;
- 3-6 months – 16%;
- 6-12 months – 16%;
- 1-2 years – 7%;
- prevented exploitation – 7%;
- is not known/not established – 4%;

In most cases traffickers benefit of the legal possibilities of staying in the foreign country (especially, in Russian Federation, Turkey), which does not exceed 3 months.

**Figure 7. Duration of exploitation of victims of THB with the purpose of sexual exploitation**



As to the **place/circumstances** of sexual exploitation, for **CIS area** there is a specific of provision the sexual services in private homes (apartments) – 44%, followed by street prostitution – 42% and in nightclubs and other places – 14%. For **Middle East area** the data about place/circumstances of sexual exploitation are as follows:

- 32% - exploitation in clubs;
- 36% - exploitation in hotels/casinos;
- 22% - exploitation in private homes;
- 6% - exploitation was prevented;

4% - is not known/not established;

For **EU area** sexual exploitation in private homes is specific.

As methods of control at the stage of exploitation traffickers use financial debt (its amount is not reasonably established), confiscation of identity documents, violence and threat of violence, dangerous to life, threatening with disclosure of confidential information, restricting freedom of movements, deceit, etc. Traffickers also use combination of the above-mentioned methods of control.

*In the period September 2012 – March 2013, citizen N, being in village B, acting by common consent and in advance agreement with citizen V, citizen C, unknown person named Ion and other people not established by criminal investigation agencies, with the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, by deceit, promising employment as a cleaner in the Shopping Center “Peateorocika” in Moscow, Russian Federation and by abuse of the position of vulnerability, manifested by difficult social and financial situation, recruited, transported and harbored in Russian Federation, city of Krasnodar, many women, including citizen of RM, named Irina.*

*Irina was subjected to commercial sexual exploitation, being forced to have sex for money with many different men, being threatened with physical and psychological violence dangerous to life and health, her identity documents were confiscated and her freedom of movements was restricted.*

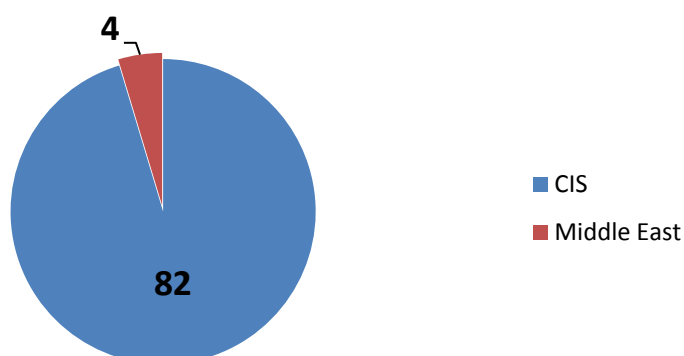
### III. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS WITH THE PURPOSE OF FORCED LABOR AND SERVICES

Trafficking with the purpose of forced labor and services (hereinafter – exploitation of labor) is a specific phenomenon of THB in Republic of Moldova, which has evolved significantly in the recent years. The number of victims of THB with the purpose of exploitation of labor is almost equal to indicator of THB with the purpose of sexual exploitation. Thus, of the total number of cases of THB in 2013, trafficking for exploitation of labor constitutes about 22% of all criminal cases initiated under the Article 165 of CC (**30 cases**), but it has a higher number of victims – there were identified **86 people trafficked** with the purpose of exploitation of labor or 37% of the total number of victims recorded under the Article 165.

#### Geographical Areas of Destination

As to trafficking with the purpose of exploitation of labor, we can affirm that this type of exploitation is mostly spread in **CIS area**. As an exception, in 2013 there were recorded several criminal cases of trafficking for exploitation of labor in the **Middle East**. There were not registered such cases in **EU** during the reporting period.

**Figure 8. Geographical areas of destination of THB for exploitation of labor  
(nr. of identified victims in each area).**



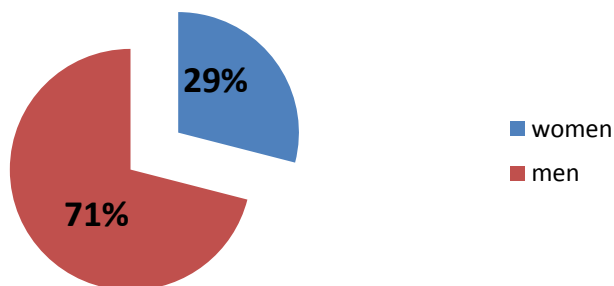
Considering more detailed **CIS area**, it is necessary to point out that Russian Federation remains the main destination country for trafficking with the purpose of exploitation of labor, with a share of 95% (82 victims) of the total number of victims exploited with this purpose in other countries.

The **Middle East** is a relatively new destination for THB with the purpose of exploitation of labor. In 2013 there were recorded 4 victims of THB with the purpose of exploitation of labor (Israel – 20 people and UAE – 2 people), exploited as housekeepers and in beauty salons, being forced to perform labor which had not been stipulated in their employment contracts and for which they had not given their consent.

### **Profile of the Victim**

Exploitation of labor is the only area where women do not represent the majority of victims. Thus, male victims obviously dominate with a share of 71% (61 **men**), and, respectively, 29% (25 **women**). Sex distribution is conditioned by the specificity of this type of exploitation.

**Figure 9. Sex distribution of THB victims with the purpose of exploitation of labor (%)**



Most victims, subjected to exploitation of labor in **CIS**/Russian Federation, come from rural areas and have difficult financial situation. 61% of victims exploited in Russian Federation have on average over 30 years.

Profile of victims subjected to exploitation in the **Middle East** differs from victims exploited in CIS. They are women aged up to 30 years with satisfactory financial situation and level of education beyond secondary, because they **address specialized employment agencies for official employment abroad**, and in these circumstances knowledge of a foreign language is essential.

### **Profile of the Trafficker**

In the process of investigation of THB cases with the purpose of exploitation of labor, there were established 47 criminals/traffickers, where male traffickers obviously dominate with a share of 70% (33 people) and, respectively, only 30% (14 people) of female traffickers. Of this number of criminals, 45 traffickers were identified and respective criminal proceedings were initiated, and 2 male individuals have not been identified, special investigative measures to establish their identities are being conducted.

Unlike traffickers involved in THB with the purpose of sexual exploitation, in case of exploitation of labor, the share of people with previous criminal records is much lower, only 15% of identified criminals and 27% of the total number of traffickers with the previous criminal records. As for the rest, they are mainly former labor migrants, with the experience in this field, who decided to obtain financial benefits of informal employment abroad of their countrymen.

### **Recruitment**

As to use of methods of recruitment of victims for **CIS**/Russian Federation, in cases of trafficking for exploitation of labor obviously prevails **combination of deceit and abuse of the position of vulnerability** with a share of 77%, followed by **deceit** – 20% and, finally, **abuse of the position of vulnerability** – 3%.



Recruitment in THB for exploitation of labor in the **Middle East** was executed exclusively by deceit.

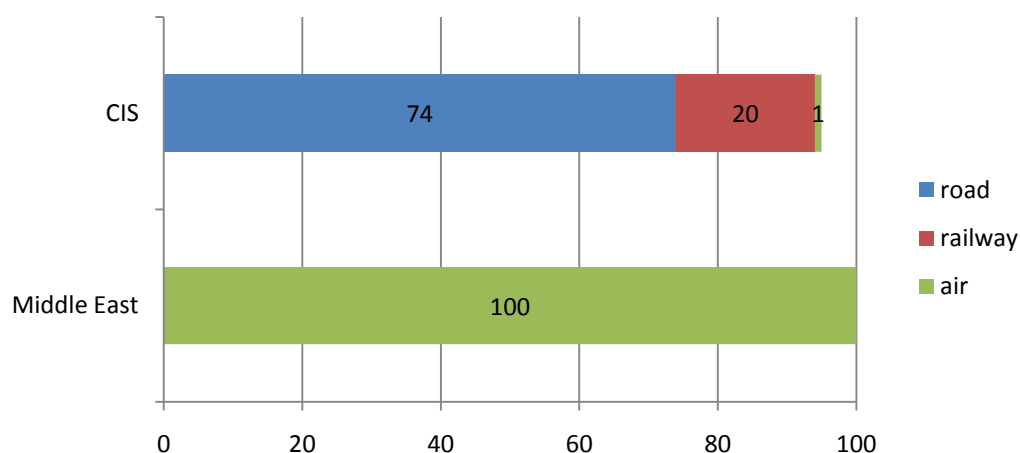
Deceit in case of exploitation of labor is resumed to false promises about salary, working and living conditions. As a rule, recruiters promise high salaries abroad and decent living and working conditions. However, later, their salaries do not correspond to the initially promised amounts and, on the contrary, in most cases (60%), they were not paid at all, under the pretense of existence of a fictitious and exaggerated debt to the employer/exploiter.

In recruitment to **CIS area**, the contract between recruiters and victims in most cases is made directly – through physical contact. 92% of victims were recruited through personal/physical contact, and 8% of victims were recruited by telephone. Recruitment and transportation of victims in the **Middle East** occurred through **employment agencies**, offering job abroad.

### **Transportation**

Transportation in **CIS area** is mainly carried out by road transport, about 74% (64 victims) of victims are transported by this method, the rest by railroad – 20% (17 victims) and air transport – 6% (5 victims).

**Figure 10. Transportation of THB victims for exploitation of labor (%)**

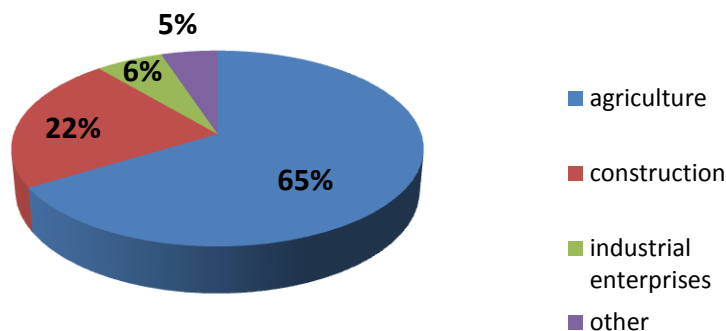


Victims transported to CIS area cross border state legally, presenting valid identity documents of the citizens of Republic of Moldova. They need no visa. In most cases transport expenses are covered by recruiters, either by buying tickets for bus or train, or by organizing transportation by personal car.

### **Exploitation**

Exploitation of labor in **CIS area** is carried out in such areas as: **agriculture, construction and industry**.

**Figure 11. Areas of exploitation of victims of THB for exploitation of labor (%)**



In **agriculture** there were exploited **56** people. In fact, this area is prevailing, with a share of **65%** of victims exploited in labor. Agriculture is the only area where women are exploited on an equal basis with men. In this regard, it is necessary to mention Lipetsk region, Russian Federation, where about 70% of trafficked people are exploited in agricultural work.

*In June 2012, citizen S, arrived to a village from Singerei district, by abuse of the position of vulnerability, manifested by difficult social situation, lack of financial means, he identified victims and obtained their consent, by deceit, under the pretense of employment to a “well-paid” job in agriculture in Russian Federation. Later, he recruited numerous people and persuaded them to come to Russian Federation to work in agriculture.*

*On 26.06.2012, in order to achieve his criminal intentions, citizen S, acting together and in advance agreement with a person not established by criminal investigation agency, who was employed as a driver and assisted in transportation of the recruited people to Lipetsk region, Russian Federation.*

*Arriving to the town of Lipetsk, Moldovan people, who came for agricultural work were confiscated identity documents and being under surveillance of a person, who acted together and in advance agreement with his brother and other people not established by criminal investigation agencies, were exploited in labor in conditions similar to slavery. For the purpose of coercion the traffickers used threat of physical violence not dangerous to their health. This lasted until the end of 2012.*

The area of **construction** is almost entirely dominated by men, **19 people** were exploited in this area, which is about **22%** of the total number of victims exploited in labor. Also, 5 people or 6% of victims exploited in labor worked in some **industrial enterprises**, 4 people or 5% were exploited in other conditions, such as households or beauty salons (people trafficked in the Middle East), and in case of 2% areas of exploitation of victims were not exactly established.

Methods of control used at the stage of exploitation of labor are classic and include: confiscation of identity documents, threat or even use of violence, deceit by promising decent remuneration.

#### **IV. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS WITH THE PURPOSE OF EXPLOITATION IN BEGGING**

In 2013, **14** criminal cases have been initiated on the issue of THB with the purpose of exploitation in begging, under the *Article 165* and there were identified **21** victims, which makes up 10% of the total number of victims recorded within the Article 165 of CC. Compared to the previous years this type of traffic has increased considerably in terms of recorded crimes and identified victims (12 victims in 2013 vs. 21 victims in 2014, increase by 75%).

##### **Geographical areas of destination**

Trafficking with the purpose of exploitation in begging is widespread only in **CIS countries**. The main destination country for trafficking victims for exploitation in begging is Russian Federation, with a share about 95% (*20 victims*) of the total number of victims subjected to this form of exploitation. Moreover, in 2013 there was recorded only one case of one victim exploited in begging in Ukraine.

##### **Profile of the Victim**

Of the total number of victims of THB subjected to exploitation in begging the share of female victims is about **71%** (*15 victims*) compared to **29%** (*6 victims*) of male victims. It is necessary to mention that the number of people with physical handicap is very small, thus there was identified only one person with disability, others were healthy people.

##### **Profile of the Trafficker**

It is necessary to mention that in the process of investigation of THB cases with the purpose of exploitation in begging, there were established **23 criminals**/traffickers, of which 10 people were women and 13 people were men, of them 22 traffickers were identified and criminal proceedings were initiated, and only one man has not been identified yet, at the moment special investigative measures are being conducted to establish his identity.

In this respect, it is worth to mention active involvement of Romani clans in trafficking, for whom involvement of several family members and long periods of victim's exploitation are characteristic.

##### **Recruitment**

Generally, as to the method of recruitment of victims, in trafficking for exploitation in begging, there obviously dominate **abuse of the position of vulnerability** with a share about 54% (*13 victims*), followed by **combination of deceit with the abuse of the position of vulnerability**, which makes up about 33% (*8 victims*) and, finally, **deceit** with a share about 13% (*3 victims*).

Deceit in case of exploitation in begging is resumed to the false promises of employment to a well-paid job, without providing detailed information about working place. In some cases, they are communicated only "the position" (usually, seller/shop assistant), without further details.

The contract between criminals and victims is concluded mainly direct by traffickers, 96% of victims sign the contract personally, and only about 4% of victims were recruited by telephone.

## **Transportation**

Transportation mainly occurs by road transport, about 86% (18 victims) of victims are transported by this type of transport, and the rest of victims are transported by railroad. Victims, transported to CIS area, cross the state border legally, presenting valid identity documents of Moldovan citizens. They need no visa.

Travel expenses and expenses for amending documents necessary for travelling, are almost entirely covered by the traffickers.

## **Exploitation**

Exploitation in begging is resumed to forcing people to beg in crowded public places (main streets, underground passages, subways, railway stations, etc.). The specific feature of this type of exploitation is that victims are in permanent movement, often changing places/towns.

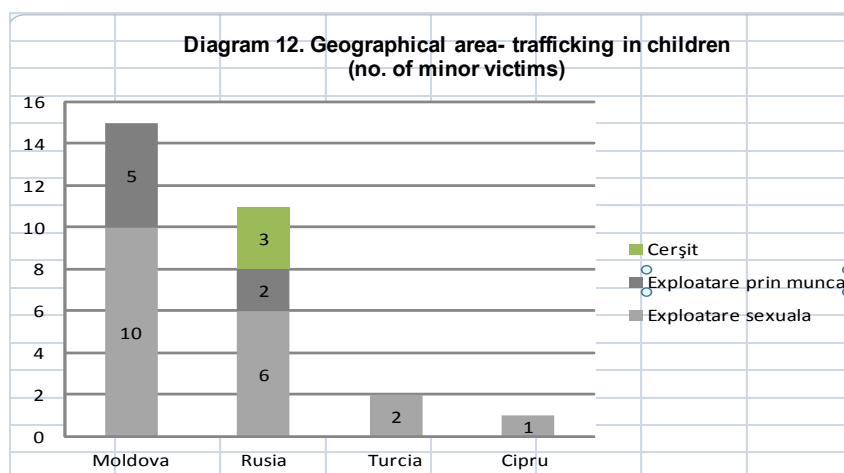
Control over the victim is mainly realized by the same traditional methods, encountered in other types of exploitation: financial debt, which amount is not reasonably established, confiscation of identity documents, violence or threat of violence dangerous to life, restricting freedom of movement, deceit.

*In June 2012, citizen R, for the purpose of commercial exploitation in begging, acting by common consent and in advance agreement with citizen B, for the reason of financial interest, benefiting of the position of vulnerability, recruited Galina, by deceit, under the pretense of employment to a well-paid job in Russian Federation. Later, citizen R, obtaining victim's consent to come to Russian Federation, paid for amending her foreign passport.*

*On 07.07.2012, citizen R, bought tickets for bus and transported Galina in Pervomaisk, Russian Federation, where she was met by citizen B, who later harbored her in a house. The citizen B confiscated her foreign passport and forced her to beg in streets for three months.*

## V. CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

In 2013, as in previous year, there were recorded 20 crimes, related to **trafficking in children**<sup>5</sup>, in the result, **29 minor victims** suffered (21 girls and 8 boys). Trafficked children were subjected to different forms of exploitation inside and outside the country (Figure 12).



As to **external trafficking** in children, we can point out that **14 children-victims** were identified (12 girls and 2 boys). Russian Federation is the main destination country – there were registered **11 children** trafficked in this country (6 – sexual exploitation, 2 – exploitation of labor and 3 – exploitation in begging), followed by Turkey – **2 children** trafficked with the purpose of sexual exploitation and Northern Cyprus – **1 child** trafficked for sexual exploitation. Children are taken out of the country legally, with the notarized consent of parents, who were convinced by the traffickers by deceit and abuse of the position of vulnerability.

As to correlation between the purpose of external trafficking in children and their sex, we can point out that in external trafficking in children only female children aged 16-17 were involved. In external trafficking in children for the purpose of exploitation of labor and exploitation in begging there were involved children of both sexes, but in exploitation in begging were involved small children, aged 5-16.

*In the period of November 2011, citizen N, by common consent and in advance agreement with the citizen G, citizen L and other people not established by criminal investigation agencies, working in an organized criminal group, for the purpose of trafficking in children for commercial sexual exploitation, without person's agreement, by deceit and under pretense of employment to a well-paid job as a seller and by abuse of the position of vulnerability of the victim due to her poor financial situation, recruited minor named Tamara, born in 1993, and persuaded her to come to Moscow.*

*Later, in order to realize their criminal intentions, citizen V, by common consent and in advance agreement with citizen G, citizen L and other people not established by criminal investigation agencies, organized transportation of the minor Tatiana in Moscow, paying for amendment of her passport and buying her ticket for the train Chisinau-Moscow.*

*On 05.11.2011 the minor Tatiana, coming to Moscow, was met by citizen G, who organized her transportation to an apartment in Moscow, where she was harbored and her documents were confiscated. Later, the minor, against her will was sexually exploited, being forced to provide sexual services during 3 months. Later, she managed to escape and returned in Moldova.*

<sup>5</sup> 19 criminal cases initiated by MIA/GPI and 1 penal case initiated by the Prosecution

Talking about **internal trafficking**, we would like to mention that **15** victims were identified (9 girls and 6 boys), 10 (ten) of them sexually exploited and 5 children (1 girl and 4 boys) – in labor. The victims sexual exploitation are 8 (eight) girls aged 15-17 and 2 boys aged 13-14).

*In the period December 2011-April 2012, citizen D, being in Chisinau municipality, acting together and by common consent with other people not established by criminal investigation agencies, recruited minor Angela, born in 1995, with the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.*

*Later, citizen D in order to realize his criminal intentions, following the purpose of benefiting from forcing minor Angela to prostitute, acting together and by common consent with other people not established by criminal investigation agencies, abusing child's position of vulnerability, expressed by difficult social situation, harbored the minor in several apartments from Chisinau, where she was subjected to commercial sexual exploitation.*

All trafficked children come from socially and economically vulnerable families, deprived of real parental care and left to survive on their own, which contributes and increases their level of vulnerability and abuse and violence against them.

With the purpose of recruitment, traffickers usually address children's parents, abusing their position of vulnerability, and parents are perfectly aware from the start in which activities their children are to be involved. As to the methods of recruitment, unlike recruitment of adults, in trafficking in children prevails **abuse of the position of vulnerability** – 14 victims, followed by **deceit** – 7 victims and **combination of deceit and abuse of the position of vulnerability** – 8 victims.

#### IV. SPECIFICS OF TRAFFICKING WITHIN THE COUNTRY

In 2013 there were recorded **20 crimes related to trafficking within the country**, in the result of which **28 victims** (13 adults and 15 victims) were subjected to exploitation in Republic of Moldova. As specific features of internal trafficking in children were analyzed in Chapter IV of this Report, in the present Chapter we will consider only cases of internal trafficking in adults..

Exploitation of labor is the main purpose of trafficking in human beings within the country. Thus, the number of victims exploited in labor within the country was 12 people and only one victim was sexually exploited. Victims of exploitation of labor are mainly men aged 30. Absolutely all victims come from rural area; they have no education and are socially vulnerable.

As to the methods of recruitment, the predominant method is combination of deceit and abuse of the position of vulnerability and, respectively, deceit.

An unusual case was recorded in Rezina district, where **recruitment** was conducted by abuse of power, applied to the victim (*see the box*).

*In May-June 2013, citizen Andrei, not being employed and looking for a job, assisted by a person, was temporarily employed to execute construction works in the building of cinema from Rezina, which belongs to the citizen S.*

*Citizen S for the purpose of exploitation of labor harbored Andrei in the premises of the cinema from Rezina, which belongs to him. Andrei and citizen S reached a common consent on the amount of works necessary to execute and payment for it.*

*Andrei, following assumed verbal obligations, within 3 weeks finished the agreed amount of works. However, citizen S refused to pay the salary for the amount of executed works, giving the victim a new amount of works. Thus, between the two originated quarrels, this resulted into fight. As a result, citizen S, by the abuse of power, applying physical and psychological violence, confiscating documents, forced Andrei to execute reconstruction works inside and outside the cinema building. In order to keep Andrei in the situation of exploitation in labor, S mistreated Andrei, demonstrating physical force to quell the resistance of the victim.*

## CONCLUSIONS

As demonstrated by the analysis of materials from criminal cases we can highlight 3 main directions (areas of THB destinations for Republic of Moldova):

- a) CIS area (Russian Federation and Ukraine);
- b) Middle East (Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Israel, etc.);
- c) EU area;

Each area of destination for THB is characterized by specific features, mainly, by methods of recruitment, transportation of victims, crossing borders, exploitation, modus operandi, profile of victims and traffickers, as well as circumstances related to the phenomenon of THB. Correlation “**area of destination – purpose of exploitation**” determines the nature of THB phenomenon in Republic of Moldova.

Thus, for **CIS area**, it is characteristic recruitment by usage of false employment proposals as seller, waitress, housekeeper, builder, etc. The contract between the recruiter and the victim in most cases is realized directly – by physical contact. Transportation mainly occurs by means of road and railroad transport. Victims transported to this area, cross state border legally, presenting valid identity documents of Moldovan citizens. They need no visa. As control methods at the stage of exploitation, the following ones are used: financial debt, which amount is not reasonably established, confiscation of identity documents, violence or threat of violence dangerous to life, threat of disclosing confidential information, restricting freedom of movements, deceit.

For the **Middle East area**, recruitment by use of false employment proposals in entertainment, as a rule, as dancers in nightclubs is characteristic. To establish contact between the recruiter and the victim social networks can be used. Transportation is mainly carried out by air transport; identity documents of Moldovan citizens are presented. Visas can be obtained directly in the airport of destination countries. Transport expenses are mainly covered by the traffickers, including sending electronic tickets to the victim. As control methods at the stage of exploitation, the following ones are used: financial debt, which amount is not reasonably established, confiscation of identity documents, violence or threat of violence dangerous to life, restricting freedom of movement, deceit.

For **EU area**, recruitment is mainly achieved by combination of deceit and abuse of the position of vulnerability. Transportation of victims is mainly carried out by route buses. In order to cross the border victims use identity documents of the citizens of RM and authentic visas obtained fraudulently or illegal crossing of the state border Turkey-Greece. Transportation expenses are covered by the criminals. The control methods are the same as used in other regions.

As control methods at the stage of exploitation, the following ones are used: financial debt, which amount is not reasonably established, confiscation of identity documents, violence or threat of violence dangerous to life, threat of disclosing confidential information, restricting freedom of movement, deceit, etc. Traffickers also use combination of the above-mentioned control methods.

Despite the present Report is elaborated as a starting point for further comparative analysis of the evolution of the phenomenon of THB, we can mention certain tendencies, already observed by Center specialists, as well as risks, which are to be monitored and supervised by all institutions and organizations working in this field:



- ... recruitment of victims for sexual exploitation through social networks for the Middle East area.
- ... in the Middle East area are recorded first cases of exploitation of forced labor and services, involving victims of another social profile (knowledge of a foreign language) and recruitment through agents specialized in official employment abroad.
- ... increasing criminal activity in trafficking for the purpose of begging within the country and in CIS area.
- ... exploitation of legal mechanisms in EU countries for trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation, especially in case of Greece.
- ... combination of legal and illegal methods of crossing the border and entering the destination country, especially in EU area; traffickers practically refused hidden/illegal methods of crossing the state border of RM, but they use different fraudulent methods to obtain visas, to enter and stay in the destination country.
- ... significant reduction of the period of exploitation, often within the time limit of legal stay in the country.
- ... recruitment by abuse of the position of vulnerability.

## FORECAST

- **Maintenance and possibly slight increase of the THB for the destination of Greece, as the principal destination country of the TFB from Moldova to EU direction.**
- **EU countries as Romania, Italy, Spain, Germany, Belgium may be considered by the traffickers as potential destination countries for THB from Republic of Moldova.**

*Greece used to be and still is a constant destination for the trafficking in human beings with purpose of sexual exploitation for the last three years. In comparison with the rest of the mentioned countries, real signals and cases were registered. The viza liberalization regime with EU as well as the permissive legislation regarding rendering of sexual services may serve as a catalyzer for these direction, new premises to exploit these zone will appear, as this fact will allow the traffickers better manage the risks, respectively some organizational and transportation expenses will be minimized.*

- **Northern Cyprus will keep to be exploited as a destination region, being the principal destination from those with special regime.**

*For many years, the region of the Northern Cyprus is a constant destination region for THB with purpose of sexual exploitation, and the investigation of THB cases to this destination is a big problem for the law enforcement agencies. Also, the region of Northern Cyprus is a hiding place for the traffickers, wherefrom, through the modern information technologies are keeping on their criminal activities. The fact that Northern Cyprus is not internationally recognized is making impossible the international police cooperation on this direction.*

- **Russian Federation will keep the position of the principal THB country of destination from the CIS zone with a possible temporary decrease.**

*Russia used to be the most constant and prevailing THB destination country in the last years for the all types of exploitation. Respectively, the traffickers will continue to take advantage at the maximum of the possibilities offered by the demand and easiness of organizing this criminal business, existing at the level of these country. However, in case of an eventual visa regime imposed against RM citizens, some organisational and victims transportation aspects may produce other associated offences committed by the traffickers. This process of the so called „reorganization” would cause a temporary decrease of the THB to this direction.*

- **Ukraine may be taken into consideration by the traffickers as a potential destination country from CIS zone, for THB with purpose of labor and begging exploitation.**

*In case of the restrictions regarding the entrance and stay imposed by Russian Federation to Moldavian citizens, this fact would complicate the transportation process of the victims, which is an important THB element, respectively may appear the necessity to look for other similar destinations. Due to these facts and also because of cultural, linguistic and geographical similarity, Ukraine may become attractive for the THB with purpose of labor and begging exploitation. More than that, more signals were registered in this respect. At the same time may take advantage of the unstable situation within the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine.*

- **The increasing trend of THB with purpose of exploitation through begging will be confirmed, especially in relation with persons extremely vulnerable of economical and social point of view, being recruited by abuse of their position of vulnerability.**

*The begging is constantly highlighting, the number of the THB cases as well as of the identified THB victims got doubled in the last 2 years, keeping the inscreasing trend comparing with the previous periods. This trend is available for both: adult and underage victims. Low knowledge possessed by the competent authorities about this type of exploitation, as well as an extremely vulnerable profile of the victims, is creating premises for traffickers to exploit this type of trafficking, with minimum investments and risks reported to the potential incomes.*

- **A possible increase of THB to the direction of Middle East specially to Israel or UAE, specially by the exploitation of the legal forms of labor organization.**

*In the last years new legal possibilities of employment of the Moldavian citizens abroad appeared, specially in countries as Israel or UAE, respectively certified agencies specialiyed in the providing of such servicies appeared too. UAE and Israel used to be and still are being considered as THB destinations, therefore under special circumstances this type of agencies may be used as a mask for the concealment of any criminal activities of the organization of trafficking of human beings to the said directions. More then that, real situations and cases supporting this hypothesis were already registered.*

**The Republic of Moldova may gradually become a tranzit and even destination country for the trafficking in human beings and smuggling of people.**

*In the framework of the visa liberalization regime, Republic of Moldova may become an attractive destination for the people coming from armed conflict regions. Also, there are an uncontroled and vulnerable portion of border (Transnistria region) which offers large possibilities to transport and introduce in the country the potential victims.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen cooperation with the law enforcement from potential countries of destination. Appointment of a liaison officer from Greece to Moldova could be a concrete tool. Use current international police cooperation platforms – SELEC, Interpol, and Europol - to streamline police-to-police information exchange with other European potential destination countries. Further use EUBAM tools to enhance the cooperation with the competent authorities of Ukraine including information and experience exchange.
- Organise and implement common action and operational plans with predefined tasks in partnership with Border Police Department and Migration and Azylum Bureau of MIA of the Republic of Moldova.
- Develop analytical products and tools meant to guide front-line police officers in detecting and identifying potential cases of trafficking considering new trends.
- Mobilise efforts of central and local public authorities, social services, NGOs and police to prevent begging of vulnerable people ensuring that relevant data and information is collected and studied to serve as basis for long term efforts planning.
- Monitoring migration phenomena of foreign citizens and their connection to employment companies operating in Moldova.
- Continue awareness of the population about risks of trafficking.