

# RESULTS OF THE STUDY ON

## Trafficking in Men for Labour Exploitation

Ukraine, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova

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*This study was commissioned by the International Organization for Migration Mission (IOM) in Ukraine with financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All the opinions, conclusions or recommendations are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM*

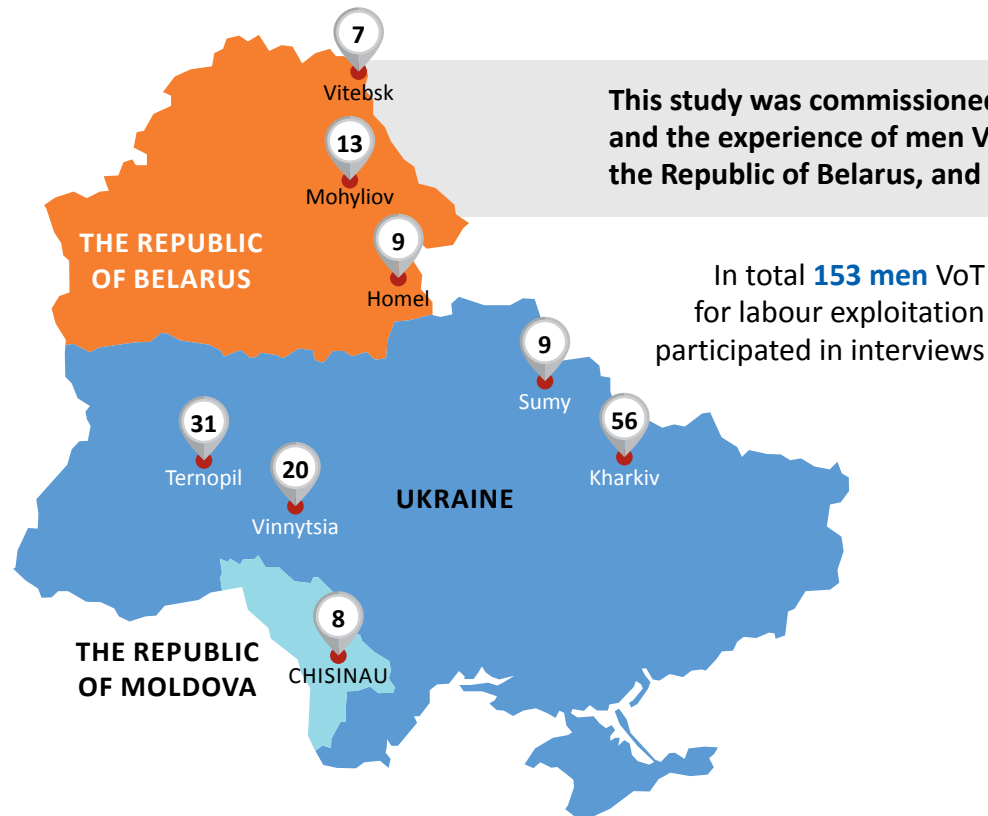


Norwegian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs



**International Organization  
for Migration (IOM)  
Mission in Ukraine**

# GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY

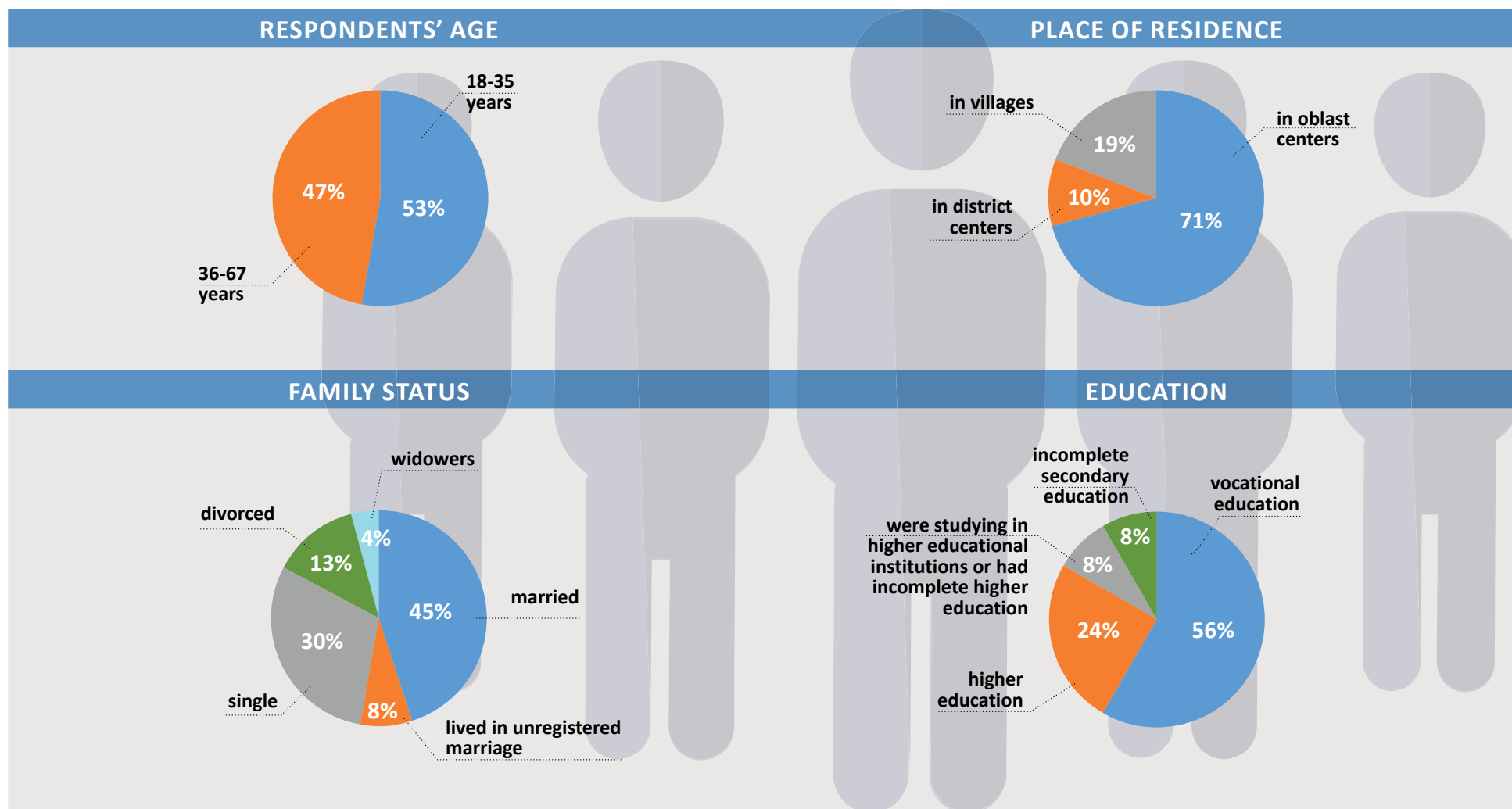


This study was commissioned to explore the situation of trafficking in human beings (THB) and the experience of men Victims of Trafficking (VoT) for labour exploitation from Ukraine, the Republic of Belarus, and the Republic of Moldova.

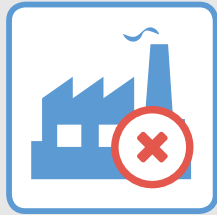


*Due to the qualitative design of the study, results are not representative and thus reflect only the experiences of the respondents interviewed. In addition, only men who received assistance as VoT from the IOM Mission in their respective country and its partner NGOs participated in this research.*

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF MEN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION



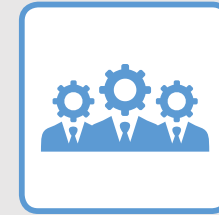
## PRECONDITIONS OF MEN TO BECOME VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING



local labour market problems, such as low levels of employment and widespread closure of industrial enterprises where a significant part of local population traditionally worked



significant differentiation of competitive wages between local and labour markets in destination country and a desire to seek higher earnings outside their country of origin



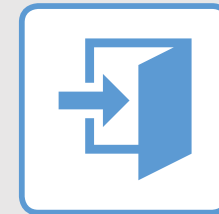
growing irrelevance of many professions for the modern labour market



a significant number of respondents' claimed to have had a positive experience of employment in another country, both during the time of the Soviet Union and in recent years



a willingness to go abroad, a desire for higher earnings



openness of borders (legality of migration) and knowledge of the language in the host country

## FACTORS THAT LEAD TO JOB-SEEKING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY



The Republic of Moldova



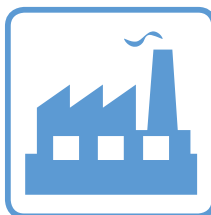
a seasonal prevalence in agriculture as a contributing factor of going abroad

“ There are no working places at the local level in villages, settlements. In summer they’ve got an opportunity to earn, but in winter in fact they are left without any job

(Expert, Moldova)



The Republic of Belarus



a reduced work week in countries abroad as well as difficulties related to private entrepreneurship regulation

“ After the study I went to work in my field – as a crane operator. But it happened so that I used to work two days a week, and the rest three – unpaid [leave]. I receive my salary accordingly [for two working days a week]...

(Respondent, Belarus)



Ukraine



a lack of opportunities for career growth and an existing large number of specialists with non-competitive professional education

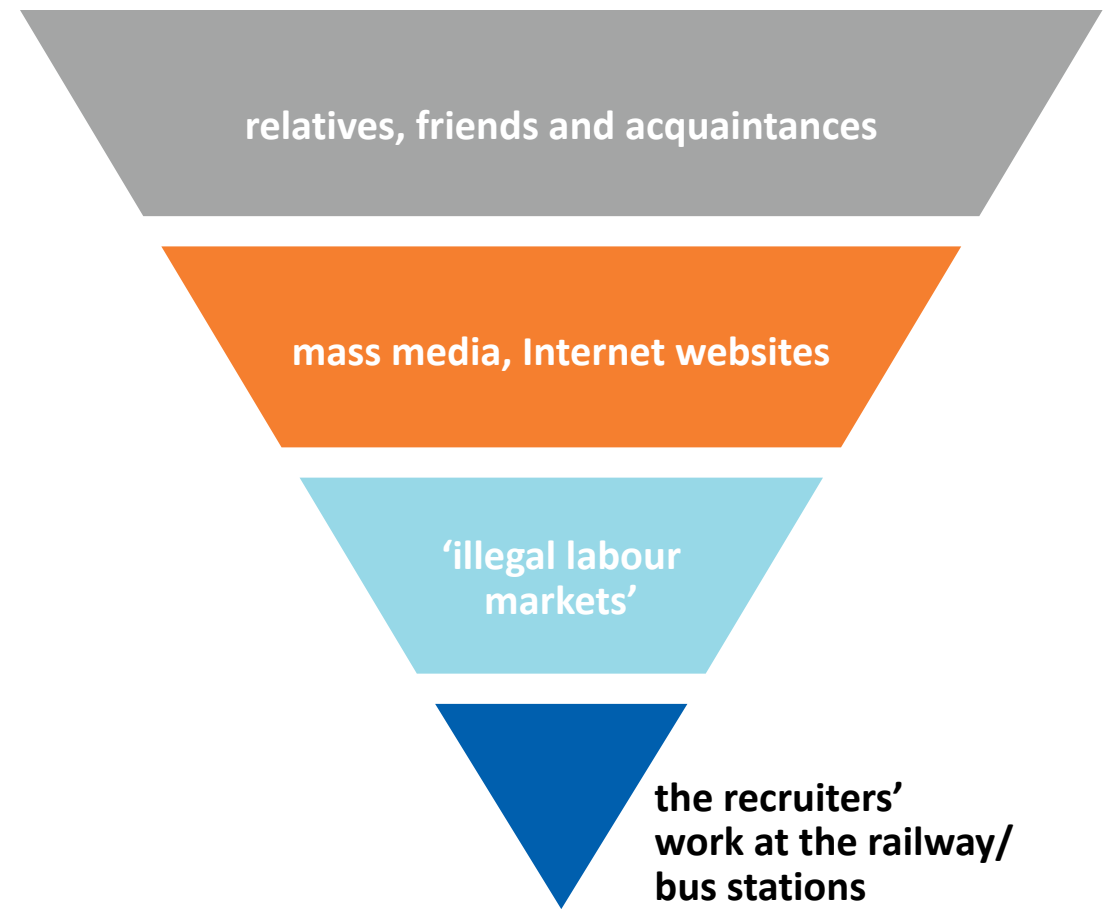
“ I started to get engaged into constructions. I used to have worked in such a way for some time, and then there wasn’t any job, and I have been staying without any income for several months. I had to search for something...

(Respondent, Ukraine)

## RECRUITMENT

- in the Republic of Belarus the recruiters offered jobs to unemployed persons even in public employment services (they were not the workers of those organizations)
- in Ukraine the recruiters used private employment agencies for person's engaging of men into trafficking
- in the Republic of Moldova there were cases when men with mental disabilities were engaged into domestic exploitation by the police officers who used their vulnerable condition

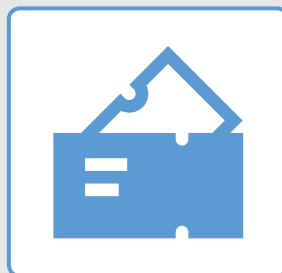
## THE SOURCES FROM WHICH VOTS RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORK



## WAYS OF TRANSFER:



transportation of the group of people by minibus rented by the potential employer (main)



one third of respondents purchased tickets at their own costs and were responsible for traveling to the previously agreed upon destination with the potential employer



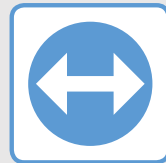
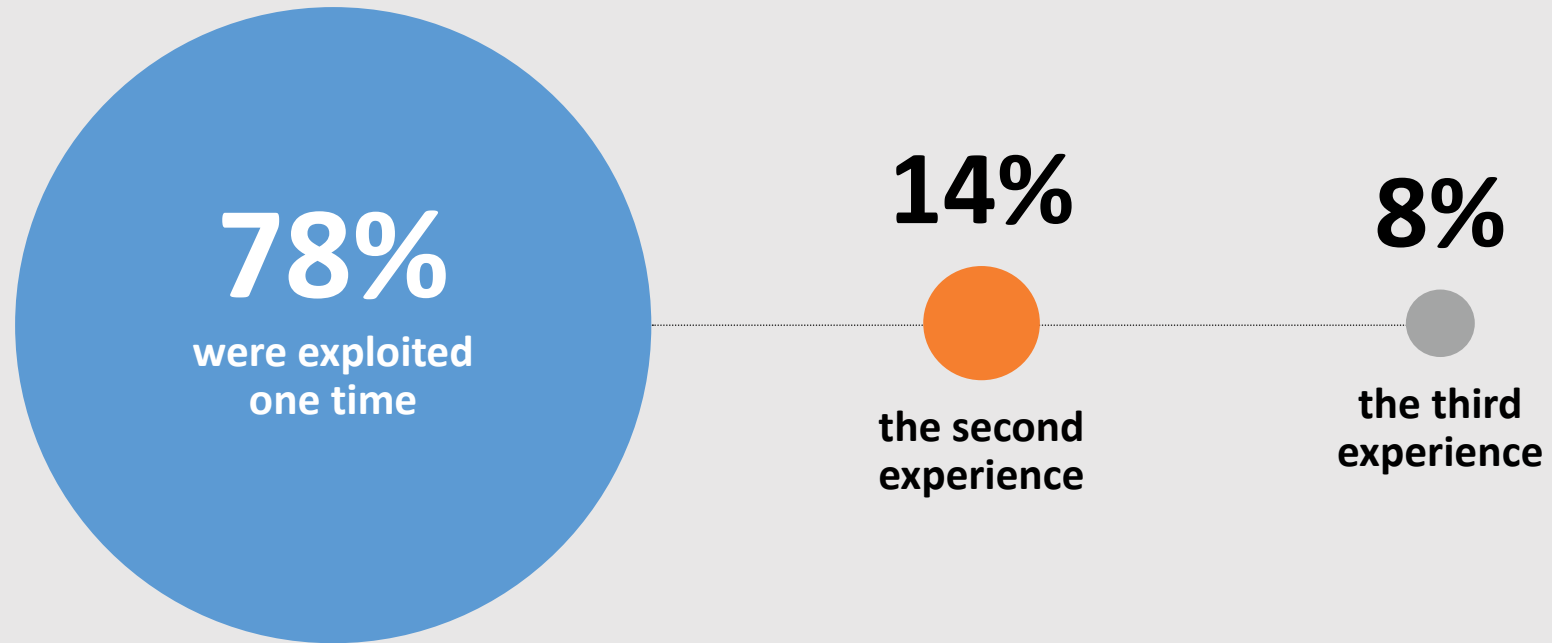
in some cases, arrived to the agreed upon destination but had to search for their job independently, as they were not met by anyone and did not have enough money for the return ticket



In most of the cases, respondents crossed the border legally with an official stamp in their passport.

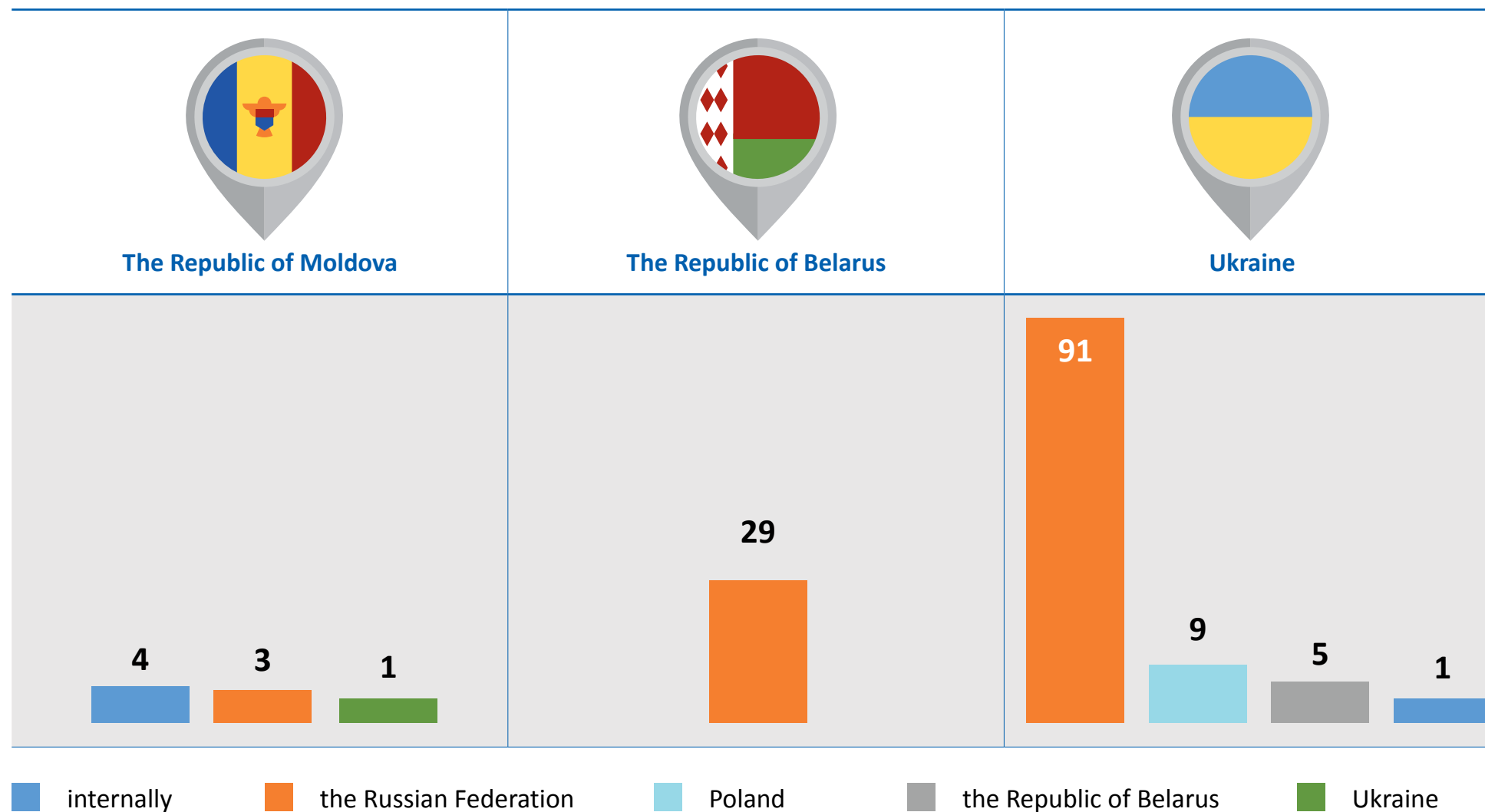
However, in some cases there were no marks in the passport, making it difficult for trafficking survivors to return to their country of origin.

## RE-TRAFFICKING EXPERIENCE

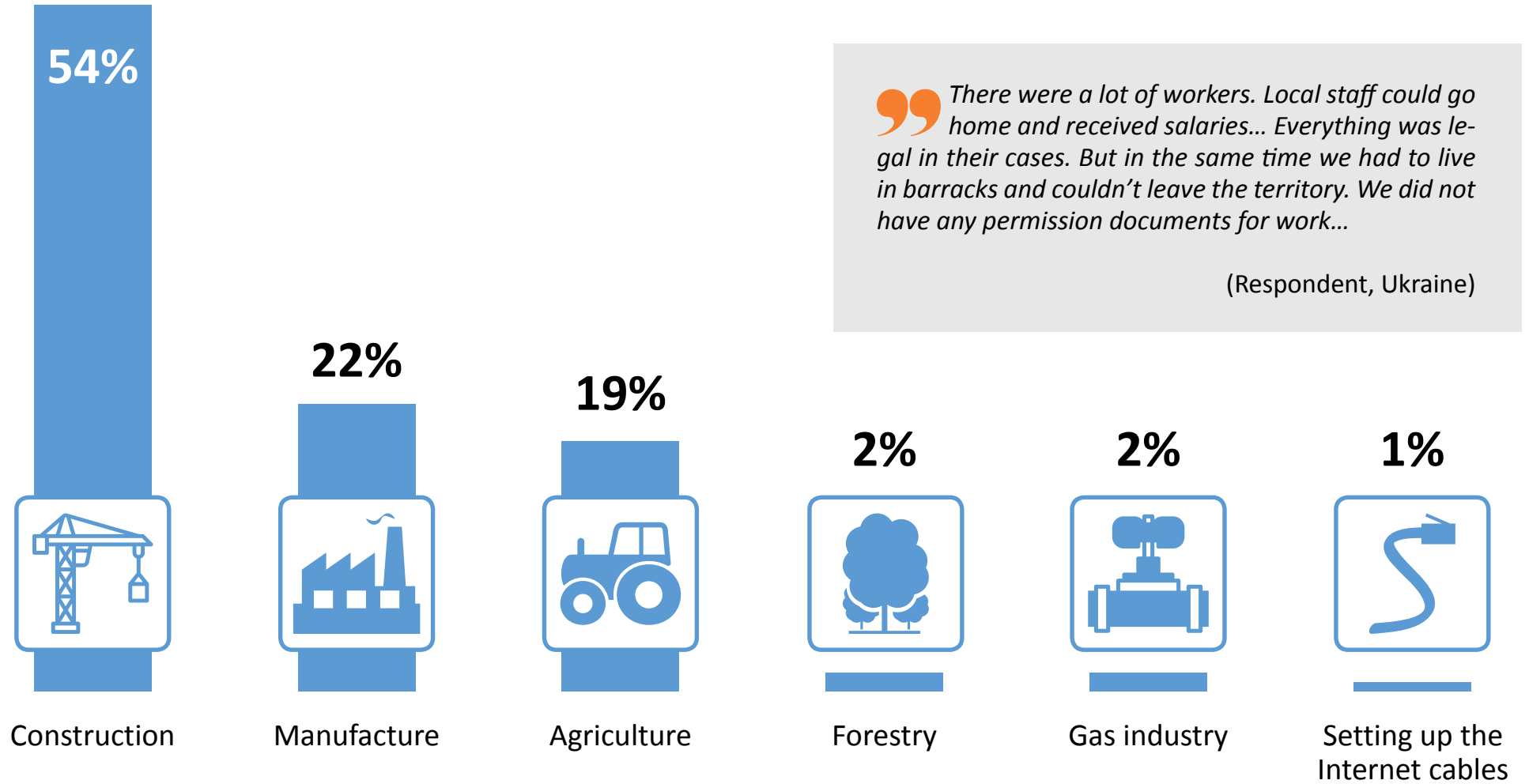


In most cases **exploitation lasted from one to three months**. The longest period of exploitation was over eight years.

## COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION, NUMBER OF CASES



## AREAS OF EXPLOITATION



## CONDITIONS DURING EXPLOITATION PERIOD



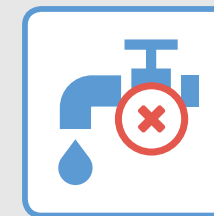
most of the respondents worked in dangerous conditions (harmful labour conditions, lack of safety means etc)



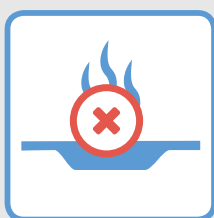
had a huge workload (12-16 hour working day without any days off)



mainly lived at the territory of the site where they worked in unfinished premises, trailers, barracks, greenhouses, basements, garages and storage rooms (barn) etc



had limited access to drinking water



had limited access to hot meals



had no access to appropriate sanitation conditions



had no access to adequate medical aid

” *Barracks... nothing to eat...we used to eat only tangerines... no water...*

(Respondent, Ukraine)

## EXPERIENCE OF ABUSE

**Economic**

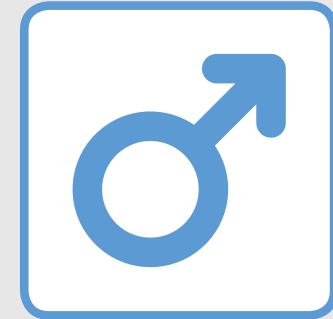
the most widely spread form of male abuse was a lack of remuneration for labour (not paying the wage earned or only partial payments for subsistence and return ticket home) and theft of personal goods (mobile phones, tablets etc.)

**Physical**

was used in situations when men did not agree for the work conditions that were suggested or when the men violated the employers' requirements (leaved the territory without permission or did not start the work on time etc), in cases of escape attempts

**Psychological**

was manifested via threats and intimidation

**Sexual**

the men themselves did not disclose any instances of sexual abuse, in several cases the experts indicated that they had identified signs of sexual abuse among men who requested medical aid



## RELEASE FROM EXPLOITATION

- in most cases VoTs were released after execution of the required scope of work
- also VoTs were released when permitted term for legal staying in the country without registration ended (three months in the Russian Federation)
- VoTs were released when they refused to work
- in some cases VoTs were released due to sudden worsening of their health
- some respondents managed to escape from the place of exploitation

**! On their return home, some respondents attempted to locate the recruiters and to bring them to justice, but without any results; none of the respondents indicated participation in the criminal process.**

*“Well, we have done almost everything then... they told us in the evening that we should pack up and leave, but where should we leave? We got into the car, then were travelling during twenty four hours, then we arrived, and we were told that we should go, but where should we go? Then we were told that we should turn our backs, and we got frightened that they would be shooting at us... But then they left a kind of package, started laughing, got into the car and left*

(Respondent, Ukraine)

## ASSISTANCE AND REINTEGRATION

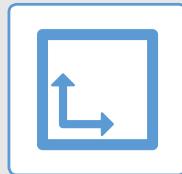
### Governmental organizations

Four respondents from Ukraine received assistance from the state social services.

The main barriers for referrals to governmental organizations were:



lack of information on the types of assistance



discrepancy of services with the real needs of victims



low quality of services



previous negative experience relating to processing and submitting of documents



fear of violation of confidentiality

### Non-governmental organizations

All the respondents were receiving assistance.



they referred in 6-12 months on their return home



the main sources of the information on the assistance which they used were relatives and acquaintances who were experiencing labour exploitation along with them

“ They do not disclose ... that they are victims. They feel ashamed to refer to anyone and to tell that there were such conditions... That I was kept without any food, my passport was taken away... They think: I failed this time, I would try it again, maybe, the next time it would be a success, and I will wait for a while

(Expert, Moldova)

### Received services



financial assistance  
(food packages,  
hygiene means etc)



education and  
requalification



medical services at  
the IOM Rehabilitation  
Center for Victims  
of Trafficking



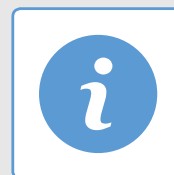
programs  
ensured self-  
employment and  
microenterprise

### Additional necessary services



#### legal

- the ways of verification of employers/  
employment agencies
- assistance in making agreements
- methods of collection of evidence base  
on the facts of labour exploitation)



#### informational

- placing the data on dishonest employers in the  
Internet/ social communication networks
- informing on the organizations providing  
assistance to victims
- informing on risks and strategies to escape risky  
situations in which the exploited men can get into



**skill-building training preparing**  
for high risk situations

## RISKS OF RE-TRAFFICKING

### During the interviewing period:



most respondents were self-employed



engaged into occasional earnings ('moonlighting'), and that was the main source of their income



part of the respondents already had the experience of recurring exploitation

*“It’s a kind of our Russian, Belarussian ‘what if it would not happen to me’.... They are aware that they might be cheated, not paid, but there is such a despair, they go to try their fortune anyway*

(Expert, Belarus)



every fifth respondent was ready to leave home again if promised employment, however to another (from previous place of exploitation) country or on the condition of official employment

*“I will be more careful now.... I will go only in case any of my acquaintances went there and earned anything there*

(Respondent, Belarus)



some respondents were ready to work abroad again but only in case of emergency



only those men strongly objected the likelihood of the repeated departure who had experienced physical abuse or received traumas or chronic diseases as a result of them being exploited

*“I would have never ever went again any more, even if I was promised a million there, I used to be promised by them... they delivered... I do not want anything after that*

(Respondent, Ukraine)



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