

**2024 Report of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

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**Introduction**

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter: the MDS TZL or the Inter-Ministerial Working Group), which was established in 2003 and is headed by the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter: the National Coordinator), continued to carry out tasks within the scope of their powers and activities set out in the 2023–2024 Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The Anti-Trafficking Service of the Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter: the MNZ SPBTL) lent professional support to the National Coordinator.

The 2023 report on the work of the MDS TZL summarises the activities carried out for the prevention and combating trafficking in human beings in five chapters. The first presents changes in legislation and activities in accordance with national and international obligations. The report then describes the activities for the prevention of trafficking in human beings, including various forms of awareness-raising activities among the general public and among risk groups of potential victims of trafficking and training modules for the professional public whose work is connected with the issue in question. The chapter on the detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal offences contains the report on the work of the Police and prosecutors, who play a key role in this field. This chapter also presents the activities of the Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the IRSD) and the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the FURS), as the issue of trafficking in human beings in a broader sense in intertwined with the issue of labour exploitation and undeclared employment and work. The fourth chapter contains information on help and care for victims of trafficking in human beings, while the last chapter describes the international activities of the MDS TZL during the reporting year and partnerships at the national level.

The 2024 report highlights important legislative changes at the European Union level that require an upgrade of national mechanisms and emphasizes Slovenia's role in applying new European standards. Extensive preventive activities, numerous training courses for professionals, and intensive international cooperation demonstrate the seriousness and breadth of the country's approach to this issue. Despite progress, challenges remain, particularly in the areas of law enforcement, compensation for victims, identification of cases of forced labour, and protection of children and other vulnerable groups, especially among applicants for international protection. The annual report thus provides a comprehensive overview of Slovenia's efforts to take more effective action and strengthen the system of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings.

**1.** Legislation and policies

**1.1 Changes in legislation**

On 13 June 2024, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted Directive (EU) 2024/1712 amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. EU Member States must transpose this Directive into national law within two years. The main new features of this Directive are an expanded definition of trafficking in human beings to include new forms of exploitation of victims (surrogacy, forced marriage, illegal adoption),  the dissemination of materials of a sexual nature by means of information and communication technologies as an aggravating circumstance, the conscious use of human trafficking services is criminalized, and training is required for a wider range of professional services to identify, assistance and protection for victims, provision of appropriate technological equipment, coordination between international protection authorities and authorities responsible for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, provision of sufficient accommodation for victims and appropriate specialized care for victims, establishing or strengthening referral mechanisms in all EU Member States for the early identification of victims (with a description of their urgent needs) mandatory establishment of national coordinators and optional establishment of an independent monitoring body, adoption and implementation of national action plans (for at least five years) and mandatory annual reporting and harmonized data collection at EU level.

The content of the aforementioned directive was discussed at a meeting of the MDS TZL on 10 July 2024, at which its members concluded that most of the provisions of the amended directive are already included in the legal order of the Republic of Slovenia, while the transposition of some others must be carried out in a timely manner. The preparation of amendments to the legal provisions for the transposition of the Directive falls within the competence of the Ministry of Justice, which already began preparatory activities in 2024. The key new features of the Directive that require legislative intervention are the expanded definition of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings to include new forms of exploitation of victims and the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism in the field of combating trafficking in human beings. The former requires the preparation and adoption of amendments to Article 113 of the Criminal Code, while the latter requires amendments to the Human Rights Ombudsman Act. The establishment of an independent mechanism to monitor the activities of state authorities in the field of preventing and combating trafficking in human beings is envisaged within the Ombudsman's Office. The main task of national reporting will be to prepare independent reports on state measures in this area and proposals for improvements, particularly from the perspective of the status of victims of human trafficking and the protection of their rights.

On 27 November 2024, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union also adopted Regulation (EU) 2024/3015, which introduces a comprehensive ban on products made with forced labour on the European Union market. The aim of the Regulation is to protect the fundamental rights of workers and prevent products made with forced labour from entering the European Union's single market or being exported from it. The Regulation is an important step in the European Union's efforts to protect human rights and ensure ethical standards in global supply chains. Companies operating in the EU market will have to review and, where necessary, adjust their supply chains and put in place appropriate mechanisms to ensure compliance with the new legislation. The implementation of the regulation in Slovenia is coordinated by the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport in cooperation with other relevant ministries.

In practice, certain shortcomings have been identified in the Manual on the Identification, Assistance and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 5 May 2016 (Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia No. 02402-2/2016/5). Its update was planned, but was postponed due to anticipated changes and amendments to European and national regulations. The handbook needs to be supplemented so that, in addition to harmonising it with the changes to the regulations, it also regulates the area of health protection for victims of human trafficking, defines the procedure for returning victims to their country of origin and specifies the procedure for dealing with child victims of human trafficking (strengthening the referral mechanism). In order to develop standard operating procedures for the identification and protection of potential child victims of trafficking among applicants for international protection, a meeting of a select interministerial working group was convened on 18 April 2024, at which conclusions were drawn up and are already being implemented. In addition, a workshop on this topic was held on 21 October 2024 in cooperation with representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (hereinafter: UNHCR). The standard operating procedures will be part of the updated manual. A special chapter of the manual will also be devoted to the principle of impunity for victims of trafficking in human beings for their involvement in illegal activities, if they were forced to do so, as provided for in Article 26 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

On 26 April 2024, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Resolution on the National Programme for the Prevention and Suppression of Crime 2024–2028 (EPA 1360-IX) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 38/24). The resolution highlights the issue of human trafficking in several places, e.g. in preventive measures, threats to public health, in prevention strategies/programmes (prevention of trafficking in human organs, tissues, and blood, prevention, detection, and investigation of cybercrime, within the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats – EMPACT 2022+), etc.

In 2024, a public call for proposals was launched to select research projects under Target Research Programme (CRP 2024), co-funded by the Slovenian Research Agency (hereinafter: ARIS). The reason for the proposed project is the decrease in the number of convictions for human trafficking in recent years and the different judicial practices in the area of human trafficking offences dealt with by specialised departments of district courts at the seats of higher courts (in Ljubljana, Maribor, Cele and Koper) in Slovenia, which indicates the need for a comprehensive and in-depth expert analysis of criminal legislation and judicial practice in this area over the last ten years. The aim of the analysis is to objectively examine the actual situation and provide recommendations for more effective prosecution of such crimes, including proposals for possible legislative changes. The Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana was selected in the CRP 2024 public call for proposals to carry out a 12-month research project. A total of €30,000 was allocated for the project, €15,000 from ARIS funds and €15,000 from the Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter: MNZ). Some of the activities within the project were already carried out in 2024, and the project is expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2025.

**1.2 Implementation of activities in accordance with the accepted national and international obligations**

On 17 October 2019, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia established the MDS TZL by Resolution No. 01203-9/2019/6. The group is led by the national coordinator for combating trafficking in human beings and its members are representatives of the relevant ministries and government services. Representatives of the Specialized State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, and civil society also participate in the group's work as independent external members. The resolution is updated as necessary due to changes of members; the latest amendment was adopted by Resolution No. 01200-8/2022/13 of 10 October 2024.

The appointment of the national coordinator and the establishment of the MDS TZL are part of the implementation of requirements in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, which stem from international law and Union acquis. In 2009, the Republic of Slovenia ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which in Article 29 provides for the designation of specially trained independent persons and bodies with financial resources to carry out their tasks and for coordination between the policies of government departments and other public bodies, where necessary through the establishment of coordinating bodies.

The MDS TZL met four times in 2024. It discussed current issues in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and adopted conclusions for more effective implementation of policies in this area. In addition, a meeting of a select group was convened to discuss the adequacy of the identification and protection of presumed victims of human trafficking among minor applicants for international protection. Further steps to address the issue were agreed upon.

In 2024, MDS TZL began preparing the 2025–2026 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and prepared its annual report on its work for 2023, which was presented to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 19 June 2024.

In June 2023, Slovenia completed the third round of evaluations on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, in which we received several recommendations and the obligation to report on the measures taken by 16 June 2025. On 10 December 2024, a round table on the implementation of their recommendations in the third round of evaluation of Slovenia was held in Ljubljana under the auspices of representatives of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). The round table was attended by members of the MDS TZL and representatives of other organizations.

In accordance with established practice, in 2024 the Ministry of the Interior also participated in the preparation of the annual report of the United States Department of State on trafficking in persons. Once again, the report ranked Slovenia in the group of countries that do not fully meet the minimum standards in the fight against human trafficking but are making significant efforts to do so (so-called TIER 2). The report highlighted as particularly problematic the lack of convictions for the offence of human trafficking, and also drew attention to the issues of compensation, identification and prosecution of human trafficking for the purpose of forced labour and labour exploitation, identification of victims of trafficking among applicants for international protection, especially children, provision of oversight of foreign labour recruitment agencies, training of judges and other stakeholders, and establishment of a national reporting mechanism.

In accordance with the National Programme of Measures for Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2021–2030 (NPUR 2021–2030), the Government Office for National Minorities will continue to implement fundamental measures in 2024 to combat trafficking in human beings, forced, arranged, and early marriages and exposure of minors to harmful environments.

**2. Prevention**

**2.1 Raising awareness among the general public**

In 2024, MDS TZL continued to raise awareness among the general public and the media about the issue of human trafficking, particularly on EU Anti-Trafficking Day and the World Day against Trafficking in Persons and the visit of the GRETA group in connection with the preparation of the final response to the third round of evaluations of Slovenia's implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

**2.1.1 EU Anti-Trafficking Day and World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**

The EU Anti-Trafficking Day was dedicated by MDS TZL to raising awareness about human trafficking, with an emphasis on sexual abuse and raising awareness among potential users of services provided by victims of human trafficking. As part of the project, a contractor carried out activities to raise awareness among vulnerable groups and the general public. The target group for awareness-raising activities was selected from among the residents of several specialised special needs educational institutions. The activities were carried out at three such institutions, in Višnja Gora, Jarše - Ljubljana and Kranj. Discussions were organized on the risks of sexual exploitation of young people, the methods used to recruit potential victims in person and via social networks, the links between prostitution and human trafficking, and the assistance available. The general public was made aware of the issue through a 30-second TV spot and posts on social media. In addition, an expert meeting was organized on 18 October 2024 at the City Hall in Ljubljana, which was attended by, among others, the national coordinator for combating trafficking in human beings. The meeting was attended by 84 participants from the professional community, 10 speakers, and 9 media representatives. Events to mark the EU Anti-Trafficking Day took place from 18 to 25 October 2024, with activities continuing until 14 November 2024, when the video spot was shown during the last home match of the Nations League. The project was funded by the Ministry of the Interior and implemented by the Društvo Ključ association.

On EU Anti-Trafficking Day, Caritas Slovenia prepared a press release, which was published on its website, on Facebook, and by the press office of the Slovenian Bishops' Conference. The press release was also summarized or published by the media.

On the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the Ministry of the Interior published a press release on its website and social media channels linked to the United Nations campaign "Leave no child behind in the fight against trafficking in persons," which calls for stronger action to end child trafficking. In its statement, the Ministry of the Interior pointed out that one in three victims of human trafficking worldwide is a child. Like adults, children are exposed to various forms of trafficking, including forced labour, illegal adoption, exploitation for criminal activities, online and sexual abuse, and recruitment into armed forces. In low-income countries, children are most often victims of forced labour, while in developed countries, sexual exploitation is the most common form of trafficking. The report also states that the United Nations calls on countries to take comprehensive action to combat child trafficking through coordinated efforts at the national and international levels. Countries must take appropriate measures to protect children, improve legislation and law enforcement, and allocate more resources to combat child trafficking. Efforts to prevent this phenomenon should focus on addressing its root causes, such as poverty and inequality, and particular attention should also be paid to child trafficking in the context of migration.

On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Caritas Slovenia sent a press release to media outlets, which some of them published on their channels. The press release was also published on its website, on Facebook, and by the press office of the Slovenian Bishops' Conference. On this occasion, an expert from the project Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking – Crisis Accommodation also gave a statement to Radio Ognjišče and an interview for an RTV Slovenia news program. After World Day, the newspaper Domovina published a three-page interview on human trafficking and preventive measures.

**2.1.2 Website**

In 2024, the MNZ SPBTL continued to ensure that the content of the website on the central government portal gov.si (<https://www.gov.si/en/registries/projects/combating-trafficking-in-human-beings/>) in Slovenian and English was consistently updated with information and data for the current year. The MNZ SPBTL also ensured that the content was consistent with the provisions of the Accessibility of Websites and Mobile Applications Act.

**2.1.3 Other activities**

Members of the MDS TZL were involved in the preparation of various media publications in the reporting year. As part of its activities and projects, the Društvo Ključ association organized four events for the general public, which were attended by 646 people (funded by City of Ljubljana, Office for Youth, City of Ljubljana Department of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of the Interior, and Foundation for Financing Disability and Humanitarian Organisations). As part of the Human Rights 75 campaign, to mark the EU Day Against Trafficking in Human Beings, a short video was made and broadcast on POP TV and RTV Slovenija, shared on the Društvo Ključ social media channels, and posted on YouTube.

In 2024, Caritas Slovenia was also active in raising awareness about human trafficking in the media. Its representative took part in the Student Run to Ljubljana Castle, and Caritas Slovenia had a booth at the event to present its projects to visitors. The programme Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking – Crisis Accommodation was also presented in promotional materials and through a quiz. Caritas and its work featured in a Radio Ognjišče programme on the pitfalls of human trafficking and its forms. A major media campaign was also carried out on Facebook and Instagram, targeting young people and their parents. Five ad formats (a story and reel on Facebook and three reels on Instagram) and two Facebook posts were prepared and promoted. The campaign reached approximately 8,500 target users. Representatives of Caritas Slovenia also attended the Stična Youth Festival, where they presented their programmes to young people and provided them with important information on how to recognise human trafficking and what self-protection measures to take to avoid becoming victims. The event was attended by more than 3,000 young people, and more than 2,500 leaflets were distributed among the visitors.

**2.2 Raising awareness among risk groups**

**2.2.1 Raising awareness among children and young people**

* **Activities of the MNZ SPBTL**

In accordance with the 2023–2024 Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the MNZ SPBTL continued to carry out systematic workshops aimed at raising awareness among children and young people of the dangers of trafficking, forms of trafficking, and appropriate action and self-protective behaviour. Based on a three-year plan, divided by region, the 2023/2024 workshops were carried out in primary schools in the Primorsko-Notranjska, Obalno-Kraška, Posavska and South-Eastern Slovenia regions and in secondary schools in the Central Slovenia, Gorenjska, Goriška and Zasavska regions. In 2024/2025, awareness-raising was organised in primary schools in the Podravska, Pomurska, Savinjska and Koroška regions and in secondary schools in the Obalno-Kraška, Primorsko-Notranjska, Posavska and South-Eastern regions. As part of preventive activities, 181 teachers and other educators were given information and guidance on the topic.

1550 workshops were carried out in 2023, i.e. 66 in primary and 86 in secondary schools, attended by 3,237 students and 181 teachers. The analysis of surveys completed by the students at the end of the workshops showed that the aim of the awareness-raising was achieved, as nearly all participating students acquired new information (96%) enabling most of them (75%) to identify trafficking in human beings.

*Table 1: Workshops on trafficking carried out in primary and secondary schools in 2024*

| ***School/Region*** | ***Number of workshops*** | ***Number of students*** | ***Number of teachers*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Primary schools** | **69** | **1358** | **94** |
| South-Eastern Slovenia | 6 | 120 | 11 |
| Posavska | 1 | 15 | 1 |
| Obalno-kraška | 6 | 101 | 7 |
| Primorsko-notranjska | 7 | 105 | 8 |
| Podravska | 10 | 206 | 13 |
| Pomurska | 3 | 68 | 5 |
| Savinjska | 6 | 113 | 11 |
| Koroška | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other regions | 30 | 630 | 38 |
| **Secondary schools** | **86** | **1879** | **87** |
| South-Eastern Slovenia | 32 | 807 | 33 |
| Gorenjska | 12 | 219 | 13 |
| Zasavska | 3 | 52 | 2 |
| Goriška | 7 | 181 | 10 |
| Koroška | 7 | 206 | 14 |
| Pomurska | 6 | 115 | 3 |
| Podravska | 4 | 95 | 3 |
| Savinjska | 2 | 39 | 2 |
| Other regions | 13 | 165 | 7 |
| **Total** | **155** | **3237** | **181** |

* **Activities of NGOs and humanitarian organisations**

The Društvo Ključ Association held 113 workshops and discussion sessions for 2,549 children and young people in Slovenian secondary schools, educational institutions, youth homes, and residential groups to raise awareness among young people. They provided more than 1,134 information sessions for 3,205 vulnerable individuals who are employed in high-risk occupations or are applicants for international protection.

Within the contract on co-financing the "Providing assistance to victims of human trafficking – Crisis accommodation" project, Caritas Slovenia held 24 preventive workshops, attended by 654 students (as well as teachers, parents, group mentors and volunteers) from six statistical regions (Gorenjska, Podravska, Obalno-kraška, Central Slovenia, Pomurska and South-Eastern Slovenia). As part of this project, 15,000 copies of preventive material were published to warn young people about the dangers and pitfalls of human trafficking. The material was distributed to young people at workshops. They also responded to requests from stakeholders, ranging from legal entities to individuals, who asked for cooperation in the form of surveys and interviews for the preparation of seminar papers and theses.

**2.2.2 Preventive action in terms of awareness-raising and the prevention of trafficking in human beings in the Roma community**

The Government Office for National Minorities continued to implement activities within the SIFOROMA6 project.

**2.3 Raising awareness among and training of the professional community**

The Criminal Police Directorate at the General Police Directorate (hereinafter: the GPU UKP) continuously trains both criminal investigators and local police officers. In this context, attention is paid to identifying various forms of trafficking in human beings and identifying the indicators of potential victims of trafficking and its perpetrators and to competencies in subsequent specific procedures concerning the treatment of victims and conduct of pre-trial proceedings.

Nine such training courses were conducted in 2024. On 12 and 13 February 2024, training was provided to criminal investigators from regional criminal police divisions who investigate offences of trafficking in human beings. Twenty-four criminal investigators participated in an advanced training course. The topic of trafficking in human beings was presented to ten future criminal investigators in a specialist criminal investigation course. On 15 and 29 February 2024, training was provided for 40 police officers from the Centre for Foreigners. On 19 September and 11 October 2024, two full-day workshops were held for employees of the Savinjsko-Šaleška and Celje Social Work Centres (40 participants). In addition, a lecture was given to representatives of the Association of Social Work Centres and the police (around 100 participants) on 21 March 2024. On 19 November 2024, joint training for border police officers (21 participants) was carried out in cooperation with UNHCR.

The Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants continued its regular training of social workers and experts on various forms of violence, vulnerability, and human trafficking. In addition, two people attended a train-the-trainer course on human trafficking organized by the European Union Agency for Asylum. They are now qualified to deliver such training to other staff. The Društvo Ključ Association, which runs the project of informing applicants for international and temporary protection about the dangers of human trafficking, gender-based and sexual violence (PATS), conducted specialist training for the employees of the Postojna accommodation centre for unaccompanied minors. Legebitra also provided training on providing assistance to LGBTIQ+ persons for employees at all locations of the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants.

On 3 December 2024, the MNZ SPBTL held a training session on trafficking in human beings for employees of the Financial Administration (FURS). Participants learned about current trends in human trafficking and new legislation, with an emphasis on the problem of identifying forced labour or labour exploitation. The training took place at the General Financial Office of FURS and was attended by 72 employees. On 8 October 2024, a remote training course was organized via videoconference for administrative unit employees, particularly those working as registrars, as they may come across forced marriages when officiating weddings. The training was attended by 219 people. In addition to registrars, the training was also attended by employees who issue single residence and work permits to third country nationals. On 12 December 2024, training was provided for employees of the Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia, focusing on forced labour or labour exploitation as one of the purposes of human trafficking. Two documents were also presented: Guidelines for Labour Inspectors – Identifying Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and Handbook for Employers – Preventing Forced Labour. The training took place in Olimje and was attended by 130 employees.

On 17 and 18 December 2024, the Migration Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior organised internal training on combating trafficking in human beings and identification in international protection procedures and timely action. The training was attended by 18 employees of the Migration Directorate working in the field of international protection procedures and family reunification. The purpose of the training was to equip decision-makers and persons employed in the Operational Affairs Section of the International Protection Division who come into contact with victims or potential victims of trafficking in human beings (applicants for international protection) with the knowledge and skills necessary to detect and address signs of trafficking in human beings, identify victims and prepare and conduct interviews with victims or potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs made an indirect contribution to preventing and combating trafficking in human beings by providing training for economic advisers and young diplomats on socially responsible behaviour as part of economic diplomacy, in the field of combating corruption, in line with the Ministry's integrity plan. A representative of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption participated in the training of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs staff on the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, as part of the lower diplomatic examination in April and May 2024, and at the annual meeting of economic advisers in June 2024. Trafficking in human beings is part of the consular service's regular preparatory training that staff need to undergo before being posted to diplomatic and consular missions abroad. Human trafficking was also discussed at a consular symposium. Consular officers were presented with specific examples that they may encounter in their work. The issue of human trafficking was also addressed as part of the consular examination, thereby ensuring that consular officials are able to successfully identify cases indicating potential human trafficking in their work. Diplomats posted abroad who deal with consular issues were trained in 2024 to identify cases indicating potential human trafficking and to conduct procedures with foreigners in accordance with Slovenian law. The procedures were conducted with particular sensitivity towards the most vulnerable participants and consistent detection of and response to possible human trafficking. In the fight against human trafficking, the diplomatic and consular missions informally check the frequency and forms of these cases among their contacts with other diplomatic and consular missions and representatives of the host country.

As part of the programme for the implementation of public powers of the Social Chamber of Slovenia for the period from 1 to 31 December 2024, financed by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (hereinafter: MDDSZ), the Social Chamber of Slovenia held a seminar for employees and external staff of social work centres on 5 November 2024, focusing on work with foreigners, refugees, migrants, and victims of human trafficking. The first part of the seminar focused on human migration and the integration of immigrants, as well as the network of institutions, organizations, and programs supporting migrants. In the second part of the seminar, participants learned about migrant statuses, legal frameworks, and migrants' rights. They focused on young migrants and unaccompanied children, with an emphasis on children who are victims of human trafficking, and various forms of exploitation of these children, and learned how to help them. This was followed by an interactive part with seminar participants on a case study, during which they raised some dilemmas that arise in their work and are related to the competences of social work centres. Challenges and good practices in helping migrants integrate and in relation to unaccompanied children, with a focus on child victims of human trafficking, were also presented. The seminar was attended by 52 people.

The Government Office for National Minorities held a professional lecture entitled Identifying early and forced marriages in the Roma community and taking action in such cases as part of the SIFOROMA6 project on 12 April 2024 in Ljubljana. The lecture was intended for court-appointed experts in relevant fields (clinical psychology, family medicine, family psychology, social work, child and adolescent psychiatry).

In 2024, the Društvo Ključ association organized 36 training courses for professionals, which were attended by 622 people, and 16 training courses for young experts, which were attended by 564 people from several faculties. As part of Campaign 75 to mark the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, a professional conference was also organized on child abuse for prostitution in Slovenia, which was attended by more than 100 experts in the field.

In 2024, Caritas Slovenia signed an agreement with the Logatec Health Centre on cooperation in providing psychiatric help to victims of human trafficking. To ensure psychiatric help for victims of human trafficking, it also established contact with a psychiatrist at the Polje Psychiatric Clinic.

**3. Detecting, investigating and prosecuting criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings**

This chapter, on the detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal offences, mainly covers the activities of the Police and prosecutors' offices, including measurable results on the number of offenders dealt with and on victims, as well as on the number of charges and final convictions. The chapter also includes the activities of the Internal Affairs Inspectorate (IRSD and the FURS, because in monitoring the implementation of the sectoral legislation within their respective remit, the content of their activities overlaps and generally relates to the issue of labour exploitation, illegal employment and work and to the employment and exploitation of migrant workers.

**3.1 Activities of the Police**

In the area of investigating criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings, the police have established that the trend of previous years is continuing in Slovenia, with the country still being a country of destination for victims of trafficking in human beings. The most common form of exploitation of victims is still prostitution and sexual abuse, but cases of labour exploitation have also been reported. The police have no information that Slovenia is a country of origin for victims of human trafficking who are exploited in other EU Member States or third countries. However, Slovenia is also a transit country through which potential victims pass.

The detection of exploitation of victims of human trafficking depends primarily on proactive police activities aimed at detecting these offenses and identifying victims as citizens and victims rarely report these offenses.

**3.1.1 Trafficking in human beings under Article 113 of the KZ-1**

In 2024 the Police dealt with 43 suspected criminal offences of trafficking in human beings in accordance with Article 113 of the Criminal Code (hereinafter: KZ-1)[[1]](#footnote-1), of which 18 were confirmed as criminal offences of trafficking in human beings and criminal complaints were filed with the competent state prosecutor's offices. In 12 cases no basis for the filing of a criminal complaint was established so reports were sent to the competent state prosecutor's offices on the basis of Article 148(10) of the Criminal Procedure Act (hereinafter: ZKP). Thirteen criminal offences from 2024 are still being investigated; these investigations have not yet been completed during the reporting period.

*Table 2: Number of investigated criminal offences of trafficking in human beings in the 2020­-2024 and the result of investigation*

| Trafficking in human beings | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criminal complaint | 29 | 42 | 6 | 25 | 18 |
| Report (Article 148(10) of the CPA) | 8 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 12 |

In 2024, the police identified 17 victims of human trafficking and 28 potential[[2]](#footnote-2) victims of human trafficking. Victims of sexual exploitation were nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Serbia, and Colombia, all female, while potential victims of labour exploitation were mostly nationals of the Philippines and Romania.

*Table 3: Number of victims of trafficking in human beings identified in 2024 by sex and nationality*

| Nationality | Male | Female | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Montenegro | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Croatia | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Columbia | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Serbia | 0 | 11 | 11 |
| Unknown | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 0 | 17 | 17 |

*Table 4: Number of victims of trafficking in human beings identified in 2024 by sex and form of exploitation*

| Form of exploitation | Male | Female | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sexual exploitation | 0 | 17 | 17 |
| Total | 0 | 17 | 17 |

*Table 5: Number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings identified in 2024 by sex and nationality*

| Nationality | Male | Female | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bangladesh | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Morocco | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Romania | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Syria | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Slovenia | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Turkey | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| China | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Philippines | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Total | 12 | 16 | 28 |

On suspicion of trafficking in human beings, 19 suspects were investigated and criminal complaints were filed against 8 of them, while 6 were subject to a report pursuant to Article 148(10) of the ZKP. The majority of suspects were Slovenian citizens. Five persons are not included in the statistics in Tables 6 and 7 because their cases are still pending.

*Table 6: Number of suspects dealt with in 2024 for the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings against whom criminal complaints were filed, by sex and nationality*

| Nationality | Male | Female | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Dominican Republic | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Slovenia | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 5 | 3 | 8 |

*Table 7: Number of suspects dealt with in 2024 for the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings subject to reports, by sex and nationality*

| Nationality | Male | Female | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Romania | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Slovenia | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Total | 5 | 1 | 6 |

*Table 8: Number of legal entities investigated for the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings in 2024*

| Type of document | No. of legal entities |
| --- | --- |
| Criminal complaint | 0 |
| Report (Article 148 (7) and (10) of ZKP) | 0 |
| Pending case | 2 |
| Total | 2 |

**3.1.2 Other criminal offences**

Since the issue of trafficking in human beings is often closely linked to certain other criminal offences, the Police also deal with criminal offences of exploitation of prostitution and violations of the fundamental rights of workers in relation to trafficking in human beings.

1. Exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of KZ-1

In 2024, the Police dealt with 26 cases of exploitation of prostitution, which represents a slight decrease compared to 2023. Three cases were also investigated in which there were reasons to suspect *that* a criminal offense of prostitution had been committed, but there were no grounds for filing criminal complaints. Instead, reports were sent to the competent public prosecutor's offices pursuant to Article 148(10) of the Criminal Procedure Act.

*Table 9: Number of investigated criminal offences of exploitation of prostitution in the 2020–2024 period and result of investigation*

| Exploitation of prostitution | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criminal complaint | 1 | 19 | 4 | 32 | 26 |
| Report (Article 148(10) of ZKP) | 4 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

As for the victims of this crime, in 2024, the police dealt with 21 female victims, mostly nationals of the Dominican Republic and Ukraine.

*Table 10: Number of victims of exploitation of prostitution identified in 2024 by sex and nationality*

| Nationality | Male | Female | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Brazil | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Dominican Republic | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| Italy | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Columbia | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Cuba | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Romania | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Serbia | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ukraine | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Total |  | 21 | 21 |

The police investigated a total of eight persons, one national of the Dominican Republic and seven Slovenian citizens, on suspicion of committing the criminal offence of abuse of prostitution.

*Table 11: Number of suspects for the criminal offence of exploitation of prostitution investigated in 2024 by sex and nationality*

| Nationality | Male | Female | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dominican Republic | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Slovenia | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Total | 8 | 0 | 8 |

1. Violation of fundamental workers’ rights under Article 196 of KZ-1

In 2024, the Police dealt with 511 criminal offences related to the violation of fundamental workers' rights under Article 196 of the KZ-1 in which the elements of labour exploitation of victims were found. Both the injured parties and suspects were predominantly nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia. No elements of forced labour as a form of exploitation of victims of human trafficking were found, either in the pre-trial proceedings or in subsequent criminal proceedings.

*Table 12: Number of injured parties who were victims of the criminal offence of violation of fundamental workers’ rights identified in 2024 by sex and nationality*

| Nationality | Male | Female | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Slovenia | 108 | 74 | 182 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 158 | 8 | 166 |
| Croatia | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Serbia | 16 | 1 | 17 |
| Kosovo | 73 | 2 | 75 |
| North Macedonia | 21 | 6 | 27 |
| Germany | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| China | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Albania | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Vietnam | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| Bangladesh | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| Tunisia | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Morocco | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Dominican Republic | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ukraine | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 413 | 98 | 511 |

*Table 13: Number of suspects for the criminal offence of violation of fundamental workers’ rights identified in 2024 by sex and nationality*

| Nationality | Male | Female | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Slovenia | 82 | 33 | 115 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Croatia | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Serbia | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Kosovo | 12 | 2 | 24 |
| North Macedonia | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Albania | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Bulgaria | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| China | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Switzerland | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Italy | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ukraine | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Syria | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Austria | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 119 | 39 | 158 |

**3.2 Activities of the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office and district state prosecutors’ offices**

In 2024, the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office (hereinafter: SDT RS), which has exclusive competence to prosecute criminal offences involving trafficking in human beings, continued to carry out its work relating to the criminal offences of trafficking in human beings under Article 113 of the KZ-1, enslavement under Article 112 of the KZ-1 and exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of the KZ-1.

**3.2.1 Criminal offences of trafficking in human beings and exploitation of prostitution**

In the reporting year, the SDT RS received one criminal complaint for the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings under Article 113 of the Criminal Code against two natural persons. The offence was committed to the detriment of six victims. The same criminal complaint was filed against another natural person and a legal entity for the criminal offence of exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of the Criminal Code and, in part against the legal entity, also in conjunction with the Criminal Liability of Legal Entities Act (ZOPOKD). During the reporting year, the SDT RS received a criminal complaint for the criminal offence of abuse of prostitution under Article 175 of the Criminal Code, namely against three natural persons and one legal entity. The offence was committed to the detriment of ten victims. It also received one report under Article 148(10) of the Criminal Procedure Act concerning a reported case of human trafficking.

In the reporting year, the prosecutors of the SDT RS**[[3]](#footnote-3)**:

* issued two decisions on dismissal against four natural persons and two legal entities for the criminal offence under Article 113 of the KZ-1,
* filled one request for investigation against three natural persons and one legal entity for the criminal offence under Articles 113 and 175 of the KZ-1, committed to the detriment of six female victims (subsequently, the public prosecutor of the SDT RS relinquished criminal prosecution against one natural person), and
* filed one indictment against nine natural persons for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the KZ-1 committed to the detriment of 31 female victims.

Other district state prosecutors’ offices also dealt with specific issues relating to trafficking in human beings, as follows:

* The District State Prosecutor's Office of Koper dealt with one case of exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of the Criminal Code and filed an indictment in this case against one natural person; the offence was committed against one female victim. During the reporting year, the court issued a conviction, which is not yet final.
* The District State Prosecutor's Office of Nova Gorica dealt with one case of trafficking in human beings under Article 113 of the Criminal Code and filed an indictment in this case against one natural person; the offence was committed against two female victims.
* The District State Prosecutor's Office of Ptuj received one report pursuant to Article 148 of the Criminal Procedure Act for the criminal offence of exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of the Criminal Code against one natural person. There was one female victim involved. After a thorough assessment of the evidence gathered, a decision to dismiss the case was issued. Two other cases were also dealt with for the criminal offence of exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of the Criminal Code, each against one natural person and involving one female victim. In both cases, a request for investigation was filed; in the first case, the suspect has not yet been heard, while in the second case, the court has already issued a decision to initiate an investigation. In one case from previous years involving three natural persons, the court acquitted two natural persons of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings under Article 113 of the Criminal Code. In that case, the court of appeal upheld the acquittal. Proceedings against the third individual (a foreign national) were conducted separately due to their unavailability, but the prosecution withdrew the indictment in this part as the charges were identical. The victim, who had moved abroad, persistently refused to cooperate in the proceedings.
* The District State Prosecutor's Office of Maribor dealt with one case of exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of the Criminal Code with two natural persons as suspects and one underage female victim, in which the court ordered an investigation to be launched.
* The District State Prosecutor's Office of Celje received one criminal complaint for trafficking in human beings under Article 113 of the Criminal Code against three individuals. The case was not resolved in 2024 as it was under investigation by the police, and in 2025, due to its connection with another case, it was transferred to the SDT RS. During the reporting year, the Office received one report under Article 148 of the Criminal Procedure Act against two individuals and one criminal complaint against four individuals for the criminal offence of exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of the Criminal Code. In the first case, a decision to dismiss the case was issued because there was no reasonable suspicion that the suspects had committed a criminal offence. in the second case, a request for investigation was filed, three individuals were remanded in custody, and a judicial investigation was subsequently initiated against four individuals for harm caused to 34 victims. A total of 36 victims were identified, all of whom were adults and female.
* The District State Prosecutor's Office of Novo Mesto received one report pursuant to Article 148 of the Criminal Procedure Act for the criminal offence of exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of the Criminal Code, with one natural person as suspect and one underage female victim.

**Court decisions**

At the time of reporting, five cases were under judicial investigation for criminal offences under Article 113 of the Criminal Code (one of which also involved a criminal offence under Article 175 of the Criminal Code), and in one case the judicial investigation had been completed but the public prosecutor's decision had not yet been taken. In two cases (one for criminal offences under Article 113 of the Criminal Code and one under Article 175 of the Criminal Code), preliminary hearings have been completed and a decision has been made to exclude evidence, but the decisions are not yet final. In two cases (one for criminal offences under Article 113 of the Criminal Code and one under Article 175 of the Criminal Code), the scheduling of hearings for the main trial is pending. In one case involving a criminal offence under Article 113 of the Criminal Code-1, the main hearing is underway, and in one case involving criminal offences under Articles 113 and 175 of the Criminal Code-1, a retrial is underway. The courts of first instance handed down eight convictions, one for a criminal offence under Article 113 of the Criminal Code (one natural person as perpetrator and two victims) and two for the criminal offence of exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of the Criminal Code (five natural persons as perpetrators and 425 victims). In one case, the court handed down five convictions for the criminal offence of exploitation of prostitution under Article 175 of the Criminal Code (six natural persons as perpetrators and 31 victims) on the basis of guilty plea agreements.

**3.2.2 Findings of the Specialised Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Slovenia**

Trafficking in human beings is most often an internationally organised criminal activity involving several people over a long period of time, which makes detecting and proving these offences difficult, time-consuming and complex. The perpetrators are motivated by the profitability of this crime. Recognising and dealing with human trafficking requires a great deal of specific knowledge, sensitivity and understanding. There is also a continuing trend towards refining the methods used to commit this crime, which makes it even more difficult to prove, and therefore the use of covert investigative measures is indispensable in such cases. In addition, international cooperation is essential for obtaining evidence. This phenomenon permeates all aspects of modern society and is becoming a structural element of certain economic sectors, but above all it violates the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals who become victims of such trafficking or exploitation.

From the content of such cases dealt with by the SDT RS, it can be concluded that in the past, such criminal offences were committed in conjunction with physical violence, restriction of personal freedom and illegal residence in the country. In contrast, cases dealt with in recent years are characterized by the fact that members of the group no longer need to use violence or coercive methods to commit the criminal acts.

A common feature of perpetrators of human trafficking in recent times is that they treat people as objects in order to exploit their vulnerability or other personal characteristics, peculiarities, or naivety for financial gain. The most common forms of vulnerability among victims are unemployment, poor employment prospects, low levels of education, extremely low earnings, indebtedness, the obligation to support minor children, disabled or unemployed partners, the obligation to support an extended family, serious illness in the family, naivety, and war. The essence of human trafficking therefore lies in the vulnerability of the victims, who, because of this, accept a subordinate position and are satisfied that they are earning at least some money, even though the perpetrators take the lion's share. This is how they support themselves and their families. As a rule, victims do not recognize themselves as victims, which makes proving the offence even harder.

Without exception, the victims come from economically disadvantaged countries (Ukraine, the Dominican Republic, Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, and the Philippines) and are vulnerable for personal reasons.

Prosecutors at the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office participate in training courses on human trafficking abroad and in training courses organised by the Police and the Financial Administration. They actively contribute to the training with their input and experience.

**3.3 Activities of the Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia**

In accordance with the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, the Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: IRSD) conducts annual education and training for employees, both in Slovenia and abroad:

* In February 2024, two inspectors attended a video seminar focusing on the prevention and deterrence of undeclared work in supply chains involving (multiple) employment agencies through which third-country nationals work in the EU.
* In March 2024, four inspectors participated in a round table discussion on forced labour—recognition and prosecution of trafficking in human beings in Slovenia, organized by the Društvo Ključ association.
* In March 2024, a preparatory meeting was held to organize joint action days in 2024. The meeting took place in Strasbourg and was attended by a representative of the IRSD, together with a representative of the Police.
* In May 2024, an EMPACT platform Analytical Meeting on Labour Exploitation was held in Stockholm. It was attended by an inspector who also coordinates the implementation of joint action days in Slovenia for the IRSD.
* In November 2024, a representative of the IRSD attended a training course on combating trafficking in human beings in Cyprus. The training was organized under the auspices of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training and the European Labour Authority.
* In December 2024, training on combating human trafficking was organized for IRSD staff, attended by 110 employees.

Labour inspectors also participate in other education and training programmes that can help them detect or identify trafficking offences, namely:

* In January 2024, four IRSD inspectors attended a workshop in Paris on Analytical Aspects of Concerted and/or Joint Inspection.
* In 2024, two inspectors attended the Forum on Posting 360 meeting.
* In June 2024, two inspectors attended a preparatory meeting in Berlin on the subject of minimum wages.
* In October 2024, two inspectors, together with a representative of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, attended the 4th Forum on the Posting of Workers.
* Inspectors participated in the Balkan Conference in Thessaloniki.
* Inspectors attended training in Bilbao to improve occupational safety and health measures for the implementation of a European campaign on accidents at work.
* Inspectors attended the preparatory meeting of the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) in Luxembourg.
* An occupational health and safety inspector attended KKS Training Days on cooperation between inspectors and inspectorates in the EU.

IRSD also participated in the working group of the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport in the preparation of a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prohibition of products made with forced labour on the Union market. Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 on the prohibition of products produced by forced labour on the Union market and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 was adopted on 12 December 2024. The IRSD will continue to participate in this working group in the implementation of the aforementioned Regulation.

In 2024, IRSD also carried out inspections at several entities that employed foreign nationals, primarily with the aim of identifying potential labour exploitation. These inspections uncovered several violations of labour law, but there were no grounds for filing criminal charges under Article 113 of the Criminal Code. Labour inspectors filed two criminal charges and 13 reports of suspected criminal offences for suspected commission of several criminal offences, but not for suspected commission of the criminal offence under Article 113 of the Criminal Code, as there were no elements of trafficking in human beings in any of the cases.

In 2024, IRSD established a Priority Response Division, which began operating on 1 October 2024. It brings together labour inspectors and occupational safety and health inspectors. The priority task of the division in the field of labour law is primarily to carry out inspections when violations of the rights of several workers are detected, when it is necessary to protect the public interest, which is considerably affected based on the criteria of the severity of the violation for the affected or protected values and the extent of the violations, when immediate response is required in the event of violations in the employment of foreign nationals and in the provision of work to users in contravention of regulations, particularly in the case of vulnerable categories of workers, and when multiple or repeated violations are detected which reasonably indicate illegal operations by the parties concerned as well as in the field of occupational safety and health, and in particular in the prevention of immediate danger to the life of workers and the risk of accidents at work, and in the improvement of working conditions. As part of its activities, the division will also deal with cases of suspected human trafficking.

IRSD also cooperates with other EU Member States in carrying out inspections. In 2024, it cooperated with the Dutch Labour Inspectorate and the German Tax Inspectorate. In April 2024, two IRSD representatives participated in inspections in Hof, Germany, where they acted as observers, while four German ZOLL inspectors participated as observers in the inspection of two companies in Slovenia. At the request of the German ZOLL, inspections were carried out at two companies that post workers from former Yugoslav countries to Germany. In 2024, four companies were also inspected in Slovenia, with two inspectors from the Dutch Labour Inspectorate participating as observers. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the IRSD, with the participation of the national coordinator for CJI and the coordinator for IMI.

IRSD’s findings

Compared to 2023, the number of violations of provisions governing the conditions of employment, self-employment and work of foreigners in the Republic of Slovenia decreased slightly in 2024. A total of 53 violations of the Employment, Self-Employment and Work of Foreigners Act (hereinafter: ZZSDT) were detected, compared to 77 violations in 2023.

The majority of violations, namely 38, resulted from non-compliance with Article 7(4) of the ZZSDT, as employers allowed foreigners to perform work other than that for which consent has been granted in the procedure for issuing or extending a single permit or an EU Blue Card, or a written authorisation or for which a seasonal worker permit has been issued. Inspectors also found five violations of Article 33(5) of the ZZSDT, which stipulates that evidence of compliance with the employment condition is deemed to be provided the foreigner takes up work within 30 days of the issuance of the written notice. All conditions and elements of the employment specified in the official information document must be complied with throughout the employment relationship.

Inspectors also found eight violations of Article 36 of the ZZSDT, which stipulates that an employer may post workers to provide services connected to the supply of goods and maintenance in the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of the registration of the commencement of the provision of services only in certain specified cases. One violation of Article 45(2) of the ZZSDT was also found, which stipulates that foreigners must keep their official information document, if one was delivered to them, or their seasonal worker permit at their place of work and must submit it as evidence in a procedure at the request of the competent supervisory authority, and one violation of Article 45(4) of the ZZSDT, which stipulates that throughout the period of posting workers to the Republic of Slovenia, a foreign employer must keep the following documents at the place of the provision of services: the contract between the client and service provider, a certificate of registration of the commencement of the provision of services, copies of the employment contracts (and their translations into Slovenian) for all posted workers and certificates of their registration in social insurance schemes on the basis of employment in the country in which the foreign employer has its head office, which it must make available at the request of a supervisory authority.

In the field of cross-border provision of services and posting of workers in this context, the IRSD also monitors compliance with the Cross-Border Provision of Services Act (hereinafter: ZČmIS). During inspections of the implementation of the aforementioned Act, inspectors identified 65 violations in 2024, which is slightly less than in 2023 (68 violations). Thus, 29 violations of Article 14 of the ZČmIS were found, which stipulates that a foreign employer who provides cross-border services despite not meeting the conditions shall be penalised, and 36 violations of Article 16 of the ZČmIS, because the foreign employer did not register the service with the Employment Service of Slovenia before starting to provide cross-border services, or did not register the service, or registered the service incompletely, or did not perform the service in accordance with the service registration, or did not keep the documentation during the cross-border provision of services in Slovenia, or did not submit it at the request of the competent supervisory authority, or did not provide a translation at the request of the supervisory authority.

As regards the protection of the rights of workers posted to the Republic of Slovenia for temporary work under an employment contract concluded under foreign law, six violations of Article 210 of the Employment Relationships Act (hereinafter: ZDR-1), which specifically regulates the status of foreign posted workers, were found in 2024. Inspectors also identified violations of the rights of workers (citizens of the Republic of Slovenia and foreign nationals) posted to work abroad or in Member States of the European Union by employers registered in the Republic of Slovenia. Article 209 of ZDR-1 stipulates the mandatory elements of employment contracts for workers posted abroad by their employer: the contract must contain provisions on the duration of work abroad, holidays and work-free days, minimum annual leave, the remuneration and the currency in which it is paid, additional insurance for health services abroad, other income in cash or in kind to which the worker is entitled during their work abroad, the manner of ensuring and exercising rights related to payment for work and other which are provided in a different manner under the regulations of the state in which the work is performed, but this must be within the scope provided in this Act or more favourable to the worker, and the conditions of return to Slovenia. In 2024, inspectors identified 86 violations of Article 209 of the ZDR-1, which is significantly more than in 2023, when 64 violations of this article were identified.

In the last part of the reporting period in 2024, inspections were carried out in cooperation with the Infrastructure Inspectorate at several companies based in Slovenia that provide road transport services, where inspectors paid particular attention to the employment of foreign nationals in connection with possible signs of human trafficking. These signs were not confirmed, but several violations of labour law were found.

In December, we collaborated with the Indian Embassy to organize an event focusing on the key rights of foreign workers in Slovenia. The presentation included an overview of Slovenian labour legislation, procedures for reporting violations, and available mechanisms for protecting workers' rights.

Due to increased migration flows and labour shortages, foreign workers, mainly nationals of far-away third countries, account for an increasing share of the workforce. Due to cultural, social, and linguistic differences and distance from their countries of origin, foreign workers are particularly vulnerable when it comes to their employment rights. These differences and vulnerabilities increase the risk of violations of their rights, which is why the inspectorate will step up its activities in this area.

**3.4 Activities of the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia**

Sectoral legislation defining the work of the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia enables inspectors and mobile unit staff to detect violations related to human trafficking in the course of their work. These are particularly prevalent in labour-intensive industries that employ low-skilled foreign workers. The main issues are the exploitation of workers and forced labour as one of the purposes of human trafficking.

Inspections of illegal employment of third-country nationals are carried out as part of inspections of undeclared work under the Prevention of Undeclared Work and Employment Act (hereinafter: ZPDZC-1) and ZČmIS-1. Illegal employment of third-country nationals is also detected during simultaneous inspections in other areas falling within the competence of the FURS, e.g. inspections of fiscal cash registers or inspections under the Fiscal Verification of Invoices Act (hereinafter: ZDavPR), inspections in the field of road transport, etc.

In 2024, Furs carried out 6,415 inspections of undeclared work, which also included inspections of the employment of third-country nationals. Illegal employment of third-country nationals was detected in 83 employers, involving a total of 99 third-country nationals. The most common irregularities relating to the illegal employment of third-country nationals were found in the construction (F) and transport (H) sections, in manufacturing (C) and in accommodation and food service activities (I).

In 2024, 73 minor offence proceedings were conducted against legal entities for violating Article 5 (1) (6) of the ZPDZC-1 in connection with the illegal employment of third-country nationals, of which 67 had been completed by 31 December 2024 and 6 were still ongoing. In the minor offence proceedings, 66 employers were sanctioned for violations of the illegal employment of third-country nationals. The total amount of fines imposed for the offence in question under Article 23(1)(5) of ZPDZC-1 on legal entities, employers and their responsible persons amounted to EUR 399,000, and five warnings were issued. In connection with the above violation, 128 third-country nationals were sanctioned for committing an offense under Article 23(3) of the ZPDZC-1, with fines totalling EUR 61,500 and five warnings issued.

Due to suspected criminal offences under Article 196 (violation of fundamental rights of workers) of the Criminal Code, the Financial Administration filed 28 criminal complaints during this period. Of these, 15 relate to foreign nationals (the responsible person was a foreigner), while in the remaining cases, criminal complaints were filed against Slovenian citizens.

In 2024, FURS filed five criminal complaints on suspicion of criminal offences under Article 199(1) of the Criminal Code (illegal employment). FURS did not file any criminal complaints or reports on suspicion of criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings.

**4. Assistance to and protection of the victims of trafficking in human beings**

Assistance for victims of trafficking in human beings was provided under several programmes financed by the Government and implemented by NGOs and humanitarian organisations selected through a public tender. In addition, the implementation of a project financed by the UNHCR and aimed at identifying and informing the victims of trafficking and/or sexual violence in the procedures for the recognition of international protection in Slovenia (PATS) continued in the year of reporting at the Asylum Centre.

**4.1 The programme "Providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings – crisis accommodation"**

In 2024 and 2025 the MDDSZ co-financed the project entitled "Providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings – crisis accommodation", which was implemented by Caritas Slovenia. The two-year project involved comprehensive assistance provided for up to 30 care days to victims (adults and children) in need of immediate removal from a harmful environment.

From 1 January to 31 December 2024, six persons were placed in the programme, namely one Slovenian citizen (female) and five nationals of the Philippines (one woman and four men). All were treated by the police in pre-trial proceedings as victims of human trafficking under Article 113 of the Criminal Code, and were accommodated in crisis accommodation for a total of 95 days.

Persons admitted to crisis accommodation are provided with accommodation, food, emergency psychological and social assistance, first aid, counselling, information about their legal rights, interpreting, advocacy, social activities, companionship, escort, security, assistance with returning to their home country, and material assistance. People admitted to crisis accommodation are provided with 24-hour availability of a professional worker; in addition, lay workers as well as trained volunteers work with them.

One professional was employed to work on the project with the assistance of lay workers, who were involved in the process based on their capacities. Because of the traumatic experiences of those admitted, lay people were actively involved only in operational tasks. A 24-hour phone service for the Police and victims of human trafficking was provided.

The costs of the project financed under the contract by the MDDSZ (labour costs for one professional, labour costs for lay people based on the actual number of hours worked, the costs of days of assistance in terms of the number of accommodation placements and the costs of prevention workshops) totalled EUR 35,375.03 in 2024.

**4.2 The programme "Providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings – placement in safe accommodation"**

In the reporting year, the project "Providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings – placement in safe accommodation 2022–2024" was funded by the MNZ and implemented by the Društvo Ključ association.

From 1 January to 31 December 2024, five Filipino citizens who had been exploited for labour were included in the programme. The assistance included activities in accordance with individual plans, such as accommodation, protection, food and other basic necessities, escort, counselling, support in health care, psychosocial counselling, stress relief counselling, and participation in organized sports and other leisure activities.

In 2024, the costs of the programme (salary of one professional staff and number of care days) amounted to a total of €50,135.84.

**4.3 The project "Reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings"**

In 2024, the Ministry of the Interior published a public call for proposals for the implementation of the project Continuation of the protection of victims of human trafficking and their reintegration programme in the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2024–2027, with a budget of EUR 150,000. Funds for the implementation of reintegration are provided by the EU Internal Security Fund and the state budget. The NGO Društvo Ključ was selected to implement the project, which started in October 2024. To make sure the project runs smoothly, the City of Ljubljana, Department of Health and Social Welfare, and the Foundation for the Financing of Disability and Humanitarian Organizations (FIHO) also provided some of the funds for the activities.

The project is intended for citizens of the Republic of Slovenia who have been treated as victims of trafficking in human beings abroad and for EU citizens and third-country nationals who have been treated as victims of trafficking in human beings in pre-trial or criminal proceedings in the Republic of Slovenia and legally reside in the Republic of Slovenia. The programme, which is a logical consequence of programmes for providing assistance to the victims of trafficking in human beings, is the first step towards leading an independent life free from violence, exploitation and violations of human rights.

In 2024, nine people participated in the programme, The individuals were provided with counselling support, accommodation in supported housing, assistance in finding a safe job, and other services in accordance with the needs of the project users.

**4.4 The project "Providing information to victims of trafficking in human beings, sexual and gender-based violence in the procedures for the recognition of international protection (PATS)"**

The PATS project is aimed at informing those seeking international protection about the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings.

The project’s purpose is to raise awareness among those who in most cases do not realise the dangers and consequences of trafficking in human beings and to encourage them, with a suitable approach, to actively participate in preventing various types of exploitation. Additional activities are also provided. Within the framework of the project, vulnerable groups requiring special treatment are identified and potential victims of trafficking, sexual violence, or gender-based violence are identified and informed, and provided with appropriate treatment.

The Government Office for the Supply and Integration of Migrants (UOIM) has concluded a contract with Društvo Ključ association for the implementation of the project. In 2024, information was provided to 741 people on an individual basis and to 345 people on a group basis (10 groups of women).

As part of identifying cases of human trafficking in procedures for dealing with cases of sexual violence and gender-based violence, a document entitled Standard Operating Procedures for the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Violence against persons dealt with under the International Protection Act was issued in February 2020. The purpose of the document is to ensure the safety of persons who have experienced sexual violence and gender-based violence, to prevent the escalation of violence, to reduce and eliminate the consequences of violence, and to empower victims. A group of professionals meets regularly to discuss individual cases. As the programme focuses on a very broad population of potential victims of this type of violence, the likelihood of identifying victims of human trafficking is much higher.

In 2024, 13 meetings were held, at which 16 cases were discussed and assistance plans were drawn up. In July, the Društvo Ključ Association, together with the UNHCR, organized a regular half-yearly meeting of the members of the group.

In June 2024, three UOIM professionals completed a training course organized by the Asylum Agency. One expert completed all the requirements and obtained the title of trainer in the field of gender-based violence, which means that she can train other employees, while the other two experts completed the training and can train colleagues in the field of human trafficking.

**4.5 Project “Support for persons in prostitution and for leaving it”**

In 2024, the Društvo Ključ Association continued to implement the programme Support for Persons in Prostitution and to exit it. The programme focuses on providing various forms of support to people who are not (yet) ready or able to leave prostitution and/or are not prepared to share information about the abuse they have experienced with law enforcement authorities.

Five people were included in the programme, which involved counselling and support for exit. The funds for implementing the very limited activities were provided by the Društvo Ključ Association from donations and partly from FIHO funds.

**5. International activities and partnerships**

An effective fight against trafficking in human beings requires international cooperation, particularly with the victims’ countries of origin. Special attention is also paid to involvement in international organisations, which help member countries develop and implement effective anti-trafficking policies.

**5.1 International activities**

In 2024, the MDS TZL actively participated in various international events related to activities to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings.

**5.1.1 National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Anti-Trafficking Service of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia**

On 5 and 6 March 2024, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior's Anti-Trafficking Service attended a regional conference in Chisinau, Moldova, on combating trafficking in human beings, with a focus on labour exploitation. The conference was organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (hereinafter: UNODC) in cooperation with the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France. The conference focused primarily on refugees from Ukraine, their vulnerability, identification procedures and mechanisms for protection and assistance.

The National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Helga Dobrin, visited Zagreb on 12 March 2024. The visit took place at the invitation of the Director of the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities and the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Republic of Croatia. The interlocutors exchanged current information on the prevention and combating of trafficking in human beings and agreed on the organisation and content of the next meeting of the informal network of national coordinators for combating trafficking in human beings in South-Eastern Europe.

On 15-16 April 2024, Vienna hosted the 24th Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (hereinafter: OSCE), which focused on analysing measures to prevent trafficking by assessing the various vulnerabilities and root causes of the exploitation of trafficking victims and emerging new forms of trafficking in human beings.

On 8 and 9 May 2024, the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings attended a regional conference in Dubrovnik as part of the UNODC project on trafficking in human beings, funded by the Office for Human Rights and National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs of France, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden. The regional conference brought together countries of origin, transit, and destination from the wider region of Southeast Europe and the European Union. The conference focused on analysing current challenges in addressing trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation and exchanging information on recruitment trends and the vulnerability of victims, as well as protecting their rights with an emphasis on a victim-cantered approach. Through their contributions, participants developed concrete measures for a comprehensive, regionally tailored approach to combating trafficking for sexual exploitation in Southeast Europe.

On 6 and 7 June 2024, the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings attended a meeting of the Informal Network of National Coordinators for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in South-Eastern Europe (NATC SEE) in Zagreb. The event was co-organized by the Ministry of the Interior, the Office of the Republic of Croatia for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities, and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development. At the meeting, the Slovenian delegation presented to the participants the latest developments in EU legislation in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, with an emphasis on the revision of Directive 2011/36/EU. Participants also discussed the importance of new EU legislation in the field of preventing forced labour (the proposal of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2013/34/EU, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Regulation (EU) No 537/2014 on corporate sustainability reporting, the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prohibition of products made with forced labour from entering the Union market) and other challenges related to the transposition of the rules into national law.

On 17 and 18 June 2024, a Ministry of the Interior delegation attended the regular meeting of the EU network of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms with civil society organisations in Brussels. Participants discussed the challenges of detecting and combating trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation and the challenges of labour exploitation in high-risk sectors such as agriculture, construction, domestic services, nail salons, cleaning services, etc. The discussion also focused on forced criminality as an increasingly common form of trafficking in human beings in connection with other crimes. The meeting of this network to combat trafficking in human beings confirmed the importance of cross-border cooperation, including support from EU agencies and within the framework of the EMPACT operational measures. The meeting was also useful in terms of the implementation of activities for the transposition of the amendment to Directive 2011/36/EU, which was adopted in May 2024, into national legislation.

On 12 and 13 September 2024, the annual meeting of national coordinators, rapporteurs and other services responsible for combating trafficking in human beings was held in Vienna, organised by the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The meeting focused on the vulnerability to trafficking in human beings and measures to prevent it, detection and support for vulnerable victims, and the punishment of perpetrators, as well as ways to involve victims of trafficking in the formulation of policies and the collection of good practices in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

A representative of the Ministry of the Interior's Anti-Trafficking Service attended a regional conference organised by the OSCE on ensuring human rights in the economy (labour exploitation), which took place on 16 and 17 September 2024 in Budva, Montenegro. He presented to the participants the latest developments in EU legislation on ensuring human rights in the economy in connection with the prevention of trafficking in human beings.

**5.1.2 The Police**

In investigating criminal offences of trafficking in human beings, the Police exchange information with other EU Member States as part of their cooperation with Europol and with third countries in their cooperation with Interpol. In 2024, there were 51 exchanges of information. It also participated in investigations of the criminal offences of trafficking in human beings as part of the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime. As part of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), it also carried out activities from the 2024 OAP Trafficking in Human Beings.

During the reporting year, the Police took part in four joint actions concerning trafficking in human beings.

Between 24 May and 3 June 2024, the Police participated in joint activities of EU Member States in the areas of trafficking in human beings and migration. Enhanced controls were carried out with the aim of identifying victims of human trafficking who are exploited for prostitution and sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation in irregular migration. One of the objectives of the action was also to identify persons involved in human trafficking or other officially prosecutable criminal offenses. The activities were carried out throughout Slovenia. The Police did not identify any victims of human trafficking during the operation.

Between 3 and 9 June 2024, activities aimed at identifying victims of trafficking, exploited for the purpose of forced criminal activities, begging, and prostitution. The activities between EU Member States were coordinated by Europol, together with Frontex.

Between 20 and 27 April 2024, the Police participated in joint activities of EU Member States in the field of preventing forced labour. The activities were led by the IRSD, with the participation of representatives of the FURS and the Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia. The aim of the activities was to identify victims of human trafficking who were exploited for forced labour or other forms of exploitation. The activities between EU member states were coordinated by Europol and ELA.

Between 16 and 20 September 2024, the Police participated in EU Member States' activities targeting online platforms and websites of criminal groups offering sexual services and recruiting victims for sexual exploitation. One of the objectives of the action was to identify persons involved in human trafficking or other criminal offences and using social networks, websites and the dark web for human trafficking. The activities were carried out at the Dutch Police Academy, with the participation of several experts from law enforcement agencies of other countries.

**5.1.3 Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia**

Since 2016, the IRSD has participated in joint European actions to combat trafficking in human beings. In 2024, as part of the 2024 Joint Action Days from 20 to 27 April, which aimed to identify potential victims of human trafficking exploited through forced labour and other forms of exploitation, inspections were carried out on the enforcement of labour law and occupational health and safety legislation in the hospitality industry, massage parlours and companies registered to operate in Slovenia that are temporarily providing services in Slovenia. Inspections were carried out at 33 employers, including one employer registered to perform activities with its registered office in Slovenia and temporarily providing services in Slovenia.

Inspections were carried out by 30 inspectors, including 14 inspectors for employment relationships and 16 inspectors for occupational safety and health. Inspections of catering establishments were carried out in the areas covered by the regional units of the IRSD in Ljubljana, Celje-Velenje, Maribor, Novo mesto-Brežice, Koper-Postojna-Nova Gorica, Kranj, and Murska Sobota. In the areas covered by the IRSD regional units of Novo mesto-Brežice and Koper-Postojna-Nova Gorica, inspections of massage parlours were also carried out in cooperation with the police, and in the area of the IRSD Koper-Postojna-Nova Gorica regional unit, inspections were also carried out on a company registered to operate in the Republic of Slovenia, which is temporarily providing services in Slovenia.

In the areas of employment relationships and occupational health and safety, inspectors carried out a total of 146 inspections. Due to irregularities found in the field of occupational safety and health, they issued 24 administrative decisions, 1 payment order, 9 minor offence decisions with a caution and 6 minor offence decisions with a fine, and issued 8 warnings under the Minor Offences Act (ZP-1) and 3 warnings under the Inspection Act (ZIN). For irregularities identified in the field of employment relationships, 3 administrative decisions, 4 payment orders, 5 minor offence decisions with a caution and 6 minor offence decisions with a fine were issued, as well as 5 warnings under ZP-1 and 1 warning under ZIN.

**5.1.4 Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia**

In 2024, the FURS continued its cooperation in coordinated actions with the Police and other inspection services. They took part in a joint European campaign against trafficking in human beings (JAD THB 2024 - Joint Action Days). The purpose was to identify potential victims of human trafficking who were exploited through forced labour and other forms of exploitation by employers. Inspections were carried out in the hospitality industry and in road freight transport.

Inspections were carried out primarily in the area covered by the Prevention of Undeclared Work and Employment Act (hereinafter: ZPDZC-1). A total of 65 inspections were carried out. During inspections in the hospitality industry, mobile unit staff detected one violation of the ZPDZC-1, and during inspections of road freight transport, one violation of the ZČmIS-1.

In cooperation with other inspectorates, coordinated inspections and exchanges of information necessary for inspection procedures were also carried out in other individual cases within the framework of regional coordination of inspections and mutual agreements with other inspection bodies.

**5.1.5 NGOs**

Caritas Slovenia is an active member of COATNET (Christian Organisations Against Trafficking Network), which brings together 33 organisations from around the world that share a common goal of combating trafficking in human beings and assisting victims. In March 2024, it joined the project Strengthening Capacities for Return and Reintegration Counselling (SRC). The project aims to strengthen capacities in the field of counselling foreigners in the EU and their integration after returning to their country of origin. This initiative, led by Caritas International Belgium in cooperation with partners from Albania, Kosovo, Moldova, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bulgaria, aims to increase the capacity of civil society organizations within and outside the EU to ensure the adequate and sustainable return of foreigners and provide reintegration counselling services to migrants who are victims of human trafficking and wish or are required to leave the EU.

Representatives of the Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia (ZSSS) participated in activities organized as part of the Joint Action Days on 23 and 25 April 2024 at the Murska Sobota and Lopata motorway service areas. The aim was to identify victims of forced labour or other forms of exploitation among third-country nationals who are employed or working in road transport. They also attended events organized by the Employment Service of Slovenia, with the aim of promoting employment and life in Slovenia, on 10 and 12 June 2024 in Serbia (Belgrade and Niš) and from 4 to 7 November 2024 in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, Zenica, Tuzla, and Banjaluka). At these events, visitors or job seekers received information material on human trafficking and forced labour. In implementing the international project Fair European Labour Mobility, representatives of the ZSSS also observed forms of severe exploitation of workers and elements of cross-border labour trafficking on the labour market in 2024. They provided information and counselling support to exploited and defrauded workers and reported cases to the competent authorities (IRSD, FURS, Police, and ELA).

**5.2** **Partnerships**

Partnerships between organisations dealing with the prevention and combating of trafficking in human beings have been in place in Slovenia for several years. In dealing with individual cases of trafficking in human beings, the Police closely cooperate with the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office and NGOs and humanitarian organisations. A particularly close cooperation has been established with Caritas Slovenia and the Društvo Ključ association, which are involved in Police procedures to provide the identified victims with information on the rights and types of help available to victims of trafficking in Slovenia. Cooperation with these organisations also covers the implementation of programmes for the provision of victims of trafficking in human beings with crisis and safe accommodation and the (re)integration project.

The Police also works well with the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, which regularly informs the Police of the findings of diplomatic and consular representative offices abroad on the issue of third-country nationals or on cases suggesting that jobseekers might become victims of trafficking in human beings.

Furthermore, good cooperation between the Police, the IRSD, the FURS and the Slovenian Association of Free Trade Unions continued as part of the JAD 2024.

Prosecutors of the SDT RS actively participate in various training courses abroad in the field of human trafficking, and in training courses organized for their employees by institutions participating in the MDS TZL.

In 2024, the Društvo Ključ association presented the results of a study entitled Experiences of exploitation for prostitution among young people in Slovenia, which was conducted in 2023. The full text of the study (in Slovenian) is available at: <https://drustvo-kljuc.si/o-prostituciji/o-prostituciji-otrok-v-sloveniji/>. The presentation of the study took place as part of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October. It was made possible by the Ministry of the Interior and the City of Ljubljana.

**Summary**

In 2024, the MDS TZL carried out all key activities aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in human beings specified in the 2023–2024 Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. It has also continued its activities with the aim of finding the most appropriate solutions in terms of comprehensive and long-term assistance and support for children who have experienced trafficking, including the provision of special accommodation for them.

In the area of legislation and policy, the most significant change was brought about by the adoption of Directive (EU) 2024/1712 amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, which EU Member States must transpose into national law within two years. In 2024, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union also adopted Regulation (EU) 2024/3015, which introduces a comprehensive ban on products made with forced labour on the European Union market. The aim of the Regulation is to protect the fundamental rights of workers and prevent products made with forced labour from entering the European Union's single market or being exported from it. The MDS TZL has taken note of the new developments, and the ministries responsible for preparing the regulations for the transposition of the directive and the implementation of the regulation have already started preparatory activities.

In 2024, a public call for proposals was launched to select research projects under the CRP 2024 programme, co-funded by ARIS. The aim of the analysis we submitted is to objectively examine the current situation and provide recommendations for more effective prosecution of crimes related to trafficking, including proposals for possible legislative changes. The selected contractor for the research project, the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, is expected to complete the project in the last quarter of 2025.

In 2024, MDS TZL prepared its annual report on its work in 2023 and began preparing an Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for the 2025 - 2026 period.

In 2024, preventive activities continued to focus on four target groups, i.e. the general public, target risk groups, potential service users, and the expert community. Systematic awareness-raising among children and minors in primary and secondary schools on human trafficking continued, with schools showing increasing interest in raising awareness on this topic. In addition to the already established forms of training for public servants whose work is related to human trafficking, specialized training was again provided for administrative unit employees who perform the work of registrars, with an emphasis on the issue of forced marriages. In addition to registrars, the training was also attended by officials responsible for issuing single residence and work permits to non-EU nationals.

In the area of detecting, investigating and prosecuting trafficking offences, it has been established that the exploitation of victims of trafficking for sexual abuse still prevails in Slovenia. In 2024, the police dealt with 19 suspects and identified 17 victims and 28 potential victims of human trafficking. Within their competences, the IRSD and FURS also carried out activities related to the detection of cases of human trafficking, focusing primarily on the exploitation of forced labour. In the reporting year, the SDT RS submitted one request for investigation of a criminal offence of human trafficking and filed one indictment for this criminal offence. Individual cases in the field of human trafficking were also dealt with by other district public prosecutors' offices. The court of first instance issued one conviction for the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings.

Assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking will continue to be provided in 2024 by Caritas Slovenia and the Društvo Ključ association as part of projects co-financed by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Six persons were placed in emergency accommodation during the reporting year, five of whom were included in the safe accommodation programme. Nine persons were included in the reintegration programme. The PATS project was implemented in the Asylum Centre to identify victims of human trafficking and/or sexual violence, provide assistance to these victims and protect them in international protection procedures.

In the field of international cooperation and partnerships, members of the MDS TZL participated in numerous events and conferences. The national coordinator and MNZ SPBTL participated in regular meetings of national coordinators for combating trafficking in human beings within the framework of the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and the NATC JVE networks, as well as national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms. The Police actively participated in four joint European actions in the field of trafficking in human beings. The IRSD, the Police, and FURS also actively participated in the 2024 Joint Action Days, which aimed to identify potential victims of human trafficking exploited through forced labour and other forms of exploitation. Exemplary cooperation continued between state authorities and civil society organizations working to prevent and combat human trafficking.

1. In providing statistical data, individual persons are stated, which means that a person (whether a suspect or a victim) is counted only once in the investigation regardless of the number of criminal offences concerning them. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A person was identified as a victim of trafficking in human beings, but the pre-trial procedure later produced no grounds for filing a criminal complaint and only resulted in a police report to the Specialised State Prosecutor’s Office (Article 148(10) of the ZKP). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Individual cases in the same reporting period are being dealt with at various stages, i.e. from the receipt of a criminal complaint or report to be supplemented under Article 148(10) of the ZKP to the adoption of a state prosecutors' decision, i.e. to the filing of a request for investigation, to the filing of an indictment and to the issue of a decision on dismissal, only in individual parts. Given the above, the same case is often reported under the item of receiving a criminal complaint or report pursuant to Article 148(10) of the ZKP, under the item of dismissal, under the item of filing a request for investigation, and under the item of filing an indictment. It is also possible that a state prosecutor’s decision in an individual case has not been adopted at the time of reporting against all persons charged. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)