

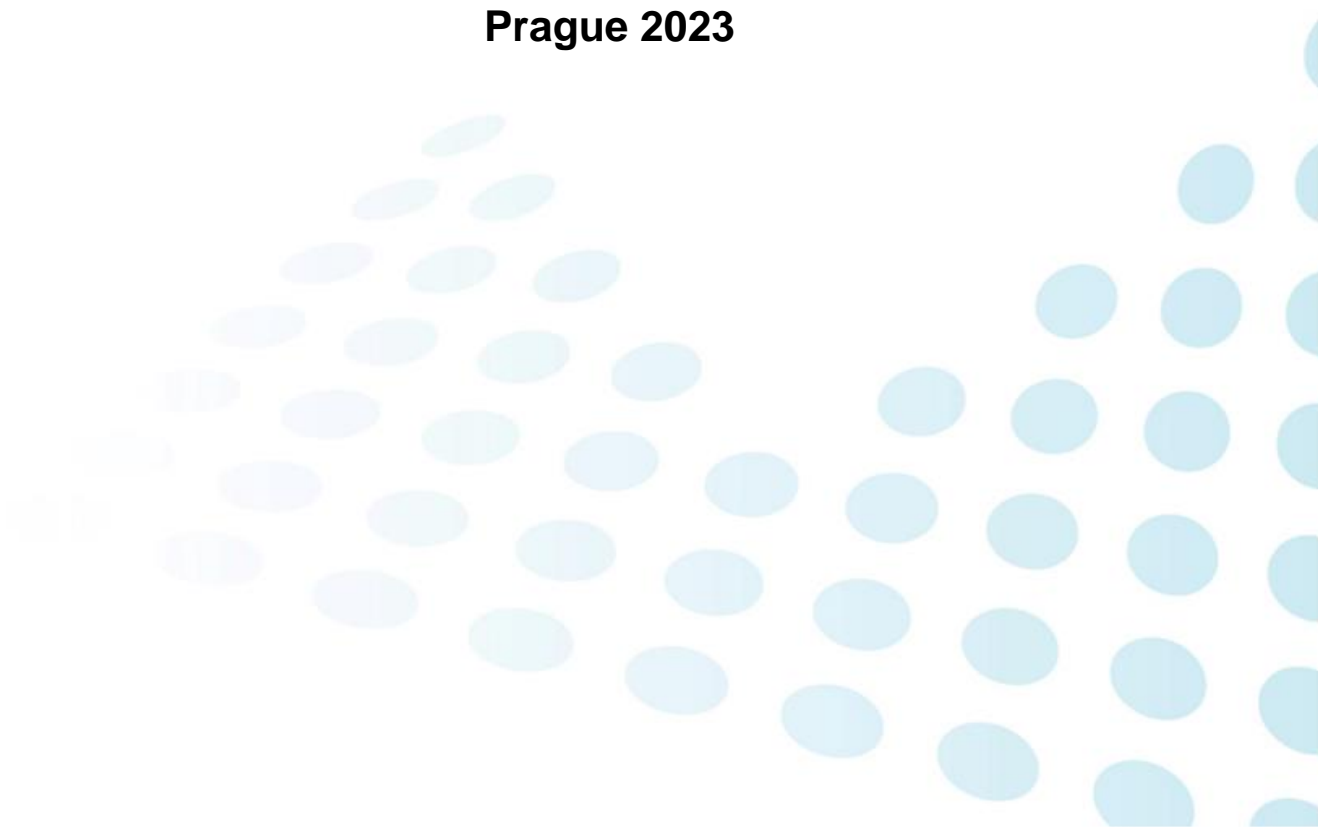


MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

# **2022 STATUS REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Crime Prevention Department**

**Prague 2023**



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## INTRODUCTION

Status Report on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Czech Republic is an informative document presented by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as “Mol”) under Government Resolution No. 67 of 23 January 2008 on the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for the Period 2008 – 2011. The presented document is **the fifteenth consecutive Status Report on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Czech Republic**.

The aim of these reports is to provide detailed information about trafficking in human beings in the Czech Republic from **1 January to 31 December of the respective year**.

The 2022 Status Report on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as “Report”) focuses on trafficking in human beings as defined by **Section 168 of Act No. 40/2009 Coll., Criminal Code**, as amended. As in previous years, the Report also partially focuses on accompanying phenomena closely related to human trafficking.

**The Report is drafted by the Crime Prevention Department of the Mol, mainly based on information provided by members of the Inter-Departmental Coordination Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings** (hereinafter referred to as “IDCG”) and other national and international partners combating human trafficking. All this information helps the drafters of this Report to monitor the situation in the field of trafficking in human beings and mainly to perform their role of the National Rapporteur, or an equivalent mechanism<sup>1</sup>, regarding the fight against trafficking in human beings.

**All partners are warmly thanked for their cooperation.**

### Note:

Gender balance: In this Report, the term ‘foreign national’ designates both male and female foreigners, unless otherwise indicated from the individual specific cases. The same applies to the words ‘migrant’, ‘employee’, ‘citizen’, or ‘national’, ‘worker’, etc. and terms designating nationality. The Report specifies gender strictly in cases where members of the IDCG did so when submitting documents for this Report.

Proofreading: The text has not undergone any linguistic or stylistic editing.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sections/national-rapporteurs\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sections/national-rapporteurs_en)

## 1. OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND TRENDS

At the beginning of the year 2022, all the restrictive **measures** that were taken in connection with the Covid-19 pandemic were **cancelled**. The year 2022 was quite unique with regard to the **Russia's invasion of Ukraine**, which began on 24 February 2022, and as a result of which the Czech Republic became the destination for approximately **480,000 war refugees**, mainly women and children. Their vulnerable situation and the conditions of their arrival substantially increased the risk that they could become victims of various types of criminal activity, including trafficking in human beings. In this context, there was an extraordinary mobilization of all interested entities (public administration bodies, non-state non-profit organizations, volunteers, etc.), to implement massive preventive awareness campaigns and activities. Even as a result of these, a **victim of trafficking in human beings from among incoming migrants from Ukraine has not yet been confirmed (11 August 2023)**.

**Compared to 2021, no significant changes have been recorded in the structure of the crime of trafficking in human beings or in the forms of its perpetration.** However, it is very difficult to establish trends in trafficking in human beings crime for the coming period, given the very exceptional nature of the situation in 2022 in the context of the war in Ukraine.

As in previous years, the **Czech Republic has been a country of destination and transit** as well as a **country of origin** in the area of trafficking in human beings. On the territory of the Czech Republic in 2022, **cases of labour exploitation and forced prostitution** were recorded as the most frequent forms of this crime. **One case with signs of slavery and serfdom was also documented.**

Criminal proceedings conducted, findings from the environment of interest and international police cooperation during 2022 have confirmed the continuing trend of cases in which **men and women from socially and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds have been targeted** in the Czech Republic and subsequently lured abroad, particularly to the United Kingdom.

**Men were forced to perform physically demanding work** for which they received little or no pay. The working environment for such persons was, for example, car washes, fruit and vegetable sorting plants, poultry farms, restaurants, construction sites and various manufacturing enterprises. At the time of payment, the perpetrators **took the entire wage or the majority of the earned wages** from the victims, often through payment cards that the perpetrators set up for the victims together with accounts in local banks, in some cases they also indebted the victims to loans on the acquired accounts.

**The women were then forced into prostitution or into marriage** with citizens from countries outside the European Union. Such marriages are referred to as "marriages of convenience". **Victims of sexual exploitation were foreign women** who, in the source country, responded to offers of favorable employment in the Czech Republic made to them by human traffickers, while **these offers were fictitious** and the women were misled from the beginning. After arriving in the Czech Republic, the women were then confronted with the reality that in a foreign country, without financial resources and without knowledge of the language, they were **forced to provide sexual services**, whether in classic night clubs, private houses or

in agencies offering escort services. **In a similar way, women – nationals of the Czech Republic** – were also misled and forced to provide sexual services in the target country. Among women who traveled from the Czech Republic to work abroad, there was also a case where a national of the Czech Republic became a victim of human traffickers and, in addition to labor exploitation, was also forced to engage in prostitution abroad.

In cases of suspected trafficking in human beings for forced labour or other forms of exploitation, the model from previous years was a typical way of committing crimes on the territory of the Czech Republic. The so-called **“agency employment“ was still a significant factor**, as well as the activities of legal entities that have a permit from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as “MLSA”) to mediate work.

As the country of origin of jobseekers, countries from the Balkan region, especially Romania, Bulgaria, but also the Philippines, Nepal and Mongolia, were most frequently represented in 2022. Furthermore, employees from Ukraine were very often holders of visas of Poland. The trend of employing nationals of Moldova, who possessed forged Romanian documents, which they presented to the relevant authorities in order to facilitate access to the labor market for European Union (hereinafter referred to as “EU”) Member States citizens, also continued.

The situation in the area of **illegal trafficking in human tissues and organs in the Czech Republic in 2022 remains very satisfactory**. However, it should be noted that in 2022, events related to the COVID-19 pandemic were still lingering, as travel was restricted, thus affecting the so-called transplant tourism in the sense that this illegal activity could not take place. According to available information, this unlawful activity does not occur in the territory of the Czech Republic. The transplant system in the Czech Republic is regulated to such extent, that the illegal handling of organs and tissues would be very difficult to keep unnoticed. The main contribution to this is the establishment of rules to ensure traceability at every stage of the process from surgical removing of the organ to its transplantation and also the traceability of both the organ donor and the organ recipient. **The relative risk is represented by altruistic, nonfamilial, organ donation, where, in theory, organs could be taken for a fee**. The relevant ethics committee gives consent to such procurement, which should be a sufficient guarantee that illegal procurement will not take place. However, there is no information that there are violations of legal regulations in this area in the Czech Republic.

**In 2022**, the following countries were identified as the **countries of origin of probable victims** in the Czech Republic – **Moldova, Pakistan, the Philippines, Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Latvia, and Romania**. However, it is not possible to overlook that **citizens of the Czech Republic are also trafficked in the territory of the Czech Republic**. **The Czech Republic also remains a source country, especially for the United Kingdom**.

**A total of 33 probable victims were included in the Mol Program for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter referred to as “Program“)**. Probable victims were included in the Program by both the cooperating NGO and the Police of the Czech Republic.

According to the non-profit organization La Strada, **despite all preventive and educational activities**, due to emergency, psychological consequences of traumatic experiences, language barrier, lack of information, insufficient social ties, poor orientation in the Czech environment, a large number of refugees from Ukraine approach riskier job offers and/or accommodation and in many cases they end up in a position of dependency. In particular, the combination of accommodation tied to a job with a particular employer as well as the lack of suitable job positions for people without knowledge of the Czech language and outside the agency system then creates space for various unserious intermediaries, employment agencies and employers to exploit their situation.

In 2022, Ukrainian refugees most frequently approached La Strada Czech Republic with the following labour law problems (in order of frequency): failure to conclude/issue a written employment contract by the employer; unpaid full salary (on average for 2 months of work); unpaid part of wages (usually repeatedly); unpaid wage supplements and wage compensation or illegal deductions from wages; invalid termination of employment and/or related accommodation; charging fees for refugee visa/residence "intermediation"; non-registration of workers for insurance and non-payment of mandatory contributions by the employer; failure to observe the right to a break and rest period between shifts; forcing to change the type of work, place of work and length of working hours.

According to La Strada organization, the abuse of employment card holders continues, due to the impossibility of changing an employer for 6 months for holders of the first employment card (Section 42g paragraph 7 of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners). It still applies that the exceptions given by Act No. 326/1999 Coll., including the possibility of immediate termination of employment by an employee pursuant to Section 56 paragraph 1 letter b) of the Labor Code, prove to be insufficient in practice.

## 2. CRIMINAL STATISTICS

### 2.1 Number of registered crimes

According to statistics provided by the National Centre for Combating Organized Crime of the Bureau of Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Police of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as NCCOC), **18 crimes of trafficking in human beings were registered in 2022**, of which **9 crimes were solved directly**, and **2 crimes were solved subsequently**. **In comparison with 2021**, this shows a **slight increase in registered cases** (a total of 14 cases were registered in 2021).

### 2.2 Perpetrators in criminal proceedings

It remains true that the number of foreigners committing this crime is lower than the number of perpetrators from the Czech Republic. **Of the 16 prosecuted and investigated persons in 2022, 14 were citizens of the Czech Republic and 2 were foreigners**. Of the total number of 16 prosecuted people, **9 were men, and 7 were women**. Furthermore, there were **5 recidivists**. **One person was a minor and one person was juvenile**.

In cases where the perpetrators of the crimes in question were foreign nationals, they were often foreigners well established in the Czech Republic, who committed the criminal activity together with citizens of the Czech Republic. It can be stated that the nationality, or rather the country of origin of the perpetrators, is largely the same as the nationality of the victims of trafficking in human beings.

**According** to the data registered by **the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic** (hereinafter referred to as „MoJ“), a **total of 18 criminal offences** of trafficking in human beings under the provisions of Section 168 of the Criminal Code were recorded **in 2022**. **A total of 13 persons were convicted** – of which 7 persons were sentenced to a conditional imprisonment, and 6 persons were given unconditional sentences (all in the range of 1-5 years of imprisonment).

### 2.3 Selected case studies

For a better idea of the current modus operandi, below is presented a brief description of the case of criminal prosecution for the crime of trafficking in human beings.

In November 2022, a case was investigated in the Ústí Region under the code name "VÉVODA" [DUKE], in which criminal proceedings were initiated in February 2022 on suspicion of committing the particularly serious crime of trafficking in human beings. The investigation revealed facts indicating that 5 suspected persons, as members of an organised group, have been engaged in committing intentional criminal activity in particular on the territory of the Ústí Region since an unspecified period of time, but definitely since 2012 to the present day, in order to obtain unjustified financial gain, by using violence, the threat of violence or deceit, or by taking advantage of the pressure. In so doing, they arranged, enticed and transported the victims from weak social conditions to be used for other forms of

exploitation, in this case by arranging for the victims to work in the construction industry, transporting them to their destination and taking their wages for the work they had done, thereby profiting from the aforementioned conduct, and thus obtaining an unjustified benefit of approximately CZK 15 million. As part of the implementation, a total of 6 suspects were arrested pursuant to Section 76/1 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 4 searches were carried out, 5 searches of other premises and land were carried out, 4 properties and funds in bank accounts were seized and charges were brought under Section 160/1 of the Criminal Procedure Code against a total of 5 persons (prosecution was conducted at large), 21 potential victims (workers) gave explanations, and 16 probable victims were subsequently identified.

## **2.4 Victims of trafficking in human beings**

### **2.4.1 Victims in criminal proceedings**

Given that police statistics in the case of trafficking in human beings show **only the number of offences according to the objects of attack, the number of victims cannot be stated here. Simultaneously, if one act is reported in the statistics, it means that it is one act where the object of the attack was at least one person who has the given characteristic**, i.e., a juvenile aged 15-17. However, by reporting the number of acts, not the number of victims involved, from the statistics it is not clear whether it involved one person with a given characteristic or more.

The informative value of these statistics is at a very poor level. The creation of targeted measures is challenging, and reporting on the situation in the Czech Republic within the framework of international obligations is therefore complicated. Therefore, improving data collection in the area of trafficking in human beings is one of the tasks of the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Czech Republic for the period 2020-2023.

### **2.4.2 Potential victims and the Program for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings**

**As part of the Program**, which is intended for 18+ victims of trafficking in human beings including both the EU citizens trafficked in the territory of the Czech Republic, third-country nationals trafficked in the territory of the Czech Republic and citizens of the Czech Republic trafficked in the territory of the Czech Republic or abroad, **a total of 33 probable victims** of trafficking in human beings were included in 2022, namely from the Czech Republic (9), the Philippines (8), Poland (4), Slovakia (4), Ukraine (3), Moldova (1), Pakistan (1), Bulgaria (1), Latvia (1) and Romania (1). **There were 8 women and 25 men**. Regarding 1 person (citizen of the Czech Republic) there was a suspicion regarding sexual exploitation, in cases of all other persons there was a suspicion regarding labor exploitation.

**A total of 317 probable victims of trafficking in human beings have been included in the Program since 2003.**

Victims included in the Program were provided with accommodation, psychosocial services, health services, retraining courses, interpreting services, legal assistance and lawyer services. Emphasis was also placed on job search assistance.



All victims included enrolled in the Program agreed to file a request to investigate their cases to the relevant department of the Police of the Czech Republic and, except for 1 person (removed from the Program after expiration of the cooling-off period) also agreed to cooperate with law enforcement authorities.

**None of the victims under the Programme have made use of the possibility of arranging voluntary return to their country of origin.**

## **2.5 Care for victims of trafficking in human beings**

In addition to the Program, the Czech Republic has an entire system of social services, which is regulated by Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Social Services Act”) that can be used for victims of trafficking in human beings. This Act regulates the conditions for providing assistance and support to natural persons in an unfavourable social situation through individual types of social services, as well as the requirements for entitlement to care allowance and the requirements for issuing authorisations for the provision of social services<sup>2</sup>, etc.

According to the Social Services Act, it is possible to provide social services only based on registration with the locally competent regional authority. The list of registered social service providers is publicly accessible in the Register of Social Service Providers at the web address <http://registr.mpsv.cz/socreg/>. **A total of 59 providers of social services are currently<sup>3</sup> registered in the Register of Social Service Providers, the predominant target group of which are victims of trafficking in human beings. Of this number, 28 providers are also focusing on persons under the age of 18.**

Within the subsidy procedure to support the provision of social services the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as MLSA) has been on the long-term basis supporting organisations that provide social services mainly to the target group of the “victims of trafficking in human beings”. **Subsidy support provided to these organisations by the MLSA for 2022 amounts to CZK 29,648,404.**

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<sup>2</sup> Social services include social counselling, social care services and social prevention services. Social services are provided as residential, outpatient or as field work services.

<sup>3</sup> As of 23 April 2023.

### 3. RELATED CRIME AND ACCOMPANYING PHENOMENA

#### 3.1 Situation in the area of prostitution

The area of prostitution in Prague and its surroundings was not marked by significant changes in 2022. After the abolition of restrictions in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic, nightclubs have partially resumed operations. The clubs concentrate most on the supply and demand for sexual services. Consequently, their temporary closure or reduction in supply has meant a significant reduction in income for sex workers. An increase in the provision of services has long been recorded in private houses. The number of women and, sporadically, men in outdoor sites increased slightly during the COVID-19 situation (the offer corresponded to the established standards for mutual contact), but in the long term their number has remained stable, ranging between 4 and 5 % of the total number of persons engaged in prostitution (as of 2013). The highest number of women at outdoor sites is in the Ústí nad Labem Region; the situation in Brno is also problematic. The social and educational level of street prostitutes is mostly low. To a large extent, these are the most risky prostitutes in terms of health and hygiene, using narcotic and psychotropic substances. They are often forced to take the drugs and thus become dependent on their suppliers (pimps) and earn money through prostitution to buy drugs for themselves and their "managers".

The findings confirm the information that due to the large number of persons providing sexual services, prostitution is voluntary in almost all cases. The exception are not only women at outdoor sites, but the high tolerance of women towards sexual exploitation in general is also distorting. A lot of these women consider this behaviour (unacceptable by law) to be normal. **Many people** actively offer themselves as “**occasional**” prostitutes and respond to job offers in erotica, presented in the press or on the Internet. It is clear from the surveys that a wide range of people from various social, age and educational levels engage in prostitution. The R-R data also show that there has not been a significant increase regarding women from Ukraine in the prostitution scene. Rather, women who provided sexual services in the past are returning.

Data from the **Rozkoš bez rizika** organisation (Pleasure without Risk, hereinafter referred to as “R-R”) shows that in **2022, the organization provided health, social and therapeutic services to sex workers in 13 regions of the Czech Republic**. In total, they worked with **1,915 individuals** and provided 4,888 services.

In 2022, R-R provided services to clients of Czech, Slovak, Ukrainian, Romanian, Nigerian, Russian, Bulgarian, Moldovan, Brazilian, and Polish nationalities as part of the professional social counseling and outreach program. The most frequently addressed cases were based on adverse social situations on health, safety, finances, debt issues, housing, employment, victims of violence and crime, addictions, relationships, and parenting competencies. Due to rising inflation, there has also been an increased demand for food assistance.

Although the R-R workers **have not encountered child prostitution** in any of the regions, they learned about it secondarily, through their research. They repeatedly found that approximately one-third of those interviewed began taking money for sex before the age of 18. Child prostitution is kept secret from the R-R

organisation and if a person under 18 is found in a club or a similar place, s/he is prevented from contacting R-R. However, the R-R organization workers encountered one case of "baby prostitution" (offering a child in a stroller), which is being dealt with by the Police of the Czech Republic. In the Ústí nad Labem region, the topic of child prostitution was raised by an article in the Autumn of 2022, which dealt with the municipal district of Ústí nad Labem, Předlice.

### 3.2 Situation in the area of soliciting

In 2022, police statistics showed a total of 67 registered criminal offences of soliciting under the provisions of Section 189 of the Criminal Code. A total of 58 cases were solved, 28 persons were prosecuted and investigated (see table part). In the statistics for 2022, MoJ reported 21 recorded cases and 18 persons convicted of the crime of soliciting under the provisions of Section 189 of the Criminal Code and Section 204 of the Old Criminal Code. The trend in relation to sentences imposed remained unchanged in 2022, with suspended sentences (14) exceeding unconditional sentences (4).

### 3.3 Situation in the area of illegal employment of foreigners

A significant entity in the area of combating illegal employment of foreigners is, apart from the police, also the State Labour Inspection Office (hereinafter referred to as "SLIO"), or its regional labour inspectorates (hereinafter referred to as "LI"), which perform inspections in the field of compliance with the provisions of Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Employment Act"), including those that regulate conditions of work performed by foreign citizens in the Czech Republic, compliance with provisions of Act No. 262/2006 Coll., Labour Code, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Labour Code"), and other legal regulations governing working and wage conditions, and inspections in the area of compliance with health and safety regulations at the workplace. In practice, the most severe violations of labour regulations may have a closer connection with the criminal law, i.e. the crime of trafficking in human beings and minor offences concerning the enabling of illegal work.

Control activities in the first quarter of 2022 were still partially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of controls in the area of illegal employment were also affected by the regulation of access to the labour market for persons with temporary protection.

Out of the total number of 6,572 inspections focused on detecting illegal employment, illegal work was detected in 743 entities by regional labour inspectorates. The labour inspection authorities detected a total of 2,561 illegally employed natural persons during their inspections. Specifically, 475 citizens of the Czech Republic, 79 citizens of other European Union Member States and 2,007 foreigners, citizens of third countries. In terms of the specific form of illegal work of a foreigner, in 537 cases it was the performance of dependent work outside the employment relationship, in 1,656 cases it was the performance of work in violation of an issued employment permit or without such a permit, or in violation of an issued employee card, intra-corporate transfer card or blue card or without one of these cards, and in 89 cases it was the performance of work by a foreigner without a valid residence permit in the Czech Republic. In some cases, more than one form

of illegal work was detected in one person under inspection, therefore it is not possible to add the individual numbers without further calculation.

In the case of detected illegal foreign workers, the most frequent were citizens of the nationalities of Ukraine (1,669), Moldova (116) and Vietnam (46). Others included citizens of Turkey (16), Georgia (12), Russian Federation (12) and Kazakhstan (11). In addition to the above, citizens of Uzbekistan, Tunisia, Cuba, Syria, People's Republic of China, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Indonesia, Egypt, India, the Republic of Korea, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Brazil, Iran, Morocco and the Philippines were also found to be working illegally.

**In 2022, the labour inspection authorities also participated in an inspection action focused on possible labour exploitation** carried out by the Police of the Czech Republic within the framework of the European Action Days 2022. During this action, **32 inspections** were completed, which revealed a total of **82 violations**. These checks identified **25 illegally employed individuals, mostly citizens of Ukraine and Moldova**.

**In 2022, SLIO carried out a total of 302 inspections directly focused on the area of disguised employment intermediation.** The inspections were carried out on **294 business entities**, of which **288 were legal entities** and in **6 self-employed natural persons**. **Violations of legal regulations were detected in 242 inspections**, and within the framework of these inspections, disguised intermediation was detected in 131 business entities. In addition, **disguised intermediation was detected regarding another 128 employers** – within the scope of inspections that were primarily focused on another inspection area. **In total, disguised employment intermediation was detected in 259 business entities. Since the effective date of the new amendment of the Employment Act, i.e. from 2 August 2021, 126 business entities that allowed the performance of disguised employment intermediation were also detected.** At the same time, **428 persons were detected performing illegal work by inspections** focusing on combating disguised employment agency. **In 17 cases, these were citizens of the Czech Republic, in 13 cases European Union Member States citizens and in 398 cases third countries citizens** (mostly citizens of Ukraine and Moldova).

**An important part of the control activity in 2022 in the field of agency employment were also inspections of the working conditions of employment agencies** employing and assigning temporary protection holders from Ukraine, as well as inspections of users to whom temporary protection holders from Ukraine were assigned. **In 2022, a total of 566 inspections were completed**, focusing on the area of agency employment and employment placement, with **violations found in 196 inspections**.

**Inspection activities aimed at checking the working conditions of temporary protection holders from Ukraine have been launched since 22 April 2022.** In 2022, the labour inspection authorities received a total of **54 inspection complaints related to the employment of citizens from Ukraine. In most cases, the submitters of the complaints were citizens of the Czech Republic**, one complaint for inspection was submitted by a citizen of the Slovak Republic, and 17 complaints for inspection were submitted by citizens of Ukraine. These complainants mainly pointed to unpaid wages, poor working conditions and also pointed to the performance of work without a contract of employment or an agreement on work performed outside the employment relationship (agreement on

the execution of work, agreement on work activities). One complaint drew attention to the performance of dependent work by a minor citizen of Ukraine without an employment contract or agreement. On the basis of these complaints submitted by citizens of Ukraine, inspections by regional labour inspectorates have already been initiated and are gradually being completed. **A total of 531 inspections were carried out in 2022, of which 404 have already been completed.** Of the 404 completed inspections, **193 of them were directly aimed at checking the working conditions of temporary protection holders from Ukraine, while 211 inspections were primarily focused on another inspection area, where the employment of temporary protection holders from Ukraine was also detected during the inspection.** Within the total number of completed inspections, a total of 4,695 temporary protection holders from Ukraine had their working conditions inspected.

**During 2022, two meetings of the Inter-Departmental Body for Combating Illegal Employment were held** (11 April 2022 and 14 December 2022). **The main topics were the assessment of the current developments in Ukraine and its impact on the issue of illegal employment** and the issue of the public list of illegal employers and liability for illegal employment by subcontractors. On 14 June 2022 and 6 December 2022, meetings of the **Inter-Departmental Body for Combating Illegal Employment of Foreigners** (hereinafter referred to as "IDBCIEF") were held to discuss the impact of the war in Ukraine on the labour market and employment of foreigners in the Czech Republic. Furthermore, projects for the development of foreign employment and a project to strengthen the control of illegal employment were presented (unfortunately, this project will not be implemented in 2023). Representatives of the MLSA also spoke about the creation of the institute of reliable/recognised employer and the introduction of a points-based system of preferential migration and related legislative changes. A draft labour migration reform proposal was presented, specifically an overview of the impact of the regulation and a timetable for preparation. The participants were also provided with information on the launch of the EURES+3Z Up! (EUROpean Employment Services + Third Countries Citizens) project and information about the campaign for the prevention of illegal employment of persons with temporary protection. On 6 October 2022, a meeting of the **Permanent Working Group on Illegal Employment** was held on the topic of the public list of illegal employers and liability for illegal employment in the subcontracting chain. On 6 October 2022, a meeting of the **Permanent Working Group on the Agency Employment and Disguised Employment Intermediation** was also held. The meeting discussed in particular the forthcoming amendment to Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, as amended, and other related acts, with the impact on the area of illegal employment.

#### 4. INFORMATION ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18

In addition to law enforcement agencies, the Authority for Social and Legal Protection of Children (hereinafter referred to as “ASLPC”) also plays an important role in resolving child victims of trafficking in human beings, by protecting the rights and defending the interests of endangered children.

The most intensive is the direct work with child victims of trafficking in human beings at the level of ASLPC of the municipal office of the municipality with extended powers, who have the most extensive range of competencies according to the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children. The agenda of social and legal protection of children (hereinafter referred to as “SLPC”) is provided 24/7 at this level (on-call outside office hours).

The system of assistance to a trafficked child works in such a way that the situation is always investigated in cooperation with law enforcement authorities (police, prosecutor's office) and other experts (medical facilities) and further steps are proposed to resolve the situation.

MLSA annually monitors important [statistical indicators](#) concerning social and legal protection performance, which are processed in the **Annual Report on the Performance of Social and Legal Protection of Children**, with the Report reflecting the situation for the previous year.

**From the point of view of trafficking in children, the following areas are monitored in the Report:**

- The number of children in whom abuse for the production of child pornography was registered or proven in the reference year;
- The number of children in whom abuse for prostitution was registered or proven in the reference year;
- The number of cases in which ASLPC filed a criminal complaint with the Police of the Czech Republic or the Public Prosecutor's Office on suspicion of committing a crime against life, health, freedom, human dignity, moral development or property of the child (criminal reports of committing a criminal offence under Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, specifically under Section 169 – entrusting a child to another person for adoption or other similar reason, Section 193 – abuse of a child for production of pornography, and Section 193a – participation in pornographic performance).

Other types of commercial abuse of children are not monitored separately within the Annual Report on the performance of SLPC.

Only cases that have been reported to and resolved by ASLPC are registered in the Report. The number of registered cases of **abuse of boys and girls for the production of child pornography** increased in 2022 when compared to 2021. In 2022, **21 boys and 106 girls** were abused for the **production of child pornography** (in 2021, the number was 10 boys and 90 girls). As for **child prostitution**, the trend is similar. **In 2022**, the ASLPC dealt with a total of **21 cases of child prostitution** (10 boys and 11 girls; in 2021 the cases included 2 boys and 6 girls).

This topic needs further attention, including the issue of child safety in cyberspace.

In terms of age, **the most vulnerable group** are children in the age category **from 6 to 15 years**. Girls have a higher incidence of abuse in terms of gender.

As far as the Facilities for Children – foreigners is concerned, **a total of 81 unaccompanied minors, 72 boys and 9 girls**, were admitted to the facilities in 2022. Of these, 15 were in the age group under 15 and 65 in the age group over 15. **Only one child was asylum seeker**. In terms of ethnicity, children from Ukraine (28) predominate as a result of the war, followed by children from Syria (24) and Afghanistan (21). One of the girls who passed through the facility was a 16-year-old girl from **Romania** who was **suspected of having been trafficked** to Europe for illegal activities. However, the girl eventually escaped from the facility – and a search was launched for her, but unfortunately without result.

The entire year 2022 was marked by the refugee crisis from Ukraine. Since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine, the MLSA actively convened and participated in regular interdepartmental meetings on this issue with representatives of the MoI, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic etc., and monitored the situation through regular methodical online meetings with representatives of individual regional offices and the City Hall of Prague, other regular meetings were held with representatives of non-profit organizations that specialize in refugee issues.

The MLSA has also set up a regularly updated website with all the necessary information for people fleeing from Ukraine due the war:

<https://www.mpsv.cz/web/cz/ukrajina>

<https://www.mpsv.cz/web/cz/zajisteni-pece-o-deti>

Awareness raising and information was also provided by social and legal protection authorities throughout the Czech Republic in the form of professional counselling. On 14 June 2022, in cooperation with La Strada, a lecture on the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings for the ASLPC on the specifics of this topic was provided as part of a methodological consultation with regional authorities. The La Strada organisation also provided the MLSA with a set of indicators of possible trafficking in human beings – adapted specifically for the purposes of social and legal protection of children and minors (i.e. most often unaccompanied minors or children with foreign accompaniment), distributed to representatives of regional authorities. For 2023, newly accredited trainings for ASLPC specifically focused on child trafficking will also be offered in cooperation with La Strada.

In its activities, the MLSA focused mainly on preventive activities. For this reason, a grant call for 2022 was announced to support temporary activities for families with children from Ukraine. The MLSA has been monitoring the situation of citizens from Ukraine and their families throughout the armed conflict in Ukraine. At the same time, it reflects the economically adverse impact on non-profit organizations, municipalities and their contributory organizations, regions and their contributory organizations that provide services and activities to these families and children. On this basis, the MLSA has prepared an extraordinary subsidy procedure in the amount of CZK 12 million, which will be used to create and support temporary activities for families with children, especially those aged 0 to 6 years, to support the adaptation of families and their anchoring in society after their arrival from Ukraine and their integration into the labour market. Supporting citizens and families leaving Ukraine due the armed conflict in their current unfavourable living situation is one of

the many priorities of the MLSA. The grant is prepared as part of a wider cooperation and partnership between the MLSA and UNICEF in response to the refugee crisis caused by the armed conflict in Ukraine.

In 2022, the project "[A Comprehensive Approach to Preventing and Combating Child Trafficking](#)", implemented by Accendo – Centre for Science and Research, in cooperation with Charles University, was supported through the [Security Research Programme for the State 2022-2027 \(SecPro\)](#). The MoI acts as a technical coordinator in the project in order to apply the results of the project in practice. The project includes:

- Baseline analytical study: It will map the situation in the area of child trafficking in the Czech Republic, including an assessment of possible sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel, and will include an analysis of criminal cases of child trafficking,
- Methodology for identifying and providing assistance to child victims of trafficking: It will respond to the main conclusions of the study on the forms of this crime and will develop effective procedures for identifying child victims of trafficking. The methodology will also address procedures for assisting child victims of trafficking.
- Educational programme for identification and support of victims of child trafficking: In order to increase the number of identified cases of child trafficking in the Czech Republic and to provide assistance to these victims, a proposal for an educational programme/course for persons who may come into contact with child victims of the crime of trafficking will be developed based on the research findings.
- Proposal for a prevention project aimed at raising legal awareness of child trafficking among the general public – the prevention project will be based on examples of good practice from the Czech Republic or abroad. It will be applied to the selected region. The preventive project will be aimed at the general public in order to raise awareness and sensitivity of people towards the forms of child trafficking identified in the research in the Czech Republic, and thus involve a wider range of public figures in the fight against this type of crime.



## 5. SUPPORT FROM ASSISTING ORGANISATIONS

### 5.1 La Strada Czech Republic

In 2022, La Strada Czech Republic, public service company, provided outpatient or residential social services to **a total of 99 male and female clients**. The clients used social services in the form of contact counselling or complex social services.

In 2022, as in the previous year, among the clients of La Strada Czech Republic, the number of migrants prevailed compared to citizens of the Czech Republic. Most clients came from **Ukraine, the Philippines, Mongolia, Slovakia, Poland** and other countries. **Forced labour and labour exploitation continued to be the predominant form of trafficking in human beings, accounting for the majority of all newly registered cases in the organisation.** As in previous years, forced prostitution was the second predominant form of trafficking in 2022, and four new cases were recorded.

Out of the total number of clients, **the complex social services** of La Strada Czech Republic were provided to **99** male and female clients; 62 people (20 women and 30 men and 12 children) established new cooperation and 37 persons (19 women, 14 men and 4 transgender persons) continued in the cooperation started already in previous years. **Contact counselling** represents cooperation with clients on one clearly defined assignment, in the number of one or several consultations, without accommodation of the client. This form of collaboration **was used by one large group of 9 clients in 2022**, who have subsequently moved to the organisation's comprehensive services due to the complexity of the situation addressed.

The sharp increase in the number of male and female clients has been driven primarily by the Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. In response, La Strada has expanded its comprehensive services for the under-18 age group to be able to assist mothers with children who may be trafficked or exploited and who represent the majority of those fleeing Ukraine. A large group of La Strada's male and female clients were refugees from Ukraine, a group of people potentially at risk of trafficking due to the fact that they also belonged to another vulnerable category of people (people with disabilities, single mothers, families with multiple children, etc.) **This group consisted of 23 people, including 11 adults and 12 children (6 girls and 6 boys).** Another reason for the increase in clientele is the admission of two large groups of Filipino and Czech citizens to the comprehensive services. This is a group of clients who came to the organization through the contact counseling as described above. The second large group of 14 clients entered the organization's services following extensive implementation by the police.

**There were 76 persons of foreign nationality**, 33 women, 26 men, 3 transgender persons, 12 children (6 girls and 6 boys). **In another 25 cases, there were 6 women, 18 men and 1 transgender person, citizens of the Czech Republic.** Thus, foreign nationality remains more numerous among La Strada's clients. The most represented group of foreign nationality were citizens of Ukraine (28). The second most represented group of foreign nationality were citizens of the Philippines (25). Furthermore, citizens of Mongolia (6), Slovakia (6), Poland (4), Romania (2), Moldova (1), Bulgaria (1), Latvia (1) used the complex of social

services. **In the case of citizens of the Czech Republic, the target countries for exploitation were the Czech Republic (13), United Kingdom (11) and Ireland (1).**

During 2022, 13 women newly partnered with the organization. In total, they used the complex of services of the organization by women citizens of Ukraine (18), the Philippines (17), and the Czech Republic (6), Mongolia (3), Slovakia (1). **Of the total number of 39 women, 6 girls and 3 transgender persons who identified as women, 26 were trafficked for forced labour or labour exploitation, 8 for forced prostitution and 1 woman was trafficked for forced marriage.** Two female clients were trafficked for forced prostitution and forced labor, and in one case a female client was trafficked for forced prostitution and forced domestic labor. **In the case of 7 women and 6 girls, this was a vulnerable category of people who were at risk of exploitation or trafficking. The clear trend of recent years where forced labour far outweighs forced prostitution still prevails.** For female clients newly admitted to the organisation's services in 2022, forced labour was a form of trafficking in 9 cases and forced prostitution in 4 cases. Due to the Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Ukrainian women fleeing the war dominated the services in 2022. At the same time, as in the previous two years, the number of women from the Philippines also remained high.

**Female clients of foreign nationality were most often recruited by employment agencies,** by intermediators, or received a job offer through acquaintances. In the case of one Ukrainian client, the recruitment was based on the offer of free accommodation for refugees from Ukraine, for the other Ukrainian clients, the recruitment took place through an intermediary of the same nationality.

**In the case of female Filipino clients, recruitment took place through an employment agency in the Philippines, which was contacted by another employment agency in the Czech Republic,** which subsequently assigned female clients to work with a specific employer. Since the process of processing documents and work permits is quite complicated and lengthy, it also costs a lot of money, the clients borrowed from their families or acquaintances to pay all the costs and fees. In such cases, clients feel some pressure from family and other close persons, regarding debt repayment, so they agree to work even though the terms differ from the original agreement.

**It is common practice for Filipino female nationals to be asked to work overtime by intermediators and then not paid.** If female employees demand payment of full wages and ask the employer not to assign work to that extent, the **agency or intermediary often starts threatening, among other things, termination of employment and problems with residency.** If the clients raised the issue of poor working conditions and demanded the termination of the employment relationship in an orderly manner, threats of revocation of the residence permit followed. For clients, citizens of Czech Republic and Slovakia, there were threats of physical violence against them or their family members and physical violence as such. **In the cases of Ukrainian clients, a common means of coercion was the threat of losing their accommodation,** which is linked to the employer and/or a specific landlord who subsequently abused the women or profited from their work. The system of crisis accommodation for refugees from Ukraine in the Czech Republic operates in such a way that a refugee is entitled to accommodation from the state only once. If the refugee refuses this accommodation or moves away (in the case of work), he or she loses the right to accommodation and is not entitled to submit

a second application to the state. This system contributes to refugees not addressing their situation in fear of losing their accommodation and remaining in poor conditions.

Three new clients from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ukraine were **forced to provide sexual services**, in one of these cases there was also forced domestic work. For the other newly arrived clients, **the work most often took place in factories and warehouses or cleaning companies.**

**During the year 2022, 30 men and 6 boys** have newly established cooperation with the organization. In 2022, a total of 44 men used the organization's complex social services. 6 boys and 1 transgender person who identified as male. **In terms of nationality**, citizens of the **Czech Republic** (19) remained the most numerous among the clients, while citizens of **Ukraine** (10), **Slovak Republic** (5), **Philippines** (5), **Poland** (4), **Mongolia** (3), **Romania** (2), **Moldova** (1), **Bulgaria** (1) and **Latvia** (1) also used the complex services. **All new clients reported forced labour and labour exploitation.**

In the case of one large group, it involved **recruiting men from a homeless background** and exploiting their socially weak situation, financial distress and other added vulnerabilities. Perpetrators targeted people with particular vulnerabilities, such as alcohol or other substance dependency, lack of family background, long-term neglected health, high levels of debt or criminal history. In most cases, this involved a promise of housing and earnings.

The most frequent means of coercion used were **the use of distress and dependence of persons** with no family and social background and **threats of losing the accommodation**. Forms of coercion in some cases included **restriction of personal freedom, threats of physical violence or physical assault itself and denial of medical treatment, as well as confiscation of personal documents.**

The most common means of coercion used in the case of foreigners is the **threat to revoke the residence permit, or to cause problems with the foreigner's legal residence** in the Czech Republic. Furthermore, the perpetrators significantly exploited the victims' dependence resulting from the language barrier and ignorance of the legal system of the Czech Republic.

In the cases of new clients, citizens of the Czech Republic and foreigners, it **involved work in the construction industry, performing excavation or demolition work, maintenance and repair of real estates**. Some of the clients were forced to work in the homes of the perpetrators or, after completing one work shift, they were sent to another workplace where they had to continue working without rest. In most cases, the money was paid into the perpetrators' accounts or was embezzled by the perpetrators, and the clients only received a smaller amount of money. In the case of foreigners, it was work in warehouses, industry and delivery work. Most often they worked 10 to 14 hours a day without breaks for rest and lunch. The men were either not paid their full wages or were not reimbursed for overtime hours and were charged large sums for accommodation, food and other unspecified items.

**Most clients** have established cooperation and benefited from comprehensive social services organisations **on the basis of a police referral**. **A significant number of clients contacted the La Strada SOS hotline** thanks to information received from the organisation's field workers or from someone in their social

environment. In addition, clients were referred to La Strada by cooperating helping non-profit organizations or other institutions.

**A total of 44 persons were referred to La Strada by the Police of the Czech Republic** (mainly through the regional offices of NCCOC), **18 persons turned to La Strada on their own**, **13 persons were referred to the services through cooperating Czech and foreign NGOs**, and **1 client was referred to the services by a person from his neighborhood**.

**A total of 73 male and female clients who used the organisation's complex services in 2022 cooperated with the Police of the Czech Republic or the police forces in the United Kingdom.**

La Strada Czech Republic until 2022 provided social services only to trafficked and exploited adults. **In 2022, La Strada Czech Republic social services were expanded to include the provision of residential services to mothers with children**, and as a result, minors accompanied by their parents began to enter the services. The age range of male and female clients is wide: the youngest adult in services was an 18-year-old client and the oldest person was a 64-year-old client. The youngest person in services was a 6 year old child, and the oldest child was 17 years old. In 2022, the average age of these females was 37 and the average age of males was 46.

In 2022, the organization's clientele was **represented by an attorney in 73 cases** and **20 accompaniments were arranged by the attorney** for various criminal proceedings. In 2022, the organization's clients were also assisted with **201 contacts with the authorities**.

In 2022, the La Strada field team carried out a total of **89 field trips**. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in the number of field visits, especially in response to the Ukrainian refugee wave. The field team was therefore reinforced with two more fieldworkers with language skills. A significant part of the screenings this year took place in **accommodation facilities, including mass accommodation facilities for war refugees**. Other types of locations in which depositing was carried out were (in order of frequency): distribution and warehousing, construction, agricultural operations, light industry – particularly automotive, food manufacturing, heavy industry, retail sales and street begging. Occasionally, probes were again carried out into the environment of fairground attractions, massage parlours, live-in domestic workers and networking with organisations and institutions in the regions (especially NGOs, ASLPC, Employment Office of the Czech Republic – hereinafter referred to as “EOs” etc.).

The largest number of contacted persons came from **Ukraine** – the share of persons of this nationality contacted in the field increased by almost 35 % year-on-year. Next, in order of frequency, were mainly persons with the nationality of **the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, the Philippines, Bulgaria, Moldova, Hungary, Vietnam, Poland, India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Thailand**. Smaller groups of persons and individuals with the nationalities of **China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Serbia, Macedonia, Georgia, Belarus, Russian Federation, Armenia, Nepal, Pakistan, Indonesia, Nigeria, Tajikistan and Argentina** were also contacted. For several dozen persons, the nationality of the other two was not established.

**Fieldwork in 2022 was very significantly affected by the refugee wave from Ukraine.** Although there were problematic situations regarding the employment of people of other nationalities, it was evident in some locations that intermediaries, hosts and employers had completely shifted their focus from labour migrants to the group of Ukrainian refugees. Given the high level of vulnerability of those refugees to exploitation, it was necessary to intensify fieldwork with this particular target group.

In the field, the most frequently addressed issues with the contacted persons were (in order of frequency): **Non-payment of wages/remuneration for work and wage compensation; non-payment of mandatory contributions by the employer; forcing to perform illegal work; illegal deductions from wages; non-observance of working hours, breaks in work and shift scheduling in violation of the Labour Code or non-observance of the government regulation on minimum wage, guaranteed wage and wage supplements; changes in the type and/or conditions of work after arrival in the Czech Republic; poor conditions of accommodation provided by the employer; unlawful termination of employment by the employer; failure by the employer to comply with the notification and registration obligations and termination of employment and change of employer for holders of employee cards. In a few cases, also extortion, dangerous blackmail, unjust enrichment and violence by the employer.**

## **5.2 Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague**

In 2022, the Magdala Project provided **assistance to 3 victims** (all of them were women) **of trafficking in human beings** who were provided with comprehensive social services including accommodation. Two female users started using the services of the project in 2016 and 2017, and the cooperation continued during 2022. One new female user started working with the project in 2022. The average age of these users was 30 years old, and 3 users are citizens of the Czech Republic. Two users have 3 children, one aged 3-10 years and the other aged 3-9 years. One new user has no children, she is pregnant. The users were from poor socio-economic backgrounds, mostly of Roma origin. Most of them grew up in orphanages.

These victims and their children were provided with accommodation in the network of charity shelters whose operation was affected by the pandemic situation, professional social counselling, legal counselling, sociotherapeutic counselling, food and material support during the period of cooperation with the Magdala Project. **In 2022**, Project Magdala staff worked on a long-term basis **with users undergoing treatment with a psychiatric diagnosis**. They also worked with **women who were in situations of prostitution and domestic violence** and were addressing the current situation. The Magdala project focused mainly on the return of these persons to normal life, getting out of a difficult life situation and "making" these persons more competent.

Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague also met **4 women**, 3 of whom were childless, and 1 came with her 2 children, whom the organization identifies as potential victims of trafficking in human beings. These are **refugees from Ukraine** who have encountered situations that can be assessed as trafficking during their journey or by their relatives. At the moment, they are using residential services, cooperating with the Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague and do not want to resolve

the situation through legal means. They are under the care of a psychologist and are processing their traumas related mainly to their situation in Ukraine.

Women or mothers with children from the prostitution environment who need counselling and want to leave the prostitution environment and solve their debt problems in a different way turn to the counselling centre.

**In 2022, employees staff of the Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague visited clients at least twice a month**, yet the war in Ukraine affected the whole situation. They met clients from Ukraine already before the war, none of the clients were held by force in clubs. They shared with them their great anxiety and concern for the lives of their loved ones who remained in Ukraine and whom they can only help financially. In the second half of the year, the **employees staff of the Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague** rarely met female clients from Ukraine, rather it is possible to perceive the more frequent availability of men in clubs. Workers were also informed by operations that people from Ukraine are not allowed in the club. The organization perceives that the danger of women from Ukraine becoming victims of trafficking in human beings is great. From meetings with colleagues from neighboring countries, the workers were informed of a number of testimonies that at the beginning of the war, when it was not possible to sufficiently coordinate the aid to refugees, a number of men were seen at the border taking women into cars with the intention of taking them to safety, but their appearance and cars raised suspicions that they would abuse the women's trust and take them to an unknown destination.

### 5.3 Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

Since 2011, Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (hereinafter referred to as "Diaconia ECCB") – the Centre for National Programs and Services has been implementing a social asylum housing service for men, couples, and women trafficked on the labour market and exploited. **In 2022, the residential asylum housing service was provided to 53 persons.** Among them were 10 women and 43 men; the average age of clients was 39 years. Most people came from **Mongolia (13)**, followed by **Bulgaria (8)**, **Kyrgyzstan (7)**, **the Philippines (4)**, **Ukraine (4)**, **Georgia (3)**, **the Czech Republic (3)**, **Kazakhstan (3)**, **Romania (2)**, **Moldova (2)**, **Colombia (1)**, **Armenia (1)**, **Mexico (1)** and from **Uzbekistan (1)**.

The following areas were the most frequently addressed client problems:

- person in crisis related to work issues (35);
- victim of crime (2);
- unpaid wages (8);
- unpaid sick leave (1);
- fraud (4);
- occupational work injury (1);
- crisis in connection with the war situation in the Ukraine – (1);
- trafficking in human beings (1).

During the course of the year, the staff carries out regular field trips to all localities in the Czech Republic. However, the fieldwork is primarily focused on

mapping high-risk locations and places where there is a high incidence of foreign workers and various forms of exploitation may occur. This includes hostels, other accommodation facilities, logistics complexes, and also addresses former clients who have valuable information about places with potential risks of exploitation.

In 2022, staff workers carried out a total of 58 field trips in the following regions: Capital Prague (5), Central Bohemian Region (14), Ústí Region (3), South Moravian Region (12), Olomouc Region (2), Hradec Králové Region (2), Pilsen Region (18) and Zlín Region (2). Approximately 309 people were approached in the field and more than 3,500 pieces of information leaflets were distributed to hostels and institutions across the Czech Republic.

In 2022, the Crisis Assistance Service provided assistance to 134 clients nationwide. There were 55 clients in Prague, 14 clients in Brno and 65 clients in Pilsen. There were 65 women and 69 men. The largest number of people came from Bulgaria (98), followed by Ukraine (24), the Philippines (2), the Czech Republic (4), Romania (2), Moldova (2), Cuba (1) and Azerbaijan (1). Most often, workers dealt with contracts related to non-payment of wages and supported people in crisis in relation to adverse social situations in the workplace. Support was also provided to Ukrainian families, particularly regarding the accompanying them to the authorities, dealing with benefits and support regarding medical procedures.

The staff of the Diaconia ECCB strives to address the problems of exploited people through a comprehensive approach, and an integral part of that work is assisting them in asserting their rights – providing documents, mediating legal assistance, and possibly assisting them in criminal proceedings.

## 6. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

### 6.1 Funds provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic

The Mol is funding the Program for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings. **In 2022, CZK 1,552,110 was spent by non-profit organisations** on services under this Program, including preventive activities. As part of extraordinary activities related to migrants from Ukraine in the Czech Republic, the amount of CZK **72,014** was provided.

### 6.2 Funds provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

**In 2022, the MLSA provided subsidies to organisations whose target group are mainly victims of trafficking in human beings in the total amount of CZK 29,648,404.**

**In connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, no further support** has been paid to organisations **under the extraordinary subsidy titles in 2022.**

The table section offers an overview of the financial resources provided to these organizations in 2022. The mentioned organizations provide services to clients regardless of age, so their clients may include persons under the age of 18 who are victims of trafficking in human beings.

**In turn, support has been paid to individual organisations under rounds I and II of the 2022 MLSA Emergency Grant Procedure to cover the costs of social services related to assistance to persons from the territory of Ukraine.**

CZK 237,405,882 was paid out in the first round, CZK 103,183,558 in the second round. In total, in 2022, **the amount of CZK 340,589,440** was paid to social services in connection with assistance **to persons who fled to the Czech Republic due to the war in Ukraine.**



## 7. PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

The following chapters contain information on educational activities, research, awareness- raising activities, information campaigns, and coordinated activities in the Czech Republic and at the international level. It should be noted that this area has been affected to the maximum extent by the Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the related migration wave, especially of Ukrainian women and children seeking safety in the Czech Republic.

### 7.1 Education

Also in 2022, educational activities focused on trafficking in human beings were organised in cooperation with state institutions and NGOs from the Czech Republic and in many cases also the partners from the international environment. The aim was to inform about MoI activities in the area of trafficking in human beings, about the functioning and streamlining of the Program, possibilities of support and protection of victims and current trends in trafficking in human beings. The main topic was also to inform about the options and ways of identifying potential victims by relevant professional groups who may come into contact with these cases in the course of their profession.

#### Police Education

In 2022, NCCOC police officers regularly participated in online meetings of EU Member States' representatives under the auspices of **Analysis Project Phoenix** (platform on trafficking in human beings) at EUROPOL, one of the topics was also "Trafficking in Human Beings – Risks for Refugees from Ukraine", where information from individual countries was exchanged and specific prevention activities were shared.

On 16 February 2022, an online seminar of the Justice Academy in Kroměříž was held with a focus on trafficking in human beings, with a special focus on the United Kingdom. By Mr Mgr. Starý, the national member of the Czech Republic, were presented the activities and possibilities of using the European Union Judicial Cooperation Unit **EUROJUST** and the possibility of financing the Joint Investigation Teams. A case study was presented by the Department of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration of the NCCOC.

Representatives of the Department of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration of the NCCOC worked closely with the SLIO based in Opava and the **Regional Labour Inspectorates** in the individual regions, in cooperation with the Crime Prevention Department of the MoI, training of the staff of the Regional Labour Inspectorates was carried out on 17 March 2022 in Prague and 30 May 2022 in Brno.

The Head of the 2nd Section of the Department of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration of the NCCOC, as part of the Strategic and Analytical Group, regularly met on-line with representatives of NGOs and participated in the training of approximately 40-50 new employees of **People In Need organization**.

From 4 October to 5 October 2022, the senior staff of the Department of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration of the NCCOC participated in the extended Instructional Methodological Employment in the PRIMAVERA Hotel in

Pilsen, held with the participation of specialists on trafficking in human beings from the NCCOC offices, prosecutors from the Regional State Prosecutor's Office, High State Prosecutor's Office, SLIO and LIs staff and representatives of the Federal Police Force of Austria.

The Head of the 2nd Section of the Department of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration of the NCCOC, as a permanent expert for the Police of the Czech Republic, continued to be part of the permanent working group of the Inter-Departmental Body for Combating Illegal Employment, which was established at the MLSA.

Officers of the Department of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration of the NCCOC, with a higher level of English language skills, continuously participated in the training activities of the **European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training** (hereinafter referred to as "CEPOL"), where they took part in e-learning courses, so-called webinars, focusing on trafficking in human beings and related issues.

NCCOC specialists also participate annually in lecturing activities focusing on trafficking in human beings in the training of police officers in the **specialisation course of the National Drug Headquarters of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service** (hereinafter referred to as "CPIS") of the Police of the Czech Republic.

Specialists of the regional police directorates regularly participate in instructional and methodological trainings, organized by the Bureau of CPIS, where the main trends and forecasts of the development of the crime of trafficking in human beings and prostitution are discussed.

As of 1 April 2022, the MoI approved the training programme "**Fundamental Rights, Protection of Personal Data and Dealing with Particularly Vulnerable Persons during Border Control**". The content of this course covers, among other things, the fight against trafficking in human beings, focusing on the following thematic units:

Description of the stages of trafficking in human beings;

- trafficking in children;
- identification of trafficking in human beings;
- detection of (potential) child victims of trafficking in human beings;
- interrogation of a victim of trafficking in human beings;
- principles and procedures of child interrogation.

The first course was held on 14 December 2022, delivered by the International Cooperation and Methodology Department of the NCCOC methodologist in charge of trafficking in persons and attended by a total of 13 police officers from the API at international airports of the International Police Cooperation Directorate for whom this course is a qualification training. The continuation of this course depends, among other things, on the available capacity of the Holešov training facility of the Office of Police Education and Service Training.

The NCCOC also organised 2 seminars for employees of regional labour inspectorates and 3 on-line seminars for employees of People in Need.

In 2022, a seven-week certified (for EQF level 5) Central European Police Academy (Mitteleuropäische Polizeiakademie, hereinafter referred to as “MEPA”) course was delivered, which is traditionally focused on organized crime and other serious forms of cross-border crime, their prevention and combating, which was co-organized by the Czech Republic (1 – 5 August 2022 in Prague ). After two years, the implementation of the four-week MEPA Special Course, which is designed for members of the foreign police service, was also renewed. The Czech Republic professionally provided part of the course during its organization in Bratislava on 20 – 21 September 2022. The issue of trafficking in human beings is included in both courses, which were attended by 4 police officers from the Czech Republic nominated by the Police Education and Service Training Unit.

In 2022, the CEPOL agency organised following residential courses, online seminars and webinars on the topic of trafficking in human beings:

Residential educational activities: Child Trafficking; Trafficking in Human Being – Sexual Exploitation; Trafficking in Human Being – Labor Exploitation, Trafficking in Human Being – Forced Criminal Activity and Forced Begging.

Online modules: Trafficking in Human Beings – Investigation of the Digital Business Model of Human Traffickers.

Webinar: Preventing and Detecting Trafficking in Human Beings Affecting People Fleeing from Ukraine.

## **Judicial Education**

**The education of judges and prosecutors**, which takes place through the Judicial Academy, **remains optional**. These educational events are optional and serve mainly to further education of these justice workers. Due to the voluntary nature of education through the Judicial Academy, it is not possible to order this by directive.

Completion of selected educational events is mandatory for the newly established institute of **judicial candidates**. The mandatory seminars that judicial candidates will have to attend as part of their annual professional training include a five-day interactive seminar in the area of criminal law dedicated to the criminal process, Proceedings from the idea of the indictment to the announcement of the verdict, and one simulated trial of their choice, which can be a simulated main hearing of court. **Education in the respective area of trafficking in human beings will not be mandatory for judicial candidates, however, they will also be able to optionally register for seminars written for the target group of judges and prosecutors as part of their professional training.**

The Judicial Academy announces a **seminar on trafficking in human beings** every year, and this seminar **was held on 16 February 2022**.

In 2019, the **e-learning course Trafficking in Human Beings from the Council of Europe HELP** programme was launched. The tutor was JUDr. Jana Zezulová, Ph.D. from the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office. The course is intended for judges, prosecutors and all other legal professionals involved in combating and

prosecuting trafficking in human beings and, in addition to national legislation, it also includes an analysis of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights, other international instruments and national examples of good practice in the protection of victims of trafficking. **A new module of the HELP course focusing on labour exploitation was translated into Czech in 2022. The course, including the new module, will be open for study in 2023.**

### **Other Educational Activities**

The issue of trafficking in human beings is always an integral part of **consular education**. Lectures dedicated to this issue are provided by the MoI. Consular education takes place at several levels. The basic type of consular education is the so-called pre-departure training, which is implemented in the form of three-week courses. In 2022, these lectures were secured by NCCOC. The lectures were aimed at getting to know the forms and manifestations of trafficking in human beings, the possibilities of helping victims of trafficking in human beings, and support systems for these victims. The consular staff were also informed about the possibilities of cooperation of the embassy with the relevant organizations that deal with trafficking in human beings and can, if necessary, provide follow-up assistance to the victims.

As every year, **La Strada Czech Republic** fulfilled its goals in the area of education and prevention activities, through **accredited courses for social workers and professionals working with the target group at risk of the undesirable phenomenon of labour exploitation and education on the subject of trafficking in human beings.**

**In 2022, 13 lectures** were held at secondary, higher vocational and higher education institutions. The format of the workshops remained in the established form. First, the issue of trafficking in human beings and labour exploitation was introduced to the audience through the La Strada video, followed by a discussion on the possible forms and shapes of these crimes. The organisation then focused on specific situations and suspicious job offers that they might encounter when looking for temporary jobs or employment, both on the labour market in the Czech Republic and when looking for extra income abroad. The selection of schools and other facilities for prevention was similar to previous years. **A total of 168 students attended the lectures.** Last year, six female and male employees of La Strada Czech Republic were behind the implementation of the workshops and were trained to do so.

**In 2022, 3 accredited training courses were implemented for the Administration of Refugee Facilities of the MoI.** The training focused mainly on legislation related to trafficking in human beings, identification of trafficked persons and detailed description of the services and activities of La Strada. In the practical part, methods of communication with trafficked and exploited persons and procedures in specific situations for asserting their rights and interests were tested.

**For the Romodrom organisation, which is dedicated to the assistance and integration of Roma clients, two training sessions were held for the Prague and national branches.** The training focused mainly on assistance and identification of trafficking among Roma refugees from Ukraine. In total **47 volunteers of the Hlavák (Prague Main Railway Station) Initiative** were also trained by the La Strada

organization **to identify indicators of trafficking in human beings** and work safely with clients in an environment with increased risk. They worked "on the front line" for several months and ensured the functioning of hotspots for Ukrainian refugees.

La Strada Czech Republic produced **2 videos focused on the prevention of trafficking in human beings among refugees from Ukraine**. The first video focused on safety tips when looking for work and accommodation and checking the offers that refugees receive upon arrival in the Czech Republic. This video was posted at all Regional Assistance Centres for Refugees from Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as „RACRUs“) branches where refugees come to register for temporary protection in the Czech Republic. The second video was created as an educational material for volunteers who assisted in different locations with large concentrations of refugees. The video focused on what to look out for in the field, what information to provide to refugees and where to go if there are potentially dangerous offers of work, accommodation or travel.

**In cooperation with the MoI, La Strada Czech Republic held two full-day meetings with staff of regional labour inspectorates and SUIPs in 2022, aimed at exchanging experiences and developing cooperation.** The first meeting took place in Prague and was attended by all inspectorates from the Czech Republic, the second meeting took place in Brno and was attended by inspectorates from the Moravia region.

The **training of the commanders of the municipal police from the South Bohemia Region** was initiated by the Department of Social Affairs of the South Bohemia Regional Office and will be followed by a presentation of issues related to the trafficking in human beings by La Strada Czech Republic at the Regional Crime Prevention Conference in 2023.

In cooperation with the **Svitlo Community Centre**, La Strada organized **lectures for refugees from Ukraine**, where lecturers presented how the labour market in the Czech Republic works, what unfair techniques are most often used by employers and what to avoid when looking for work and accommodation.

**In 2022, La Strada Czech Republic continued its project called Cross Continent Collaboration to Protect Asian Trafficking Victims in Europe.** This project, funded by Porticus Asia and organised by La Strada International, also involved other La Strada International members. Together, they have mapped the phenomenon of Asian trafficking to the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania, the system of assistance, the rights of victims of this crime and the relevant case law. The project has received a positive response and will continue in 2023.

**In 2023, the project entitled Provision of legal information for victims of the crime of trafficking in human beings and victims of trafficking-related crimes, implemented by La Strada with the support of the MoJ, will continue for the tenth year.** Under this project, in 2022, relevant legal information was provided to **441 persons, 186 of whom fell into the category of particularly vulnerable victims within the meaning of Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on Victims of Crime.**

**Activities aimed at minors** – 2022 was very influenced by the war in Ukraine and the related refugee crisis. In view of the large number of Ukrainian refugees, which is largely made up of women and children, La Strada has decided to partially extend its services to those under the age of 18. Already at the end of the year, La Strada started to work intensively on mapping the current system and on detecting

the most vulnerable groups, together with the MLSA, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Office of the Government and NGOs that focus on working with refugees and in particular with unaccompanied minors.

Thus, in 2023, La Strada plans several activities aimed at contributing to the prevention of trafficking in human beings and labour exploitation among the most at-risk group, Ukrainian refugees aged 15-20. According to the available data, a large part of this group is no longer in school and is trying to get a job in the Czech Republic, so they can easily find themselves in a situation where their rights will be violated. La Strada is therefore planning workshops focused on rights and obligations under the Labour Code, the recognition of risky situations and the possibilities of their solution for adolescent refugees from Ukraine.

At the same time, as early as 2022, La Strada was approached by the MLSA (Department for the Conception of the Protection of Children's Rights and the Transformation of Services for Families), which was looking for organisations that dealt with the issue of child trafficking. Since the target group of the organization has so far been only persons over 18 years of age, La Strada provides at least one-off training to individual ASLPCs focused on trafficking of minors. In view of the large number of child and adolescent refugees, La Strada eventually decided to offer training for those working with youth, especially for social workers and child welfare agency workers, but also for other interested parties.

**For this purpose, an 8-hour course entitled Introduction to Trafficking in Human Beings with a focus on children and adolescents was accredited in 2022.** As part of the prevention campaign for adolescent refugees from Ukraine, La Strada is also preparing several types of information and prevention materials that will be distributed during the organisation's field trips and across other services in cooperation with child social protection authorities and the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, which will now include the RACRUs.

Within the framework of the above-mentioned Magdala Project, the **Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague** carried out the following lecture and educational activities in 2022, which were implemented by the staff of the field team focused on sensitization and prevention of trafficking in human beings:

- 18 March 2022: lecture Týn nad Vltavou (POMOC/HELP Association).
- 3 November 2022: lecture at the Educational Institute for Girls – Velké Meziříčí.
- 4 November 2022: two lectures at the Catholic Grammar School in Trebíč.

International Organization for Migration (hereinafter referred to as “IOM”) Prague in cooperation with the Embassy of Philippines in the Czech Republic organized a lecture for about 100 members of the Filipino diaspora in the Czech Republic on the prevention of trafficking in human beings and exploitation.

**The Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals – foreigners** (hereinafter referred to as “FCF”), in the framework of prevention of trafficking and exploitation, emphasizes in particular the linguistic competence of the clients. Thus, regular tutoring sessions in Czech language are provided. Related topics are discussed in the context of teaching vocational subjects. In individual and group work with long-term clients, the FCF focuses in particular on the prevention of risks related to the integration process. Many socialisation programmes serve this purpose. In addition,

FCF provides therapeutic services, an exit preparation programme and other services according to the individual needs of the clients.

In order to prevent risks, including trafficking and abuse, various seminars and workshops are organised in cooperation with other organisations to raise awareness of the risks associated with living in Europe, extremism, etc. Legal and social counselling is provided to clients on an ongoing basis.

In 2022, workshops were held on the topic:

- Opportunities for employment and the labor market, including entrepreneurship.
- Prevention of involvement in risk groups and prevention of illegal work.
- Responsible and healthy sex life and cross-cultural differences in the view of sexuality.

**State Labour Inspection Office (SLIO)** – an integral part of the activities of the labour inspection authorities is prevention and education, which is directed to both employers and employees. This is carried out not only as part of the inspectors' inspection activities, but also through labour law advice which is regularly provided to the general public at the regional labour inspectorates. Inspectors of illegal employment regularly participate in professional seminars or trainings, which cover both the issue of employment of foreigners itself and, for example, the issue of disguised employment mediation, which is also one of the most socially harmful phenomena.

The training of inspectors of illegal employment specialising in the issue of employment of foreigners is organised by SLIO through regular professional seminars with the participation of experts on the issue and in the form of professional seminars and training provided for inspectors in cooperation with other inspection bodies that also deal with the issue of employment of foreigners. The content of these seminars is always adapted to current developments in the field of employment of foreign nationals.

In 2022, the Asylum and Migration Policy Department of the MoI held 2 expert seminars for inspectors on the issue of trafficking in human beings. There was also an online seminar on the topic of „Stays of Persons with Temporary Protection“, which was organized in cooperation with representatives of the MoI. A two-day professional seminar on „Covert Employment Intermediation“ was also held, which took place with the participation of representatives of the EO Directorate General and the MLSA.

## 7.2 Prevention

As mentioned above, after the Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the Czech Republic launched a massive awareness raising, education and prevention campaign to protect as much as possible the very vulnerable migrants from Ukraine (especially women and children) in the Czech Republic from any criminal activities, including trafficking in human beings. Official information was (and continues to be) disseminated through various channels. **Each ministry also has relevant information in Ukrainian on its website. The MoI has set up an information hotline for refugees from Ukraine.**

The Government of the Czech Republic has allocated **additional funds to the Mol for the prevention of trafficking in human beings** and the Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings. The programme is thus ready to protect and provide the necessary services to more victims than is normally the case.

The coordination of preventive activities against trafficking in human beings takes place within the framework of the **Inter-Departmental Coordination Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**, which includes both representatives of state authorities and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The coordination group was also created within the framework of the Consortium of NGOs helping migrants in the Czech Republic.

**Various entities have produced several preventive materials**, which are distributed directly to the target group in the Czech Republic in many ways. **Entities that work with refugees are trained to be able to identify cases and provide assistance**. The necessary information is transmitted both at the regional assistance centers for refugees and is distributed directly in the field. This also applies to materials and campaigns created by the **European Commission or the OSCE, which we also share and distribute among the target group**.

**The Police of the Czech Republic** has intensified its criminal intelligence activities, monitoring the situation, focusing on high-risk locations and investigating all relevant suspicions, both offline and online. Representatives of the Police of the Czech Republic regularly participate in EUROPOL online meetings. They also meet regularly with representatives of NGOs. **They train volunteers and social workers of NGOs on the risk of trafficking in human beings**.

To prevent fraud and crimes against people fleeing Ukraine, the **Police of the Czech Republic** created preventive materials in the form of **leaflets, audio spots and video spots for screens**. The video spot gives specific tips to Ukrainians entering the EU and seeking shelter. The materials are distributed through the police. The **Ministry of the Interior distributed the material to regions and municipalities** through crime prevention managers, as well as to voluntary organisations.

**The Refugee Facilities Administration of the Mol ensures the regular presence of social workers from the Centre for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners** in its facilities where it provides accommodation to refugees, who provide information and counselling services to the accommodated persons. All clients are informed that all services to obtain residence status, health insurance, bank accounts and registration at the employment office are free of charge and that only fraudsters demand financial remuneration.

### **Specific activities**

Information on the risks of trafficking in human beings is provided by **the Mol** through a [separate website](#), where the Europe-wide [prevention campaign of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe](#) is mediated. A [video spot produced by the European Commission](#) is also recommended.

In order to help aid agencies and organizations identify and assist potential victims, **the Mol has also published a Czech version of the** Organization for



Security and Cooperation in Europe **campaign on a [website dedicated to volunteers and volunteer organizations](#)** that, with the help of the Ministry of the Interior, also provide invaluable assistance to refugees. A "Potential Trafficking Indicator Card" has been created and is continuously distributed to selected professional target groups likely to come into contact with victims of trafficking.

**A whole range of other useful information, which by its nature is also preventive in the fight against trafficking in human beings**, is available on the [website of the Mol's assistance to Ukrainian refugees](#). Refugees can also obtain the necessary information by calling the **Mol's free telephone line +420 974 801 802** during office hours: Monday – Friday: 08:00 – 18:00. **Outside office hours there is a virtual assistant of the Mol.**

In relation to Ukrainian migrants, **the Police of the Czech Republic** has developed a number of preventive and informative activities that can be used at various stages of their integration process, a general overview of which is posted on its [website](#), and this [video spot](#) has been created against various illegal brokers and scammers.

**The NCCOC** as a specialized unit of the Police of the Czech Republic is, in addition to its own operational and search activities, also devoted to educational activities, both for its own officers and for interested experts who, in the course of their activities, may come into contact with potential victims of trafficking in human beings, or who may provide basic preventive counselling to such persons.

In 2022, the measures against the spread of COVID-19, which in recent years had severely limited the possibility of carrying out prevention and control actions, were discontinued. An Action Days control action was carried out from 15 June to 21 June 2022 to detect possible labour exploitation, mainly of war refugees from Ukraine. The action was carried out within the framework of the Trafficking in Human Beings European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (hereinafter referred to as "THB EMPACT") project on the territory of EU Member States with a multidisciplinary approach during the mentioned dates. In the Czech Republic, the event was managed by the staff of the Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration Department of the NCCOC. In cooperation with specialists from the Department of General Crime of the Regional Police Directorate of the Capital City of Prague, a check of night venues was carried out on 27 April 2022, in order to establish information on possible sexual exploitation of women from Ukraine, no victims were identified. In cooperation with colleagues from the Department of Foreign Police of the Regional Police Directorate of the Ústí nad Labem Region and in cooperation with the staff of the Labour Inspectorate in Ústí nad Labem, an inspection of hotel and restaurant establishments in the territory of the Ústí nad Labem Region was carried out on 26 September 2022, in order to establish information on possible labour exploitation of Ukrainian refugees, no victims of trafficking in human beings were identified, only misconduct in labour relations was identified and the matter was dealt with by the Labour Inspectorate. Targeted inspections were carried out to a lesser extent with the participation of a smaller number of subjects, where these inspections resulted from the requirements of the individual criminal proceedings conducted during the period.

**The state administration bodies in the framework of the MLSA** act preventively against trafficking in human beings in the Czech Republic and abroad, in particular by raising public awareness of the rights and obligations, risks and

possibilities of dealing with adverse life situations related to employment (including of foreign workers) in the Czech Republic. This is done in particular through internet portals: [The portal of the MLSA/EO](#), EURES, the [website of the SLIO](#), the website [cizinci.cz](#); [Support for Foreigners – Interactive Map](#), etc. The website „Work in the Czech Republic“ was completely translated into Ukrainian during 2022. The Smart Migration mobile application was also launched.

In 2022, **MLSA** representatives continuously provided personal and telephone consultations to interviewers, and actively participated in on-line events, especially seminars and videoconferences, during which they conveyed up-to-date information to professionals and the general public in connection with the potential occurrence of illegal employment of foreigners on the territory of the Czech Republic.

MLSA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Mol and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (and possibly also in cooperation with the Confederation of Industry and Transport and the Chamber of Commerce), organized regional economic migration awareness seminars for employers planning to employ foreigners in the Czech Republic.

**Following the launch of the military operation of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, all efforts of both the EO General Directorate and EURES were directed towards mitigating the impact of the refugee crisis and generally assisting Ukraine in this complicated period.** EURES advisors, including the short-listed implementation team, have been actively involved in providing assistance to refugees from Ukraine, and have been used for this purpose mainly because of their language skills and experience of working with foreign clients. These activities were subsequently legitimised by the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive, which de jure brought temporary protection visa holders under the jurisdiction of EURES. They were thus placed on an equal footing with EU citizens and as such could benefit from the full repertoire of EURES services, except for job placement abroad.

In addition to the above, the normal provision of EURES services continued without major complications. Advisers attended advice days, gave lectures in schools and other establishments, and participated in job fairs, both domestic and international. Most of the job fairs were gradually returning to an on-site format, i.e. with the physical presence of visitors.

In the field of training, the EURES implementation team took part in language training, which started in May 2022, and consultants and other members of the implementation team participated in training, both domestic and European. Training took place in physical or online form.

The issue of illegal work was also dealt with in a research project of the Research Institute of Occupational Safety, a public research institution, in cooperation with the Institute of State and Law of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, a public research institution in the years 2020-2022, which was commissioned by the MLSA.

As part of this project, the following websites were created:

[Work of Foreigners in the Czech Republic](#)

[EU Nationals Working in the Czech Republic](#)

The website, available in several languages, provides foreigners with interactive information on the issue of illegal work in the Czech Republic and how to work legally, as well as on labour law conditions in the Czech Republic, via clickable links.

Within the framework of this project, an audio podcast and a video clip have been created to introduce the issue:

- [Podcast “Illegal Work of Foreigners and Occupational Injuries in the Czech Republic”](#).
- [Video spot: “Vitaliy's Story – the Consequences of an Occupational Injury for an Illegal Worker”](#).

On 2 May 2022, [IOM Czech Republic](#) launched an information line 800 050 749 for persons who have arrived in the Czech Republic in connection with the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. This hotline is open every working day from 9am to 5pm and information services are available in Ukrainian, English, Czech and Russian. IOM staff raise clients' awareness of labour law issues, assist clients in verifying employers and employment agencies, and generally ensure the prevention of potential labour exploitation. A series of labour law posts have been made on the [IOM Facebook page](#) that can be described as preventive in the context of labour market exploitation. An animated instructional [video](#) was also produced to highlight the risk of labour exploitation.

**La Strada Czech Republic** regularly publishes posts on its [Facebook page](#) for people fleeing the war in Ukraine with contacts and information aimed at preventing their exploitation and trafficking in the Czech Republic. It also includes a series of safety tips for preventing trafficking in the Ukrainian language, when looking for a job with accommodation (aimed primarily at women refugees) and a manual for volunteers working with refugees from Ukraine. La Strada is also part of the Consortium of NGOs working with migrants in the Czech Republic, which has created a central place on the website for offering help ["Help Ukraine"](#), where it is possible not only to offer and demand the necessary help in many forms, but also to find up-to-date important information. It has collaborated in the creation of a prevention spot for RACRUs throughout the country.

In 2022, the Hidden at Work project – Labour and Sexual Exploitation and Harassment of Women in the (Private) Sphere of Work continued. This project is coordinated by La Strada International member organisation FairWork in the Netherlands and is implemented together with the Latin American Exilierte/Emigrierte Frauen in Österreich Interventionsstelle für Betroffene von Frauenhandel; Latin American Exiles/Emigrated Women in Austria Intervention Center for Victims of Trafficking in Women (LEFÖ IBF) in 28 Austria, La Strada Czech Republic and La Strada International. The project is funded by the European Commission's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme. This project aims to raise awareness and reach out (online and offline) to women working in hidden and hard-to-reach environments, including women who are in irregular situations. In the autumn of 2022, a total of 3 webinars were held – 2 in the language combination of English and Tagalog and 1 in Russian and Ukrainian. The webinars were intended for domestic workers and focused mainly on providing basic information on rights and obligations in the field of

labour law and on risky situations that may arise during domestic work, how to avoid them or where to seek help in dealing with them.

Last but not least, [La Strada](#) organizes a number of trainings for refugee aid workers, carries out prevention activities on the ground, opened a new shelter for refugee mothers with children and expanded its SOS line +420 222 71 71 71 71, +420 800 077 777 (free calls) to 5 days a week also in Ukrainian and Russian.

In 2022, R-R received a grant from the Norwegian funds for the project entitled: **Not with you! – 2022 or Preventing Violence against People in Sex Work and Mapping their Needs**". The whole project consists of sub-activities. First of all, there is **research on** sex workers. It will logically follow on from the research activities of the pre-civil rights period. However, it will now include questions reflecting what is happening in the prostitution scene, the digitalization of this sector, and the problems that arose during the lockdowns. Men will also be included in the survey. Already at the beginning of the war against Ukraine, the R-R organisation issued an information leaflet for people in the sex business or those considering working in the sex business.

## 8. LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND JUDGMENTS OF COURTS RELATED TO TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

On 21 March 2022, **Act No. 66/2022 Coll., on measures in the field of employment and social security in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the troops of the Russian Federation**, entered into force. On the basis of this law, temporary protection holders have free access to the labour market; their employers have only an information obligation towards the EO under Section 87 of the Employment Act, and a registration obligation under Sections 102 and 136 of the Employment Act. In addition, temporary protection holders have access to all employment services.

Within the framework of the amendment of the aforementioned Act No. 66/2022 Coll., the Employment Act (Section 136) will be amended to provide **employers with a new obligation to report to the Czech Social Security Administration the entry into employment of an employee who is a foreigner enjoying temporary protection** under an employment contract or an employment agreement, whose employment is a small-scale employment under the Sickness Insurance Act, **or an employee with temporary protection working on the basis of a work performance agreement**, to the register of employees with temporary protection maintained by the Czech Social Security Administration within 8 calendar days from the date of the entry of such a foreigner. Within the same time limit, the employer shall be obliged to report changes and termination of employment of such a foreigner. At the same time, an employer who is not obliged to register in the register of employers pursuant to Section 93 of the Sickness Insurance Act and who employs only employees with temporary protection will be obliged to register in the register of employers maintained by the Czech Social Security Administration. The act was approved by the Senate on 8 March 2023 and will now be forwarded to the President for signature.

With effect from 31 December 2022, Decree No. 322/2017 Coll., on the determination of the list of sectors of employment that include seasonally dependent activities, has been amended to expand the sectors of employment for which employment permits may be issued under Section 96 of the Employment Act to include the following sectors:

- 41 Construction of buildings.
- 42 Civil engineering,
- 43 Special construction activities.
- 71 Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing.

There were no legislative changes in the area of criminal law related to the crime of trafficking in human beings in 2022 and no changes are planned for 2023.

### 8.1 Court Judgments

Statistics of the MoJ show a total of **18 cases of trafficking in human beings** in 2022. Under the provisions of Section 168 of the Criminal Code, **a total of 13 persons were convicted**.

The judgments under Section 168 of the Criminal Code in 2022 concerned trafficking in human beings **for the purpose of sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitation (labour exploitation)**.

Below are two illustrative cases, including selected parts justifying the type and length of the sentence imposed.

### 8.1.1 Case report No. 1 – (Regional Court in Ostrava)

**Victim:** Minor, citizen of the Czech Republic.

**Perpetrator:** Female, citizen of the Czech Republic.

**Means of coercion:** Since the child was involved, there is no need to prove the means of coercion.

**Modus operandi:**

On days not yet specified, the perpetrator, knowing that the minor victim was under 15 years of age, exploited her inexperience and easy influenceability due to her age and obvious mental handicap, and knowing the likely negative impact of her actions on the further mental and moral development of the minor, significantly contributed to the creation of, by repeatedly offering and providing her with addictive substances (methamphetamine), which she personally injected repeatedly with her consent, and by providing her with other drugs (ecstasy) and marijuana, which they smoked together, knowing the psychoactive effects. All this with the selfish intention of obtaining in a parasitic manner, through the minor victim, exploiting her dependence on stimulants and the interest in easy earnings which she herself had aroused in her, she profited from the prostitution practised by the named victim, which she herself had induced her to practise in such a way that on at least four occasions. She also induced the victim, who was a minor, to provide erotic services, including sexual intercourse, for money from men whom she had arranged in advance for that purpose, instructing her herself to falsely claim that she was an adult and to ask the men for large sums of money, which the victim actually did. On at least four occasions, she had consensual sexual intercourse with four unidentified men in four different places, where they transported her in their vehicles, which she always entered voluntarily, collecting cash for the sexual intercourse in the first two cases of CZK 1,500 each, in one case CZK 800 and in one case CZK 500, and all the funds thus obtained were handed over by the minor victim to the defendant on the basis of a previous agreement, who in each case subsequently again procured and, with her consent, injected the victim intravenously with a dose of an undetermined amount of the psychotropic substance methamphetamine, and committed the described conduct knowing that she was putting the minor victim at risk of being abandoned, adopting a parasitic, immoral and sexually promiscuous lifestyle, etc.

**Duration of exploitation:** at least 2 months.

**Punishment:** The Regional Court in Ostrava imposed a prison sentence of 4 years and 6 months and the convict was placed in a guarded prison.

Pursuant to section 129(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, this judgment is drawn up as a summary judgment which does not contain reasons, since after its pronouncement the public prosecutor and the defendant waived their right to appeal,

both on behalf of the defendant and the persons entitled to appeal, and at the same time declared that they did not insist on the drawing up of reasons for the judgment.

### 8.1.2 Case report No. 2 – (Regional Court in Ústí nad Labem)

**Victim:** 1 minor girl (LL) and 1 female (VS), both citizens of the Czech Republic.

**Perpetrator (PK):** 1 man, citizen of the Czech Republic.

**Means of coercion:** the underage girl did not need to prove means of coercion and another girl was lured by the possibility of high earnings as a companion.

**Modus operandi:**

PK after agreeing with two other perpetrators, (1 of whom was a citizen of Belgium – the criminal prosecution was conducted there) that he would procure girls for them for a commission to operate prostitution in Belgium. PK approached a circle of his acquaintances, via the Internet and via the communication program Messenger or WhatsApp, precisely unknown a number of people, at least the women listed below, with an offer to operate prostitution in Belgium and under the promise of a large income, he got them to operate prostitution in houses, which were managed by two other men and two women, when they provided the premises and equipment for the operation of prostitution, procured girls profiles on erotic sites on the Internet, they dealt with customers and instructed the girls what to do, the girls had to hand over a pre-agreed part of the earnings from prostitution to the mentioned offenders, while the above-mentioned PK was paid for getting these girls into prostitution. from the other 2 perpetrators a reward, the exact amount of which could not be ascertained, while within this organized group specifically:

1) Approximately in November 2016, at an undisclosed location in the Czech Republic, PK offered the minor LL, whom he knew personally from the past and knew that she was only 17 years old, to earn money by providing erotic services in Belgium. Then PK contacted her via Facebook with another perpetrator for this purpose, and provided her with further details, after which, at the end of December 2016, the accused PK in Prague assured LL that she could earn large amount through erotic services and that she could have confidence in the said perpetrator. As a result of these promises, LL then agreed to the offer and together with PK, the other two perpetrators (man and woman), drove in an unidentified silver-coloured vehicle to Belgium, where LL subsequently provided sexual services for remuneration from 3 to 22 January 2017 and again from 3 to 24 March 2017 in Antwerp (after the accused PK arranged her a flyinf ticket) and subsequently, also in Antwerp, from 13 to 21 April 2017, giving part of the proceeds of prostitution to another offender.

2) Approximately in February 2017 in Prague, PK personally addressed VS, saying her that she is attractive and that she could earn a lot of money in Belgium as a "companion", even up to CZK 60,000 per month. VS, although it was clear from the respective job description that she would be engaged in prostitution, after PK had arranged her flying tickets, flew to Belgium on 3 March 2017. There she was picked up by PK and another perpetrator and transported to a house where she provided sexual services for remuneration for 14 days. She returned there again for 14 days in April 2017, again for the purpose of prostitution. The flying tickets were again

arranged by PK. Part of the VS' proceeds of prostitution were handed over to the other perpetrator or perpetrators.

**Duration of exploitation:** Approximately 48 days for the minor LL and 28 days for VS.

**Punishment:** 3 years' imprisonment suspended for a probationary period of 5 years, a fine of CZK 50,000 and a ban on driving motor vehicles for 20 months.

In view of the fact that the defendant and the public prosecutor waived their right to appeal after the judgment and its grounds were announced and declared that they did not insist on a written statement of reasons, and at the same time the defendant declared that he did not wish other persons entitled to appeal on his behalf, a summary judgment is drawn up in accordance with Section 129(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

## 8.2 Finding of the Constitutional Court

**As regards the case law related to the criminal offense of trafficking in human beings** under Section 168 of the Criminal Code, mention may be made of the Finding of the Constitutional Court of 7 March 2022, file No. IV.ÚS 2620/21.

*"On procedural aspects of compensation for non-pecuniary damage in adhesion proceedings"*

*"Unless the amount of non-pecuniary damage (in particular mental anguish caused by the killing or serious injury to health, loss of dignity of the victim in case of interference with personality rights or damage to the so-called. If the victim's statement in the criminal proceedings is not sufficient in the adhesion proceedings, but extensive supplementation by expert evidence is necessary, the general courts cannot reasonably be accused of violating the right to judicial protection under Article 36(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms if they do not proceed with the evidentiary proceedings for monetary compensation for non-pecuniary damage and refer the victim to the civil proceedings in accordance with Article 229(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure."*

## 8.3 The offence of trafficking in human beings on appeal

In 2022, the Extraordinary Appeals Department of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office registered only one criminal case in which the accused filed appeals aimed at challenging final court decisions finding them guilty of the offence of trafficking in human beings under section 168 of the Criminal Code. The perpetrators' criminal activity was of a sexual nature. No appeal was filed by the Supreme State Prosecutor in respect of this offence.

The case was filed at the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office under file No. 1 NZO 722/2022.

The case is a criminal case filed at the Regional Court in Ústí nad Labem under file No. 49 T 6/2022 and at the High Court in Prague under file number 4 To 36/2022. The accused LK was found guilty by the judgment of the Regional Court in Ústí nad Labem of 20 May 2022, file No. 49 T 6/2022, of the crime of trafficking in



human beings pursuant to section 168(1)(a), (3)(d) of the Criminal Code, the offence of endangering the upbringing of a child pursuant to section 201(1)(a) of the Criminal Code and the offence of pimping pursuant to section 189(1) of the Criminal Code. In the same judgment, the defendant HK was found guilty of the crime of trafficking in human beings under Section 168(1)(a), (3)(d) of the Criminal Code, the offence of endangering the upbringing of a child under Section 201(1)(a), (b) of the Criminal Code and the offence of pimping under Section 189(1) of the Criminal Code. The criminal activity was committed both in the Czech Republic and abroad, namely in Switzerland, where the defendant HK operated a guesthouse with a nightclub. The accused LK committed the crime of trafficking in human beings pursuant to section 168(1)(a), (3)(d) of the Criminal Code by the victim KZ, a minor, who was not yet eighteen years old at the time, for sexual services in the SAPA market and in bars in Prague, but also took her from her residence to Switzerland, where he handed her over to the owner of the Nicole nightclub, i.e. the defendant HK, collecting at least CHF 300 for the transport of the victim. The accused HK committed the crime of trafficking in human beings pursuant to Section 168(1)(a), (3)(d) of the Criminal Code by facilitating the accommodation of the victim KZ, a minor, in her nightclub operated in Switzerland, whereby the victim provided sexual services to the clients of the nightclub in return for payment. She paid half of the funds thus obtained directly to the accused, to whom she also handed over her identity document, and was led by the accused not to leave until she had worked off the amount which the accused had paid to the accused LK for transport to Switzerland, as well as other costs arising from her stay in the nightclub (accommodation, food, clothing).

The offence of trafficking in human beings under Section 168 of the Criminal Code was committed by the defendants in unison with the offence of endangering the upbringing of a child under Section 201(1)(a) of the Criminal Code in the case of the defendant LK and under Section 201(1)(a), (b) of the Criminal Code in the case of the defendant HK. Otherwise, the accused committed the offence in multiple concurrence with the offence of pimping under Section 189(1) of the Penal Code.

For the above offences, the defendant LK was sentenced under Section 168(3) of the Criminal Code, in application of Section 43(1) of the Criminal Code and Section 58(2)(b) of the Criminal Code, to a total term of imprisonment of three years, the execution of which was suspended for a probationary period of four years pursuant to Section 81(1) of the Criminal Code and Section 82(1) of the Criminal Code. Pursuant to Sections 67(1) and 68 of the Criminal Code, he was fined 180 daily rates of CZK 300, i.e. CZK 54,000. Pursuant to Section 168(3) of the Criminal Code, in application of Section 43(1) of the Criminal Code and Section 58(2)(b) of the Criminal Code, the defendant was sentenced to a total term of imprisonment of three years, the execution of which was suspended for a probationary period of five years pursuant to Section 81(1) of the Criminal Code and Section 82(1) of the Criminal Code. Pursuant to Sections 67(1) and 68 of the Criminal Code, she was fined 180 daily rates of CZK 600, i.e. CZK 108,000.

The High Court in Prague, as the Court of Appeal, by its judgment of 21 July 2022, file No. 4 To 36/2022, on the basis of an appeal filed by the public prosecutor against both defendants, revoked the judgment of the court of first instance in the sentence of the defendant HK pursuant to Section 258(1)(d), (e), (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the defendant LK pursuant to Section 258(1)(e)(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code, and resentenced both of them pursuant to Section 259(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code, with the unchanged sentence, pursuant to Section

168(3) of the Criminal Code in application of Section 43(1) of the Criminal Code. Applying Section 58(2)(b) of the Criminal Code, the defendant was sentenced to a total term of imprisonment of four years, for the execution of which he was placed in a secure prison pursuant to Section 56(2)(a) of the Criminal Code. The HC imposed a sentence of five years' imprisonment on the defendant, for the execution of which, pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Criminal Code, it placed her in a guarded prison. Both defendants lodged an extraordinary appeal in the case, namely an appeal on the grounds provided for in Article 265b(1)(g) and (h) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Although their objections did not correspond to any of the grounds of appeal, the Supreme Court addressed them in its decision, namely the decision of 19 October 2022, file no. 8 Tdo 910/2022, with regard to the need to rule out a violation of the principles of a fair trial on the basis of Article 6 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and Article 38 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, in terms of the predictability of the courts' procedure and compliance with the principles of proportionate and fair sentencing.

In its decision, the Supreme Court stated that there was no violation of the right to a fair trial in the criminal case under review, because if the court warns the accused of the possibility of using the institute of declaration of guilt pursuant to Section 206c of the Criminal Procedure Code and thus informs him of the possibility of imposing a sentence using Section 58(2)(b) of the Criminal Code, no promise or commitment that the court will apply it can be found in this communication, nor does it bind the Court of Appeal if it decides on the sentence on the appeal. Nor is there any form of compulsion when the court advises the accused of such legislation with reference to the statutory provisions. Before the court's decision, it is not possible to prejudge what sentence and in what amount will be imposed on an offender who has pleaded guilty under section 206c(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (this is not a plea bargain under section 175a et seq. of the Criminal Procedure Code). In the case of a plea of guilty by the accused pursuant to section 206c(1) or (4) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the court shall proceed to impose the sentence in full accordance with the conditions of sections 38 to 42 and, where applicable, section 58(2)(b) of the Criminal Code and may decide on the sentence only after it has conducted the evidence relevant to the sentence and considered all the relevant facts. The Supreme Court found nothing to indicate that the sentence would be excessively harsh and unjustified; on the contrary, it emphasised the high seriousness of the defendant's offence for society, in particular in view of the fact that she had failed to protect the rights of children when she had engaged the victim, the minor KZ, in a nightclub for the purpose of engaging in prostitution for remuneration, thereby ensuring that she would become accustomed to an unfair way of life and adopt habits incompatible with a decent life. As regards the defendant LK, the Supreme Court also considered the sentence imposed on him to be proportionate, in particular because he had offered the minor KZ to citizens of Vietnamese nationality for prostitution and had eventually taken her to Switzerland, thus completely out of the reach of her parents, leaving her abroad without sufficient financial resources, thus depriving her of the possibility of a smooth return to her family environment.

*Over the past few years (since 2017), it is necessary to summarise that the vast majority of the crime of trafficking in human beings under Section 168 of the Criminal Code is committed as sexual exploitation. Since 2017, only two cases of labour exploitation have been recorded in the appeal proceedings, one of which was*

*a specific case (the domestic servant case) where a pathological relationship developed between equally educated classmates who were doing business together. The second was a case of labour exploitation taking place in Wales, where the defendants used violence to force four people to do cleaning work, subsequently confiscating part of their earnings and even forcing them to do the work they secured by beating them. There is also a consistent trend that the offences in question are committed mainly in complicity, usually in single acts, but more often in multiple acts, in conjunction with other offences, both vice-related and sometimes drug-related. As regards the question of punishment, offenders are generally sentenced to imprisonment with direct execution. Criminal activity is committed for the most part on the territory of the Czech Republic, only in some cases extending abroad.*

## **9. PARTNERSHIP**

### **9.1 Partnership within the Czech Republic**

This chapter provides examples of cooperation at both the strategic and operational levels. The cooperation of the individual organisations has been significantly affected by the aggression of the Russian Federation in Ukraine and the related migration wave of mainly women and children from Ukraine to the Czech Republic.

Cooperation continued between the Police of the Czech Republic, social and legal protection of children authorities, customs administration authorities, Regional Labour Inspectorates, NGOs, IOM, local government authorities and labour offices, financial authorities, trade offices, health care facilities, registry offices and other public administration authorities.

In 2022, the measures against the spread of COVID-19, which in recent years had severely limited the possibility of carrying out prevention and control actions, were discontinued. An Action Days control action was carried out from 15 June to 21 June 2022 to detect possible labour exploitation, mainly of war refugees from Ukraine. The action was carried out within the framework of the Trafficking in Human Beings European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (THB EMPACT) project on the territory of EU Member States with a multidisciplinary approach during the mentioned dates. In the Czech Republic, the event was managed by the staff of the Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration Department of the NCCOC. In cooperation with specialists from the Department of General Crime of the Regional Police Directorate of the Capital City of Prague, a check of night venues was carried out on 27 April 2022, in order to establish information on possible sexual exploitation of women from Ukraine, no victims were identified. In cooperation with colleagues from the Department of Foreign Police of the Regional Police Directorate of the Ústí nad Labem Region and in cooperation with the staff of the Labour Inspectorate in Ústí nad Labem, an inspection of hotel and restaurant establishments in the territory of the Ústí nad Labem Region was carried out on 26 September 2022, in order to establish information on possible labour exploitation of Ukrainian refugees, no victims of trafficking in human beings were identified, only misconduct in labour relations was identified and the matter was dealt with by the Labour Inspectorate. Targeted inspections were carried out to a lesser extent with the participation of a smaller number of subjects, where these inspections resulted from the requirements of the individual criminal proceedings conducted during the period.

In 2022, emphasis was placed on the issue of trafficking in human beings in the framework of prepared and implemented security actions and measures within the Foreigners Police Department of the Regional Police Directorate. The majority of security and control actions in the Foreigners Police Department of the Regional Police Directorate have always been prepared or partially participated in their preparation and then in their course and implementation by the staff of the Documentation Department of the Foreigners Police Department of the Regional Police Directorate. The police officers assigned to the above-mentioned departments are familiar with the methodology of the procedure in case of suspected occurrence of trafficking in human beings and are liaison officers for this issue within the framework of the implemented actions. In the event of the occurrence of an unlawful

act showing signs of trafficking in human beings, these police officers have contacts with the factually and locally competent departments of the CPIS and the NCCOC. Actions with this focus were organised throughout the year throughout the Czech Republic. Emphasis was placed in particular on measures taken in connection with the migration route through the Czech Republic and in dealing with the issue of illegal employment.

In connection with the migration trends that took place on the territory of the Czech Republic in 2022, the main inspection operations associated with the possible occurrence of trafficking in human beings were organised by the Alien Police where there was a suspicion that the actions of persons could fulfill the offence of trafficking in human beings. Control and security actions were carried out, but also ad-hoc measures were taken on roads in the border area and on main motorway links (e.g. R0, D1, D2, D5, D8), mainly focusing on checks on lorries, vans and passenger motor vehicles or bus routes, as well as on international train services. The control measures were set up on the basis of the rising wave of transit illegal migration. Another point was the measures carried out within the international airports of the Czech Republic. Last but not least, the direct interaction of the Criminal Investigation and Documentation Department with the staff of the Directorate of the Foreign Police Service in the facilities for the detention of foreigners was newly set up, in order to transfer information and its possible use in connection with detained foreigners.

From 29 September 2022, a temporary reintroduction of controls at the state border with Slovakia was implemented on the basis of a high migration wave to the Czech Republic from the neighbouring country. With such a large concentration of foreigners on the territory of the Czech Republic, investigations were carried out by the officers of the Directorate of the Foreign Police Service in order to find out not only about possible unlawful acts in connection with criminal activities aimed at unauthorised stay on the territory of the Czech Republic, but also in connection with the crime of trafficking in human beings. However, the organisation of Alien Police Inspectorates (hereinafter referred to as „API“) at international airports has been significantly affected by the migration crisis linked to the conflict in Ukraine. In the months of March and April 2022, API officers were deployed directly to the border between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine to help coordinate refugee assistance in cooperation with their Slovak counterparts, specifically at the Vyšné Nemecké, Ubľa and Velké Slemence border crossings.

Overall, it can be stated that all cooperation with the involved units in the fight against trafficking in human beings in 2022 was smooth and took place according to the set criteria. In some cases, in the documentation departments of the individual Regional Police Directorates of the Aliens Police Department, there was a deviation from the set work focus and procedures towards a preferred different issue of the given region.

In 2022, the **IDCG** was summoned twice, with an emergency meeting held on 16 March 2022 in relation to the war in Ukraine and a regular meeting held on 28 November 2022. During the second session current situation of the issue was discussed with an emphasis on the experience and activities in relation to Ukrainian migrants in the Czech Republic. Another topics discussed were: information from the meeting of the National Referral and Equivalent Mechanism (hereinafter referred to as “NREM“) network – national reporters at the European Commission; the activities of the Czech Republic in this area as the country holding the Presidency of the EU Council were reported; a new security research project focused on child trafficking

was presented and the implementation of the tasks of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for the period 2020 – 2023 was presented.

## 9.2 International Cooperation

In 2021, international cooperation continued to operate in both the state and non-profit sectors.

In this area, the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, which took place in the second half of the year, was quite crucial for 2022. The European Crime Prevention Network (hereinafter referred to as “EUCPN”) was also chaired by the Czech Republic. The issue of trafficking in human beings was one of the priorities of the Presidency, and moreover in the context of Ukrainian migration to European countries seeking refuge from the war. Therefore, the Czech Republic chaired the meeting of the **NREM** network of reporters on trafficking in human beings, which meets twice a year in Brussels under the auspices of the European Commission, on 26 and 27 October 2022.

Similarly, In the same way, the Mol representative, as the national coordinator, participated in **the meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (hereinafter referred to as „OSCE“)** on the issue of combating trafficking in human beings, and subsequently, a mission of **the OSCE** was received at the Mol on 14 and 15 December 2022, which dealt with the overall situation of Ukrainian refugees and, of course, the issue of trafficking in human beings.

In November 2022, a **meeting of the parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, GRETA)** took place, with the proviso that the Czech Republic will be subjected to a second round of evaluation of the implementation of the Convention, which should also focus on the issue of trafficking in children.

From 16 to 18 May 2022, an expert meeting within the **THB EMPACT** project, focused on financial investigation and value assurance in relation to the crime of trafficking in human beings, was held in The Hague (The Netherlands) with the participation of the NCCOC experts. The meeting was aimed at exchanging information between experts on combating the crime of trafficking in human beings, financial investigation specialists and supervising prosecutors, and to **improve the results in the field of financial investigation as part of the fight against trafficking in human beings and to dismantle the criminal structure by obtaining evidence and increasing the seized value derived from criminal activities.** As part of the **THB EMPACT** project, expert of the Department of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration of the NCCOC are involved in the activities of the **Commercial Surrogacy and Sale of Children Working Group** as co-leaders. The goal of the project is to share information on specific cases, legislation, prosecution strategies, cooperation with third countries and possible suggestions for legislative changes.

On 24 August 2022, JUDr. Daniela Přebilová, prosecutor of the Regional Prosecutor's Office in České Budějovice, attended a meeting with a delegation from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (**OSCE/ODIHR**) on the topic of **trafficking in human beings in relation to the refugee crisis and the conflict in Ukraine.**

**On 13 December 2022, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Manila participated in the plenary session of the 8th International Conference of the Czech Republic in Manila. Manila Dialogue (8<sup>th</sup> Manila International Dialogue),** which has been held annually since 2015 under the auspices of the Department of Justice of the Philippines in cooperation with the embassies of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Australia, the United States of America and other embassies, mainly from the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which also sent their national delegations to the Manila Dialogue. At the first meeting of the Manila Dialogue in 2015, the so-called **Manila Declaration** to Enhance International Cooperation in Combating Trafficking in human beings was signed. The Manila Declaration was initially signed by 19 diplomatic missions in the Philippines and other international and local institutions and organisations (the Czech Republic joined in 2020). The Declaration is legally non-binding, declaring the readiness of the Manila Embassy to support the fight against trafficking in human beings. Finland joined the declaration in 2022.

In the autumn of 2022, the Consular Section of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Austria participated in a conference organised by the Diplomatic Academy Vienna, which focused on scientific research in the field of identification of victims of trafficking in human beings.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kuwait participated in the 2022 meeting of the "Informal Working Group on Human Rights", which is a consultative process on the situation in the country and on steps to be taken in relation to local civil society and international organisations to promote European human rights policies and principles, including in relation to labour migrants and the empowerment of women. This group also addresses the issue of trafficking in human beings.

### **9.3 Observations done by the embassies of the Czech Republic regarding trafcking in human beings in relation to the Czech Republic**

#### **Azerbaijan**

The Baku Embassy is not informed about citizens of the Czech Republic traded to/via Azerbaijan and given the very small number of citizens of the Czech Republic in Azerbaijan, it is highly probable that no such cases exist.

It is obvious that citizens of Azerbaijan demonstrate increased interest in employment in the Czech Republic. However, few of those applying for residence permits in the Czech Republic (both long-term and short-term) for employment purposes can be described as "skilled or highly skilled labour". A typical Azerbaijani applicant for work in the Czech Republic (an applicant for a residence permit for employment in the Czech Republic) can be considered a middle-aged man from lower social classes, living in the Azerbaijani countryside with no knowledge of any language except Azeri. From the experience of the Embassy in Baku regarding processing applications for the residence permits in question, the documents accompanying these applications and the related interviews with the applicants, it is reasonable to assume that a significant number of applicants for work in the Czech Republic (EU) from Azerbaijan are likely victims of "cheap labour trafficking", which is probably directed by "Russian-speaking entities" that already have a long-standing presence in the Czech Republic (EU).

## **China (People's Republic of China)**

None of the offices in China (Embassy Beijing, Consulate General Hong Kong, Consulate General Chengdu, Consulate General Shanghai) received any information about the fact that citizens of the Czech Republic were traded to China during the period under review. The Czech Republic is not one of the main destination countries for organised movements of trafficked persons (the destination countries in the EU are mainly Germany, France, Italy). However, some findings from the long-term applications at the end of 2022 may indicate that trafficking is also organised towards the Czech Republic (the vast majority of employment cards are for "cooks" or "kitchen helpers"), and these citizens are already represented by law firms when they apply.

## **Philippines**

Authorities of the Philippines closely monitor the travel of its citizens abroad, particularly with regard to the risk of trafficking in human beings. Embassy Manila has recorded several cases in the past year in which Filipino citizens travelling to the Czech Republic on a Schengen visa issued by Embassy Manila were prevented by Philippine immigration officials from leaving the country – this usually involved the girlfriends and in a few cases the wives of citizens of the Czech Republic. The reasons were always formal as well – Filipino citizens have to undergo training (on how to behave in emergency situations) with the Commission for Filipinos Abroad and have a certificate of this training before leaving for their spouses abroad. They must also have the invitation and declaration of the spouse or boyfriend certified by Embassy of the Philippines in Prague. Also, Filipino workers going abroad for work must complete the appropriate training process before departure and must have a certificate issued by the Philippine Office of Foreign Employment (POEA) upon departure.

## **France**

According to information from the Ministry of the Interior, the law enforcement authorities of France have not registered any cases of trafficking in human beings in relation to the Czech Republic in 2022. Although no victims of trafficking originating from the Czech Republic have been registered in 2021-2022, citizens of the Czech Republic have been traced on specialised advertising sites. In any case, within France, citizens of the Czech Republic represent less than 1% in the number and potential future victims of advertisements soliciting prostitution.

## **Georgia**

The Embassy Tbilisi does not have the requested information on citizens of the Czech Republic (victims or perpetrators of trafficking in human beings). A potentially risky group could be Georgian work visa applicants, as many applicants cannot answer even basic questions about their employment or residence in the Czech Republic during the interview. Here the question arises to what extent the essentially fully dependent employees (lack of education, orientation in a foreign environment, language barrier) will be able to take independent and self-governing decisions in case of any difficulties or problems on territory of the Czech Republic



and thus not become, in some cases, victims of trafficking in human beings. Individuals from the high number of Georgian citizens applying for asylum in the Czech Republic/EU can also be included in this group.

### **Ireland**

In July 2022, the Dublin embassy was contacted by the IOM with a request for assistance in repatriating a suspected victim of trafficking back to the Czech Republic. The embassy issued a travel document for the return to the Czech Republic. Upon enquiry, the embassy informed the IOM representative that the man in question, together with three other persons (also citizens of the Czech Republic), had first been arrested on suspicion of drug offences. It was subsequently revealed that the criminal activities were coerced and these persons were reclassified as victims of trafficking. Only one case resulted in repatriation back to the Czech Republic, the other three persons concerned wished to remain in Ireland.

As regards citizens of the Czech Republic, police force in Ireland has registered 1 case of a suspected victim of trafficking in connection with the detection of serious labour exploitation in County Cork. There is currently an intensive investigation into a largely Slovakian group, which also includes 2 citizens of the Czech Republic.

### **Cambodia**

From the perspective of the Czech Republic, it is important that Cambodia refers to trafficking in human beings in its negative attitude towards mixed marriages, for which it sets administrative, organisational, financial and age limits/barriers. So a foreigner (overwhelmingly male) must come to Cambodia for an interview at the Ministry of Interior, his minimum income must be USD 2,500/month and he must be no more than 50 years old. All of this is framed by the reluctance of the Cambodia embassy Berlin to super-legalize the necessary documents, so if a Czech-Cambodian couple wants their marriage to be recognized in both countries, it must be performed in Cambodia. However, this is unacceptably time-consuming, administratively, organisationally and financially more demanding for many grooms, so the wedding then takes place in the Czech Republic and is only recognised there.

### **Kenya**

With regard to trafficking in human beings in the countries accredited by the Embassy of the Czech Republic (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, Uganda), in connection with the conflict in Ukraine, which resulted in the interruption of recruitment of labour from the Russian Federation/Ukraine, there is an increased interest of employers from the Czech Republic (usually acting unfairly through local intermediaries who provide their "services" to applicants for obscenely high remuneration) in labour from these countries. Applicants often do not have even the most basic idea of the net wage, cannot freely choose their accommodation, have no knowledge of their job title, place of work, place of residence, insurance, etc.

Although it is not directly related to trafficking with human beings as such, the common denominator of such actions is the lack of freedom of the individual, who is

completely dependent on his or her employers (accommodation providers), which are often the same persons, motivated by the profit from employment (or exploitation of their cheap labour) of persons from abroad, who are ignorant of the laws of the Czech Republic and of their own rights and obligations as employers. Applications for short-term employment visas are rejected by the embassy on the above grounds, while applications for long-term visas/stays for employment purposes are sent to Mol (Assylum and Migration Policy Department, hereinafter referred to as "AMPD") with observations made during interviews and resulting from documents indicating so-called modern slavery. It is the responsibility of the AMPD to issue a decision, based on the findings.

### **Cuba**

In Cuba and in the other countries under the responsibility of the Havana Embassy (Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas) the representatives of the Czech Republic do not record any cases of trafficking in Citizens of the Czech Republic. However, it should be pointed out that with the coronavirus pandemic, labour migration from Cuba to the Czech Republic has increased enormously. These are large groups of applicants for employment cards who have only a basic education and apply for positions of mainly manual work (warehouse assistants, warehouse workers, assembly workers, etc.). Women also apply for these positions, who often have no idea of the conditions of the job (let alone the standards for lifting heavy objects, etc.).

### **Latvia**

In the years 2017-2019, there was a regular recurrence of a situation when a citizen of the Czech Republic came to the Embassy of Riga in the summer months with a request for financial support and assistance for his/her return to the Czech Republic. It was always a citizen of the Czech Republic who came to the territory of the Republic of Latvia as part of his/her "contract" with an employer operating fairground attractions and amusement parks. These Czech companies regularly tour the Baltic republics in the summer months and hire citizens of the Czech Republic of a certain social status and level of education as auxiliary labour for these tours.

It was apparently happening that the employers (Czech companies operating amusement parks) confiscated the travel/personal documents of these people to prevent them from moving freely in the countries where they are. Citizens of the Czech Republic then came to the embassy of Riga saying that they did not have documents and wanted to return home (to the Czech Republic) because, according to their information, the treatment of their employers was not tolerable – they were allegedly kept in substandard conditions and were not paid wages. They strictly refused to report this fact to the State Police of the Republic of Latvia, apparently out of fear of their employers. Rather, they declared and signed that they had lost their document.

### **Pakistan**

As the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Islamabad did not have any specific knowledge of people trafficked from the Czech Republic to Pakistan or vice

versa in 2022 and as this serious topic did not directly concern Czech interests from the perspective of the Embassy, no educational activities were carried out by the Embassy in this regard during the reporting period, nor was there any need to address specific cases with the police, NGOs and other relevant entities.

However, the position of Pakistani women who marry citizens of the Czech Republic of Pakistani origin continues to raise doubts, even though the number of marriages per year is in the order of only higher units. According to local traditions, marriages are usually arranged by the families of both fiancés. The groom comes to Pakistan for the wedding without seeing the bride at all before the wedding and returns back to the Czech Republic after the marriage with the understanding that the newlywed is to follow him. In these circumstances, it is very difficult to assess the extent to which a woman enters into such a union voluntarily, what pressure she feels from her parents and wider society, and whether she can reject the marriage out of hand. Cases of marriages of convenience, especially of Pakistani citizens with citizens of Czech Republic or Slovakia, are usually detected due to reasonable doubts about Pakistani civil registry documents already in the context of verification of these documents submitted to the embassy for super-legalization. There are cases of citizens of various EU Member States of Pakistani origin who try to travel to the Czech Republic as a family member of an EU citizen in order to abuse Directive 2004/38/EC. Even so, the group of family members of EU citizens remains a weak point, making it easier to obtain a visa, often despite the questionable validity of the marriage, with the risk of subsequent visa abuse.

### **Poland**

At the end of 2022, as part of an investigation, the police discovered one citizen of the Czech Republic who was a victim of forced labor in an amusement park in one of the seaside towns. His duties included the maintenance and operation of the equipment during operating hours. He received only a small financial reward for his work and lived in a trailer with 7 other employees. With regard to poor working and accommodation conditions, illegal performance of work without a contract and non-payment of earnings, he voluntarily left the respective amusement park. He informed the police and the La Strada Foundation about his situation, which provided him with the necessary assistance.

### **Slovakia**

Authorities of Slovakia register one citizen of Slovakia who was a victim of trafficking in human beings in the Czech Republic in 2022. He is a male aged 27, and the form of exploitation was forced labour in the construction industry in Kladno.

### **United States of America**

The United States of America (hereinafter referred to as "USA") has no knowledge of any cases of trafficking in human beings from the Czech Republic to the USA. There are a number of citizens of the Czech Republic who have been living in the USA for a long time and who are here illegally without proper residence permits. However, the respective knowledge shows that these people have come to the USA voluntarily and do not intend to return to the Czech Republic at a productive

age. Therefore, it is very rare for citizens of the Czech Republic to turn to consulates of the Czech Republic in the USA with requests for actual assistance in returning to the Czech Republic. Of course, it cannot be ruled out that there are citizens of the Czech Republic working in the entertainment or erotic industry in the USA who are engaged in prostitution, but we have not come across any specific cases. Nor do we record any cases of trafficking from the USA to the Czech Republic or the EU.

### **Spain**

According to information from the Foreign Border Control Department of the Spanish National Police, Spain is not a target destination in the case of trafficking in citizens of the Czech Republic. Since 2012 (when the statistics began to be kept), a total of 9 cases of trafficking in human beings who are citizens of the Czech Republic have been recorded there, and 4 of these cases involved sexual exploitation.

### **Sweden**

The embassy was only informed that the number of persons from the Czech Republic involved in trafficking in persons (not victims) increased in 2022.

### **Thailand**

For the period under review, the Embassy of the Czech Republic does not have data on citizens of the Czech Republic traded abroad. In the summer of 2022, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bangkok, in consultation with the Visa Department, cooperated with the immigration officer of Germany in Bangkok in connection with a case of criminal activity in Germany involving young Thai women and transgender persons from the impoverished Isan region of Thailand – with visas issued by Portugal, Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany and the Czech Republic – being sent to Germany for prostitution.

### **Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan**

The Embassy is only officially informed by the Mol of possible illegal activities committed against citizens of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan and only when it is necessary to refer materials for further proceedings to the authorities of these three countries through the Embassy. Among the possible crimes (prostitution, pimping) in our case is the crime of unauthorized employment of foreigners, when the counterparty (the General Prosecutor's Office or the Ministries of Interior of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan or Turkmenistan) is informed about the administrative expulsion of the person concerned from the Czech Republic or the EU. These are migrant workers in the construction, manufacturing or automotive industries from Uzbekistan or Tajikistan. However, there was not a single confirmed case in 2022, which does not mean that these crimes do not occur. On the contrary, it can be assumed that firms specializing in Central Asian migrant workers (most often firms with owners from Ukraine) do not comply with the Employment Act and illegal employment does occur. In the case of deficiencies detected during inspections by the labour inspection authorities or the Police of the Czech Republic, the embassy is

not informed about these cases. The Embassy would welcome the introduction of such an instrument.

Specifically regarding the illegal employment of foreigners – unofficial information obtained during interviews with applicants or family members of convicts were as follows:

In addition, people learn about the possibility of illegal employment for a decent wage either from their official employer or from relatives or acquaintances who have this experience. Illegal employment consists of performing predetermined work without predetermined and legally established wage agreement. Workers receive relatively small amounts (one-off CZK 2,000) or very good (one-off up to CZK 20,000) amounts for such work. This involves work on construction sites (most often around Prague, Prague – Holešovice / Čakovice / Černý Most) or roads. This work is very well organized, several people participate in it (1. labor intermediary, 2. leader of the illegal workcrew, 3. observer monitoring the surroundings, 4. night patrol). Hygienic conditions are zero – performing purification in the river or sinks, non-existence of a classic toilet, spending the night in a sleeping bag on illegal construction sites. The problem is that the money promised in advance is not always paid. Alternatively, it is paid, but not in an equal proportion to all workers. Another (subsequent) criminal activity is connected with it – rather misdemeanors. However, there is a known case when a citizen of Uzbekistan residing in the Czech Republic with an employee card set fire to the apartment of his manager from Ukraine 8 years ago due to non-payment of promised money for illegal work. His pregnant partner also burned in the apartment. The citizen of Uzbekistan is still serving a sentence in the Czech Republic.

In the Czech Republic, migrant workers from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are fully under the control of intermediaries, to whom they feel obliged for arranging work (they carry out registration for the applicant, procure documents and air tickets, are their guides in the Czech Republic) – regardless of the fact that these services are charged up to USD 8,000. The whole family, or even the village, contributes to such an amount. So there is an entry debt and that's why these people become victims of illegal employment in order to get extra funds. They are easy targets for possible exploitation, as they are not aware of their own rights. If, for example, an occupational accident occurs (inhalation of fumes in a hazardous workplace, problems with the musculoskeletal system due to a fall from scaffolding), the applicants go to their country of origin and receive treatment at their own expense, because the company denies them the possibility of medical treatment. The fact that the employer pays health insurance for them is unknown to the applicants. In the Czech Republic, these labor migrants work in groups that are closed and hierarchically organized. Such groups represent the only means of existence in a culturally unfamiliar environment without language and social skills. Efforts to integrate are not taking place here; groups live their own lives.

## **United Kingdom**

Information about citizens of the Czech Republic, as perpetrators – or victims trafficked to United Kingdom, is not systematically communicated by the foreign counterparts. Embassy representatives learn about them only in the context of police cooperation regarding the detection of individual cases. Basically, these are a few dozen citizens of the Czech Republic exploited for work in the United Kingdom.

Victims often originated from the socially disadvantaged subculture, including persons who have served a prison sentence, drug addicts or the homeless. There are rare attempts to use the victims for multiple forms of exploitation (typically regarding the women – where combination of work and sexual exploitation took place).

## 10. PRIORITIES

Priorities in 2023:

- Prevention of abuse of Ukrainian refugees residing in the territory of the Czech Republic for human trafficking.
- implementation of the project, called “**Comprehensive Approach to Preventing and Combating Child Trafficking**”.
- Improving the capacity of field workers to identify victims of human trafficking (with use of the existing tools and aids, targeted training, as well as deepening the cooperation among public administration bodies, non-profit sector and other involved entities).

## TABLES

### 1. STATISTICAL OUTPUTS OF THE POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

<b>1a: CRIME OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2011-2022 (UNDER SECTION 168 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE)</b>													
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Registered acts	24	19	24	18	20	18	22	16	13	20	18	14	18
Of which solved	13	11	18	11	14	7	15	11	9	12	11	6	9
Solved subsequently	4	6	4	5	5	2	2	5	4	1	2	6	3
Prosecuted persons	35	29	22	25	16	12	23	24	15	26	20	21	16
Of which men	27	20	15	20	8	6	17	21	11	13	12	14	9
Of which women	8	9	7	5	8	6	6	3	4	13	8	7	7
Of which foreigners	14	7	3	2	3	4	1	6	2	6	2	4	2
Of which nationals of the Czech Republic	21	22	19	23	13	8	22	18	13	20	18	17	14

<b>1b: CRIME OF SOLICITING (UNDER SECTION 204 OF THE OLD CRIMINAL CODE, SECTION 189 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE)</b>												
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Registered cases	44	42	52	57	50	36	60	34	37	19	34	67
Solved cases	32	30	38	49	44	27	52	24	30	17	24	58
Prosecuted persons	61	46	44	72	63	35	42	33	27	28	29	28



## 2. STATISTICAL OUTPUTS OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

<b>2a: NUMBERS OF PERSONS SENTENCED AND PENALTIES IMPOSED FOR TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS UNDER SECTION 168 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE AND SECTION 232a OF THE OLD CRIMINAL CODE)</b>												
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Convicted persons	19	11	19	6	19	8	9	16	12	8	21	13
Unconditional sentences	18	10	17	4	12	6	6	13	11	5	18	6
Conditional sentences	1	1	2	1	7	2	3	3	1	3	3	7

<b>2b: PERSONS SENTENCED FOR SELECTED CRIMES IN 2022</b>									
Year 2022		Sec 164	Sec 165	Sec 166	Sec 167	Sec 168	Sec 189	Sec 190	Sec 342
Total criminal offences		1	0	0	0	16	18	0	3
Total convicted persons		1	0	0	0	16	18	0	3
Victim	Child	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Female	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sen-tence	Conditional	1	0	0	0	10	14	0	3
	Unconditional	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	0
	Up to 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	From 1 to 5	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	0
	From 5 to 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
judicially waived cases		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exonerated		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

X – Data on victims of crime are not available, only victims of domestic violence are monitored.

### 3. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 (MLSA, FCF)

<b>3a: NUMBER OF IDENTIFIED CASES OF CHILDREN IN THE YEARS 2013 – 2022 (MLSA)</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Child pornography</b>	<b>Child prostitution</b>
<b>2022</b>	127 (106 girls, 21 boys)	21 (11 girls, 10 boys)
2021	100 (90 girls, 10 boys)	8 (6 girls, 2 boys)
2020	73	5
2019	114	8
2018	151	2
2017	119	9
2016	66	23
2015	57	15
2014	87	17
2013	33	17

<b>3b: STATISTICAL DATA ON UNACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINORS IN 2022 (FCF)</b>	
<b>Total unaccompanied minors</b>	<b>81</b>
Boys (of which from Ukraine)	72 (21)
Girls (of which from Ukraine)	9 (7)
Up to the age of 15 (of which from Ukraine)	15 (2)
Over the age of 15 (of which from Ukraine)	65 (26)
Asylum seekers (of which from Ukraine)	1 (0)
<b>Country of origin</b>	
Ukraine	28
Syria	24
Afghanistan	21
Morocco	2
Turkey	2
Pakistan	1
Romania	1
Egypt	1
Moldova	1
<b>Termination of stay</b>	
Escape (of which from Ukraine)	44 (1)
To family care (of which from Ukraine)	9 (5)
Referred to another facility (of which from Ukraine)	6 (4)
In the care of a third party (of which from Ukraine)	6 (5)
Reaching the age of majority (of which from Ukraine)	5 (5)
Refugee Facilities Administration of the Mol (of which from Ukraine)	0 (0)
Still in facility (of which from Ukraine)	11 (8)
<b>Average duration of stay</b>	<b>45,2 days</b>

#### 4. STATISTICAL OUTPUTS OF THE MOI

2022 STATISTICS OF THE MOI PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS						
	Total	Males	Females	Sexual exploitation	Labour exploitation	Other forms
Number of victims	33	25	8			
Sexual exploitation	1	0	1			
Labour exploitation	32	25	7			
Nationality/Citizenship						
Czech Republic		8	1	1	8	
Slovakia		4			4	
Poland		4			4	
Romania		1			1	
Moldova		1			1	
Pakistan		1			1	
Philippines		4	4		8	
Ukraine			3		3	
Latvia		1			1	
Bulgaria		1			1	

#### 5. STATISTICAL OUTPUTS IN RELATION TO ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT (MLSA)

5a: NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE EMPLOYMENT ACT AND NUMBER OF DETECTED ILLEGALLY EMPLOYED PERSONS					
Year	Number of inspections	Number of persons detected during illegal work			
		Nationals of the Czech Republic	European Union nationals	Foreigners	Total
2016	9 308	760	193	1 337	2 290
2017	9 707	767	234	1 917	2 918
2018	8 840	763	225	3 595	4 583
2019	9 457	622	207	3 513	4 342
2020	5 557	556	141	2 413	3 110
2021	5 222	312	288	2 695	3 295
<b>2022</b>	<b>6 572</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2 007</b>	<b>2 561</b>

## 6. MLSA SUBSIDIES PROVIDED TO NGOs IN 2022

<b>6a: 2022 SUBSIDIES PROVIDED BY MLSA TO ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING SERVICES LARGELY TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING</b>	
<b>Diaconia ECCB – Centre for National Programs and Services</b>	<b>8 468 217</b>
Asylum houses	4 553 020
Field crisis assistance	3 915 197
<b>Archdiocesan Charity Prague</b>	<b>10 498 456</b>
Professional social counselling - Magdala Counselling Centre	10 498 456
<b>La Strada Czech Republic</b>	<b>10 681 731</b>
Field programs	1 992 188
Asylum houses	2 706 155
Crisis intervention	2 326 933
Expert social counselling	2 137 659
Telephone crisis intervention	1 518 796
<b>Total sum</b>	<b>29 648 304</b>

<b>6b: NUMBER OF SOCIAL SERVICES THAT HAVE A REGISTERED TARGET GROUP OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND FURTHER PROVIDE SERVICES ALSO FOR PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 (2022)</b>		
<b>TYPE OF SOCIAL SERVICES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF SERVICES</b>	<b>OF WHICH NUMBER OF SERVICES ALSO FOCUSED ON PERSONS UNDER 18</b>
Asylum houses	10	10
Crisis intervention	2	2
Low threshold facilities for children and youth	0	0
Expert social counselling	30	4
Social activation services for families with children	0	0
Social rehabilitation	2	2
Telephone crisis intervention	8	5
Field programs	7	5
<b>Total sum</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>28</b>

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMPD	Assylum and Migration Policy Department (of the Mol)
API	Alien Police Inspectorates
ASLPC	Authority for Social and Legal Protection of Children
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CHF	Swiss franc
Coll.	Collection of Law
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CPIS	Criminal Police and Investigation Service
CZ	Czech Republic (also as Internet domain)
CZK	Czech koruna, Czech crown
Diaconia ECCB	Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren
EC	European Commission
EMPACT	European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats
en	English
EO	Employment Office of the Czech Republic
EQF	European Qualifications Framework, a translation device to make national qualifications more readable across Europe
etc.	et cetera; and so on
EU	European Union
EUCPN	European Crime Prevention Network
EURES+3Z Up!	EUROpean Employment Services + Third Countries Citizens
EUROJUST	European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit
EUROPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
FCF	Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals
GRETA	Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
https	Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure
i. e.	id est; that is
IDBCIEF	Inter-Departmental Body for Combating Illegal Employment of Foreigners
IDCG	Inter-Departmental Coordination Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
La Strada	La Strada Czech Republic, public service company
LEFÖ IBF	Lateinamerikanische Exilierte/Emigrierte Frauen in Österreich Interventionsstelle für Betroffene von Frauenhandel; Latin American Exiles/Emigrated Women in Austria Intervention Center for Victims of Trafficking in Women
LI, LIs	Labour inspectorates
MEPA	Mitteleuropäische Polizeiakademie; Central European Police Academy
MLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic
Mol, MOI	Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
MoJ, MOJ	Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic
NCCOC	National Centre for Combating Organized Crime (of the Bureau of Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Police of the Czech Republic)
NGO, NGOs	Non-government organisation(s)
No.	Number

NREM	National Referral and Equivalent Mechanism
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE Program	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Program for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of the Interior
RACRUs Report	Regional Assistance Centres for Refugees from Ukraine Status Report on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Czech Republic
R-R	Rozkoš bez rizika (Pleasure without Risk)
SLIO	State Labour Inspection Office
SLPC	Social and legal protection of children
SOS	Save our souls
Status Report	Status Report on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Czech Republic
THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
ÚS	Ústavní soud; Constituional Court
USA	United States of America
USD	United States dollar

## **LEGISLATION**

Aliens Act	Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic and on the amendment of certain laws, as amended
Old Criminal Code	Act No. 140/1961 Coll., Criminal Code, as amended
Criminal Code	Act No. 40/2009 Coll., Criminal Code, as amended
Criminal Procedure Code	Act No. 141/1961 Coll., on Criminal Procedure (Criminal Procedure Code), as amended
Social Services Act	Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, as amended
Employment Act	Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, as amended
Labour Code	Act No. 262/2006 Coll., Labour Code, as amended
SLPC Act	Act No.359/1999 Coll., on the Social and Legal Protection of Children, as amended

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*Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic  
Crime Prevention Department  
Nad Štolou 3, 170 34 Prague 7*

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