



Office of Citizenship and  
Migration Affairs  
Republic of Latvia



# STUDY ON DETECTION, IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF THIRD- COUNTRY NATIONAL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

## Report on situation in Latvia

Riga, November 2021.

Pursuant to Council Decision 2008/381/EC of 14 May 2008, the European Migration Network was established; its objective is to meet the information needs of institutions of the European Union and its Member States by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable, and comparable information on migration and asylum, with a view to supporting policymaking in these areas in the European Union. The European Migration Network also serves to provide the general public with information on these subjects. The Network is composed by the European Commission and the contact points designated by the Member States. Each contact point establishes a national migration network.

The contact point of each state prepares studies, whose topics have been set in the respective annual program of activities. The topics of studies are related to the area of migration of third-country nationals.

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## 1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

Trafficking in human beings is a crime against people that can take various forms such as sexual exploitation (including forced prostitution), forced labour or services, slavery and servitude related practices, as well as the removal of vital organs, all of which constitute a grave violation of victim's fundamental rights. Trafficking in human beings is prohibited in various international instruments such as in the Charter on Fundamental Rights of the European Union (EU),<sup>1</sup> the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Children and Women, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Annex II),<sup>2</sup> the Council of Europe (CoE) Conventions on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings<sup>3</sup> (which is monitored by GRETA, the CoE Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) and on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention),<sup>4</sup> the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),<sup>5</sup> Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR),<sup>6</sup> the Global Compacts for Migration<sup>7</sup> and Refugees<sup>8</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>9</sup>

According to the latest available data, between 2017 and 2018, there were more than 14 000 registered victims within the EU.<sup>10</sup> Trends in the EU seem to mirror those at global level: for every 10 victims detected, five are adult women and two are girls, one in every three is a child.<sup>11 12 13</sup> Trafficking in human beings is not only recognised as a highly profitable crime,<sup>14</sup> it is also recognized as a crime with links to social development and security, migration, conflict- and climate-induced displacement. The impact and cost of human trafficking on individuals as well as on political, economic and social systems is compelling. Trafficking victims may suffer from an array of physical and devastating psychological health issues stemming from brutal physical and emotional attacks at the hands of their traffickers, dangerous workplace conditions, occupational hazards, inhumane living conditions, poor sanitation, inadequate nutrition, poor personal hygiene, and general lack of quality health care. Human trafficking has the power to affect the victims' life forever:<sup>15</sup> therefore, the application of a human right-based and victim-centred approach is needed.

Persistent demand for sexual services and for low-wage workers employed in manual jobs continue to ensure opportunities for traffickers to operate: in spite of the recent significant increase in the number of people convicted, many perpetrators remain undetected and unpunished.<sup>16</sup> Given its clandestine nature, and the many factors which may deter a victim from reporting the crime, trafficking in human beings is believed to be significantly underreported.<sup>17</sup> Detection and

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identification of (potential) victims of trafficking in human beings is therefore likely to remain at the same time critical and problematic, as flagged by a recent report of the European Parliament.<sup>18</sup>

Third-country nationals account for more than half of the registered victims in EU Member States.<sup>19</sup> Vulnerable migrants have been reported to be at persistent risk of becoming victims of trafficking along migration routes: in particular unaccompanied minors and those in the asylum procedures, might be at a higher risk of becoming victims of trafficking in human beings and other gender-based violence, such as rape or domestic violence.<sup>20</sup> Reception centres for asylum applicants can be targeted by human traffickers for recruitment.<sup>21</sup> Early identification of victims is crucial to promptly assist, support and protect victims of trafficking in human beings and enables police and prosecution authorities to better investigate and punish traffickers.<sup>22</sup> However, their detection and identification in mixed migration flows remains a challenge<sup>23</sup> in a number of Member States,<sup>24</sup> some of which also relate to tensions with the current legal framework (especially within asylum procedures)<sup>25</sup> as well as to disruption in victim assistance and support services.<sup>26</sup> For instance, difficulties have occurred in some Member States, e.g. labour exploitation cases not recognised as trafficking in human beings and treated by the police under civil law (Latvia), difficult in detection and identification of victims due to more restricted movements during the Covid-19 pandemic crisis (Luxembourg), 'cross-border' victims or third-country nationals 'forced' to commit criminal acts themselves (the Netherlands) or collaboration with governmental agencies (Sweden).

The full extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficking in human beings is not yet known. However, a rise in poverty as a result of restrictions, an increase in vulnerabilities linked to migration statuses and ongoing travel restrictions may have, among other factors, resulted in higher levels of trafficking and placed third-country national migrants at greater risk of exploitation.<sup>27</sup> The risks of exploitation of minors in particular are thought to have increased.<sup>28</sup> The pandemic has also made the identification of victims of trafficking more challenging for authorities and has resulted in delays in identification procedures.<sup>29</sup>

In 2012, the EU called upon Member States to set up "systematic approach(es) to victim identification, protection and assistance" including promoting "regular training for officials likely to come into contact with victims or potential victims of trafficking in human beings [...] aimed at enabling them to identify and deal with victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings".<sup>30</sup> One of the key priorities of the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025 is protecting, supporting and empowering victims, which also includes the early identification of victims: in this regard, working together with relevant EU agencies, as well as embedding cooperation and partnerships against trafficking with non-EU countries of origin and transit and organisations at regional and international levels in the EU's external relations policy is fundamental.<sup>31</sup>

## 2 EU LEGAL AND POLICY CONTEXT

This section outlines EU legislation relevant to the identification and protection of victims of trafficking. It begins *by* describing the anti-trafficking legislation and its main recent developments,

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followed by relevant elements of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Whilst the Anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU introduces the concepts of detection and identification of victims in all situations, existing instruments for international protection and forced return procedures do not explicitly provide for a tailored mechanism.<sup>32 33</sup> The recast asylum acquis goes some way in improving this situation as described below, although there may be room to further enhance provisions for victims of trafficking in human beings who are in Dublin or forced return procedures.

## 2.1 EU Anti-trafficking legislation

The EU recognises trafficking in human beings as a violation of human rights: Article 5(3) of the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights prohibits trafficking in human beings outright. The EU's competence to act in relation to trafficking in human beings is set out in the EU Treaties, and in several legal documents. The Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) recognises the EU's power to act on trafficking in relation to its nature as (i) a phenomenon with links to migration,<sup>34</sup> and (ii) a cross-border crime.<sup>35</sup>

Several Directives within the migration acquis either focus on, or have implications for, third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, but the Anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU is the first act at the EU level to address trafficking in human beings in a comprehensive and integrated way. The instrument adopts a victim-centred 'human rights approach', providing for a common definition of the criminal offence of trafficking, and obliging Member States to "establish appropriate mechanisms aimed at the early identification of and assistance to victims, in cooperation with relevant support organisations".<sup>36</sup> In 2020 the European Commission published its third two-yearly report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings as required under Article 20 of the Anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU.<sup>37</sup>

Prior to the entry into force of the Anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU, the Residence Permit Directive 2004/81/EC was the only piece of EU legislation providing for assistance to third-country national victims of trafficking.<sup>38</sup> It sets out a framework for Member States to grant a temporary reflection period of unconditional stay and assistance and conditions for granting a residence permit to third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, when these persons cooperate with the authorities competent to start pre-trial investigations and convict the perpetrator. Some Member States<sup>39</sup> make provision for certain forms of residence permit, based on the vulnerable position of the victim. This possibility is sometimes limited to particular categories of persons (e.g. minors).<sup>40</sup>

According to the Anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU, "a person should be provided with assistance as soon as there is a reasonable-grounds indication for believing that he or she might have been trafficked and irrespective of his or her willingness to act as a witness".<sup>41</sup> The Anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU goes on to state that in cases where the victim does not already reside lawfully in the Member State the assistance should be provided unconditionally for at least the duration of the reflection period. However, it can be withdrawn if on completion of the identification process or expiry of the reflection period, the victim is not considered eligible to remain in the Member State.<sup>42</sup> The Anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU, however, recognises that in

addition to residence based on cooperation, victims of trafficking may also be eligible for international protection.<sup>43</sup>

It is also of note that potential victims of trafficking who have been issued a reflection period cannot be subject to any expulsion order against them for the duration of this period,<sup>44</sup> and that victims of trafficking who have been granted a residence permit will not be subject to an entry ban, provided that there is no threat to public policy, public security or national security within the scope of the Return Directive 2008/115/EC.<sup>45</sup>

Finally, in its *Rantsev v. Cyprus and Russia* ruling,<sup>46</sup> the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) recalled the positive obligations that fall to States when it comes to inquiring into possible trafficking situations and to taking the necessary measures to protect victims. Going further than a simple obligation for states to enact laws aimed at ensuring the prohibition of slavery, servitude and forced labour as provided for in Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the Court, set forth the obligation for states to take appropriate measures to 'remove an individual from a situation or risk, where it is presumed that state authorities were aware that this individual was at real and immediate risk of being trafficked or exploited'. Very recently, the Court reiterated that these positive obligations are incumbent upon states and stressed the need for the latter to 'protect victims and investigate as soon as there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is credible suspicion of trafficking'.<sup>47</sup>

## 2.2 Main EU policy developments addressing trafficking in human beings

While the main responsibility for tackling trafficking in human beings and protecting victims lies with Member States, in 2012 the European Commission launched the first EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016 (EU Strategy).<sup>48</sup> It calls on Member States to adopt a systematic approach to victim identification, protection and assistance, including through the establishment of formal, functional national referral mechanisms (NRMs). In its mid-term report on the implementation of the EU Strategy,<sup>49</sup> for the first time, the European Commission collected statistical data on the trafficking of human beings at a European level. In 2020, a fifth edition was published together with the third report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings mentioned above.

On 14 April 2021, the European Commission adopted the new EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025,<sup>50</sup> calling for a comprehensive response to combatting a complex criminal phenomenon as follows:

- Reducing demand that fosters trafficking, including by assessing the possibility of establishing minimum EU rules criminalising the use of exploited services from victims of trafficking and proposing legislation on corporate governance to clarify the responsibilities of companies.
  - Breaking the business model of traffickers, online and offline including by conducting a dialogue with internet and technology companies and encouraging systematic training of law enforcement and judicial practitioners on detecting and addressing trafficking in human beings.
  - Protecting, supporting and empowering the victims with a specific focus on women and children including by seeking to improve the early identification of victims and their referral to further assistance and protection. Strengthen victim empowerment programmes and facilitate
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re-integration. The European Commission will also fund gender-specific and child-sensitive training to help police, social workers, border guards or healthcare staff to detect victims.

- Promoting international cooperation with international partners including by means of foreign policy instruments and operational cooperation to help combat trafficking in countries of origin and transit including through dedicated human rights and security dialogues.

Tackling trafficking in human beings and the early identification of potential non-EU victims (who account for more than half of the total number) is also a priority under several of the latest Communications adopted by the European Commission. These include the new EU Security Union Strategy<sup>51</sup> launched in July 2020, and the New Pact on Migration and Asylum<sup>52</sup> of September 2020. It also plays a prominent role in the Europol Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment and the EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025, presented respectively on 13 and 14 April 2021.<sup>53</sup>

The European Commission recently published three studies - one on the gender dimension of trafficking,<sup>54</sup> one on its economic, social and human costs<sup>55</sup> and one on reviewing the functioning of Member State's National and Transnational Referral Mechanisms<sup>56</sup> - focused on (different aspects of) the topic, with the latter one in particular treating victim detection and identification in the context of migration and asylum. Finally, the outcomes of this study will complement the Commission's evaluation of the Anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU, which is a key action of the New EU Strategy.

### 2.3 EU asylum acquis

The EU asylum acquis comprises two Regulations and four Directives, which legislate on different aspects of the procedure for granting international protection, including which country is responsible for examining each application (Dublin III Regulation),<sup>57</sup> and how to compare fingerprints for law enforcement purposes (Eurodac Regulation),<sup>58</sup> the type of persons who qualify for international protection and the rights related to the international protection status (Qualification Directive 2011/95/EU),<sup>59</sup> the common standards that Member States should have in place for granting and withdrawing international protection (Asylum Procedures Directive 2013/32/EU),<sup>60</sup> and the common standards for the reception of applicants that should be granted to guarantee them a dignified standard of living (Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU).<sup>61</sup> In the EU asylum acquis, victims of human trafficking are considered a vulnerable category of applicants under the Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU which lays down specific provisions for vulnerable applicants and their special reception needs, including the assessment of such needs.<sup>62</sup> The applications of vulnerable persons can be prioritised under the Asylum Procedures Directive 2013/32/EU.<sup>63</sup> Finally, the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum<sup>64</sup> proposes to put in place a pre-entry screening that should be applicable to all third-country nationals who are present at the

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external border without fulfilling the entry conditions or after disembarkation, following a search and rescue operation.<sup>65</sup>

In this study, the Dublin III Regulation is of relevance as it establishes the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for the examination of an asylum claim in the EU. Where a Member State other than the one in which the applicant has lodged an application is found to be responsible for examining the application, the applicant will usually be transferred to that Member State. Where the applicant has lodged multiple applications in different Member States, the person will usually be transferred back to the Member State previously determined as responsible. In cases where a victim has been exploited in the Member State responsible, it could be traumatic to be returned to that Member State, even though in accordance with the Dublin Regulation, the transfer can take place. However, questions have arisen in relation to the reflection period that should be granted under art 6(2) of the Residence Permit Directive 2004/81/EC.<sup>66</sup> According to this provision, any expulsion order against a victim of trafficking shall not be enforced during this reflection period, which is an occasion for them to recover and decide whether they want to cooperate with the competent authorities, by, for example, reporting their trafficking situation. The Court of The Hague has referred several questions for a preliminary ruling, including whether a transfer decision pursuant to the Dublin Regulation during the reflection period qualifies as an expulsion order and thus whether such transfer is precluded by the Residence Permit Directive 2004/81/EC.<sup>67</sup>

Where the applicant is an unaccompanied minor without family members on the territory of other Member States, the State where the unaccompanied minor has lodged an application for international protection shall be responsible.<sup>68</sup> Moreover, so-called 'Dublin' transfers do not always take place for instance where a Member State decides to take responsibility for an application for international protection lodged by a third-country national or a stateless person itself, for example:

- on the basis of a national decision (the so-called 'sovereignty clause');<sup>69</sup>
- on humanitarian grounds based in particular on family or cultural considerations (the so-called 'humanitarian clause').<sup>70</sup>

Concerns arise when it comes to asylum applicants who may become victims of trafficking during so-called 'secondary movements' or may be returned under the Dublin III Regulation to the country where exploitation has occurred. In 2011, in *N.S. and M.E.* (Joined cases C-411/10 and C-493/10),<sup>71</sup> the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU), held that, in line with Article 4 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Member States may not transfer an asylum applicant to the responsible Member State where they cannot be unaware that systemic deficiencies in the asylum procedure and in the reception conditions in that Member State amount to substantial grounds for believing that the asylum applicant would face a real risk of being subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment. The determining Member State shall continue to examine the criteria set out in the hierarchy of criteria in order to establish whether another Member State can be designated as responsible. This principle applies to all applicants whether or not they claim to be victims of trafficking.<sup>72</sup> Nonetheless, decisions not to transfer remain dependent on effective detection methods, identification processes and a procedure in place for the transfer to be delayed or a final decision made whether or not to proceed with it.

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Detection and identification of potential victims is key, and national courts have stressed the importance of these steps on several occasions, pointing to the tension that may arise from the time-efficiency spirit of the Dublin Regulation on the one hand, and the protection duties imposed on Member States on the other.<sup>73</sup>

When the Dublin III Regulation was adopted in 2013 it also improved possibilities for detection, since it introduced a provision to conduct a personal interview ‘in order to facilitate the process of determining the Member State responsible’.<sup>74</sup> The Dublin III Regulation introduced provisions on the consideration of safety and security of unaccompanied minors in particular where there is a risk of the child being a victim of trafficking,<sup>75</sup> but does not explicitly introduce provisions relevant to adults who are (potential) victims of trafficking in human beings within Dublin procedures: the Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU states that Member States shall take into account the specific situation of vulnerable persons such as (among others) victims of human trafficking.<sup>76</sup>

#### 2.4 The victims’ rights directive

Adopted in 2012, the Victims’ Rights Directive 2012/29/EU establishes minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and ensures that persons who have fallen victim to crime are recognised and treated with respect.<sup>77</sup> Trafficking in human beings is recognised as one of the crimes covered by the Victims’ Right Directive 2012/29/EU.<sup>78</sup> Victims of crime must receive proper protection, support and access to justice: in particular, the need for special support and protection for women (and their children) who are victims of gender-based violence, especially with a view to avoiding secondary and repeated victimisation, is emphasised.<sup>79</sup> In the context of the individual needs’ assessment, particular attention shall be paid to victims of trafficking.<sup>80</sup>

On that basis, all EU Member States,<sup>81</sup> must ensure and prioritise victims’ protection and safety regardless of their residence status. Indeed, while Article 1 of the Victims’ Right Directive 2012/29/EU calls for a non-discriminatory approach to the protection of victims of crime, Article 2 further defines victims as “anyone who has suffered physical, mental, emotional or economic harm caused by a criminal offence, as well as family members of someone whose death case caused by a criminal act”. Read in conjunction with Recital 10 which highlights that “Member States must take necessary measures to ensure that the rights set out in this Directive are not made conditional on the victim’s residence status”, the definition of ‘victims’ provided de facto encompasses third-country nationals who may fall victims to crime within the EU territory, including the one of trafficking in human beings. The Victims’ Right Directive 2012/29/EU provides victims and their family members with a right to information, support and protection. It further strengthens the victims’ procedural rights in criminal proceedings and requires that EU Member States ensure appropriate training on victims’ needs for officials who are likely to come into contact with victims. For certain groups of victims, the EU has adopted specific rules which respond more directly to the specific needs of some victims as, inter alia, to provide protection and support for victims of human trafficking.<sup>82</sup>

### 3 STUDY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The proposed study aims to explore the national practices of detection, identification and protection of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings. In this respect, without adopting the

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same scope, it updates the 2013 EMN study “Identification of victims of trafficking in human beings in international protection and forced return procedures” and covers:

1. Overview of national situations in relation to trafficking in human beings, in particular focusing on the national, latest available data, trends, patterns and trafficking purposes (Introduction).
2. National policy and legislative developments and measures to detect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, including information on competent authorities, existing reporting mechanisms, possibilities to appeal decisions. (Section 1).
3. National policy and legislative developments and measures to identify (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, including referral mechanisms (if existent) among national authorities and other relevant stakeholders (Section 2)
4. National policy and legislative developments and measures to protect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, including the legal framework for granting the reflection period, residence permits and the provision of appropriate information and assistance (Section 3).
5. Cooperation mechanisms with other Member States, EU agencies (EASO, Europol, Frontex), international organisations and third countries of origin and of transit (Section 4).
6. Challenges and good practices in Member States, such as those concerning vulnerable persons, (presumed) cases falling under the scope of the Dublin III Regulation and the impact of COVID-19 (Section 5).

#### 4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study covers the following categories of third-country nationals, detected, identified and protected as (presumed) victims of trafficking in human beings, who are:

- Asylum applicants;
- In an irregular situation;
- In possession of a valid authorisation to stay on the territory of a Member State (residence permit or short-term visa).

Third-country nationals who are in an irregular situation and subject to a return decision will be out of the scope of this study as they have already been dealt with in other recent EMN products.

The temporal scope for statistics and the national contexts is from January 2015 up to December 2020 for statistics and the national contexts.

The study is aimed at policy makers at national, European and international level, but also representatives of specific industries (e.g. private sectors in areas where trafficking in human beings is documented to occur), civil society organisations, academia, and will complement and update findings of other relevant European Commission reports and studies as well as contribute to the European Commission’s study for the evaluation of the Anti-trafficking Directive.

For the purpose of this study, the definitions listed in the section below will apply.

## 5 DEFINITIONS

The study uses the following definitions, which – unless otherwise stated – are based on the EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary.<sup>83</sup>

Detection of (a situation of) trafficking in human beings	The process of identifying a possible situation of trafficking in human beings.
Dublin procedure	The process of determining the EU Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the EU Member States by a third-country national under Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 (Dublin III Regulation).
Dublin transfer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The transfer of responsibility for the examination of the merits of an application for international protection from one Member State to another Member State.</li> <li>2. The (physical) transfer of an applicant to the EU Member State who is considered to be responsible for examining the merits of an application following a Dublin procedure</li> </ol>
Identification of a victim of trafficking in human beings	The process of confirming and characterising a situation of trafficking in human beings for further implementation of support.
Identified victim of trafficking in human beings	A person who has been formally identified as a victim of trafficking in human beings according to the relevant formal authority in Member States.
International protection	<p>In the global context, the actions by the international community on the basis of international law, aimed at protecting the fundamental rights of a specific category of persons outside their countries of origin, who lack the national protection of their own countries.</p> <p>In the EU context, protection that encompasses refugee status and subsidiary protection status.</p>
National referral/cooperation mechanisms	Mechanism aimed at identifying, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking in human beings, through referral, and involving relevant public authorities and civil society. <sup>84</sup>
Potential victim of trafficking in human beings	A person vulnerable to trafficking in human beings. <sup>85</sup>

Detection of (a situation of) trafficking in human beings	The process of identifying a possible situation of trafficking in human beings.
Presumed victim of trafficking in human beings	A person who has met the criteria of EU regulations and international Conventions but has not been formally identified by the relevant authorities (e.g. police) as a trafficking victim or has declined to be formally or legally identified as victim of trafficking.
Protection of (presumed/identified) victims of trafficking in human beings	The action of national authorities aimed at protecting the fundamental rights of (presumed) victims of trafficking in human beings. <sup>86</sup>
Reception centre	A location with facilities for receiving, processing and attending to the immediate needs of refugees or asylum applicants as they arrive in a country of asylum.
Reflection period	A period of time determined according to national law granted to third-country nationals officially identified as victims of trafficking in human beings allowing the victim to recover and escape the influence of the perpetrators of the offences so that they can take an informed decision as to whether (or not) to cooperate with the competent authorities.
Registered victim of trafficking in human beings	A person who is either an identified or a presumed victim of human trafficking and has been registered by authorities and/or other agencies and organisations. <sup>87</sup>
Trafficking in human beings	The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.
Transfer of procedure	The process of changing from one migration procedure to another. <sup>88</sup>
Victim(s) of crime	Anyone who has suffered physical, mental, emotional or economic harm caused by a criminal offence, as well as family members of someone whose death case caused by a criminal act'. <sup>89</sup>

Detection of (a situation of) trafficking in human beings	The process of identifying a possible situation of trafficking in human beings.
Voluntary Return	The assisted or independent return to the country of origin, transit or third country, based on the free will of the returnee.
Vulnerable person	Minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of trafficking in human beings, persons with serious illnesses, persons with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation.

## 6 PRIMARY QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE STUDY

Primary research questions:

1. What is the national situation with regard to (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings in the Member States?
2. What are the national policies and procedures in place to detect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings (including targeted policies and strategies for vulnerable persons)?
3. What are the national policies and procedures in place to identify (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings (including targeted policies and strategies for vulnerable persons)?
4. What are the national policies and procedures in place to protect and support (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings and what is the role of national referral mechanisms?
5. To what extent and how do Member States cooperate internationally in detecting, identifying and protecting (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?
6. What are the key challenges and good practices in the Member States in the detection, identification and protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?

## 7 RELEVANT SOURCES AND LITERATURE

EMN Studies

- EMN (2014), Study on the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings in international protection and forced return procedures.

EMN Ad-Hoc Queries (AHQ)

- EMN (2019), AHQ on Access of victims of trafficking to their rights
- EMN (2018), AHQ on Identification of victims of human trafficking during asylum interview
- EMN (2016), AHQ on Protection of victims of human trafficking
- EMN (2012), AHQ on Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims
- EMN (2009), AHQ on Types of residence permits that victims of trafficking who do not cooperate with the authorities are granted



## Other Studies, Reports and Communications

- European Commission (2021), Communication on the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025
- European Commission (2021), Communication on the EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025
- EUROPOL (2021), European Union serious and organised crime threat assessment (SOCTA)
- Council of Europe (2020), GRETA's activities, General reports and resources
- Council of Europe (2020), Guidance Note on the entitlement of victims of trafficking, and persons at risk of being trafficked, to international protection
- European Commission (2020), Communication on the EU Security Union Strategy,
- European Commission (2020), Communication on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum,
- European Commission (2020), Third report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings
- European Commission (2020), Data collection on trafficking in human beings in the EU
- European Commission (2020), Study on the economic, social and human cost of human trafficking
- European Commission (2020), Study on reviewing the functioning of Member States' National and Transnational Referral Mechanisms
- European Parliament (2020), Report on the implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims
- UNODC (2020), Global Report on Trafficking in Persons
- UNODC (2020), How Covid-19 restrictions and the economic consequences are likely to impact migrant smuggling and cross-border trafficking in persons to Europe and North America
- Council of Europe (2020), Assistance to victims of human trafficking
- European Commission (2016), Study on the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings
- European Commission (2014), Communication on the application of Directive 2004/81/EC,
- ILO (2014), Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour
- European Commission (2013): Guidelines for the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings
- European Commission (2012), EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings 2012-2016
- OHCHR (2010), Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking

## Case law

- European Court of Human Rights, V.C.L and A.N. v. The United Kingdom, Applications Nos. 77587/12 and 74603/12, 16 February 2021: <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/fre?i=001-207927>
- Court of Justice of the European Union (Grand Chamber) of 21 December 2011. N. S. (C-411/10) v Secretary of State for the Home Department and M. E. and Others (C-493/10) v Refugee Applications Commissioner and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. References for a preliminary ruling: Court of Appeal (England & Wales) (Civil Division) - United Kingdom and High Court of Ireland - Ireland.
- European Court of Human Rights, Rantsev v. Cyprus and Russia, Application No.25965/04, 10 May 2010: <https://rm.coe.int/16806ebd5e>



## 8 AVAILABLE STATISTICS

This study builds on the study on data collection on trafficking in human beings in the EU which provides for an in-depth analysis of criminal justice statistical data for years 2017 and 2018.<sup>90</sup>

Information is checked against the EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2020 (ARM): to facilitate data collection, the EMN Service Provider provides the relevant datasheets on trafficking for each Member State, prepared since 2016, as part of the Statistical Report of the EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum.

## 9 METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

As with all EMN Studies, the National Reports should be primarily based on secondary sources. These may be supplemented by expert interviews. For example, experts working in the field (e.g. national authorities, service provider, civil society organisations, and international organisations) could be consulted to identify key challenges and good practices in the Member States in the detection, identification and protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings. Experts from the Ministry of Interior, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, the State Police and the State Border Guard were involved in the writing of this report.

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<sup>90</sup> European Commission, Data collection on trafficking in human beings in the EU, 2020, [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/default/files/study\\_on\\_data\\_collection\\_on\\_trafficking\\_in\\_human\\_beings\\_in\\_the\\_eu.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/default/files/study_on_data_collection_on_trafficking_in_human_beings_in_the_eu.pdf), last accessed on 8 May 2021.

## 10 TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The template provided below outlines the information that should be included in the National Contributions of EMN NCPs to this Study. The indicative number of pages to be covered by each section is provided in the guidance note. For National Contributions, the total number of pages should not exceed 40 pages, including the questions and excluding the introduction of the study. A limit of 30 pages will also apply to the Synthesis Report, in order to ensure that it remains concise and accessible.

### Common template of EMN study 2021

#### Detection, identification and protection of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings

##### National contribution from Latvia\*

***Disclaimer:** The following information has been provided primarily for the purpose of contributing to a synthesis report for this EMN study. The EMN NCP has provided information that is, to the best of its knowledge, up-to-date, objective and reliable within the context and confines of this study. The information may thus not provide a complete description and may not represent the entirety of the official policy of the EMN NCPs' Member State.*

##### Top-line factsheet

The top-line factsheet will serve as an overview of the **national contribution** introducing the study and drawing out key facts and figures from across all sections, with a particular emphasis on elements that will be of relevance to (national) policymakers. Please add any innovative or visual presentations that can carry through into the synthesis report as possible infographics and visual elements.

Please provide a concise summary of the main findings of Sections 1-5:

*The aim of the national report is to provide information on the activities applied in Latvia with regard to detection, identification and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings. The scope of the report includes also the third-country nationals, who are detected, identified and protected as (presumed) victims of trafficking in human beings and who are asylum seekers, irregular migrants and to whom a valid residence permit or a short-period visa has been issued. Third-country nationals, who irregularly stay in the country and who are subject to return order, are out of the scope of this national report as they have been already recently reviewed in other EMN works.*

*The national report describes the time period from 2015 to 2020.*

*Latvia is a country of origin, target and transit of the victims of trafficking in human beings and the country, where trafficking in human beings takes place inside.<sup>91</sup> Until 2019 Latvia was a country of origin of the victims of trafficking in human beings - the nationals of Latvia were victims of trafficking in human beings either abroad or in Latvia. Latvia is still a country of origin of the victims of trafficking in human beings, however, starting as of 2019, the responsible authorities of Latvia even more face the events, when third-country nationals are detected as the victims of trafficking in human beings. Experts of the field explain this with the fact that demand for low-qualified work force is increasing in the Latvian labour market in construction, food production and agriculture,*

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<sup>91</sup> 48 victims of trafficking identified in Latvia in 2020. - Available: <https://lvportals.lv/skaidrojumi/324837-latvija-2020-gada-identificeti-48-cilveku-tirdzniecibas-upuri-2021>

therefore, foreign labour force is more often being searched. The persons suffering from trafficking in human beings in Latvia have most often suffered from exploitation of the labour force. In majority of cases the citizens of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and India are exposed to work force exploitation. The largest number of identified victims of trafficking in human beings was in 2020 - 31 persons.

Competent authorities of Latvia<sup>92</sup> and non-governmental organizations actively implement public informative campaigns on the prevention of trafficking in human beings, as well as provide information to the foreign embassies of third countries of the victims of trafficking in human beings, organize trainings for involved institutions, which may face possible cases of trafficking in human beings in their work. When implementing the project "FLOW",<sup>93</sup> several tools are developed in order to eliminate and investigate the work force exploitation cases.

Different types of support, such as provision with a safe accommodation and basic medical assistance, victim of trafficking in human beings may receive as a subject of the certain procedure<sup>94</sup>, in the scope and in accordance with the procedure, guaranteed under the relevant procedure described in section 3.

Both, persons who are presumed as the victims of trafficking in human beings as well as identified victims of trafficking in human beings are entitled to claim for reflection period, if they do not have a procedural status in the criminal proceeding, as well as the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, pursuant to the motivated recommendation of the State Police, issues a temporary residence permit for a time period, which is not shorter than six months.

The responsible institutions have mentioned several challenges in the field of trafficking in human beings, being related to the victims of trafficking in human beings as well as the responsible institutions themselves. Victims of trafficking in human beings often are not aware that they are being used, because their knowledge on their rights are insufficient, as well as they are frightened and do not report on the violations of their rights. The responsible institutions consider that the mutual information circulation should be improved on the cases, when people can be exploited at their places of work.

As far as trafficking in third-country nationals is observed in Latvia approximately since 2019 and the issue has become topical comparatively recently, it is still necessary to improve the current coordination procedure between the responsible institutions, when developing the legal framework and cooperation procedure.

NGOs have indicated that it is necessary to increase the amount of the state-funded long-term support for women who have suffered from sexual exploitation in order to eliminate the risk of re-victimization.

Measures for prevention of the identified challenges are integrated into the Plan on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2021 - 2023<sup>95</sup>. The plan covers four areas - prevention, protection, criminal prosecution and partnership. The plan and the included measures are intended to address more effectively trafficking in human beings, and the most important measures include trainings for investigators, public prosecutors and judges as well as promotion of more rapid and more effective cooperation in order to prevent the cases of trafficking in human beings.

Within the framework of the National Report, the representatives of NGOs, who provide support to the victims of trafficking in human beings, indicate as the example of good practice that the national programme enables the authorised NGOs to develop rehabilitation plans adjusted for victims of trafficking in human beings, including customized possibilities for professional training and job

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<sup>92</sup> State Police, Ombudsman, State Border Guard, Municipal Police, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, State Labour Inspectorate.

<sup>93</sup> FLOW. Flows of illicit funds and victims of human trafficking: uncovering the complexities // <https://heuni.fi/-/flow>

<sup>94</sup> Waiting period, Dublin III procedure, Asylum procedure, residence permit holders, short-term visa holders.

<sup>95</sup> Cabinet Order No. 690 of 28 September 2021 "Regarding Plan on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2021-2023". - *Latvijas Vēstnesis*, 190, 01.10.2021 – [entered into force on 28.09.2021]

search. The customized plan enables to provide support for the needs of the particular customer, facilitating his or her valuable rehabilitation.

## Introduction:

National situation with regard to detection, identification, and protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings (2015-2020)

Q1. Please describe the main policy developments and debates that have occurred in the reference period 2015-2020 with regard to detection, identification, and protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings (e.g., parliamentary debates, policy reforms, draft/adopted legislation, media coverage, awareness-campaigns, relevant publications).

*The Guidelines for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings 2014 - 2020 (hereinafter - the Guidelines) were in force during time period covered by the national report, which is a medium-term policy planning document. It determines the purpose of the policy on prevention of trafficking in human beings - to eliminate and combat trafficking in human beings, to protect and support victims of trafficking in human beings, obeying their human rights in full, and to facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation in order to achieve the purpose.<sup>96</sup> The Guidelines determined the framework for activities, which were implemented during the above-mentioned time period.*

*In order to provide the most current information to society on the topic of trafficking in human beings, the website [www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv](http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv) started to operate in the summer of 2016, which is the national informative resource on the topic of reducing of trafficking in human beings and current events in Latvia.<sup>97</sup>*

*The person presumed as a victim of trafficking in human beings is a person who has met the criteria of EU regulations and international Conventions but has not been formally identified by the relevant authorities as a trafficking victim or has declined to be formally or legally identified as victim of trafficking.*

*In Latvia the decision regarding official identification of victims of trafficking in human beings may be adopted by the State Police as a law enforcement authority and a commission of specialists established by a service provider, in accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 344 "Regulations Regarding the Procedures by Which the Victims of the Trafficking in Human Beings Receive Social Rehabilitation Service, and the Criteria for the Recognition of a Person as a Victim of the Trafficking in Human Beings"<sup>98</sup>. Officially identified victim of trafficking in human beings is entitled to receive the social rehabilitation service from the funds of the State budget.*

*The Society "Shelter "Safe House"" has developed within the framework of different projects the informative materials (in Latvian, Russian and English) about the possibility to turn for support, as well has implemented several informative campaigns and events that educates and informs about trafficking in human beings.<sup>99</sup>*

*Similarly, the society "MARTA" Centre organizes practical trainings<sup>100</sup> for employees of social services, police, crisis centres, orphan's and custody courts, youth centres and other institutions about how to detect the victims of trafficking in human beings and refer them as per need.<sup>101</sup>*

<sup>96</sup> Cabinet Order No. 29 of 21 January 2014 "Regarding Guidelines on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2014-2020". - *Latvijas Vēstnesis*, No. 16, 23.01.2014 – [entered into force on 21.01.2014]

<sup>97</sup> The new website [www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv](http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv) is available - Available: <http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv/lv/darbu-sak-jauna-majaslapa-wwwcilvektirdzniecibalv/122>.

<sup>98</sup> Cabinet Regulation No. 344 "Regulations Regarding the Procedures by Which the Victims of the Trafficking in Human Beings Receive Social Rehabilitation Service, and the Criteria for the Recognition of a Person as a Victim of the Trafficking in Human Beings", adopted on 16 July 2019. – *Latvijas Vēstnesis* No. 146, 19.07.2019 – [came into force on 20.07.2019]

<sup>99</sup> What is trafficking in human beings? Available: <https://www.patverums-dm.lv/lv/kas-ir-cilveku-tirdznieciba>.

<sup>100</sup> In 2021 with the financial support of the Embassy of Great Britain.

<sup>101</sup> Workshops: How to recognize a victim of trafficking in human beings? - Available: <https://marta.lv/lv/marta-runa/seminari-ka-atpazit-cilveku-tirdzniecibas-upuri/>.

In March 2019 the Office of Ombudsman commenced the project of several years "Implementation of Effective Surveillance and Removal Procedure", the purpose of which is to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation in order to detect victims of trafficking in human beings before removal and to ensure protection of their rights, including against re-victimization and appearance in subordination of the organizers of trafficking in human beings. The study material "Detection of victims of trafficking in human beings during the process of removal" was developed within the framework of the above-mentioned project. The material is planned for integration in the study programme of the State Border Guard College. In 2020 the Ombudsman organized online training "Detection of victims of trafficking in human beings during the removal process", where several involved institutions and organizations participated. 22 officials of the State Border Guard were trained during the training for work with possible victims of trafficking in human beings and their detection. These trainings will be continued also in 2021.

Trafficking in human beings in Latvia is mainly related to exploitation of workforce, which is most often established since 2019. Therefore, the measures driven towards exploitation of third-country nationals, are commenced comparatively recently, mostly within the framework of different projects.

Within the framework of the project FLOW<sup>102</sup> "Flows of illicit funds and victims of human trafficking: uncovering the complexities" in 2019:

**The following materials were developed and translated into Latvian:**

- "Shady business. Uncovering the business model of labour exploitation"<sup>103</sup> describes the business model of trafficking in human beings and workforce exploitation, describing how different lawful business structures can be used in order to hide and perform workforce exploitation, and activates the link between the workforce exploitation, trafficking in human beings and economic crimes.
- "Uncovering labour trafficking – Investigation tool for law enforcement and checklist for labour inspectors"<sup>104</sup> describes the trafficking in workforce and exploitation in general and reflects the progress in investigations conducted by police. Publication operates as a specific support for coordinated and well-planned activities for effective investigation of cases of trafficking in workforce.<sup>105</sup>
- "Navigating through your supply chain. Toolkit for prevention of labour exploitation and trafficking"<sup>106</sup> provides support, when showing the risks related to workforce exploitation and trafficking in human beings, and how to effectively avoid the involvement in such scenarios. Five practically applicable tools are driven towards implementation of the enhanced study of the company or due diligence and provides certain measures for supervision and control of complicated supply chain networks, in particular in the context of the local, national and the European scale. These measures include risk assessment, development of the strategy against trafficking in human beings, examination of contracting partners, inclusion of special provisions of

<sup>102</sup> FLOW. Flows of illicit funds and victims of human trafficking: uncovering the complexities //https://heuni.fi/-/flow

<sup>103</sup> Shady business. Uncovering the business model of labour exploitation. – Available: [https://heuni.fi/documents/47074104/0/HEUNI+Publication+Series+92a+FLOW+Shady+business.+Uncovering+the+business+model+of+labour+exploitation+\(1\).pdf/9bcec73c-0245-7d81-81e1-e42095540f02/HEUNI+Publication+Series+92a+FLOW+Shady+business.+Uncovering+the+business+model+of+labour+exploitation+\(1\).pdf?t=1607955830229](https://heuni.fi/documents/47074104/0/HEUNI+Publication+Series+92a+FLOW+Shady+business.+Uncovering+the+business+model+of+labour+exploitation+(1).pdf/9bcec73c-0245-7d81-81e1-e42095540f02/HEUNI+Publication+Series+92a+FLOW+Shady+business.+Uncovering+the+business+model+of+labour+exploitation+(1).pdf?t=1607955830229).

<sup>104</sup> Uncovering labour trafficking – Investigation tool for law enforcement and checklist for labour inspectors. - Available: [https://heuni.fi/documents/47074104/0/ENG-InvestigationAid\\_Web+2\\_14072020.pdf/f7196ce4-124f-dfd2-3113-b8ef7fce3d54/ENG-InvestigationAid\\_Web+2\\_14072020.pdf?t=1606915478428](https://heuni.fi/documents/47074104/0/ENG-InvestigationAid_Web+2_14072020.pdf/f7196ce4-124f-dfd2-3113-b8ef7fce3d54/ENG-InvestigationAid_Web+2_14072020.pdf?t=1606915478428).

<sup>105</sup> In addition to English, the tool is available also in Bulgarian, Estonian, Finnish and Latvian languages and the reports are adapted to the local context.

<sup>106</sup> "Navigating through your supply chain. Toolkit for prevention of labour exploitation and trafficking".- Available: <https://heuni.fi/documents/47074104/0/HEUNI-Publication-Series-93a-FLOW-Toolkit-for-Responsible-Businesses-Web.pdf/6018bc73-f6db-f0e6-d823-ddbd821f2cac/HEUNI-Publication-Series-93a-FLOW-Toolkit-for-Responsible-Businesses-Web.pdf?t=1607708167367>



*the contract and organization of the assessment of the place of work in order to eliminate the risks of workforce exploitation and trafficking in human beings.*

*In 2020 within the framework of the project CAPE<sup>107</sup> in Latvia:*

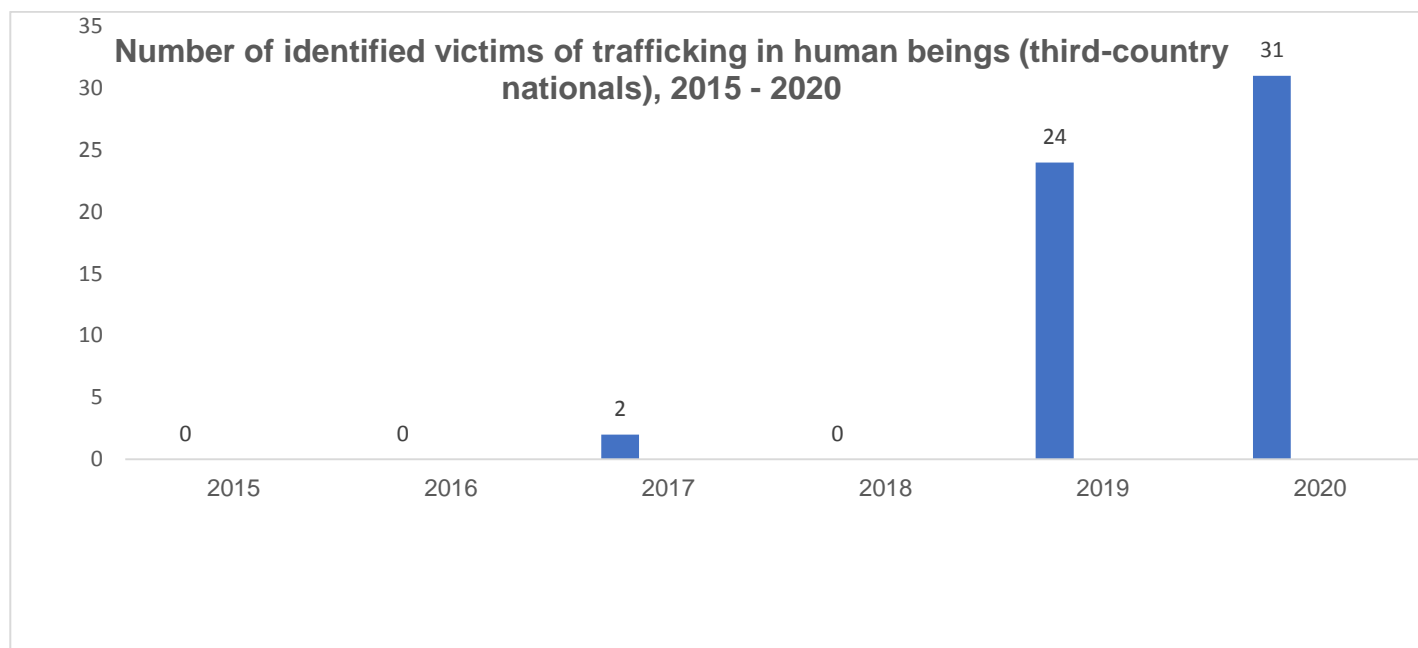
- *Two researches were conducted “How people are being recruited for work in Latvia: relation between recruitment practices and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of workforce exploitation”. Study of literature and regulatory enactments was performed within the framework of the research as well as the representatives of the competent authorities and employees - migrants, who have faced forced works and/or workforce exploitation, were interviewed. The report includes information about the typology and psychological characteristics of the victims, recruitment practices in the countries or origin of victims, as well as discusses the normative regulation and access of competent authorities with cases of forced work and exploitation. It was established during the research “Why there is so small number of criminal cases regarding trafficking in human beings for the purpose of forced work in Latvia?” that the skills on identification of victims and capacity should be improved, as well as the term “work exploitation” should be discussed more broadly, clearly separating the work in exploiting conditions from trafficking in human beings. Such an approach will enable to identify the cases, when all signs of trafficking in human beings are not to be detected, but criminal activities are to be seen at the same time.*
- *Results of the research were presented to the labour inspectors, public prosecutors, the Employment State Agency, consular department as well as employees of Riga Airport on 17 June 2021.*

*Nine countries of the Baltic Sea, including Latvia, signed a joint commitment on actions for prevention of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of workforce exploitation within the framework of the CAPE project.<sup>108</sup> The commitment provides to improve legal acts, supervision and practical cooperation with employers, as well as to ensure appropriate protection and support for the victims of trafficking in human beings.*

*Q2. Please elaborate on the characteristics of detected, identified and protected (presumed) third-country national victims of human trafficking (including age, gender, country of origin, migration status), trafficking purposes (e.g. sexual exploitation, including forced prostitution, forced labour or services, slavery and servitude related practices, as well as the removal of vital organs), latest patterns and trends in the reference period 2015-2020.*

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<sup>107</sup> About the project: <http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv/lv/projekts-kompetencu-veidosana-palidzibas-sniegsana-un-kriminalvajasana-darba-ekspluatacijas-gadjumos-baltijas-juras-regiona-cape>  
 Joint statement of commitment to work against human trafficking for labour exploitation. - Available: <https://cbss.org/2021/06/09/cbss-member-states-adopt-joint-statement-of-commitment-to-work-against-human-trafficking-for-labour-exploitation/>



Latvia was identified as a target country of trafficking in human beings for third-country nationals for the purpose of workforce exploitation starting as of approximately 2019, when 24 nationals of third-countries (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and India) were identified as the victims of trafficking in human beings, nine of them received the temporary residence permits. In 2020, already 31 third-country nationals (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and India) were identified as the victims of trafficking in human beings, 17 out of them received temporary residence permits. The increase in the number of victims of trafficking in human beings is explained by the lack of local workforce, especially in the field of construction, food production and agriculture. Persons are being misled about the labour payment and working conditions in Latvia. Part of the exploited men has higher education, however, the majority of the victims has acquired the secondary or secondary special education. The majority of exploited persons has also a residence permit, but exploiters use the fact that persons do not know the normative regulation of Latvia in order to figure out reasons for failure to pay the salary and compulsory work. All victims of trafficking in human beings, who were exploited for the purpose of workforce exploitation, are adults.

It was established during the research of the CAPE project in 2020<sup>109</sup> that recruitment practices in the countries of origin of employees migrants facilitate their exploitation for work in Latvia, because (a) employees migrants do not require an employment contract and other documents, (b) they trust all information provided by the recruiter, in particular, if the recruiter is a national of the victim, (c) they do not have information on recruitment and employment conditions in Latvia and (d) they allow work organization in an informal way (without working hours and salary recording, work safety etc.).

Also, in the provision of intimate services in Latvia the involvement of third-country nationals is comparatively recent, approximately since 2019. Women, mostly from Ukraine, travel to Latvia by using work visas issued in Poland, or by using the possibilities of visa-free tourism, when crossing the land borders of Romania and Hungary.

Latvia is also a transit country. In accordance with the information provided by the foreign law enforcement authorities and non-governmental organizations, migrants, victims of trafficking in

<sup>109</sup> How people are recruited for work in Latvia: relation between recruitment practices and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of workforce exploitation . – Available: <http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv/lv/iepazistina-ar-izpetes-darbiem-par-darbspeka-ekspluataciju-latvija/256>



human beings and presumed victims of trafficking in human beings, who are the nationals of Vietnam, are moved from Vietnam by a flight to China, further to the Russian Federation, or directly - from Vietnam to the Russian Federation, from where the routes of movement of the persons move through the countries of Eastern Europe by road transport, including through Latvia. Migrants mostly enter Latvia by feet, crossing "the green border" of Latvia and their way further moves to France, Netherlands, Germany and to the main destination country - Great Britain.

## Section 1: Detection of third-country nationals (presumed) victims of trafficking in human beings

Q3. Please describe the national procedures to detect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, by answering to the following questions:

a) Are there measures in place to detect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?  Yes  No

If so, please further elaborate in the table below.

Measures in place to detect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings	Details
Self-reporting	<i>The person submits to a service provider an application with a request to receive the social rehabilitation service, in accordance with the Cabinet Regulation No. 344 "Regulations Regarding the Procedures by Which the Victims of the Trafficking in Human Beings Receive Social Rehabilitation Service, and the Criteria for the Recognition of a Person as a Victim of the Trafficking in Human Beings", adopted on 16 July 2019.<sup>110</sup></i>
Awareness raising campaigns	<i>The state informative resource maintained by the Ministry of the Interior - <a href="http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv">www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv</a> - contains information on elimination of trafficking in human beings and current events in Latvia in this field. The hotline and information about the day-and-night free consultations can be found in the above-mentioned website.</i>  <i>In 2020 the State Police commenced the informative campaign regarding trafficking in human beings, informing about the signs, according to which it is possible to detect a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>  <i>The Society "Shelter "Safe House"" has developed within the framework of different projects the informative materials (in Latvian, Russian and English) about the possibility to turn for support, as well has implemented several informative campaigns</i>

<sup>110</sup>Cabinet Regulation No. 344 "[Regulations Regarding the Procedures by Which the Victims of the Trafficking in Human Beings Receive Social Rehabilitation Service, and the Criteria for the Recognition of a Person as a Victim of the Trafficking in Human Beings](#)", adopted on 16 July 2019. – *Latvijas Vēstnesis* No. 146, 19.07.2019 – [came into force on 20.07.2019]

	<p>and events that educates and informs about trafficking in human beings.</p> <p>The society "MARTA" Centre organizes practical trainings for employees of social services, police, crisis centres, orphan's and custody courts, youth centres and other institutions about how to detect the victims of trafficking in human beings and refer them as per need.</p>
Collection of indicators	<p>Cabinet Regulation No. 344 "Regulations Regarding the Procedures by Which the Victims of the Trafficking in Human Beings Receive Social Rehabilitation Service, and the Criteria for the Recognition of a Person as a Victim of the Trafficking in Human Beings", adopted on 16 July 2019.<sup>111</sup> Criteria for identification of a victim of trafficking in human beings are collected in Annex No.2</p> <p>The State Border Guard collects information with a purpose to perform risk analysis and acquire statistical data.</p>
Intelligence gathering by investigative services (e.g. police, labour inspectorate)	<p>The State Police performs investigation about cases of trafficking in human beings. The State Border Guard and the Labour Inspectorate provides information to the State Police about the detected persons presumed as victims of trafficking in human beings.</p>
Proactive screening in asylum procedures	<p>Within the framework of the asylum procedure (such as during the registration and identification proceeding, at the detention and accommodation institutions, during the personal interview), as well as the analysis of the information provided by the asylum seekers is performed. Additional information may be obtained during the personal interview. Besides, it does not exclude the cases, when the involved authorities may become aware of the new circumstances during the asylum procedure only during the court proceeding.</p> <p>Employees involved in the asylum procedure (both, in the State Border Guard as well as the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs) are competent to recognize the signs that could indicate that the asylum seeker could be a victim of trafficking in human beings (already happened or the one that could happen), and are informed about further actions in the relevant cases.</p>

<sup>111</sup>Cabinet Regulation No. 344 "[Regulations Regarding the Procedures by Which the Victims of the Trafficking in Human Beings Receive Social Rehabilitation Service, and the Criteria for the Recognition of a Person as a Victim of the Trafficking in Human Beings](#)", adopted on 16 July 2019. – Latvijas Vēstnesis No. 146, 19.07.2019 – [came into force on 20.07.2019]

Proactive screening in migration procedures	<i>Employees of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, when examining the applications for residence permits, follow “Guidelines on identification of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of work exploitation”<sup>112</sup>, in order to be able to establish the cases of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of workforce exploitation and suffering persons, as well as accordingly perform the necessary measures to prosecute the guilty persons to the liability provided under regulatory enactments. The State Border Guard performs the screening measure within the framework of its competence, considering the individual situation of the person and criteria for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings, as well as on the basis of the results of the performed risk analysis.</i>
Other	n/a

**b. What measures are in place to promote and facilitate self-reporting by (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?**

*The Society “Shelter “Safe House”” has developed within the framework of different projects the informative materials (in Latvian, Russian, English) about the possibility to turn for assistance. In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs these materials (booklets) are translated into Uzbek, Tajik, Hindi languages and delivered for distribution to the foreign missions of the Republic of Latvia. Informative materials are available also at the territorial units of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, which work on the issuing of travel documents for third-country nationals.*

*During the interview and other procedural activities the State Border Guard tries to establish trusted and confidential environment with a third-country national in order to facilitate self-reporting on the case of trafficking in human beings from the part of a third-country national.*

*Besides, also the medical treatment persons, who work in the Detained Foreigners Accommodation Centre of the State Border Guard, when performing the inspection and survey of the third-country national, can establish physical or moral injuries that promotes self-reporting of a person.*

**c. Please indicate whether (and in what way) these specific measures differ for any of the cases below.**

Specific measure to detect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings:	Details
within asylum procedures	n/a
within other migration procedures (e.g. seasonal workers, domestic workers, au pairs, students)	n/a
who are voluntary returnees	n/a

<sup>112</sup> Guidelines on Identification of Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of Work Exploitation. - Available: <http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv/lv/cilveku-tirdzniecibas-darba-ekspluatācijas-noluka-identificēšanas-vadlinijas>

who fall under other categories included in the definition of vulnerable persons adopted for this study (e.g. minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women)?	n/a
who are in an irregular situation	n/a

**d. What procedural safeguards exist for each category presented above?**

*Procedural guarantees are granted to the third-country national after his or her identification as a victim of trafficking in human beings or shortly before that.*

**e. What organisations / authorities are trained / competent to detect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking)?<sup>113</sup>**

Organisation authorities /	Trained to detect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking? Y/N	Competent to detect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking? Y/N	Details
Police	Yes	Yes	<i>Analytical tool "Shady business. Uncovering the business model of labour exploitation" was published by describing how to use different lawful business structures in order to hide and implement the workforce exploitation, and emphasizing on the relation between the workforce exploitation, trafficking in human beings and economic crimes. The first mutual training workshop with law enforcement authorities, labour inspectors and tax authorities was organized in September 2019.</i>

<sup>114</sup> The Asylum Affairs Division - responsible for examination of applications of asylum seekers, interviewing of asylum seekers, determination of the responsible member state, decision on granting the status of international protection or a refusal to grant it.

Border guards	Yes	Yes	<p><i>The programme of the State Border Guard College includes training on detection of victims of trafficking in human beings and human rights.</i></p> <p><i>Besides, the officials of the State Border Guard are provided with trainings in the field of trafficking in human beings and a possibility is provided to participate in workshops. Officials of the State Border Guard regularly improve their knowledge in the field of combatting of trafficking in human beings.</i></p>
Labour inspectors	Yes	Yes	<p><i>FLOW project tool "Shady business. Uncovering the business model of labour exploitation." Officials of the State Labour Inspectorate are provided with trainings in the field of trafficking in human beings and a possibility to participate in workshops.</i></p>
Migration services	Yes	Yes	<p><i>Employees of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, who are related to the migration issues, have regular workshops in order to update and supplement knowledge on the</i></p>

			<i>issues of trafficking in human beings.</i>
Asylum case officers	Yes	Yes	<i>Employees of the Asylum Affairs Division of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs<sup>114</sup> have participated in the training module of the European Asylum Support Office on Trafficking in Human Beings. Employees attend workshops.</i>
General practitioners	No	No	<i>n/a</i>
Other health workers	Yes	Yes	<i>In 2019, the Ministry of Health in cooperation with specialists of the Center for Disease Prevention and Control and the Ministry of the Interior developed recommendations for medical practitioners for detection of victims of trafficking in human beings. They contain practical information on both, the problems of trafficking in human beings as well as possible actions of the medical practitioner, when detecting the possible victim of trafficking in human beings. Recommendations</i>

<sup>114</sup> The Asylum Affairs Division - responsible for examination of applications of asylum seekers, interviewing of asylum seekers, determination of the responsible member state, decision on granting the status of international protection or a refusal to grant it.

			<i>are developed as an auxiliary tool for medical practitioners in order to introduce with the modern forms and signs of trafficking in human beings that may indicate that a patient has, probably, become a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i> <sup>115</sup>
Employers	Yes	Yes	<i>Representative of the public sector and business sector participated in the webinar of the project FLOW conference “Prevention of Workforce Exploitation and Trafficking in Human Beings in Local Supply Chains”.</i>
Trade unions	No	Yes	<i>n/a</i>
Civil society organisations	Yes	Yes	<i>Service providers: The “MARTA” Centre and the Society “Shelter “Safe House”” in case of suspicions on trafficking in human beings informs the third-country national on the possibilities to receive assistance and provides support to the presumed victims of trafficking in human beings.</i>
The Orphan’s and Custody Court	Yes	Yes	<i>Employees attend workshops.</i>

<sup>115</sup> Recommendations are developed for medical practitioners for detection of victims of trafficking in human beings. - Available: <http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv/lv/izstradati-ieteikumi-arstniecibas-personam-cilveku-tirdzniecibas-upuru-atpazisanai/233>.



			<i>The Orphan's and Custody Court, when representing the personal and property interests of an unaccompanied minor third-country national in the return and asylum proceeding, may detect a presumed victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>
Ombudsman	Yes	Yes	<i>Employees attend workshops. Employees of the Ombudsman, when observing the forced removal proceeding, may detect presumed victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>

f. Please describe how national referral mechanisms (or alternative mechanisms in absence of one) have evolved in the detection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?<sup>116</sup>

*Due to the fact that there is no special formal normative regulation in Latvia, except the Order No.33 of the Prime Minister "Regarding a Work Group for Coordination of Implementation of Guidelines on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2014 - 2020"<sup>117</sup> (Order No.33 of the Prime Minister), the Law On Residence of a Victim of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Latvia, Cabinet Regulation No. 344, the norms of the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Law, determining the procedure, according to which the detected victims of trafficking in human beings are referred for further actions, every institution or organizations, who establish the presumed victim of trafficking in human beings, sometimes act in accordance with their experience and within the framework of implementation of their functions.*

*The following action models exist in practice:*

- 1) The State Border Guard, when establishing any indicators during the procedural activities, indicating on the fact that a third-country national is a presumed victim of trafficking in human beings, informs the State Police on the possible case of trafficking in human beings. Taking into account the fact that there is no normative regulation on further referral of the person to any institution or organization, as well as considering the fact that due to specifics of the service, experience of the State Border Guard in further referral of presumed victims of trafficking in human beings is very small, the State Border Guard informs the State Police and acts in accordance with the individual situation in every established case.*
- 2) The person himself or herself turns to any of non-governmental organizations: the society "Marta" Centre or "Shelter "Safe House"" and the State Border Guard may not know about that until*

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Cabinet Order No. 33 of 11 February 2019 "[Regarding the Working Group for Implementation of the Guidelines on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2014-2020](#)". - *Latvijas Vēstnesis*, No. 30, 12.02.2019 – [entered into force on 11.02.2019]

a decision is made by the State Police regarding granting/not granting a reflection period for a victim of trafficking in human beings - third-country national.

3) The State Police, when receiving:

a) information from a third-country national or other state authorities, which, probably, can help to detect or prevent the case of trafficking in human beings, but not being sufficient in order to decide the issue about initiation of the criminal proceeding, transfers him or her for social support to the NGO societies "Marta" Centre or "Shelter "Safe House"" and makes a decision regarding granting a reflection period, informing the State Border Guard and the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs;

b) information from a third-country national or other state authorities (State Border Guard, State Labour Inspectorate etc.), which is sufficient in order to initiate the criminal proceeding - the procedural status is granted to the third-country national (victim, witness) and he or she is referred for social support to NGO societies "Marta" Centre or "Shelter "Safe House"" and a motivated proposal is submitted to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs for the Office to issue a temporary residence permit to a victim of trafficking in human beings;

c) information from the society "Marta" Centre or "Shelter "Safe House"" regarding the victim of trafficking in human beings - a third- country national - makes a decision regarding granting/not granting the reflection period, informing the State Border Guard and the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, or also about initiation of the criminal proceeding, informing the NGO about granting a procedural status to the third-country national. The State Police submits to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs a reasoned proposal for the Office to issue a temporary residence permit to the victim of trafficking in human beings.

## Section 2: Identification of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings

**Q4.** Please describe the national procedures to identify (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, by answering to the following questions:

a) What organisations / authorities are competent to identify (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking?

Organisation authorities /	Competent to identify (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking? Y/N	Details
Police	Yes	<i>An offence of trafficking in human beings is detected, granting the procedural status to the person. A third-country national is referred with his or her consent for receipt of the social support to NGO, on the basis of the bilateral agreement with the State Police.</i>
Border guards	No	<i>n/a</i>
Labour inspectors	No	<i>n/a</i>
Migration services	No	<i>n/a</i>
Asylum case officers	No	<i>n/a</i>

Civil society organisations	Yes	<i>Societies "MARTA" Centre and "Shelter "Safe House"" detect the presumed victim of trafficking in human beings and are the service providers in the commission, identifying victims of trafficking in human beings.</i>
Commission of specialists established by the service provider in accordance with the Cabinet Regulation No. 344 "Regulations Regarding the Procedures by Which the Victims of the Trafficking in Human Beings Receive Social Rehabilitation Service, and the Criteria for the Recognition of a Person as a Victim of the Trafficking in Human Beings".	Yes	<i>The commission of specialists established by the service provider identifies the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings in order the person could receive the state rehabilitation support.</i>

b) Are there specific measures in place to identify (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?  Yes  No

If so, please elaborate.

c) Please indicate whether (and in what way) these specific measures differ for any of the cases below.

Specific measure to identify (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings:	Details
within asylum procedures	<i>n/a</i>
within other migration procedures (e.g. seasonal workers, domestic workers, au pairs, students)	<i>n/a</i>
who are voluntary returnees	<i>n/a</i>
who fall under other categories included in the definition of vulnerable persons adopted for this study (e.g. minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women)?	<i>n/a</i>
who are in an irregular situation	<i>n/a</i>

d) Does a (presumed) third-country national victim have to be formally identified by a competent authority in order to apply for / be granted a reflection period / residence permit / protection status?  Yes  No

e) Please describe how national referral mechanisms (or alternative mechanisms in absence of one) have evolved in the identification of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?<sup>118</sup>

*Detection of victims of trafficking in third-country nationals is observed in Latvia approximately since 2019 and, therefore, the issue has become topical comparatively recently, and it is still necessary to improve the current coordination procedure, when developing the relevant legal framework. In general, the issue of trafficking in human beings is activated across all platforms, where third-country nationals contact with state authorities, for example, the State Border Guard, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, the State Labour Inspectorate and municipalities.*

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<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

### Section 3: Protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings

**Q5.** In line with the Anti-trafficking Directive, please describe in the table below what kind of assistance, support and protection (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings are given access to in Latvia who are in the reflection period, in the Dublin III procedure, in the asylum procedure or who have a valid authorization to stay (residence permit, short term visa or visa-free stay) respectively. Please also indicate, for each type of assistance the competent authority that can trigger its provision.

*The victim of trafficking in human beings may receive the type of support specified in the table as a subject of the procedure mentioned in the table, in the scope and in accordance with the procedure, guaranteed in the relevant procedure.*

Type of assistance	Reflection period	Dublin III procedure	Asylum procedure	Residence permit holders	Short term visa/visa-free stay
Information on risks and protection mechanisms	<i>Service provider<sup>119</sup> provides with information about protective measures.</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure. The State Border Guard and the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure, when there are indications that <u>the person presumed as</u> a victim of trafficking in human beings complies with the signs of a victim of trafficking in human beings, considering the special procedural and admission needs of the person.</i>  <i>Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs State Border Guard</i>	<i>Service provider provides with information about protective measures.</i>	<i>Service provider provides with information about protective measures.</i>

<sup>119</sup> Society “Shelter “Safe House””, “Marta” Centre who are State approved rehabilitation services providers to the victims of trafficking in human beings.

Appropriate and safe accommodation	<i>The service provider has the right to provide with a safe accomodation.</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure. The State Border Guard and the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure, when there are indications that the person presumed as a victim of trafficking in human beings, considering the special procedural and admission needs of the person.</i>  <i>Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs State Border Guard</i>	<i>The service provider has the right to provide with a safe accomodation.</i>	<i>The service provider has the right to provide with a safe accomodation.</i>
Necessary medical treatment	<i>The service provider provides the basic medical assistance.</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure.</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure, when there are indications that the person presumed as a victim of trafficking in human beings, considering the special procedural and admission needs of the person.</i>  <i>Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs State Border Guard</i>	<i>Within the framework of the insurance policy or at his or her own expense.</i>	<i>Within the framework of the insurance policy or at his or her own expense.</i>
Counselling and information	<i>Service provider provides with information about protective measures.</i>	<i>Service provider provides with information about protective measures.</i>	<i>Service provider provides with information about protective measures.</i>	<i>Service provider provides with information about protective measures.</i>	<i>Service provider provides with information about protective measures.</i>

Legal assistance	<i>Service provider provides legal assistance, if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure. Legal Aid Administration.</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure. Legal Aid Administration</i>	<i>Service provider provides legal assistance, if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>	<i>Service provider provides legal assistance, if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>
Translation and interpretation	<i>Service provider provides translation and interpretation, if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure.</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure.</i>	<i>Service provider provides translation and interpretation, if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>	<i>Service provider provides translation and interpretation, if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>
Psychological assistance	<i>Service provider provides psychological assistance if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure, taking into account the special needs of the person. Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs State Border Guard</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure, taking into account the special needs of the person. Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs State Border Guard</i>	<i>Service provider provides psychological assistance if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>	<i>Service provider provides psychological assistance if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>
Subsistence assistance) (material	<i>Service provider provides with subsistence assistance if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure. Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure. Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs</i>	<i>Service provider provides with subsistence assistance if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a</i>	<i>Service provider provides with subsistence assistance if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a</i>



	<i>victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>			<i>victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>	<i>victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>
Social and economic integration	<i>n/a</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure. Society Integration Foundation</i>	<i>Is provided within the framework of the asylum procedure. Society Integration Foundation</i>	<i>Service provider provides with social and economic integration if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>	<i>Service provider provides with social and economic integration if the commission of specialists established by the service provider identified the person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i>
Protection against re-victimisation	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Other	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>

**Q6.** How does Latvia apply the principle of non-refoulement for victims of trafficking in human beings? Please indicate whether (and in what way) specific measures differ from general practice.

*The State Border Guard apply the principle of non- refoulement for third-country nationals appearing in the migration situation, in accordance with general conditions without exceptions. The State Border Guard apply non- refoulement principle during the whole migration proceeding.*

**Q7.** How does Latvia implement Article 60 and 61 of the 'Istanbul Convention'?<sup>120</sup>

*The Parliament of Latvia has not ratified the Istanbul Convention.*

**Q8.** Please describe what typology(ies) of reflection periods, residence permit(s), protection status(es) and national programme(s) are available to protect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking, by answering the following questions.

**a)** What organisations / authorities are competent to trigger the request for a (presumed) victim to remain on the territory of Latvia? Please indicate if the organisations / authorities differ between cases of presumed and identified third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings.

*In accordance with Section 4 of the Law On Residence of a Victim of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Latvia<sup>121</sup> the investigative institution - the State Police,<sup>122</sup> when making a decision regarding granting of the reflection period for a person presumed a victim of trafficking in human beings,<sup>123</sup> shall inform the State Border Guard and notify the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs on granting the reflection period. If the State Police detects a person as victim of trafficking in human beings - a third - country national and identifies him or her as a victim or witness - the person presumed a victim of trafficking in human beings, the person directing the proceeding, in accordance with Section 6 of the Law On Residence of a Victim of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Latvia shall request with a reasoned proposal to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs to issue a temporary residence permit for a victim, as well as a minor child, being under his or her accompaniment, for a time period not less than six months.*

**b)** Can third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings submit a request for a reflection period themselves?  Yes  No

If so, to whom? Please indicate if this possibility exists for both cases of presumed and identified third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings and the extent to which they differ.

*Reflection period may be claimed only by persons presumed as victims of trafficking in human beings and who do not have any procedural status in the criminal proceeding. They have to address the submission to the State Police<sup>124</sup>. In turn, if the State Police has already identified a third-country national as a victim of trafficking in human beings and identifies him or her as a victim, or he or she has also the status of a witness, he or she cannot receive the reflection period. With the support necessary for investigation and proceeding directing the proceeding, these person may receive only temporary residence permit.*

**c)** Does Latvia provide for a reflection period also for presumed third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?  Yes  No

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<sup>120</sup> CoE, Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, 2011. – Available: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/090000168008482e>, last accessed on 9 May 2021.

<sup>121</sup> Law "On Residence of a Victim of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Latvia". - *Latvijas Vēstnesis* No.23, 08.02.2007 – [entered into force on 22.02.2007]

<sup>122</sup> State Police Central Criminal Police Department Organized Crime Combatting Department CCrPD OCCD 3rd Division

<sup>123</sup> Presumed victim of trafficking in human beings

<sup>124</sup> To the State Police Central Criminal Police Department Organized Crime Combatting Department CCrPD OCCD 3rd Division.

*Except the cases, when a person already has a status in the criminal proceeding.*

**d)** How long does the reflection period last to decide if presumed third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings want to cooperate with the authorities? Does it have the same duration in case it is provided to identified victims?

*The reflection period is 30 days. If a person presumed as a victim of trafficking in human beings provides the information in writing, which can help to detect or prevent the case of trafficking in human beings, or is recognized as the victim of a criminal offence, the person directing the proceeding during the reflection period or on the next working day after expiry of the reflection period shall assess<sup>125</sup> within three working days the necessity of investigation thereof and shall offer to the person a possibility to receive a temporary residence permit.*

**e)** Are (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings expected to cooperate with the authorities during the reflection period?  Yes  No

If so, what is expected from them (e.g. report to the police, refer to support organisations, discontinue contact with traffickers)? Does cooperation differ between identified and presumed third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?

*The purpose of granting a reflection period is to facilitate commitment of the person to consider the possibility to provide to the investigation institution - the State Police, or the person directing the proceeding the information that would facilitate detection or prevention of cases of trafficking in human beings. As well as to terminate contacts with the persons, being suspected, accused or with regard to whom the convicting judgment has entered into force or a prosecutor's penal order on the criminal offence, which is related to trafficking in human beings. If a third-country national is presumed as a victim of trafficking in human beings and the identified victim of trafficking in human beings cooperates with the State Police, that cause a ground to request to issue a temporary residence permit for him or her for a time period of at least six months.*

**f)** What type of residence permit(s) are available specifically for (presumed) victims of trafficking in human beings in Latvia? Please indicate if this possibility exists for both cases of presumed and identified third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings and the extent to which they differ.

*There is no special type of residence permit for presumed victim of trafficking in human beings or identified third-country national, who is a victim of trafficking in human beings. If their given testimonies are useful for investigation of the criminal proceeding, they can receive a temporary residence permit, which according to their visual look does not differ from temporary residence permits of Latvia issued to other persons. If a third-country national presumed as a victim of trafficking in human beings fails to cooperate or there is no reason to initiate the criminal proceeding, it does not make a reason to issue a temporary residence permit. If a third-country national is presumed as a victim of trafficking in human beings and the identified victim of trafficking in human beings cooperates with the State Police, that cause a ground to request to issue a temporary residence permit for him or her for a time period of at least six months.<sup>126</sup> During the investigation the time period for granting a permit may differ, determining the individual criminal procedural usefulness of the persons to stay in Latvia.*

**g)** What are the conditions for getting these permit(s) granted? Do conditions differ between presumed and identified (i.e. not yet identified) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?

<sup>125</sup> up to 33 days from decision regarding granting a reflection period

<sup>126</sup> In accordance with Section 23, Paragraph 6 of the Immigration Law.

*Criminal procedural usefulness of the investigation is the key condition in order to issue a residence permit for both, the presumed victim of trafficking in human beings as well as identified third-country national, who is a victim of trafficking in human beings.*

**h)** Are other protection status(es) and national programme(s) offered to protect (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?  Yes  No

If so, please indicate the extent to which they differ between presumed and identified third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings.

*There is a special procedural protection in the criminal proceeding (that is witness protection programme), it may be received by both, the person presumed a victim of trafficking in human beings as well as the identified victim of trafficking in human beings. Until the criminal proceeding the protection procedures in accordance with Dublin III humanitarian considerations are possible.*

## **Section 4: International cooperation between Member States and with third countries in addressing detection, identification and protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?**

**Q9.** Please describe how Latvia cooperates within the scope of the Dublin III Regulation:

**a)** How does Latvia deal with cases of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings that fall under the Dublin III Regulation?

*The described events were not established in the practice of the State Police and State Border Guard. In the perspective of Dublin III persons were not identified as victims of trafficking in human beings. There were no criminal proceeding initiated.*

**b)** What is the national policy and practice regarding Dublin transfers of (presumed) third country national victims of trafficking in human beings?

*Cases described in the practice of the State Police are assessed on the basis of the jurisdiction and eligibility determined in the Criminal Law.*

**c)** How does identification and referral take place during the Dublin Procedure?

*In Latvia there is no different practice with regard to identification and transfer of the victims of trafficking in human beings within the framework of Dublin procedure, if the person is a subject of both procedures.*

**d)** Are presumed third country national victims of trafficking in human beings identified during the Dublin procedure entitled to a reflection period?  Yes  No

*A reflection period will be provided for a third-country national presumed a victim of trafficking in human beings, who does not yet have a criminal procedural status.*

**e)** What, if any, are the situations in which Dublin transfers are halted for presumed third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?

*There have not been such situations in the practice. National legal acts do not provide for such cases.*

**f)** Has Latvia used the humanitarian and sovereignty clauses under Articles 3 and 17 of Dublin III Regulation for cases of trafficking in human beings?  Yes  No

*On the basis of humanitarian considerations, issuing of a residence permit is provided in practice to the person, presumed as a victim of trafficking in human beings outside of the criminal procedural procedure.*

**Q10.** What (other) intra-EU cooperation mechanisms are in place regarding detection, identification and protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?<sup>127</sup>

*For detection and identification widely is used Europol EMPACT THB (EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime: priority “Trafficking in human beings”), the Latvian liaison officers in other member states, liaison officers of other Member State in Latvia, the professional contacts of experts of the Multidisciplinary Work Group the Ministry of the Interior of Latvia in the institution of other member states.*

**Q11.** What cooperation mechanisms with third countries, if any, are in place in Latvia regarding detection, identification, and protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?

*Good detection and identification possibilities are used in practice by using the platforms of Europol (with Ukraine, Moldova), Interpol (with Russia, Belarus). There is cooperation with the embassies of other countries in Latvia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan).*

**Q12.** Does Latvia cooperate with third countries in the context of voluntary return of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?  Yes  No

If so, in what way?

*The IOM Riga Office provides the assisted voluntary return to the third-country trafficking victim if his or her testimony is no longer necessary for the State Police investigation. The IOM's Riga office is cooperating with IOM offices in third countries to provide victims of trafficking in human beings with readmission assistance in their home countries.*

*The State Border Guard does not perform transfer of the persons presumed as victims of trafficking in human beings to third country.*

**Q13.** Is Latvia considering any future cooperation mechanisms with third countries and with other Member States regarding detection, identification, and protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?  Yes  No

If so, please explain.

*The State Police, on the basis of risk analysis of trafficking in human beings of third-country nationals, plans to expand the use of the Europol and Interpol platform in cooperation also with other countries.*

## Section 5: Key challenges and good practices in Member States, including in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Q14a.** What are the key challenges faced in the i) detection, ii) identification and iii) protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings?

Please include one challenge per row and indicate the stage for which it applies in the tick boxes below. If needed, please add additional rows to the table below.

Challenge (Please list in order of importance or chronological order as instructed under the first question)	Stage
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<sup>128</sup> FLOW. Flows of illicit funds and victims of human trafficking: uncovering the complexities //https://heuni.fi/-/flow

<p><b>Please describe the challenge.</b></p> <p><i>There is effective information exchange between the involved authorities sometimes missing in the field of detection. For example, the State Labour Inspectorate could have information that an agent or company has violated the rules related to employment of third-country nationals, or other employment conditions, but this information does not appear, for example, at the disposal of the State Police.</i></p> <p>Also answer the following questions:</p> <p>a) For whom is this a challenge (e.g. policy-makers, competent authorities, third-country nationals, other stakeholders.)?</p> <p><i>All involved institutions.</i></p> <p>b) Why is it considered a challenge?</p> <p><i>Exchange of information delays timely detection of cases of trafficking in human beings.</i></p> <p>c) What is the source of the statement (e.g. based on input from experts, surveys, evaluation reports, other sources)?</p> <p><i>On the basis of the research results of FLOW<sup>128</sup> un CAPE<sup>129</sup> projects.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Detection <input type="checkbox"/> Identification <input type="checkbox"/> Protection
<p><b>Challenge</b> (Please list in order of importance or chronological order as instructed under the first question)</p>	<p><b>Stage</b></p>
<p><b>Please describe the challenge.</b></p> <p><i>Additional funding should be transferred for preparatory activities, which is a stage between detection of the possible case of trafficking and the moment, when the person is identified as a victim.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Detection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protection
<p>Also answer the following questions:</p> <p>a) For whom is this a challenge (e.g. policy-makers, competent authorities, third-country nationals, other stakeholders.)?</p> <p><i>For victims of trafficking in human beings.</i></p> <p>b) Why is it considered a challenge?</p>	

<sup>128</sup> FLOW. Flows of illicit funds and victims of human trafficking: uncovering the complexities //https://heuni.fi/-/flow

<sup>129</sup> About the project: <http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv/lv/projekts-kompetencu-veidosana-palidzibas-sniegsana-un-kriminalvajasana-darba-ekspluatacijas-gadījumos-baltijas-juras-regiona-cape>



*Often the person needs to be removed from the place of exploitation, but certain time passes until the person is identified as a victim and receives rehabilitation services.*

- c) What is the source of the statement (e.g. based on input from experts, surveys, evaluation reports, other sources)?

*Information provided by the expert of the Ministry of the Interior.*

**Challenge** (Please list in order of importance or chronological order as instructed under the first question)

**Stage**

**Please describe the challenge.**

Detection

*During the Covid-19 pandemic, when access of customers with the employees of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs is limited, there is a risk that it is not possible to establish the cases of trafficking in human beings, because the customers visit the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs only to make a photograph for a residence permit.*

Identification

Protection

Also answer the following questions:

- a) For whom is this a challenge (e.g. policy-makers, competent authorities, third-country nationals, other stakeholders.)?

*Officials of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs and possible victims of trafficking in human beings.*

- b) Why is it considered a challenge?

*The reduced number of visits minimizes the possibility to detect cases of trafficking in human beings through interviews.*

- d) What is the source of the statement (e.g. based on input from experts, surveys, evaluation reports, other sources)?

*Information of experts of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs.*

**Challenge** (Please list in order of importance or chronological order as instructed under the first question)

**Stage**

**Please describe the challenge.**

*Lack of long-term support funded by the state is a significant challenge. The majority of victims, in particular women and girls, who have suffered from sexual exploitation, is not enough with rehabilitation of six months in order to recover stability in life, in particular if the criminal proceeding is taking place.*

Also answer the following questions:

- a) For whom is this a challenge (e.g. policy-makers, competent authorities, third-country nationals, other stakeholders.)?

*Victims of trafficking in human beings, who have suffered from sexual exploitation.*

- b) Why is it considered a challenge?

*Although it is possible to provide support during the criminal proceeding and also after the programme of the rehabilitation period by providing consultations (up to 150 hours), customers, who have not been able to ensure stable income, need support not only in the form of consultations, but also for covering of daily expenses and accomodation expenses. Otherwise, there is a risk that the person could repeatedly become a victim of the system of trafficking in human beings.*

- c) What is the source of the statement (e.g. based on input from experts, surveys, evaluation reports, other sources)?

*Mind the Gap Report: COALESCE for Support in Latvia.<sup>130</sup>*

**Challenge** (Please list in order of importance or chronological order as instructed under the first question)

**Stage**

**Please describe the challenge.**

*The hiring practice significantly differs in the countries of origin of victims of work exploitation, if compared with Europe and in particular with Latvia.<sup>131</sup>*

Detection

Identification

Protection

<sup>130</sup> Mind the Gap Report: COALESCE for Support in Latvia. – Available: [https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/COALESCE\\_Mind-the-Gap-Report\\_MARTA\\_final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR03asqKwj0ekYqdSht\\_kxnGYvHsGwOygzJ0WsPY4YjcR8y3cS5Efl29n\\_0](https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/COALESCE_Mind-the-Gap-Report_MARTA_final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR03asqKwj0ekYqdSht_kxnGYvHsGwOygzJ0WsPY4YjcR8y3cS5Efl29n_0)

<sup>131</sup> The following factors describe the provision of employment in the countries of origin:

- Unformal process.
- Non-systematic process (without performance of certain steps, for example, application for a position, job interview etc.)
- The feeling of trust is important (solidarity of nationals)
- Job is being searched through persons known to the person.
- Verbal agreement is as important (or even more important) as the written agreement.
- Opinion that it is not possible to find a job anywhere (also in Europe) without acquaintances .
- The provided information about the job is not verified (trust).

Also answer the following questions:

- a) For whom is this a challenge (e.g. policy-makers, competent authorities, third-country nationals, other stakeholders.)?

*Third-country nationals, exposed to work exploitation.*

- b) Why is it considered a challenge?

*The practice of provision of employment of victims in the countries of origin facilitates their exploitation for work in Latvia (the victims do not request employment contract, do not doubt and verify the provided information, for example, on how taxes are being paid, whether the working hours are recorded, as well as trust their nationals). Exploitation of victims for work in Latvia is made easy by the fact that they rely on the recruitment process in their countries of origin, without knowing and verifying the information on how the process of provision of employment takes place in Europe. That results in the fact that victims do not know their rights and obligations, do not recognize the unlawful activities committed against them, becoming easily to be manipulated with.*

- c) What is the source of the statement (e.g. based on input from experts, surveys, evaluation reports, other sources)?

*The research of 2020 on relation between the practice of recruitment for work and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of workforce exploitation.<sup>132</sup>*

**Challenge** (Please list in order of importance or chronological order as instructed under the first question)

**Stage**

**Please describe the challenge.**

Detection

*Work exploitation is an international scheme (the employee is leased in different countries and Latvia is only one of the stages of the chain).*

Identification

Protection

- a) For whom is this a challenge (e.g. policy-makers, competent authorities, third-country nationals, other stakeholders.)?

*Responsible institutions.*

- b) Why is it considered a challenge?

*It is difficult to follow up the chain of many companies, which employ a third-country national.*

- c) What is the source of the statement (e.g. based on input from experts, surveys, evaluation reports, other sources)?

<sup>132</sup>Research of 2020 on the link between recruitment practices and human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation. - Available: <http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv/lv/izpetes-darbs-par-saistibu-starp-darba-pienemsanas-praksem-un-cilveku-tirdzniecibu-darbaspeka-ekspluatacijas-noluka/2020>.

*The research of 2020 on relation between the practice of recruitment for work and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of workforce exploitation.<sup>133</sup>*

**Challenge** (Please list in order of importance or chronological order as instructed under the first question)

**Stage**

**Please describe the challenge.**

Detection

*Third-country national<sup>134</sup> goes to Europe by paying the determined amount of money with a purpose to reach the EU Member State promised to him or her in order to settle the work with a hope to receive good salary. Third-country national often is not aware of the fact that he or she has become a victim of trafficking in human beings, and refuses to cooperate with state authorities, because he or she wants to continue the road to reach the target.*

Identification

Protection

**a)** For whom is this a challenge (e.g. policy-makers, competent authorities, third-country nationals, other stakeholders.)?

*The State Border Guard and victims of trafficking in human beings.*

**b)** Why is it considered a challenge?

*A third-country national by his or her actions hinders or delays the establishment of the case of trafficking in human beings and detection and identification of a person as a victim of trafficking in human beings.*

**d)** What is the source of the statement (e.g. based on input from experts, surveys, evaluation reports, other sources)?

*Observations of officials of the State Border Guard.*

**Idem**

Detection

Identification

Protection

Please elaborate by answering to the following questions

<sup>133</sup>Research of 2020 on the link between recruitment practices and human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation. - Available: <http://www.cilvektirdznieciba.lv/lv/izpetes-darbs-par-saistibu-starp-darba-pienemsanas-praksem-un-cilveku-tirdzniecibu-darbaspeka-ekspluatacijas-noluka/2020>.

<sup>134</sup> Non-educated third-country nationals, third-country nationals with low qualification and not speaking in foreign languages

**Q14b.** What are the specific challenges at any of the above stages concerning vulnerable persons or asylum applicants?

Please include one challenge per row and indicate the stage for which it applies in the tick boxes below. If needed, please add additional rows to the table below.

<b>Challenge</b> (Please list in order of importance or chronological order as instructed under the first question)	<b>Stage</b>
<p><b>Please describe the challenge.</b></p> <p><i>Use of the status of vulnerability for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings is difficult.</i></p> <p><b>Also answer the following questions:</b></p> <p><b>a)</b> For whom is this a challenge (e.g. policy-makers, competent authorities, third-country nationals, other stakeholders.)?</p> <p><i>Competent authorities (police, prosecutor's office), including courts<sup>135</sup>.</i></p> <p><b>b)</b> Why is it considered a challenge?</p> <p><i>Vulnerability standards (its types, degrees) are still not established. It refers in particular to the persons, who do not have limited capacity under the decision of the court, or mental development disorders determined by the commission of doctors.</i></p> <p><b>c)</b> What is the source of the statement (e.g. based on input from experts, surveys, evaluation reports, other sources)?</p> <p><i>Information provided by the official of the State Police.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Detection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identification <input type="checkbox"/> Protection

**Q14c.** What are the specific challenges with regard to traffickers / criminal organisations involved in trafficking in human beings using asylum procedures for means other than intended? (for example, to temporarily house victims in a reception centre before moving them to the intended country).

*Officials of the State Border Guard and Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs have not observed such cases.*

Please include one challenge per row and indicate the stage for which it applies in the tick boxes below. If needed, please add additional rows to the table below.

**Challenge** (Please list in order of importance or chronological order as instructed under the first question)

**Please describe the challenge.**

n/a

**Also answer the following questions:**

<sup>135</sup> except the Supreme Court.

**a)** For whom is this a challenge (e.g. policy-makers, competent authorities, third-country nationals, other stakeholders.)?

n/a

**b)** Why is it considered a challenge?

n/a

**c)** What is the source of the statement (e.g. based on input from experts, surveys, evaluation reports, other sources)?

n/a

**Q15.** What are the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic on the detection, identification, and protection of (presumed) victims?

*Impact of Covid-19 restrictions on the trafficking in human beings is currently not observed in Latvia, which could be explained with the fact that the number of third-country nationals has significantly decreased due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.*

**Q16.** What new patterns and / or trends in trafficking in human beings have emerged because of the COVID-19 pandemic?

*The social and economical status of the most vulnerable groups of society may become worse, which, in turn, could force the persons to agree with doubtful offers, thus becoming victims of trafficking in human beings, for example, female exploitation online by hiding it under the legal work on video portals for adults. The involvement of persons in prostitution could increase by using their bad financial situation.*

**Q17.** How has Latvia adapted its policies and procedures due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic?

*The State Police, Riga Municipal Police and State Border Guard, upon implementing the multidisciplinary approach mechanisms, control in an enhanced manner the entertainment places for provision of prostitution and other places. As a result of that the epidemiological threat to society and exploitation threat for the persons involved in the entertainment industry are minimized.*

**Q18.** Regarding the challenges identified above, does you Member State have concrete plans or proposals in place for improvements to deal with them?

*In order to successfully overcome these challenges, the informative materials are developed, explaining the nature of the vulnerability phenomenon, as well as materials on the field of trafficking in human beings are developed. Active participation of the State Police and the State Border Guard in the Europol and FRONTEX platforms are taking place, in order to promote and facilitate the detection of early risk of transit persons and their route, and prosecution of the organizers and supporters to criminal liability.*

*Measures for prevention of the identified challenges are integrated into the Plan on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2021 - 2023<sup>136</sup>. The plan covers four area - prevention, protection, criminal prosecution and partnership.*

**Q19.** In light of possible new trends and developments, is your Member State anticipating any new challenges in the near future?  Yes  No

If so, please explain.

<sup>136</sup> Cabinet Order No. 690 of 28 September 2021 "Regarding Plan on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2021-2023". - *Latvijas Vēstnesis* No.190, 01.10.2021 – [entered into force on 28.09.2021]



*Upon continued economical crisis in the neighbouring countries, the sexual exploitation of third-country nationals will probably increase in Latvia under the cover of legal prostitution. At the same time with improvement of understanding on the phenomenon of use of the vulnerable status of the victim of trafficking in human beings, the number of cases of work exploitation and sexual exploitation online will significantly increase for police, public prosecutor's office and court institutions in Latvia.*

**Q20.** What good practices in relation to i) detection, ii) identification and iii) protection of (presumed) third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings exist in your Member State?

Please include one good practice per row and indicate the stage for which it applies in the tick boxes below. If needed, please add additional rows to the table below.

<b>Good practice</b> (Please list in order of importance or chronological order as instructed under the first question)	<b>Stage</b>
<p><b>Please describe the good practice.</b></p> <p><i>The positive aspect of the national programme for victims of trafficking in human beings is the fact that the design of the programme enables the authorised NGOs to develop individual rehabilitation plans, which include customized possibilities for professional training and job search. This aspect needs to be strengthened.</i></p> <p><b>Also</b> answer the following questions:</p> <p><b>a)</b> Who considers this a good practice (e.g. policy-makers, competent authorities, third-country nationals, other stakeholders.)?</p> <p><i>NGO - Society "MARTA" Centre and society "Shelter "Safe House"."</i></p> <p><b>b)</b> Why is it considered a good practice?</p> <p><i>NGO has a possibility to develop an individual assistance and support plan for a victim of trafficking in human beings.</i></p> <p><b>c)</b> What is the source of the statement (e.g. based on input from experts, surveys, evaluation reports, other sources)?</p> <p><i>Mind the Gap Report: OALESCE for Support in Latvia.<sup>137</sup></i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Detection</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Identification</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protection</p>

<sup>137</sup> Mind the Gap report: COALESCE for Support in Latvia. – Available: [https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/COALESCE\\_Mind-the-Gap-Report\\_-MARTA\\_final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR03asqKwj0ekYqdShT\\_kxnGYvHsGwOygzJ0WsPY4YjcR8y3cS5Ef29n\\_0](https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/COALESCE_Mind-the-Gap-Report_-MARTA_final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR03asqKwj0ekYqdShT_kxnGYvHsGwOygzJ0WsPY4YjcR8y3cS5Ef29n_0)