

Human trafficking is one of the [EMPACT](#) priorities, Europol's priority crime areas, under the 2018–2021 EU Policy Cycle.

Human trafficking is a serious crime that abuses people's fundamental rights and dignity. It involves the criminal exploitation of vulnerable people for the sole purpose of economic gain.

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery. It is often transnational in character and its victims are of both genders and all ages.

Trafficking can take various forms and may involve:

- › sexual exploitation, including prostitution;
- › forced labour or services;
- › slavery, servitude and related practices;
- › the removal of vital organs.

Trafficking can also take the form of exploitation for the purpose of forced criminality, such as pickpocketing, shoplifting and drug trafficking.

EXTENT

Human exploitation can be hidden behind other criminal offences, such as prostitution, irregular migration, property crime or even labour disputes. Victims are often exploited in multiple ways, or may be involved in other illicit activities, thus resulting in cases of human trafficking that are not investigated or recorded as such. Moreover, differences in national legal definitions of human trafficking hinder the comparison and assessment of common trends and patterns across the EU.

In the past decade, law enforcement authorities in the EU have witnessed a considerable increase in intra-EU trafficking. In 2014, for example, the majority of human trafficking victims (71 %) registered in Europol's database were EU citizens.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS NOT PEOPLE SMUGGLING

Although patterns of human trafficking are similar to those seen in people smuggling, they are different legally, a broad distinction can be made between the two.

In general, the individuals who pay a smuggler in order to gain illegal entry to a country do so voluntarily whereas the victims of human trafficking are often duped or forced into entering another country. In addition, people smuggling does not necessarily involve exploitation for economic purposes.

A EUROPOL PRIORITY

Human trafficking is a major problem in the EU and a priority for Europol and law enforcement agencies in EU Member States. Indeed, it is one of the [EMPACT](#) priorities, Europol's priority crime areas, under the 2018–2021 EU Policy Cycle.

In addition, the [EU Strategy on eradicating human trafficking 2012-2016](#) identifies five key ways to do this:

- › identify, protect and assist victims of trafficking;
- › step up the prevention of trafficking in human beings;
- › pursue the prosecution of traffickers more robustly;
- › enhance coordination and cooperation among key actors, including at the level of policy;
- › increasing knowledge of, and producing effective responses to, all forms of human trafficking.

Europol's strategic and operational support focuses on organised criminal gangs engaged in human trafficking in at least two EU Member States.

In 2007, Europol launched an operationally focussed project addressing human trafficking. Twenty-five countries are now participating.

In 2014, law enforcement in these countries made 3 820 contributions to Europol's dedicated team on human trafficking, an increase of 65 % on the previous year.

NUMBER OF ITEMS FOUND: 161

SEARCH



TYPE



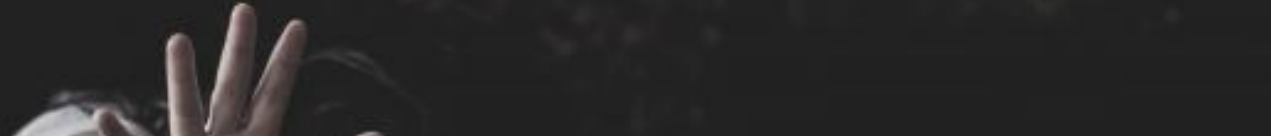
TARGET GROUP



Q SEARCH

⊗ CLEAR ALL

05
Jun
2019



8 SUSPECTS ARRESTED AND 20 VICTIMS SAVED FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

27
May
2019



GLOBAL TASKFORCE CLOSE TO IDENTIFYING THREE VICTIMS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

27
May
2019



ACTION WEEK AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING: 323 POTENTIAL VICTIMS IDENTIFIED, 46 SUSPECTED TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

11
Apr
2019



ORGANISED POLY-CRIMINAL GROUP ACTING ACROSS EUROPE TAKEN DOWN

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

05
Apr
2019



MORE THAN 60 ARRESTED IN SERIES OF POLICE ACTIONS AGAINST ALBANIAN MAFIA

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

25
Mar
2019



EMSC 3RD ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT – 2018

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT

19
Feb
2019

COMBATING MIGRANT SMUGGLING THROUGH CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

21
Dec
2018

EMPACT JOINT ACTION DAYS GENERATE BIG RESULTS IN 2018

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

07
Nov
2018

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION HIT FOLLOWING A FIVE-YEAR INVESTIGATION IN POLAND

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

18
Oct
2018



CRIMINAL NETWORKS INVOLVED IN THE TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION OF UNDERAGE VICTIMS IN THE EU

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT

18
Oct
2018

CHILD TRAFFICKING: WHO ARE THE VICTIMS AND THE CRIMINAL NETWORKS TRAFFICKING THEM IN AND INTO THE EU

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

05
Jul
2018

THE CRIME INFORMATION CELL – “PILOT PROJECT” BRIDGING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SECURITY OF

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