

FIIT - FOSTER AND IMPROVE INTEGRATION OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS

AN OVERVIEW OF
NATIONAL INTEGRATION
SCHEMES ACCESSIBLE TO
VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING
AND SUCCESSFUL
PRACTICES



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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THE FIIT PROJECT

FIIT - Foster and Improve Integration of Trafficked persons - is a project implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) from January 2012 to June 2013 in five EU member states: Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy and the United Kingdom. The project is co-funded by the by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals – Community Actions, the Italian Ministry of Interior and the British NGO Migrant Helpline.

The overall objective of the FIIT project is to enhance the long-term integration of victims of trafficking (VoTs) through the identification, sharing and transfer of good practices related to the legal, economic and psychosocial dimensions of integration, in particular through strengthening professional links among national and European practitioners working with VoTs. The project, through its different activities (national research projects, a comparative study, study visits and roundtables in the United Kingdom and Belgium) has built new links between practitioners involved in the VoT integration process in the five participating EU member states.

THE TOOLKIT

This toolkit follows on from the comparative study *Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Measures for the Integration of Trafficked Persons* (available upon request at iomparis@iom.int). This toolkit is designed as a practical booklet for practitioners, bringing together basic information on the integration systems available to VoTs in the five participating countries as well as examples of successful practices they implement in this field, identified by national expert teams during the study visits.

The FIIT toolkit should also help practitioners to raise awareness and to facilitate dialogue on the issue of integration of former VoTs with national and international counterparts.

PART I

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



BELGIUM
FRANCE
ITALY
HUNGARY
UNITED KINGDOM

BELGIUM

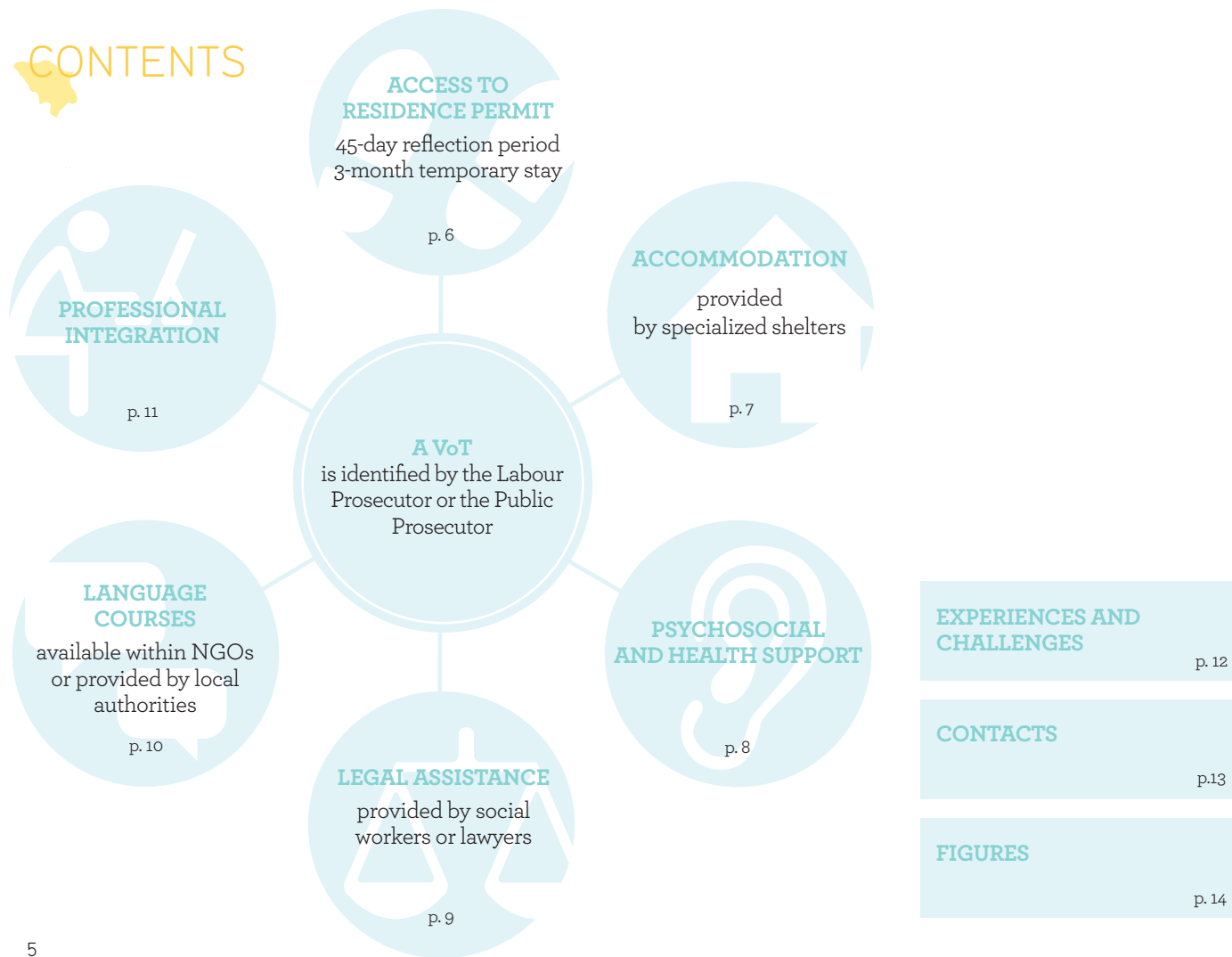
FRANCE

ITALY

HUNGARY

UNITED KINGDOM

CONTENTS



ACCESS TO RESIDENCE PERMIT

	Reflection Period	Temporary stay	Long-term residence permit
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 45 days non-renewable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3 months renewable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 months renewable
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The person has been identified as a possible VoT ➤ VoT has broken off all contact with suspected offenders ➤ VoT has agreed to work with one of the specialized centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Statement has been provided to the police ➤ VoT has agreed to work with one of the specialized centers ➤ VoT has broken off all contact with suspected offenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ VoT agrees to cooperate with the investigation ➤ VoT is counseled by a specialized center ➤ VoT has broken off all contact with suspected offenders ➤ The case is ongoing ➤ The prosecutor considers him/her as a possible VoT ➤ S/he is no threat to public order.
Opens rights to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Social welfare ➤ Education, language courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work ➤ Police protection ➤ Social welfare ➤ Education, language courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work ➤ Police protection ➤ Social welfare ➤ Education, language courses

As long as the investigation is ongoing, the 6-month residence permit is renewed. When the case goes to court and the accused is convicted of human trafficking, the VoT receives permanent leave to stay in the form of a residence permit valid for an unlimited stay. In practice this is a card, valid for 5 years, renewable without condition.

ACCOMMODATION

VoT-SPECIALIZED STRUCTURES

CONDITIONS

- Identification as a victim of trafficking.

VoTS ACCEPTED :

- Nationals, EU nationals, third-country nationals, men and women, adults and minors. Only mixed accommodation is available

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION :

- Shelters and studios

Adults are housed in shelters first of all and are then assisted by specialized NGOs to find their own studios. Minors are hosted in specific shelters for youngsters.

PERIOD OF STAY :

- There is no legal period of stay. The average period of stay is 3 months for adults. The period of stay for minors depends on their maturity.

MAINSTREAM STRUCTURES

VoTS ACCEPTED :

- Nationals, EU nationals, third-country nationals, men and women, adults and minors

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION :

- Shelters

In mainstream structures, the staff is not trained to address the specific integration needs of VoTs.

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND HEALTH SUPPORT



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

- Psychosocial assistance is provided by the accommodation centres.
- Psychological assistance may be also provided by psychologists who are trained to address the specific needs of VoTs and who propose long-term care.
- Psychosocial assistance is free of charge.

MAINSTREAM HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

VoTs have access to the entire mainstream healthcare system: medical assistance, emergency, psychological care... All medical services (and all types of medication) recognized by the national welfare scheme (RIZIV-INAMI) are accessible.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE


▷ ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE THROUGH MAINSTREAM SERVICES FOR VOTS WHO HOLD A RESIDENCE PERMIT

▷ ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED BY SOCIAL WORKERS OR LAWYERS

▷ THE ASSISTANCE IS FREE OF CHARGE

if the beneficiary can prove that s/he does not have sufficient resources to pay for legal representation.

LANGUAGE COURSES



↳ Language courses are available through mainstream integration services and in the accommodation centres.

↳ A Flemish decree requires that every new third-country resident follows integration courses, language courses and professional orientation. For EU citizens this is a right, not an obligation.

↳ Language courses are not free of charge. If people are on a minimum income or are supported by social welfare, they get a discount on enrolment fees for language courses.

PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

In the Flemish part of Belgium, every third-country national must follow an integration plan. This includes courses in Dutch language, an integration course and career orientation. The career orientation is provided by the Flemish Service for Labour Mediation (VDAB). It provides information on training courses available as well as job offers. The obligation to integrate is set out in a Flemish decree, thus it only applies to third-country nationals living in Flanders. In Brussels, VoTs can follow the program if they wish, however in Wallonia, there is no specific policy regarding integration.

TRAINING

- Training courses are available to VoTs and are provided by the Flemish Service for Labour Mediation (VDAB).
- Both long-term and short-term training courses are available.
- Training courses are not free of charge but people with limited resources have access to reduced fees.

EMPLOYMENT

- VoTs have access to the labour market.
- They are accompanied by the staff from their accommodation centre when accessing these services.



EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ✓

NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM ✗

NATIONAL RAPPORTEUR (OR SIMILAR MECHANISM) ✗

IN BELGIUM, THE MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN of VoTs have been quite stable for the last 10 years. Victims of trafficking mainly originate from Nigeria, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Morocco.

However, other trends have changed. Indeed, there has been an increase in the number of victims of economic exploitation, who are mostly men. The logical result has been the increase in male victims. Another change is the increased number of VoTs coming from countries who have recently become members of the EU and who can legally stay in Belgium on the basis of the «free movement of persons», the cornerstone of EU- legislation. The decrease in the number of VoTs for sexual exploitation can be explained by the fact that the working conditions for sex-workers have improved. The exploiters adapt to the system by allowing women to have contact with their families in their home countries. Victims are more «free» and they can keep a bigger portion of their earnings.

Belgian policy on VoTs is regularly evaluated and adapted to European standards. An effort is currently being made to develop a training curriculum and to organize training courses on the identification of and assistance to VoTs, aimed at the police, medical staff and magistrates.

One of the challenges regarding the integration system available to VoTs is the cooperation between the different stakeholders. Another challenge is the adjustment of federal policy to the policies of the regions and cities. As noted above, while in Flanders a plan of integration is proposed to every third-country national, there is no such measure implemented in Wallonia.

CONTACTS



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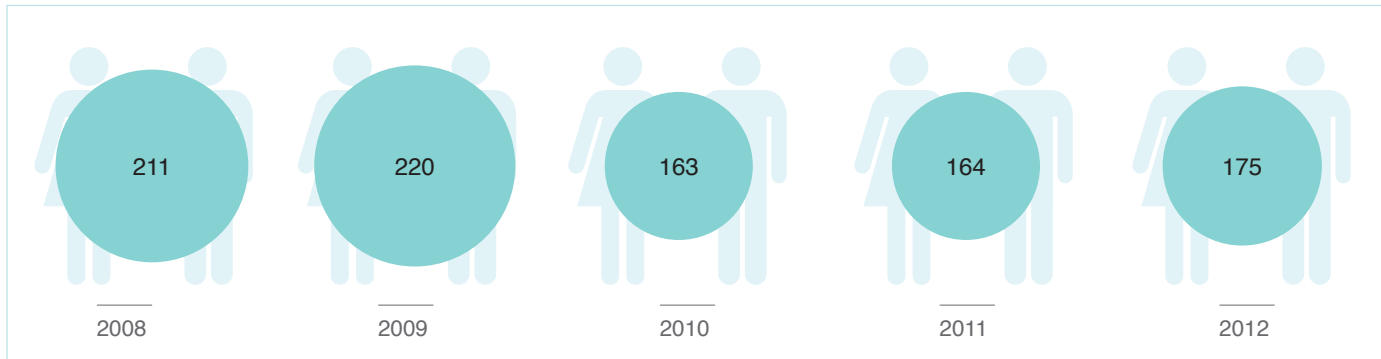
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

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FIGURES

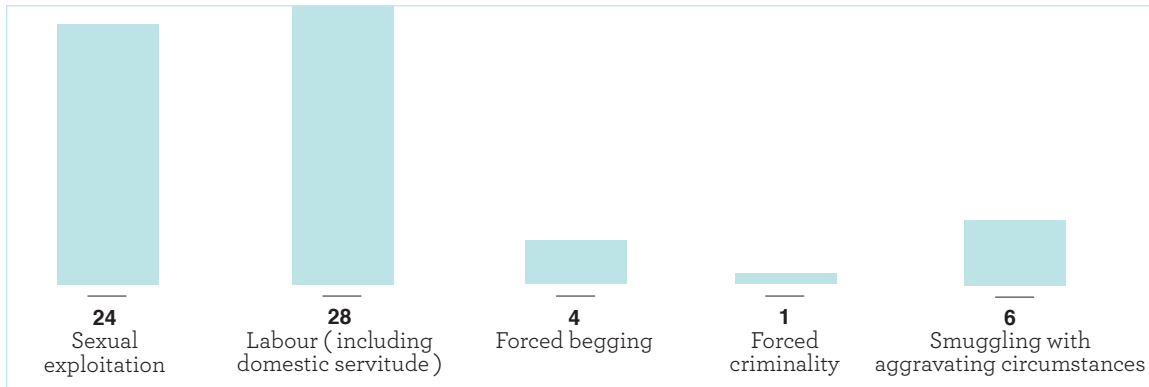
NUMBER OF PERSONS ASSISTED BY VOT-SPECIALIZED SERVICES



MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Victims of trafficking mainly originate from Nigeria, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Morocco.

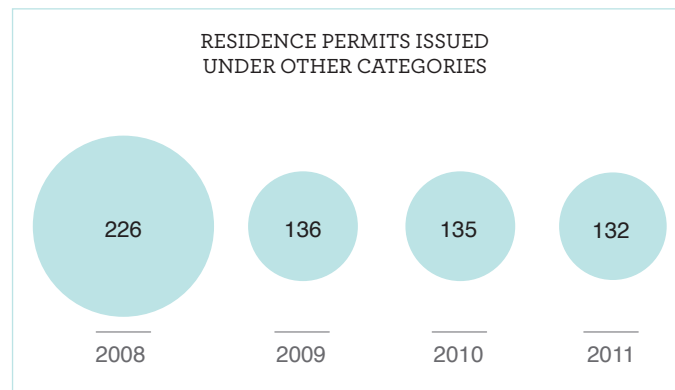
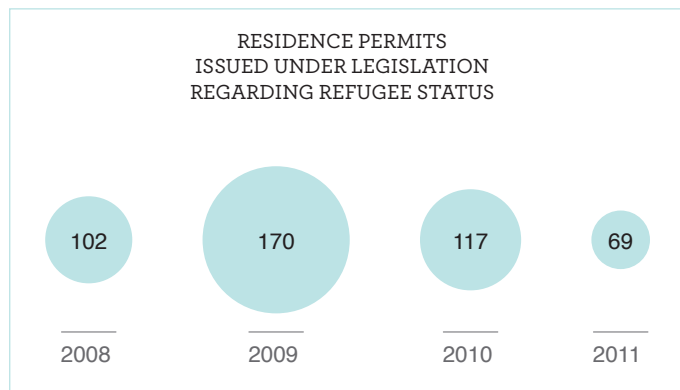
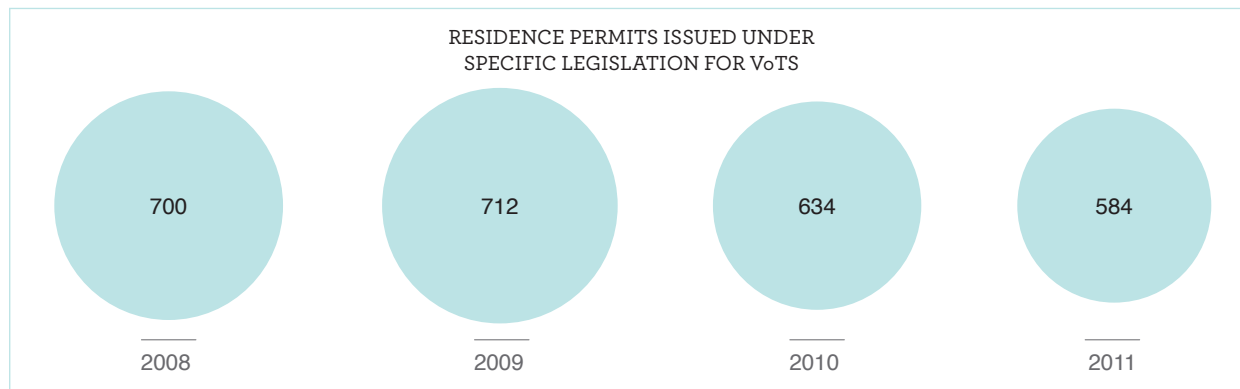
TYPE OF EXPLOITATION (2012)



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NUMBER OF RESIDENCE PERMITS GRANTED TO VoTS

Figures include number of permits delivered and renewed.





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10-year long-term residence permit

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the national network “Ac.Sé” provides secure accommodation for VoTs

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A VoT is identified by health care providers, the public health administration, the police, employment authorities, consular services, immigration authorities

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available through mainstream integration services

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made available in specialized accommodation structures

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ACCESS TO RESIDENCE PERMIT

	Reflection Period	Short-term residence permit	Long-term residence permit
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 30 days non renewable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 months to 1 year renewable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 10 years renewable
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ VoT has given consent ➤ VoT stops activities in which s/he is exploited ➤ VoT stops contact with exploiters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ File a complaint against exploiters or testify against the exploiters in a judicial process ➤ Stop activities linked to the exploitation ➤ Cooperate with authorities until the end of the procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conviction of the traffickers ➤ Absence of contact with the traffickers ➤ Or special consideration granted by the authority (prefecture) which delivers the resident permit.
Guarantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Removal orders cannot be enforced 		
Opens rights to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Police protection ➤ Work ➤ Social welfare <p>In practice, police authorities are not aware of the existence of the reflection period and rarely grant it to victims</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work - unlike other migrants, VoTs are not requested to provide an employment contract in order to get a work permit ➤ Police protection ➤ Social welfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work ➤ Social welfare

FRANCE

ACCOMMODATION

There are a very small number of VoT-specialized accommodation structures. When a VoT is identified, s/he is referred to the National Network for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking (Ac.Sé network), which gathers together 66 partners (accommodation centres) offering protection to VoTs. Most of these partners are actually mainstream structures which agree to host and assist VoTs. Although some have received special training, most of them are not aware of the specific needs of this group.

VoT-SPECIALIZED STRUCTURES

CONDITIONS

- Identification as a victim of trafficking by a specialized NGO, the police or social services.

VoTS ACCEPTED :

- Nationals, EU nationals, third-country nationals, men and women, adults only.

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION :

- Shelter, flat, hotel rooms (in case of emergency accommodation).

PERIOD OF STAY :

- There is no legal period of stay. The average period of stay is 1 year.

MAINSTREAM STRUCTURES

VoTS ACCEPTED :

- Nationals, EU nationals, third-country nationals, men and women, adults and minors

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION :

- Shelter, flat, hotel rooms

PERIOD OF STAY :

- 6 months, renewable
(minors are hosted in specific shelters for youngsters, in which there is no fixed period of stay)

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND HEALTH SUPPORT

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



➤ Psychosocial assistance is provided by the accommodation centres. Some accommodation centres work with cultural mediators to facilitate dialogue with VoTs.

➤ Psychological assistance may be also provided, either within the accommodation centres or elsewhere, sometimes through ethno-psychological care. However psychologists are rarely trained to address the specific needs of VoTs.

MAINSTREAM HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

VoTs have access to the entire mainstream healthcare system regardless of their status in France. However administrative procedures are quite complex and the assistance of an NGO is almost compulsory in order to access to the healthcare system.

The medical staff is not trained to identify and/or address the specific needs of VoTs.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

▷ **ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE THROUGH MAINSTREAM SERVICES**

for VoTs who hold a residence permit.

▷ **THE ASSISTANCE IS FREE OF CHARGE**

if the beneficiary can prove that s/he does not have sufficient resources to pay for legal representation.

▷ **ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED BY A LAWYER**

▷ **SOME SPECIALIZED NGOs HAVE THEIR OWN LEGAL DEPARTMENT**

which is able to assist VoTs to obtain a residence permit and to support them during legal proceedings.

LANGUAGE COURSES

ALL FOREIGN VOTs HOUSED IN AC.SÉ SHELTERS AND WHO do not speak French take French lessons. Different types of French lessons exist; it depends on the shelters and NGOs.

- French lessons can be organized by shelters with volunteers.
- VoTs can attend courses in training centres outside of the shelters, especially when they have a resident permit.
- VoTs can also attend French lessons organized by other NGOs and which are specially designed for migrants.
- Lastly, when they have a resident permit VoTs can take French lessons in the framework of the “integration contract” proposed by the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII). These training courses are not specially designed for VoTs which is important as it allows them to develop social links with other people and to be considered as students and not as victims, representing an important step in the integration process.

➤ Are available through mainstream integration services and in the accommodation centres.

PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

TRAINING

➤ There is one NGO which proposes a specific accompaniment to access training and employment. VoTs are invited to define their own professional project according to their wishes and skills. The NGO facilitates access to internships which helps them choose the right training course, thus enabling them to better conceive their project.

EMPLOYMENT

➤ VoTs granted with a temporary resident permit have access to the mainstream assistance system for training and employment. The lack of familiarity with the situation of victims on the part of job centre staff is an important difficulty.

➤ VoTs can receive material assistance in the form of a temporary waiting allowance (ATA) of 11 Euros a day by the local job centre affiliated with the applicant's place of residence.



EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ❌

NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM ✔️

NATIONAL RAPPORTEUR (OR SIMILAR MECHANISM) ✔️

FRANCE IS A DESTINATION AND TRANSIT country for men, women and children from Eastern Europe, West Africa and Asia, as well as from the Caribbean and Brazil, who have been subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour.

French law does mention measures related to the protection, assistance and integration of victims of trafficking, however, France lacks a national action plan which means that assistance measures to VoTs are not applied across the board and that no official statistics are available to precisely measure the scope of the phenomenon in the country. Another challenge is the lack of training for professionals and authorities working with VoTs. The police, which is the only authority competent to formally identify a victim of trafficking, is not properly trained and thus rarely aware of the specific measures dedicated to VoTs. The care of victims of trafficking who are minors is also a challenge. Indeed, they are hosted in mainstream shelters dedicated to youngsters where the staff has not been trained and thus their specific needs as victims of trafficking are not addressed. Despite a set of measures for protection and assistance provided for by the law, in practice VoTs face very long waiting periods before having access to the rights they are entitled to (access to residence permits, social benefits...). These delays hinder their integration process.

The National Network for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking was set up in 2001 and offers protection, accommodation and

support to VoTs. Specialized NGOs and accommodation centers are partners of the national network Ac.Sé and play a fundamental role as they accompany victims of trafficking through their integration path.

An inter-departmental working group gathering representatives from ministries, NGOs and international organizations involved in counter-trafficking was created in 2008. The group drafted a national action plan but it has never been implemented. On November 30th, 2012 the Inter-Ministerial Mission for the Protection of Female Victims of Violence and the Fight Against Human Trafficking (MIPROF) was created by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Women's Rights. The MIPROF is in charge of drafting and implementing a national action plan on human trafficking. A national coordinator was appointed in April 2013.

CONTACTS

INSTITUTIONS

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF FEMALE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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NGOS SPECIALIZED IN COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

NATIONAL NETWORK OF ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION OF VOTS (AC.SÉ NETWORK)

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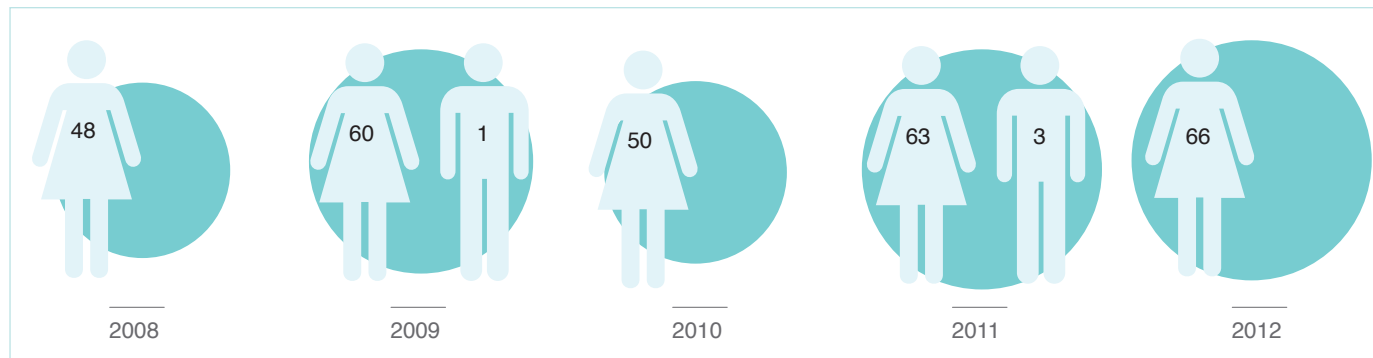
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FIGURES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ASSISTED BY VoT-SPECIALIZED SERVICES



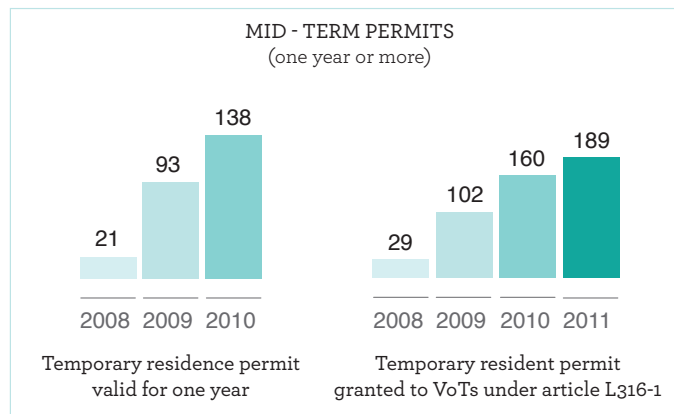
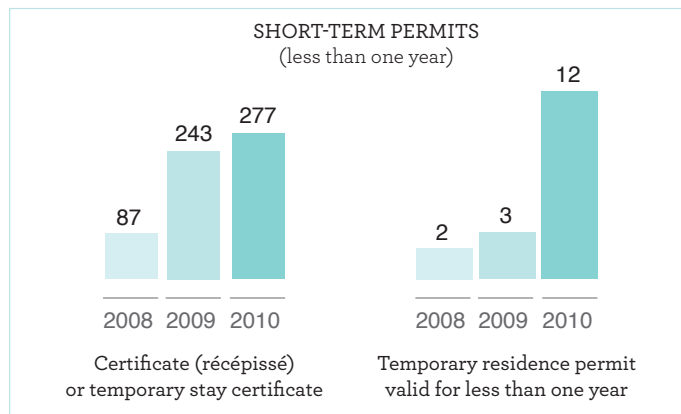
FRANCE

MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Victims of trafficking mainly originate from Romania, Bulgaria, Nigeria, China and Cameroon.

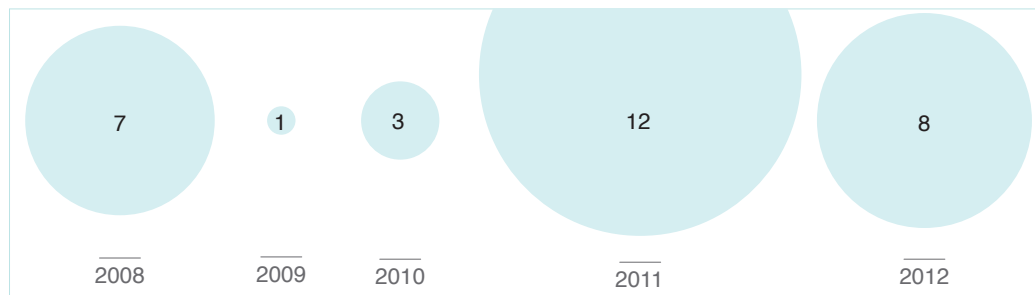
FIGURES

NUMBER OF RESIDENCE PERMITS GRANTED TO VoTs



(Source: GRETA report, 2012)

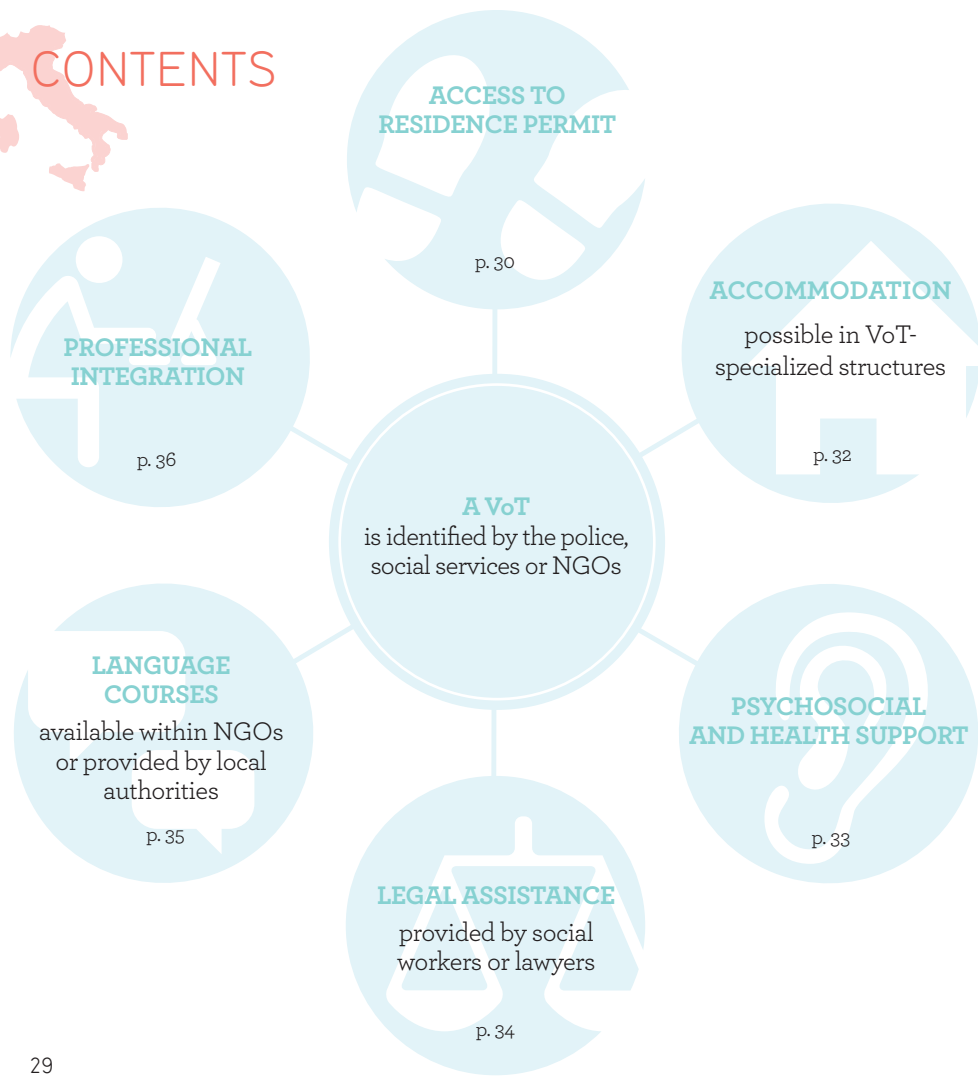
NUMBER OF VoTs RETURNING TO THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Victims of trafficking returning to their countries of origin mainly originate from Nigeria, Romania and Bulgaria



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ACCESS TO RESIDENCE PERMIT

	Reflection Period *	Temporary stay	Long-term residence permit *
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3 months renewable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 months renewable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 year renewable
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Having suffered violence and having requested protection and/or support from specialized NGOs for shelter and/or rescue 	<p>The VoT must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cooperate with police or judicial authorities; <p>or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Be identified as a victim of trafficking by a registered specialized NGO; ➤ Provide a declaration from one of the specialized NGOs guaranteeing his/her accompaniment 	<p>Work purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A job contract is signed as an employee or all the conditions for self-employment are fulfilled <p>Study purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enrolment in a university course or other studies ➤ Financial resources needed to complete the course of study
Opens rights to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Police protection ➤ Social welfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work ➤ Police protection ➤ Social welfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work ➤ Police protection ➤ Social welfare

ITALY

ACCESS TO RESIDENCE PERMIT

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ADDRESSING THE PROTECTION AND integration of VoTs has been applied for a relatively long period of time (10-14 years), the effectiveness of art. 18 of law 286/98 and art.13 of law 228/2003 has been seriously hampered by the introduction in 2009 of the crime of irregular migration which has made access to protection more difficult. As a result, the aforementioned procedure is also less accessible for victims of trafficking. The fact that Romania has become a member of the EU has also affected the number of residence permits released according to art. 18.

* **Reflection Period** : although the Italian legislative framework contains no specific mention of a reflection period as provided for in article 13 of the 2000 Council of Europe Convention on “Action against Trafficking in Human Beings”, practices deriving from the application of article 13 of law n. 228/2003 can be considered a sort of “reflection period”. According to the Implementing Regulations of this law, a Special Fund has been created for the provision of primary assistance services for a period of 3 months, renewable.

* **Long-term residence permit** : Special, short-term residence permits can be converted at any time into long-term residence permits for work or study purposes. Residence permits for employment purposes have an average duration of 2 years and can be renewed as long as the conditions for long-term work persist. In the case of unemployment, the residence permit can be prolonged for 1 year maximum, enabling the victim to search for employment. For study purposes, the permit is granted and renewed if the student demonstrates that s/he has successfully completed course work (e.g. examinations) and has fulfilled all obligations (e.g. payment of taxes) related to the course according to the university program and rules.

ACCOMMODATION

VoT-SPECIALIZED STRUCTURES

CONDITIONS

- Identification as a victim of trafficking.

VoTS ACCEPTED:

- EU, nationals, third-country nationals, men and women (non-mixed accommodation can be proposed), adults and minors.

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION:

- Special premises (protected shelter) run by registered specialized NGOs /social/religious groups or flat.

PERIOD OF STAY:

- 6-12 months. The period of stay can be extended if necessary.

MAINSTREAM STRUCTURES

VoTS ACCEPTED:

- Nationals, EU nationals, third-country nationals, men and women (non-mixed accommodation can be proposed), adults and minors.

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION:

- Special premises (protected shelter) run by registered specialized NGOs /social/religious groups/local entities (municipalities).

PERIOD OF STAY:

- The period of stay depends on the legal status of the migrant. Assistance is provided only for regular migrants. The assistance can change according to the legal position of the migrants, i.e. asylum seekers, refugees, unaccompanied minors, etc...Irregular migrants can benefit from emergency healthcare but do not have access to reception or other kind of assistance.

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND HEALTH SUPPORT

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

↳ Psychosocial assistance is available within the accommodation centres. By default, a psychologist or a doctor provides the first screening of the VoT in order to assess the medical treatment needed and from there, how to continue the ad hoc health plan. The medical treatment that follows is provided by the health services available in each municipality (hospitals, health centres, dentists, etc.) where the VoT is accompanied for weekly or monthly checks/medical follow-ups.



MAINSTREAM HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

VoTs have access to the entire mainstream healthcare system. In some hospitals there is specialized staff, however this personnel is more so for victims of torture and refugees. Psychosocial and health support dedicated to VoTs should be enhanced. Health assistance is free of charge.



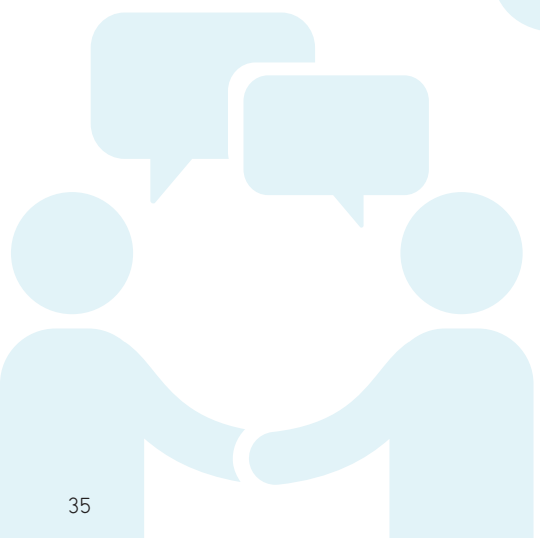
LEGAL ASSISTANCE

▷ LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH MAINSTREAM SERVICES

▷ THE ASSISTANCE IS FREE OF CHARGE

▷ LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED BY SOCIAL WORKERS OR SPECIALIZED LAWYERS

LANGUAGE COURSES



⇒ Are accessible through the mainstream integration services, including specific language courses available only for foreigners.

⇒ Are available through the NGOs or local authorities (municipalities) offering accommodation. For VoTs, language training is provided from the reflection period onwards, as a tool to further consolidate the re-habilitation process. The courses last 2-3 months or longer, according to the needs of the VoT and to his/her linguistic origin (for example, Chinese nationals require a longer language course).

⇒ Are free of charge for VoTs and costs are covered by the provisions of the Italian Immigration Legislative Framework (art. 13 and art. 18, Italian immigration act).

PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

TRAINING

➤ Training courses are available for VoTs and are arranged according to the results of counseling sessions performed by social assistants involved with the VoT while in the shelter. After an initial assessment evaluating the VoT's educational background and personal resources, the best vocational training or on-the-job training is organized, in close cooperation with training centres or local enterprises in need of manpower.

EMPLOYMENT

➤ VoTs have access to the mainstream assistance system for employment and are tutored through a thorough skill assessment in order to determine the best employment path to follow, with the ultimate objective to empower the VoT and secure sustainability of the integration path into the Italian society.



EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ✗

NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM ✓

NATIONAL RAPPORTEUR (OR SIMILAR MECHANISM) ✗

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS THERE HAS BEEN an increase in the number of men being recognized as VoTs. This is due to the issuance of a Ministry of Interior's circular letter on 4th August 2007 extending the application of article 18 of the Immigration Act to cases of forced labour and violence in the workplace in addition to the usual area of application related to sexual exploitation.

National institutions which should play a role in the field of integration of VoTs tend to perceive themselves as non-relevant in this field of action. Despite the existence of an inter-ministerial committee for the support of VoTs chaired by the Department for Equal Opportunities (DEO) and involving the Ministries of Interior, Labour and Justice, it seems that the level of involvement of other Ministries is fairly low, as if the topic of trafficking in persons had been primarily shifted to the DEO. The same low level of awareness regarding the active involvement of other institutional actors, different from DEO, seems to exist among the civil society, NGOs and social services dealing with the integration of VoTs. The limited involvement of the other Italian institutions, different from the DEO, seems to reflect a perception of trafficking as still mainly related to TCN women exploited in the sex market and to irregular migration.

Service providers denounce a lack of guidance at the national level in terms of coordination, setting-up of a National Plan, identification of common minimum standards of reception and integration, common approaches and guidelines for dealing with VoTs in the different phases of their integration process and evaluation. This results in great discrepancies among different policies and operational strategies at the local level. Moreover, the whole system is still tailored to the needs of one, single group of VoTs : women exploited sexually. Male and transsexual VoTs, as well as men trafficked for forced labour, have fewer chances of being identified and of receiving the same quality and quantity of services.

CONTACTS



INSTITUTIONS

DEPARTMENT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES,
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTRY
OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, OFFICE
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND
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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR
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Ms. Giulia Falzoi
Counter-trafficking focal point
Via Nomentana 62 - 00161 Rome
+39 0 644231428
www.italy.iom.int
iomrome@iom.int

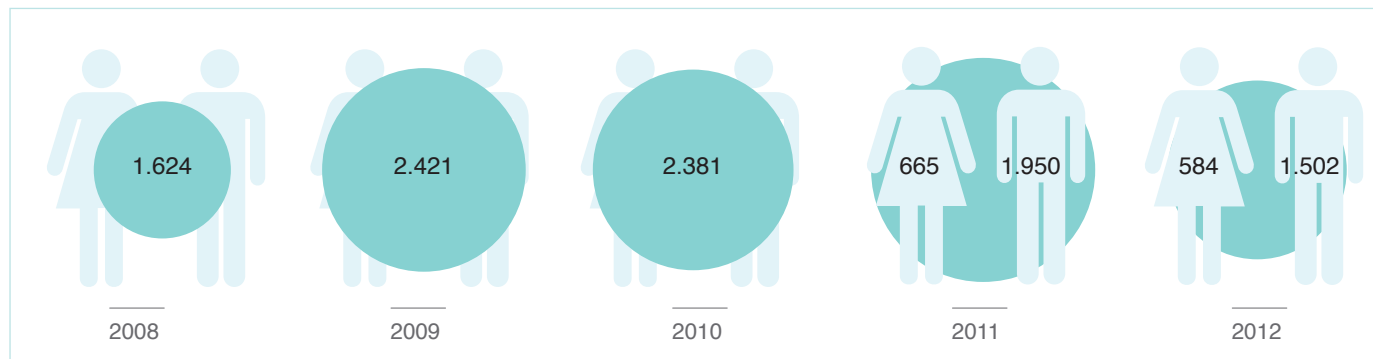
NGOS SPECIALIZED IN COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

In Italy, there is a large number of NGOs providing assistance to victims of trafficking. The list of specialized NGOs is available here:

[http://www.lavoro.gov.it/NRrdonlyres/
40E5C6AF-3A4B-4C3F-9E5BC3C1B5118145/
0SEZIONEPRIMAelencoaggiornatoal
201212giugno.pdf](http://www.lavoro.gov.it/NRrdonlyres/40E5C6AF-3A4B-4C3F-9E5BC3C1B5118145/0SEZIONEPRIMAelencoaggiornatoal201212giugno.pdf)

FIGURES

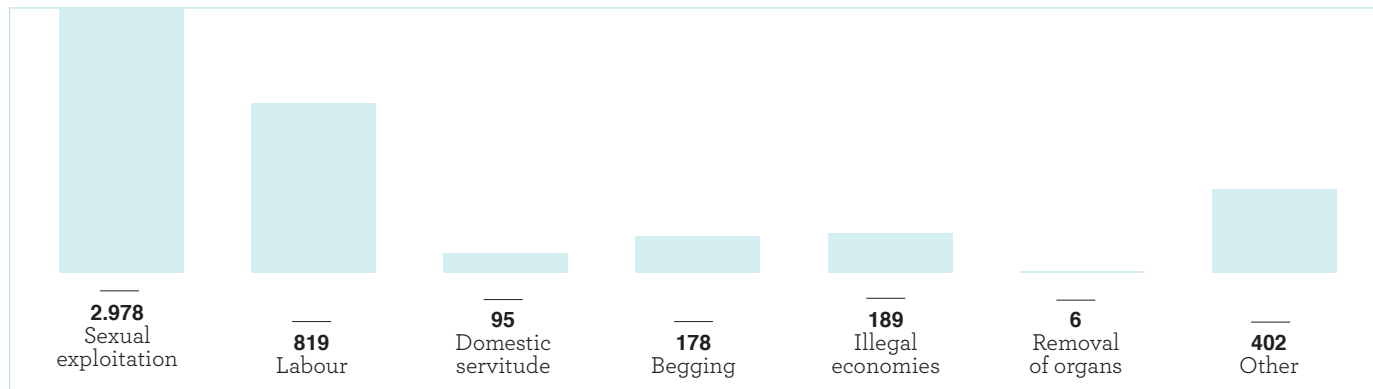
NUMBER OF PERSONS ASSISTED BY VOT-SPECIALIZED SERVICES



MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

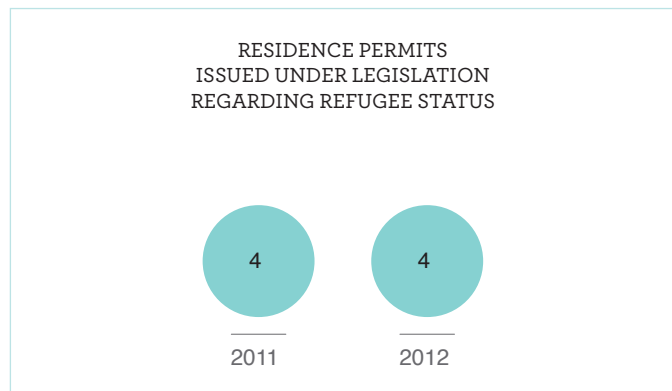
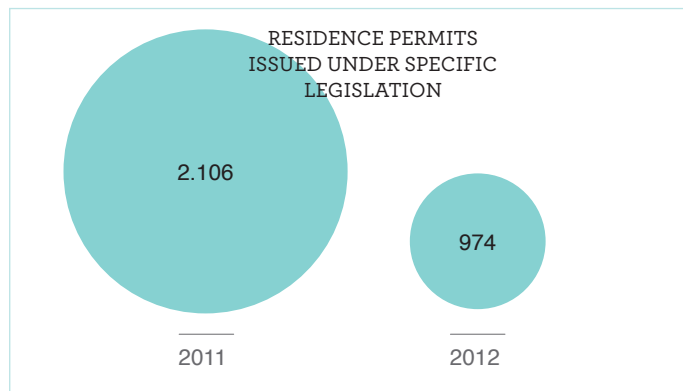
Victims of trafficking mainly originate from Nigeria, Romania, Morocco, China, Egypt

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION (2011 -2012)

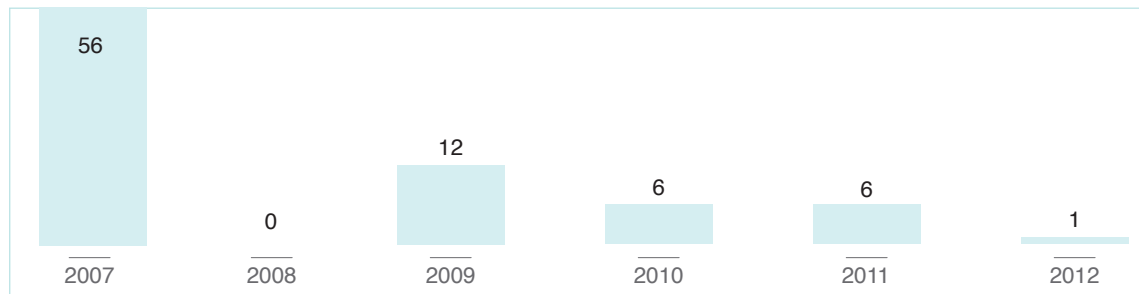


FIGURES

NUMBER OF RESIDENCE PERMITS GRANTED TO VoTs



NUMBER OF VoTs RETURNING TO THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Victims of trafficking returning to their countries of origin mainly originate from Nigeria, Romania and Thailand

CONTENTS

ACCESS TO RESIDENCE PERMIT

30-day reflection period
6-month temporary stay

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ACCOMMODATION

guaranteed for a period
of 60 days in specialized
structures for victims
of trafficking

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PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

p. 46

A VoT

is identified
by health care providers,
the public health
administration, the police,
employment authorities,
consular services,
immigration
authorities

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND HEALTH SUPPORT

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LANGUAGE COURSES

Available through
mainstream integration
services

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LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Made available
in specialized
accommodation
structures

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EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

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FIGURES

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ACCESS TO RESIDENCE PERMIT

	Reflection Period	Humanitarian Residence Permit
Duration	➤ 30 days renewable	➤ 6 months renewable
Conditions	➤ Cooperation with authorities	
Opens rights to	➤ Work ➤ Social welfare ➤ Certificate of temporary residence	➤ Social welfare

No VoT has yet been given a humanitarian residence permit on the basis of his or her cooperation with the authorities; however the legal instrument is available.

ACCOMMODATION

VoTs returning to Hungary do not yet have access to comprehensive and specialized integration services, apart from the possibility of shelter placement. That being said, those placed in shelters do receive social reintegration assistance from shelter staff however no other services have yet been made available to them on the basis of their status as identified VoTs.

VoT-SPECIALIZED STRUCTURES

VoTS ACCEPTED :

➤ Nationals, EU nationals, men and women, adults and minors. Third-country nationals could in theory access the shelters but this has never occurred.

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION :

➤ Shelter

PERIOD OF STAY :

➤ 60 days

Initial 60 days can be extended with an additional 60 days if necessary.

MAINSTREAM STRUCTURES

➤ In Hungary, mainstream structures do not accommodate victims of trafficking.

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND HEALTH SUPPORT



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

- Is available within the shelter
- Psychologists are trained to work with VoTs
- Is free of charge

MAINSTREAM HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

For those VoTs not living in specialized shelters, healthcare is only provided if they are covered by social security. No health services are available to victims exclusively on the basis of their status as VoTs.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE



LANGUAGE COURSES

- Available in the shelter
- Free of charge

LANGUAGE COURSES OFFERED BY THE Employment Service are free of charge and VoTs who wish to take part are referred by the shelter in which they are staying.



PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

THE SHELTER CAN REFER VOTS TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING course providers. Courses provided by the local Employment Service are free of charge. The selection of vocational training courses available and free of charge changes from year to year to reflect changes in the labour market. Two vocational training courses, to become a florist or a gardener, are also available free of charge from private training providers. The shelter employs one staff member as an employment and labor market consultant.

TRAINING

- Training courses are available for VoTs
- There are mechanisms to facilitate access to training courses
- Training courses are free of charge

EMPLOYMENT

- Access to mainstream assistance system for employment
- VoTs are accompanied when first accessing these services



EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ✓
NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM ✓
NATIONAL RAPPORTEUR (OR SIMILAR MECHANISM) ✓

HUNGARY IS A SOURCE AND TRANSIT COUNTRY for women and girls subject to trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and to a lesser extent a source country for men and women subject to trafficking for labour exploitation. The main destination countries in terms of trafficking for sexual exploitation are the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Spain. Regarding trafficking for labour exploitation, the main destination countries are the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Canada, Spain and the United States. Within Hungary itself, the exploitation of victims is concentrated in the capital and surrounding areas, around Balaton Lake and along the Austrian border. The main sectors in which VoTs are exploited are the agricultural and construction sectors which do not require professional skills. The majority of victims are adults and Hungarian nationals. Considering the groups most at risk of trafficking, it can be established that low-educated young adults – particularly women – who live in poor conditions or have stayed in child welfare facilities in Eastern and North-Eastern Hungary, are the most vulnerable.

Hungary's first National Strategy Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2008-2012) entered into force in April 2008 and aimed to develop a victim-oriented approach, coordinated action against trafficking, and regular monitoring and evaluation of the national situation. It created the position

of National Coordinator Against Trafficking in Human Beings, responsible for the coordination, implementation and monitoring of the strategy as well as for coordinating counter-trafficking activities among various governmental authorities and NGOs. The development of the new National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings for the period 2013-2016 is currently underway. In Hungary, the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator is the Deputy State Secretary for EU and International Affairs who acts as the equivalent to a National Rapporteur. The National Coordinator manages the work of the National Counter-Trafficking Coordination Mechanism. The vast majority of Hungarian victims have been exploited all their lives; their "foreign" experience is just one of a series of exploitative life events. Victims' psychosocial condition is extremely poor. Whereas this seems obvious, many assistance approaches are based on the assumption that individuals, upon becoming victims of trafficking, leave behind a life into which they could be more or less reintegrated. It may be a modest or an outright poor life, but the assumption is that the environment they return to does provide a certain degree of emotional and existential security with satisfactory prospects for rehabilitation.

This is not the case with Hungarian victims. Most of them have been exploited all their lives and lack even the most basic personal autonomy and capacity for decision-making. They

EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

have been socialized in an environment where they have always been subordinate, told what to do and completely dependent on pimps, male relatives, “boyfriends”, etc. Most of them have a very low level of education and there is not one aspect of their lives that could meet the very minimum standards of a dignified human life. Hungarian victims could only be rehabilitated by a comprehensive and long-term reintegration program that takes into consideration their multiple vulnerabilities. The reintegration assistance provided depends entirely on what the return and reintegration programs of the destination country can fund. There is a lack of resources to assist VoTs and at the same time it is difficult to use the reintegration money effectively. In each and every case, a social services provider needs to be identified (unless the victim is willing to go to the shelter) to assist the victim in the region s/he lives. Even this is sometimes problematic, as in small places it is only the municipal social worker (family care practitioner) who can help. It is often difficult to work with them despite the fact that they are well-intentioned people. They are used to arranging social services for their clients under clear legal and procedural frameworks and the returnees are not considered to be any different from the other poor, deprived clients they meet every day. Once they learn about the reintegration grant amount they are somehow perturbed by the fact that it is something different from what they are used to administering, despite the fact that the administrative procedures are user-friendly and simple.

Other social services providers, usually local NGOs or local branches of country-wide NGOs, are always very cooperative; however, most of the victims simply either never turn up at their office despite having an appointment, or disappear after one consultation session.

Victims formulate seemingly ambitious reintegration plans of attending school and vocational training courses or taking up employment, etc. before their actual return. This is partly the result of wishful thinking in the secure and safe environment of the shelter in the destination country, partly due to the fact that victims often say what they think the listener wants to hear. All these ambitions disappear soon after return. Again, a very solid and comprehensive assistance mechanism would be needed to turn these plans into reality.

Unfortunately, in the end, many of the victims assisted are revictimized once again, one way or another.

CONTACTS



INSTITUTIONS

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NGOS SPECIALIZED IN COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

HUNGARIAN BAPTIST AID

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Baptista Szeretetszolgálat Alapítvány, Pf. 241,
Budapest 1391
+36 (0) 14665978

Services provided: shelter and reintegration services

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

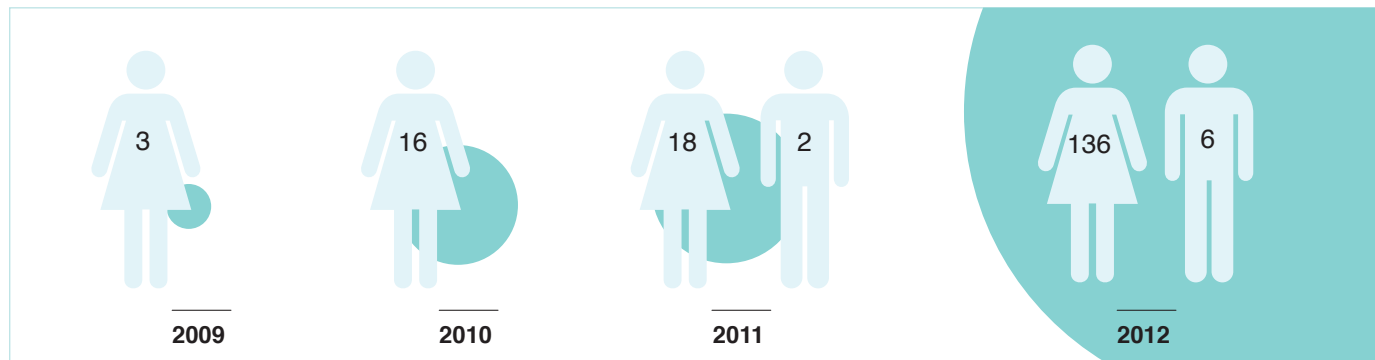
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Mr. Bálint Dóra
3 Tüköry u., H-1054 Budapest, Hungary

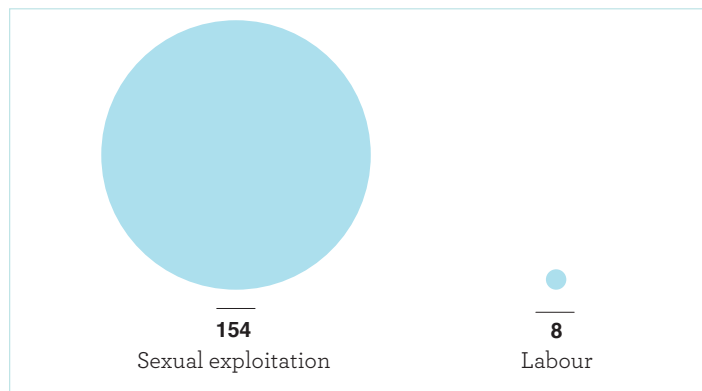
Services provided: transnational referrals, referrals to shelters, administration of funds from foreign sources made available to IOM for the benefit of the integration of VoTs

FIGURES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ASSISTED BY VOT-SPECIALIZED SERVICES



TYPE OF EXPLOITATION (2011 - 2012)

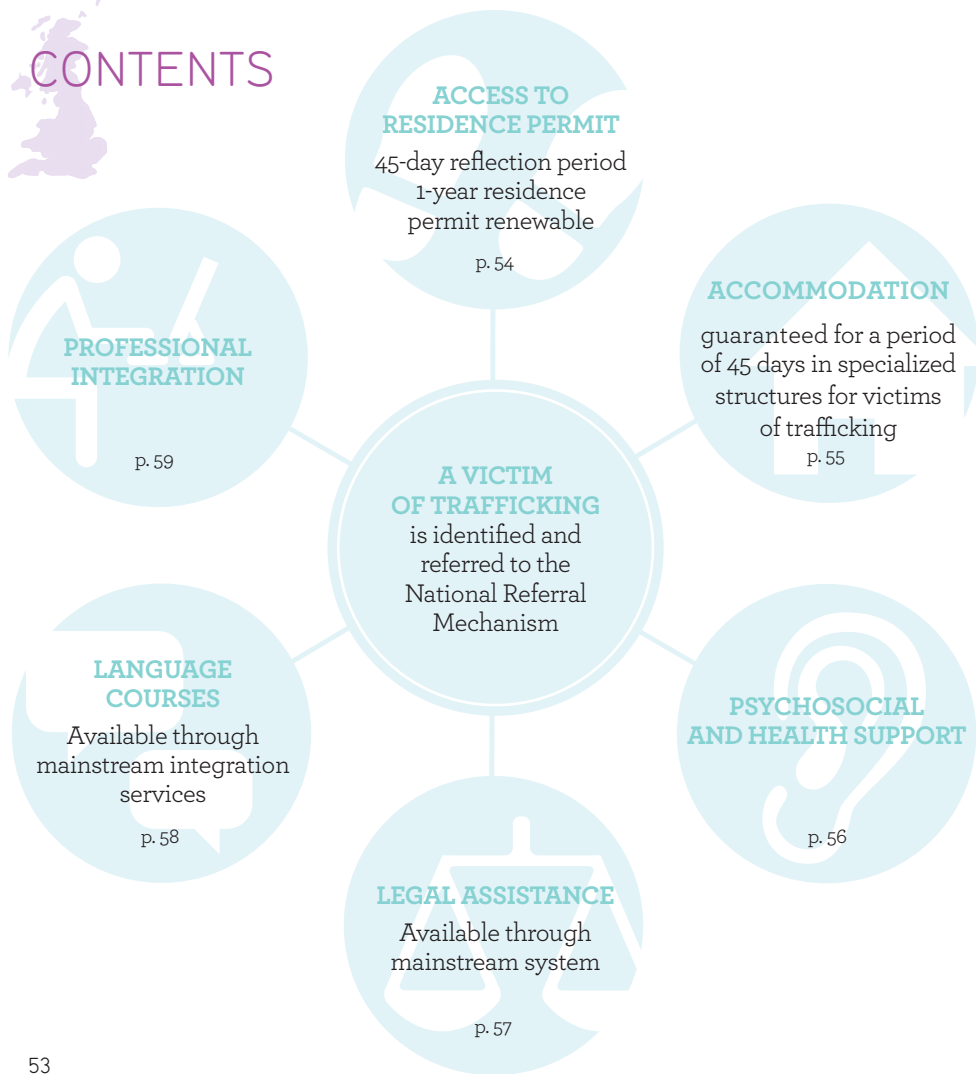


MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

In Hungary, most of the victims identified and assisted are Hungarian nationals who have been exploited in Western European countries.



CONTENTS



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ACCESS TO RESIDENCE PERMIT

	Reflection Period	Residence Permit
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ 45 days ↳ can be extended if the competent authority has not reached the conclusive decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ 1 year ↳ renewable
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ VoT has given consent ↳ The competent authority considers that the person is potentially a Victim of trafficking (Reasonable grounds decision) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Recognition as a Victim of trafficking by the competent authority (conclusive grounds decision) ↳ Successful residence permit application ↳ Cooperation with criminal justice process ↳ Personal circumstances (e.g, risks associated with case) ↳ Filing of an asylum claim
Opens rights to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Police Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Work (not if an asylum claim has been made) ↳ Police protection

ACCOMMODATION

The VoT specialized structures are only available through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which is not an integration mechanism, but rather an identification mechanism.

VoT-SPECIALIZED STRUCTURES

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS:

- Referral to the NRM
- Residence permit or formal identification as VoT is not required

VoTS ACCEPTED:

- Nationals, EU nationals, third country nationals, men and women (based on individual needs, mixed or non-mixed accommodation can be proposed), adults only (minors are referred to the Children's Safeguarding Board)

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION:

- Shelter, hotel room, flat
- All accommodation is safe and secure.*

PERIOD OF STAY:

- 45 days (legal period)

Mainstream mechanisms are not VoT-specific - they are services available to any individual that qualifies for social welfare. Thus, the staff is not trained to deal with the specific needs and concerns of VoTs.

MAINSTREAM STRUCTURES

VoTS ACCEPTED:

- Nationals, third country nationals, adults, minors, men and women (only mixed structures are available)

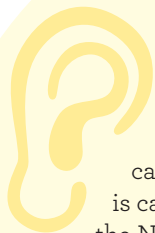
TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION:

- Foster care and social housing

PERIOD OF STAY:

- No legal period


PSYCHOSOCIAL AND HEALTH SUPPORT



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

This assistance is carried out on a case by case basis and depending who is caring for the VoT. NGOs will refer into the National Health Service if there is a need to do so to obtain psychosocial support and if they do not have that service on offer.

Thus there is no common programme providing standardized psychosocial support for VoTs.

 Psychosocial support is not always free of charge

MAINSTREAM HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Services available:

Emergency medical assistance,
general practitioner services

The medical staff is not trained to
address the specific needs of VoTs.
Staff training has been
recently initiated.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE



FREE OF CHARGE

**ASSISTANCE IS
AVAILABLE THROUGH
MAINSTREAM SERVICES**

- condition : being granted with a residence permit

**ASSISTANCE
DELIVERED BY :**

- pro bono solicitors
- social workers
- local authority

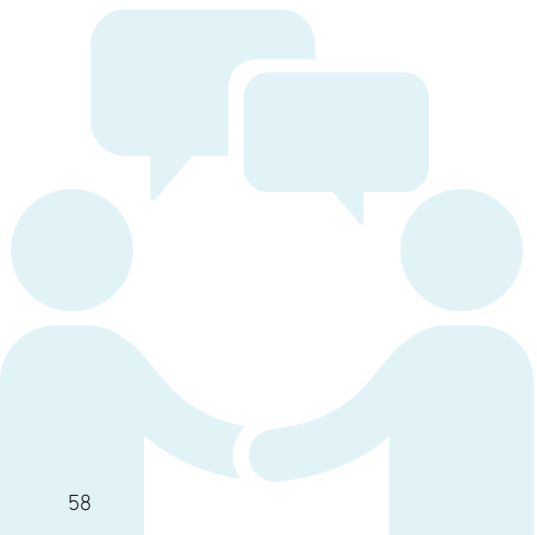
LANGUAGE COURSES

SOME ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION for VoTs may be able to offer language training – this is very much dependent on the organization, their funding and the programmes they have in place.

In general, once a VoT has status and residency in the UK, they may be able to undertake language courses through the mainstream support system. Through the local authority in which they are residing, the staff may recommend and put them in contact with local services offering language courses. This would not be free of charge unless part of a specific programme offering free language courses.

In some cases, the caseworker from the NGO providing accommodation may be able to help in referring them to language courses that are free of charge.

- Available through mainstream integration services
- Not compulsory



PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT ARE AVAILABLE ONLY ONCE a VoT has status in the country. This means either with a residency permit or with indefinite leave to remain. Employment assistance is offered through the mainstream social welfare system. There is one particular NGO that provides employment integration training specifically to VoTs, but there is an eligibility criteria and not all can access it. Furthermore, it is a very small programme so only a handful of people can take part in the training every year. There are a few other NGOs that can provide help with writing CV's - this is ad hoc and dependent on the NGOs.

TRAINING

- No special training available for VoTs
- No mechanism to facilitate access to training

EMPLOYMENT

- Access to mainstream assistance system for employment
- VoTs are accompanied when first accessing these services



EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ✓

NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM ✓

NATIONAL RAPPORTEUR (OR SIMILAR MECHANISM) ✗

THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS TAKEN SIGNIFICANT STEPS in providing assistance to victims of trafficking since the Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings was signed in 2008. The UK is predominantly a country of destination and recent figures show that the predominant forms of exploitation are sexual, forced labour and domestic servitude. The UK's response to the signature of the CoE Convention was to establish the UK Human Trafficking Centre in order to run the National Referral Mechanism to ensure victims' identification and subsequent access to care services.

While the UK has no National Rapporteur, the Home Office published a Human Trafficking Strategy last year and the Ministry of Justice awarded a 2 million pound grant to the Salvation Army to provide support services to victims within the National Referral Mechanism. A number of multi-agency networks have been established to address key issues in the fight against human trafficking amongst governmental and non governmental organizations.

However, the issue of long term integration programmes catering specifically to victims of trafficking has been left unaddressed in the UK. In fact, very little information is available or known about what happens to victims of trafficking once they have received a conclusive grounds decision. The main challenges are that once a person receives a positive conclusive decision, s/he still needs to apply for a residency permit (which is not automatic and can be refused), or has to claim asylum in order to stay. This means that in reality, a VoT is in an even more precarious situation considering s/he could be deported if his/her asylum claim is refused.

As a result of the issues related to obtaining legal status to remain in the UK, many people decide to return home, which is another shortcoming of the UK system since there is no formal or standard procedure to return and reintegrate VoTs back home. The Victim Care model does not include a component to assist VoTs with their safe and dignified return home if that is their wish. Therefore all VoTs are referred to the UK Border Agency Assisted Voluntary Return programme or to their respective Embassy if they are not third country nationals. Aside from the UKBA funded AVR scheme, there are a few NGOs that provide some assistance but it is not mainstream and it can vary from year to year depending on the funding and the NGO programme of activities. According to the Salvation Army, most VoTs referred to their scheme returned home. While EU nationals can remain in the UK legally, they would need to be able to access the social benefits system. NGOs try to assist individuals with this, however it is not automatic and often accessing benefits can take a very long time, in which the VoT is potentially at risk or vulnerable. Minors are taken care of by Children's Safeguarding Board and thus fall within a different category. They can be placed in care homes or with foster parents.

To improve the long term integration of VoTs, the granting of legal status to remain in the UK should be immediate and particular attention should be paid to VoTs given their unique needs within the social welfare system. Furthermore, VoTs should have access to a standard, formal return and reintegration system that takes into account their needs.

CONTACTS



INSTITUTIONS

UK HUMAN TRAFFICKING CENTRE

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+44 (0) 2070354848

NGOS SPECIALIZED IN COUNTER TRAFFICKING

THE SALVATION ARMY

<http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/info@salvationarmy.org.uk>

POPPY PROJECT – EAVES HOUSING

<http://www.eavesforwomen.org.uk/about-eaves/our-projects/the-poppy-project>
+44 (0) 2077352062

NGOS WORKING ON MIGRATION ISSUE

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ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL

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London SW9 9TL
+44 (0) 2075018920
info@antislavery.org

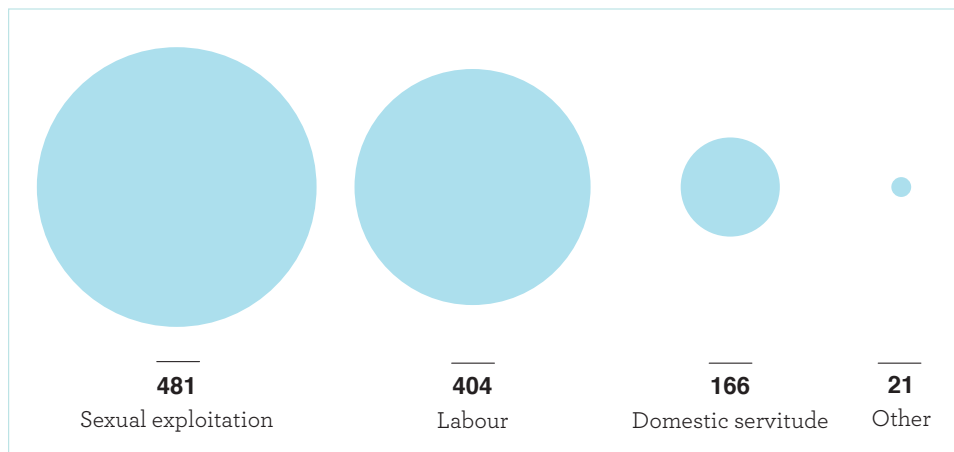
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

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iomuk@iom.int / ctuk@iom.int
<http://www.iomuk.org/>

FIGURES

TYPE OF EXPLOITATION (2011 - 2012)



MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

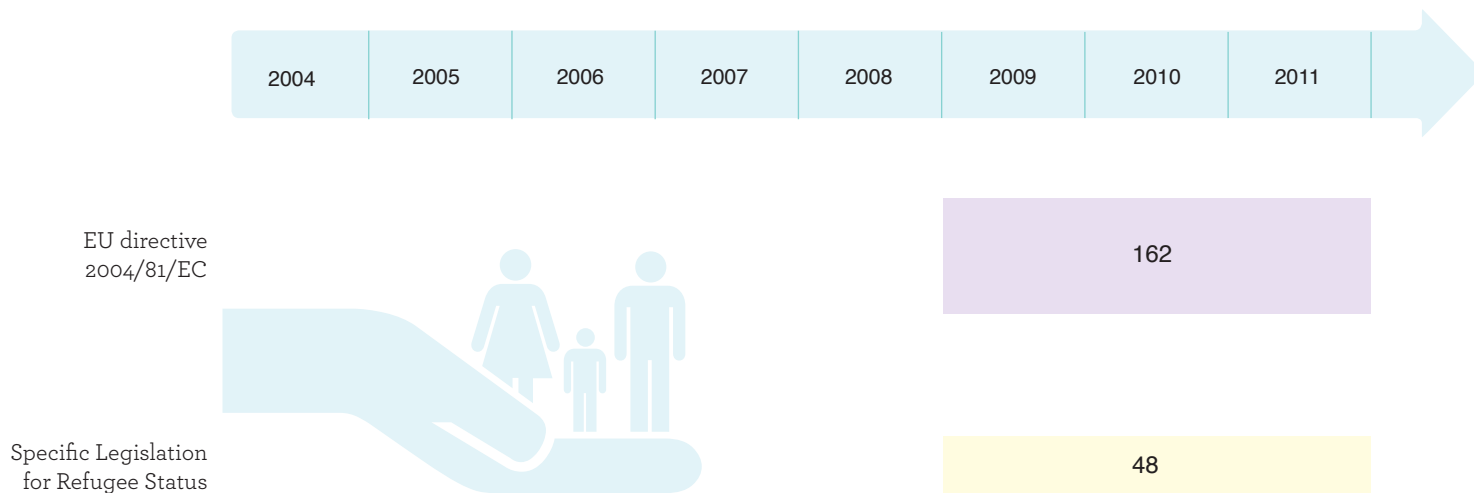
Victims of trafficking mainly originate from Nigeria, Vietnam, Romania, Albania and Slovakia.

NUMBER OF PERSONS ASSISTED BY VoT-SPECIALIZED SERVICES

Between 2009 and 2012, 1,392 persons received positive reasonable ground decisions and therefore were eligible for VoT-specialized assistance.

FIGURES

NUMBER OF RESIDENCE PERMITS GRANTED TO VoTS



PART II

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES IDENTIFIED IN THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

FOSTERING THE
INTEGRATION
OF VOTs THROUGH
THE IDENTIFICATION
PROCESS AND FIRST
ASSISTANCE CARE

p. 65

➤ The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in the United Kingdom

COORDINATION
BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS:
THE KEY TO THE
LONG-TERM INTEGRATION
OF VICTIMS OF
TRAFFICKING

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➤ Coordination in Belgium between NGOs and the authorities, between local and national governments

➤ The Veneto region (north-eastern Italy): identification, protection and integration of VoTs within the Italian protection system by the Municipality of Venice

A VICTIM-CENTRED
APPROACH AS
A PRECONDITION TO THE
SMOOTH INTEGRATION
OF VICTIMS OF
TRAFFICKING

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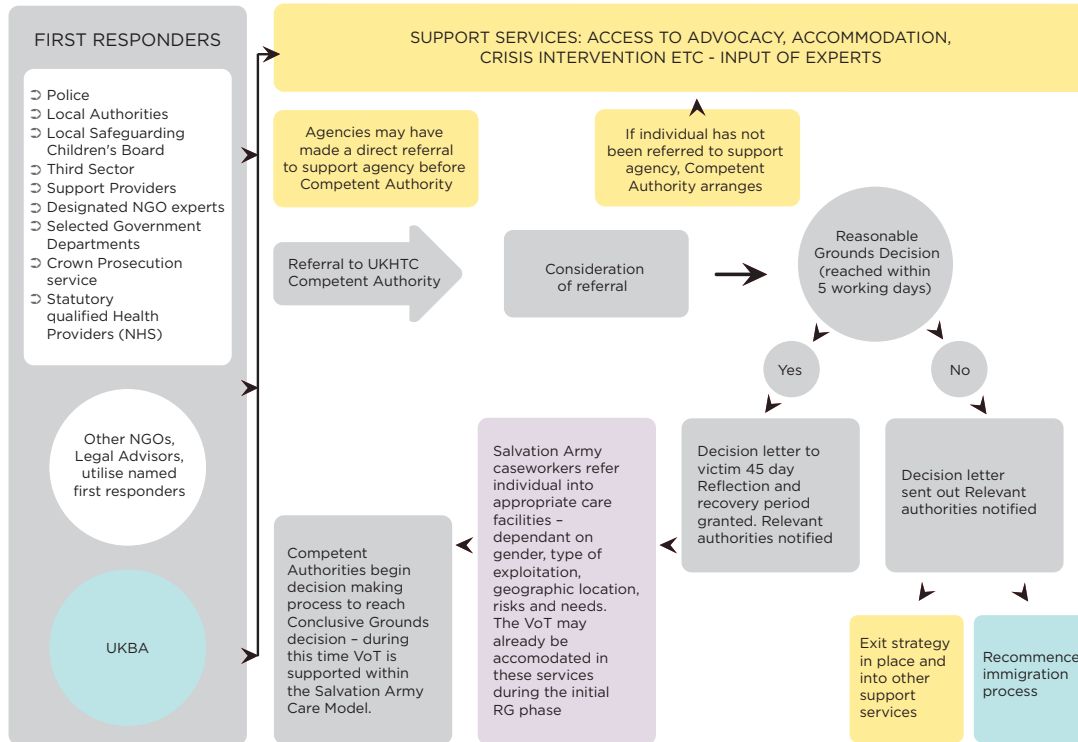
➤ The counter-trafficking program in Hungary

➤ The French National Network of Assistance and Protection of Victims of Trafficking



FOSTERING THE INTEGRATION OF VOTS THROUGH THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS AND FIRST ASSISTANCE CARE

THE NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM (NRM) IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



FOSTERING THE INTEGRATION OF VOTS THROUGH THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS AND FIRST ASSISTANCE CARE

The chart represents the main steps involved in the National Referral Mechanism identification process. An individual who gives their consent to be referred to the NRM does so to receive formal recognition as a victim of trafficking and will receive support during the period they are within the NRM system. A 'first responder', such as the police, local authorities, designated charities and Home Office staff, fills in an NRM referral form and sends it to the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC). The UK Human Trafficking Centre then sends the form to the UK Border Agency* (UKBA) if the person being referred has a pending immigration case. The UKHTC and UKBA will reach a 'reasonable grounds' decision within 5 working days of the receipt of the form. If positive (that there are reasonable grounds to believe the person is a victim of trafficking) their 45-day reflection period begins and they are placed in the appropriate care facility. The Salvation Army is the NGO contracted by the UKHTC to coordinate the network of NGOs certified to assist VoTs during the reflection period. During the 45 days in which the victim of trafficking receives support, the competent authority will further investigate the case in order to reach a 'conclusive decision'.

It is difficult to know exactly what happens to recognized victims of trafficking after they have received a 'conclusive decision' as they then access support through the mainstream welfare system (if they are eligible to). This means that they are treated as any other individual in need of benefits or support from the government. There is no specialized, central welfare system to integrate vulnerable individuals such as victims of trafficking.

** As of May 2013, the UKBA has ceased activity. The new authority has yet to be designated.*

COORDINATION BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS: THE KEY TO THE LONG-TERM INTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

COORDINATION IN BELGIUM BETWEEN NGOs AND THE AUTHORITIES, BETWEEN LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The Belgian model for assistance and support to victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) is based on a multidisciplinary approach that seeks to align the interests of victims with those of the government, therefore creating a favorable situation for both. This multi-faceted approach towards victim protection and assistance involves a reliance on a strong legal framework, a focus on human rights, collaboration and coordination amongst key stakeholders and referrals to specialized assistance centres. These elements create a system capable of responding to the varied needs of victims of human trafficking.

Belgium introduced the Law on the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings and Child Pornography on 13 April 1995; this law was amended on 10 August 2005 to provide a legal definition of THB and its various forms as well a clear distinction between THB and smuggling. Belgium was also the first country to introduce a procedure providing victims of trafficking with instruments to obtain a residence permit. A circular from 7 July 1994 set out the conditions under which a residence permit could be obtained, which was further developed by directives put in place on 13 January 1997.

The Belgian model reflects the EU values of ‘Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership’ (4P policy), with an emphasis on partnership and collaboration amongst all parties involved. The success of this model is linked to the collaboration amongst various institutions and organizations, namely the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Home Affairs (including the federal police), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Social Inspection

COORDINATION BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS: THE KEY TO THE LONG-TERM INTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Services (the Ministry of Employment and Labor and the Ministry of Social Security), the Centre for Equal Opportunity and Opposition to Racism and three specialized NGOs: Payoke in Antwerp, Pag-asa in Brussels and Sürya in Liege. All these actors have clear roles and responsibilities and actively coordinate their efforts in order to ensure the most effective system is in place.

A key component of the Belgian model is the emphasis placed on the protection of victims' human rights, which remains the basis of all policies and responses. An essential part of this model is the consideration that the interests of both the government and victims are fundamentally the same. Coordination is essential for the effective identification of victims as well as to facilitate various facets of the victim support process.

An effective partnership network is one of the most beneficial tools specialized centres have at their disposal when establishing a victim assistance and support program. It also a necessary condition for the effective cooperation between NGOs and national government and judicial structures. In Belgium, partnerships extend beyond the government, police and judicial services to other organizations, service providers and individuals within a particular region or community. This includes landlords and local employers, public health departments, social service providers, school administrations, food and clothing distribution centres, etc. Establishing effective, working relationships with these various actors helps the specialized centres to create a more holistic way of assisting and supporting victims of THB.

It is clear from the Belgian experience that high levels of cooperation, continuous education and a victim-centred approach are fundamental elements in establishing a successful victim assistance program. Furthermore, well-developed assistance mechanisms are beneficial to both the government and to the victims, taking into consideration that effectively supported victims are stronger witnesses in proceedings against their traffickers.

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THE VENETO REGION (NORTH-EASTERN ITALY): IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION OF VOTS WITHIN THE ITALIAN PROTECTION SYSTEM BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF VENICE

The referral system:

Since 2006 the Municipality of Venice, through its Social Protection Service, coordinates the local referral system in support of victims of human trafficking (for forced begging, sexual and labour exploitation) in the Veneto region. The Municipality of Venice uses a human rights-based approach in combination with multiagency networking involving judicial authorities, the police, social services, NGOs and cultural mediators.

This methodology can be applied to all areas of intervention such as:

- initial contact with potential VoTs through the national hotline
- first assistance and identification of potential VoTs
- protection and social inclusion of victims
- assisted voluntary return to the country of origin

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The national hotline in support of VoTs is funded by the Equal Opportunities Department and managed by the Social Protection Service of the Municipality of Venice. It consists of 7 cultural mediators (who speak Italian, English, Spanish, French, Russian, Hungarian, Romanian, Chinese, Moldovan, Ukrainian, Arabic and Albanian) that answer calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They filter incoming requests and provide detailed information about the Italian legislative framework and services available to victims of human trafficking. This telephone number is available to potential victims of trafficking, police authorities, NGOs and social services from any location in Italy. The operators filter the information provided with the help of the police authorities.

The identification and orientation of potential VoTs:

The main instrument for the identification and support of potential victims of human trafficking is the Evaluation and Crisis Unit (managed by the Municipality of Venice) that consists of 7 operators (3 social workers and 4 cultural mediators). After an initial interview with the support of linguistic and cultural mediators, the potential victim is hosted and protected for 4 or 5 days through a system of 12 shelters located in the Veneto region. This timeframe allows the operators to assess the psycho-social condition of the potential victim and to provide first assistance and information on Italian law regarding immigration and human rights. After the initial 4 to 5-day assessment, the VoT can access the assistance and integration program (provided by Article 13, Law 228/03, Measures Against Trafficking in Human Beings) for a period of 3 months which corresponds to the reflection period. During this period the victim is hosted in one of two shelters in the region (Padova and Verona) where she/he receives legal assistance, healthcare and Italian language training.

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Furthermore, in this period social workers provide full support to the victim during her/his cooperation with law enforcement authorities and the judicial authority. During these 3 months the VoT can re-evaluate and renegotiate his/her own migratory project with new objectives, resulting in most cases in a project for complete integration in Italy or in voluntary return to the country of origin.

Long-term protection assistance

After the first three-month reflection period, social assistance to VoTs continues with a program (funded by Article 18 of the Italian Immigration Act) that accompanies the victim in defining his/her long-term migration project in Italy. This program takes from 6 to 12 months and its principal goals are to obtain a residence permit and to start the autonomy process. During this period the victim starts vocational training in order to find a job or participates in on-the-job training and internships. Ad hoc agreements are concluded with local entrepreneurs, in particular in the agricultural field and tertiary sectors, by the Municipality of Venice. At the end of this program, the residence permit can be converted into a work permit, or, if the VoT decides to return home, he/she has access to an assisted voluntary return program.

A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH AS A PRECONDITION TO THE SMOOTH INTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

THE COUNTER-TRAFFICKING PROGRAM IN HUNGARY

The program is implemented in the field through a broad range of actions: prevention, raising awareness, research, shelter services, direct assistance, rehabilitation and reintegration for victims of trafficking in human beings.

Civil society organizations (Hungarian Baptist Aid – HBAid, MONA, NANE, etc.) have been involved in efforts to prevent human trafficking and to assist its victims for about 15 years. Their action includes providing housing and other services (social, medical, healthcare, legal support) and re/integration assistance with the help of social workers. These organizations also play a role in raising awareness of the issue of human trafficking in both the public and private sectors, and particularly amongst the police force, family care units and educators. In addition, they have developed education and training activities centred on the issue of human trafficking that are aimed at social workers.

The main actor providing assistance to VoTs is OKIT, the National Crisis Management and Information Telephone Service. It receives phone calls from victims and other social service providers and directs VoTs to shelters and assistance administered by Hungarian Baptist Aid. Other actors that victims may reach and contact through shelter service providers are the National Bureau of Investigation, the police, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), family care units and other organizations working with sexually exploited persons.

A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH AS A PRECONDITION TO THE SMOOTH INTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Shelter services

HBAid shelter facilities are all closed facilities where one of the primary aims is to ensure the physical safety of those victims who are in real danger: those victims who are not in immediate danger will not necessarily have access to shelters. If there is a need for safe accommodation, then HBAid has facilities where single, double and quadruple rooms are available for a nominal monthly fee. These are subject to availability.

The fact that shelter facilities are closed also means that certain rules have to be observed, particularly during the admission phase when risk assessment is taking place. Mobile phones and online social networking (such as Facebook) are not permitted, and the landline phone can only be used in the presence of a social worker. Beneficiaries may not leave the shelter without escort, not even to the grocery store. Once the risk assessment has been completed, some of these rules may be relaxed, within reason, to accommodate reasonable needs of the victims.

There is also a mental health rehabilitation program. If beneficiaries commit to enroll and attend, they will also be eligible for accommodation in their own room in a shared house. This program and the provided accommodation are located in the area surrounding the capital.

Major goals for development

There are several major goals for developing assistance mechanisms for victims of human trafficking. The first goal is the creation of a group of professionals, specialized in treating the different forms of trauma suffered by victims, available to provide direct assistance. A second objective is to increase the capacity of shelter services country-wide, as well as to improve the scope and availability of other services made available to victims. The final goal is to lobby the government to finance improved assistance and protection to victims, to recognise their legal rights and to participate in the National Coordination Mechanism.

A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH AS A PRECONDITION TO THE SMOOTH INTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

THE FRENCH NATIONAL NETWORK OF ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

The National Network of Assistance and Protection of Victims of Trafficking (Ac.Sé network) created in 2001 is part of a series of national measures to assist VoTs, as established by the Decree n° 2007-1352 of 13 September 2007 as well as by the Circular n° IMIMO- 900054C of 5 February 2009. The National Network Ac-Sé is co-funded by the Ministry of Women's Rights, the Ministry of Justice and the Municipality of Paris. It was created by the association ALC, who is also in charge of its coordination.

Its missions are to protect VoTs who are in danger and to provide them with assistance, as well as to manage a resource centre on trafficking issues and to provide counseling and support to professionals working in contact with VoTs.

The National Network Ac.Sé is made up of 66 partners including shelters and NGOs which refer and assist more than 50 VoTs per year.

The targeted public of the National Network Ac.Sé are adult victims of human trafficking, regardless of gender, nationality, and legal immigration status in France, with or without children, and who are in danger locally and in need of relocation.

The National Network Ac.Sé is not only available to persons officially recognized as VoTs by French law (victims who make a complaint against the exploiter or testify in judicial proceedings for trafficking) but also to other persons who are unable or unwilling to testify in judicial proceedings but who have been identified as VoTs by social services or NGOs according to the definition provided by Article 4 of the Convention of the Council of Europe.

A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH AS A PRECONDITION TO THE SMOOTH INTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

The protection of VoTs is ensured by the relocation of the person far from the city where he/she was exploited. The request for a safe shelter is filed by private or public institutions in contact with the VoT who may or may not be partners of the National Network Ac.Sé. The requests are centralized by the coordination of the National Network of Ac.Sé which is accessible through a national phone number. After a risk assessment, VoTs are directed to shelters belonging to the network located in another city, far away from the place of exploitation. Practitioners working in the shelters are partners of the National Network Ac.Sé and regularly trained on different issues related to the specific assistance of VoTs. Thus VoTs can benefit from global and specific assistance and protection.

The National Network Ac.Sé can also be solicited if VoTs wish to return voluntary to their country of origin. In these specific situations, Ac.Sé cooperates with the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) in conjunction with IOM and NGOs in the countries of origin in order to ensure a safe return back home and to avoid risk of re-victimization.

ANNEX : COUNTER-TRAFFICKING NATIONAL HOTLINES IN EU MEMBER STATES

Austria	IBF - Intervention Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Women + 43 1-796 92 98
Belgium	Pag-asa + 32 2 511 64 64 Payoke +32 3 201 16 90 Sürya +32 4 232 40 30
Bulgaria	National Hotline for Victims of Violence - Foundation “Animus Association” +359 800 186 76 National Hotline for Children- State Agency for Child Protection / Foundation “Animus Association” +359 116 111
Czech Republic	La Strada SOS Hotline +420 222 71 71 71
Denmark	The Danish Centre against Human Trafficking hotline +45 70 20 25 50
Estonia	Human Trafficking Prevention and Victim Help Hotline +372 6607 320
Finland	System for victim assistance +358 71 876 3170
France	National network of assistance and protection of VoTs (Ac.Sé) +33 825 009 907
Germany	KOK - German nationwide activist coordination group combating trafficking in women and violence against women in the process of migration +49 30 263 911 7
Greece	Human Trafficking Resource Line (operated by A21 Campaign) + 30-2310-525149 No to Violence- Yes to Women: (operated by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality) +30 15900
Hungary	The National Crisis Management and Information Telephone Service (in Hungarian) +36 80 20 55 20
Ireland	Hotline for the confidential reporting of suspicions of trafficking +353 1800 25 00 25
Italy	National hotline against trafficking +39 800 290 290 Municipality of Venice, Social Protection Service +39 0415042374
Latvia	Hotline against trafficking (in Latvian) +371 80002012

Lithuania	Klaipėdasocial and psychological services centre +370 8 800 66366
Luxembourg	Luxembourg national contact for expertise in the field combating and preventing of trafficking in Human Beings +352 4997 6210
Malta	Vice and Economic Crime, Police General Headquarters, contact for victims of human trafficking or reporting a crime in relation to human trafficking +356 2294 2000
The Netherlands	CoMensha (in Dutch) +31 33 4481186
Poland	National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Victims of Trafficking +48 22 628 01 20
Portugal	Hotline against trafficking +351 800 202 148
Romania	Hotline against trafficking +40 800 800 678
Slovakia	National Anti-trafficking Hotline +421 0800 800 818 – operated by IOM Bratislava Slovak Crisis Center DOTYK + 421 903 704 784
Slovenia	KLJUČ KEY- Society, Centre for the fight against trafficking in persons: +386 80 17 22
Spain	Instituto de la Mujer +34 900 191 010, +34 900 152 152
Sweden	National Support line, a national telephone support line for women who have been subjected to threats and violence +46 20 50 50 50 Terrafem, a non-profit organisation that runs a national helpline for immigrant women +4620 52 10 10
UK	CRIMESTOPPERS, for victims of human trafficking or people having information that will help lead to the identification and recovery of victims in the UK +44 800 555 111 UKHTC Hotline: for caseworkers, frontline staff, any individual that has information on a suspected VoT. It is also for VoTs to use. + 44 8447782406



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