

# Report on Trafficking in Persons Serbia 2014



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# 1 SUMMARY

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**The purpose of the analysis:** This analysis was performed as part of the indicators development process for the preliminary identification of the victims of trafficking in human beings, and in order to adapt the indicators to the specific nature of the issue in Serbia. In this format, the report aims to provide a baseline for further discourse in relation to the identification of the victims of trafficking in human beings and direct future research and analytical efforts.

The analysis presented here includes the characteristics of the process of trafficking in human beings (THB) and of the victims of trafficking in human beings (VTHB) that have been identified as such during 2013. Further in the text, basic facts are presented about human trafficking in Serbia in 2013, the characteristics of national and transnational THB, detailed demographic information about the characteristics of VTHB in Serbia, characteristics of THB itself and common indicators of trafficking in human beings for EU countries.

**Basic facts:** In 2013, 92 VTHB were identified in Serbia, with 66 victims discovered in Serbia and 26 Serbian citizens recognized as presumed VTHB abroad. Identification rate was 1.3 victims to 100,000 inhabitants, ranging from 0 to 11.6, depending on the geographical area. These differences can also be found in relation to the form of exploitation, so sexual exploitation is characteristic for some areas and for others it is exploitation for begging and forced marriage.

Although in 2013 trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation was still the most common in Serbia, it was identified among only 41% of the victims. The most common among other forms of exploitation is trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation (22%), followed by forced marriage (16%) and begging (15%). Trafficking in human beings for criminal activities is not very common, nor is human trafficking for forced domestic work.

**National and transnational trafficking:** In Serbia, national level THB is predominant, making for 70% of the overall trafficking in human beings. In this sense, Serbia is both the country of origin and of exploitation, but if we only look at the transnational THB, Serbia can be clearly seen as the country of origin for the victims. In this respect, nearly all VTHB (96%) are Serbian citizens recruited in Serbia.

In relation to the characteristics of national or transnational THB, there are differences between the victims in relation to age. Whereas adults are equally exposed to national and transnational THB, minors are largely victims of THB on the national level. There is a difference in relation to the form of exploitation, so nearly all victims of sexual exploitation are VTHB on the national level, which is the case with all the victims of exploitation for begging and criminal activities. On the other hand, VTHB for labour exploitation are primarily the victims of transnational THB. From the perspective of migration, it is interesting that within national THB, the most common THB is the one where migration does not occur, so even 64% of VTHB on the national level were both recruited and exploited on the territory of one municipality.

**Characteristics of the victims:** Victims of trafficking in human beings are more often women (69%) than men (31%), with adults and minors equally represented. There is a link between the sex and the age of the victim, men being most often adults, and women more often minors.

The Serbian victim profile corresponds to the classic victim profile. VTHB are persons with very low education levels, no permanent employment or still in education and mostly from urban areas. As many as 43% of the victims in Serbia did not complete primary school, 18% completed only primary school, and one-fifth was in school at the time of recruitment. Only one victim was permanently employed, 6% of the adult victims were married, 4% of the victims were internally displaced persons (IDP), returnees and asylum seekers. Multiple victimization was determined in 12% of the cases. A particularly vulnerable group of victims are victims that have no primary education or have not completed primary school, IDPs, asylum seekers, the unemployed and people living in common-law marriage.

**Preliminary identification process:** The majority of VTHB were discovered by public services, 93%, while civil society organisations (CSOs) and citizens directly reported 6% of the victims. Active public services in the process of victim identification were the police and to some extent the social welfare system, with the police referring 8 times as many victims as social welfare institutions. However, in 43% of the cases reported by the police, it responded to citizens' or international organisations' reports, so we can conclude based on this that citizens and international organisations are more active in the process of preliminary identification than it appears. It is typical for the social welfare system, CSOs and citizens not to recognize male VTHB and the victims of labour exploitation. Although a large number of victims are of school age, and it is assumed that even one-third of VTHB have contact with health care institutions, these institutions and the labour inspection, did not discover a single victim of human trafficking.

**Characteristics of the recruitment and exploitation processes:** In Serbia, victims were most often recruited by known individuals, in even 73% of cases, whereas acquaintances recruited 43% and family members 30% of the victims. In addition, the chances of the victim being recruited by someone he/she knows is 3.5 times greater if the person is minor than if he/she is of age. The period of recruitment of the victim is most often short, and in 46% of the cases it lasted 3 days or less. What was unexpected is that only 12% of the identified victims were in the chain of trafficking for over one year. The most common duration of exploitation when the victim was identified was under a month – even 38% of victims were discovered during the first month of exploitation.

**Conclusion:** As this research primarily aims to open a discussion about the topics relevant to detection and identification of the victims of trafficking in human beings in Serbia, we will formulate the conclusion in the form of questions awaiting answers. Accordingly, the results of the analysis pose several important questions that need to be analysed in more detailed and answered:

1. Does labour exploitation of the victims of trafficking in human beings exist in Serbia?
2. Does transnational trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation of the victims exist in Serbia?

To some of these questions the answer seems clear: yes. If this is true, the question arises, why, and what should be done about it.

In addition to these questions, other questions arise related to the capacities and organisation of the system and especially the organisation of specific processes and procedures in the detection and identification of VTHB:

1. How to reduce the rate of entry of the victims into the human trafficking chain if the victims are most often recruited by the people they know and if the recruitment period is short?



2. How to influence the economic and social factors that cause human trafficking?
3. How to engage other government systems in the detection of the victims of trafficking in human beings, primarily the health and education sectors?
4. How to improve the identification of the victims of trafficking in human beings in the areas where it is low?

Finally, the main question posed by this analysis is whether currently the system of preliminary identification is only "scratching the surface" and to what extent human rights protection and support really is available to the victims of human trafficking. This analysis does not propose great expectations for an optimistic answer to this question.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

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Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection (CHTVP) is a national social welfare institution, founded in April 2012 by the Decision of the Serbian Government. CHTVP was established in order to ensure the quality of protection for VTHB in Serbia, with respect for human rights of the victims and relevant international conventions, which Serbia is a party of. CHTVP's main activities include the identification of VHTB, i.e. identification of the status of victim based on the threat to her/his rights (notwithstanding proof of crime of human trafficking) and coordination of support provided to the victims by the institutions within the system, CSOs and other entities and the implementation of activities within the framework of the referral mechanisms for VHTB. Also, CHTVP manages the unique Serbia VTHB database, provides data and analysis about the characteristics of VTHB, monitors the phenomenon of THB and participates in the research and other activities building the capacities of the system adequately respond to and counter trafficking in human beings.

The analysis was produced by the project Strengthening Identification and Support for Human Trafficking Victims implemented in partnership between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection (CHTVP). The project is funded by IOM Development Fund and Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC).

This analysis is a part of a broader report that is under development and aims to adapt, to the extent possible, the indicators for preliminary identification of VTHB to the specificities of THB in Serbia, through more in-depth understanding of the characteristics of THB in Serbia. Also, this report will be used as annex to CHTVP's Annual Performance Report. In this way we are trying to provide regular overview and monitoring of different aspects of THB in Serbia and enable comparability with EU data. This way of reporting will be a regular form of CHTVP's annual reporting in the future.

The analysis presented here includes the characteristics of the THB process and the characteristics of VTHB that were given the status of THB victim in 2013. The first part of the analysis presents information related to the characteristics of the victims of trafficking in human beings in Serbia, the characteristics of the trafficking in human beings in Serbia and common indicators for the characteristics of the victims of trafficking in human beings for EU countries.

### 3 INDICATORS USED AND COMPARABILITY WITH EU DATA

This report is about the characteristics of VTHB and characteristics of the THB process important for identification and preliminary identification of victims. Indicators used include also common indicators on EU level, but also more detailed information about the characteristics of THB collected by CHTVP. As there is a central database of the victims of THB in Serbia, there is no problem to determine the number of victims as in the majority of EU countries, and data collected about the victims are fully comparable.

Although the database managed by CHTVP was developed before EUROSTAT published data on trafficking in human beings in 2013, the database structure is such that it provides the opportunity to monitor the majority of EUROSTAT recommended data, and even more diversified data is available that can be useful for policy making and to develop measures for the protection of VHTB. Table 1 shows the characteristics monitored by Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking Protection. These characteristics are divided into three groups: common characteristics on EU level, characteristics of the victims of trafficking in human beings and the characteristics of the process of trafficking in human beings.

**Table 1.** *Characteristics monitored by the Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking Protection*

#### COMMON CHARACTERISTICS RELATED TO DATA ON VICTIMS ON EU LEVEL

- 1 The number of victims in relation to organisation/individual that referred the victim to CVHTP
- 2 The number of victims in relation to the form of exploitation
- 3 The number of victims in relation to citizenship
- 4 The number of victims in relation to country of recruitment
- 5 The number of victims in relation to support provided

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

- 1 Number of victims in relation to sex
- 2 Number of victims in relation to age
- 3 Number of victims in relation to approximate status
- 4 Number of victims in relation to status
- 5 Number of victims in relation to marital status
- 6 Number of victims in relation to education level
- 7 Number of victims in relation to employment status
- 8 Number of victims in relation to assessed psychosocial development
- 9 Number of victims in relation to prior involvement in the human trafficking chain
- 10 Number of victims in relation to type of settlement

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROCESS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

- 1 Number of victims in relation to victim age at the time of recruitment
  - 2 Number of victims in relation to relationship with the recruiter
  - 3 Number of victims in relation to manner of recruitment
  - 4 Number of victims in relation to the duration of the recruitment period
  - 5 Number of victims in relation to place of residence during recruitment
  - 6 Number of victims in relation to the duration of exploitation period
  - 7 Number of victims in relation to the type of trafficking in human beings
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What needs to be improved regarding data management is the classification of the organisations that referred the victims to the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protections, primarily a clear distinction between police departments, adding the category for labour inspection and introducing the variable related to the duration of the reflexion period used by the individual<sup>1</sup>.

As a criterion for classifying the victims in specific calendar years, the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection is currently using the date of the decision on the individual's status, i.e. the date of completion of the identification process. This manner of data management is in accordance with data management practices in social welfare institutions in Serbia, but data classified in this manner are not completely comparable with EU data. As a criterion for classifying victims in a certain calendar year, that is, when counting the number of victims on annual level, EUROSTAT uses the date of the beginning of the identification process<sup>2</sup>. This is one of the issues that need to be considered in more details and the data on Serbia level should be harmonised with EU criteria so that they can be fully comparable.

In accordance with EUROSTAT recommendation, data are presented for presumed and identified victims separately, and for common indicators the structure of victims by sex and age of the victim is examined in more detail.

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<sup>1</sup> Currently data are managed so that the structure of the referral to CHTVP is known, but in 2013, detailed data on the structure of police departments were not recorded in the VHTB database.

<sup>2</sup> In Serbian context this would be the date of the report of the case to the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection.

## 4 THE NUMBER OF THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SERBIA

In 2013, 92 VHTB were identified in Serbia. If we compare this with the population size in Serbia based on the 2011 census (7,186,862), the identification rate was 1.3 victims on 100,000 inhabitants. In 2013 the identification rate in Serbia was somewhat lower than the last known identification rate in EU in 2010, which was 2.0 on 100,000 inhabitants, ranging from 0.1 on 100,000 inhabitants in Hungary and Portugal to 6.3 on 100,000 inhabitants in Cyprus and 6.0 on 100,000 inhabitants in the Netherlands. As the identification rate on EU level increased from 1.3 to 2.0 in the period 2008-2010, we can expect that in 2013 the rate would be higher in comparison with the 2010 rate. In relation to the definition so far used by CHTVP, 76 victims can be marked as identified victims, and 16 as presumed victims.

Out of a total of 92 VHTB, 66 victims were discovered in Serbia, and 26 victims were Serbian citizens identified as possible victims of THB abroad<sup>3</sup>. Looking at the geographical distribution, trafficking in human beings does not appear equally in all parts of Serbia. Victims detected on Serbian territory were exploited in 19 towns in Serbia proper and Vojvodina, and in Gračanica<sup>4</sup> (Table 2 and Graph 1).

**Table 2.** *The number of identified victims by last location of exploitation (N=66)*

City/Town	Number of victims	City/Town	Number of Victims
Belgrade	25	Požarevac	1
Novi Sad	7	Kikinda	1
Smederevo	5	Bor	1
Aleksinac	5	Vladičin Han	1
Niš	4	Veliko Gradište	1
Leskovac	2	Ada	1
Subotica	2	Sečanj	1
Pančevo	2	Kragujevac	1
Sombor	2	Lajkovac	1
Stara Pazova	2	Gračanica	1

The highest number of victims in relation to the number of inhabitants was exploited in Aleksinac, where 11.6 VHTB were exploited in relation to 100,000 inhabitants. In Aleksinac, the victims were primarily exploited through begging and forced marriage. A high degree of VHTB identification was also recorded in Smederevo, Vladičin Han, Sečanj and Ada. While in smaller municipalities the increased rate was the result of a small number of inhabitants, and therefore if one victim is identified this has a significant

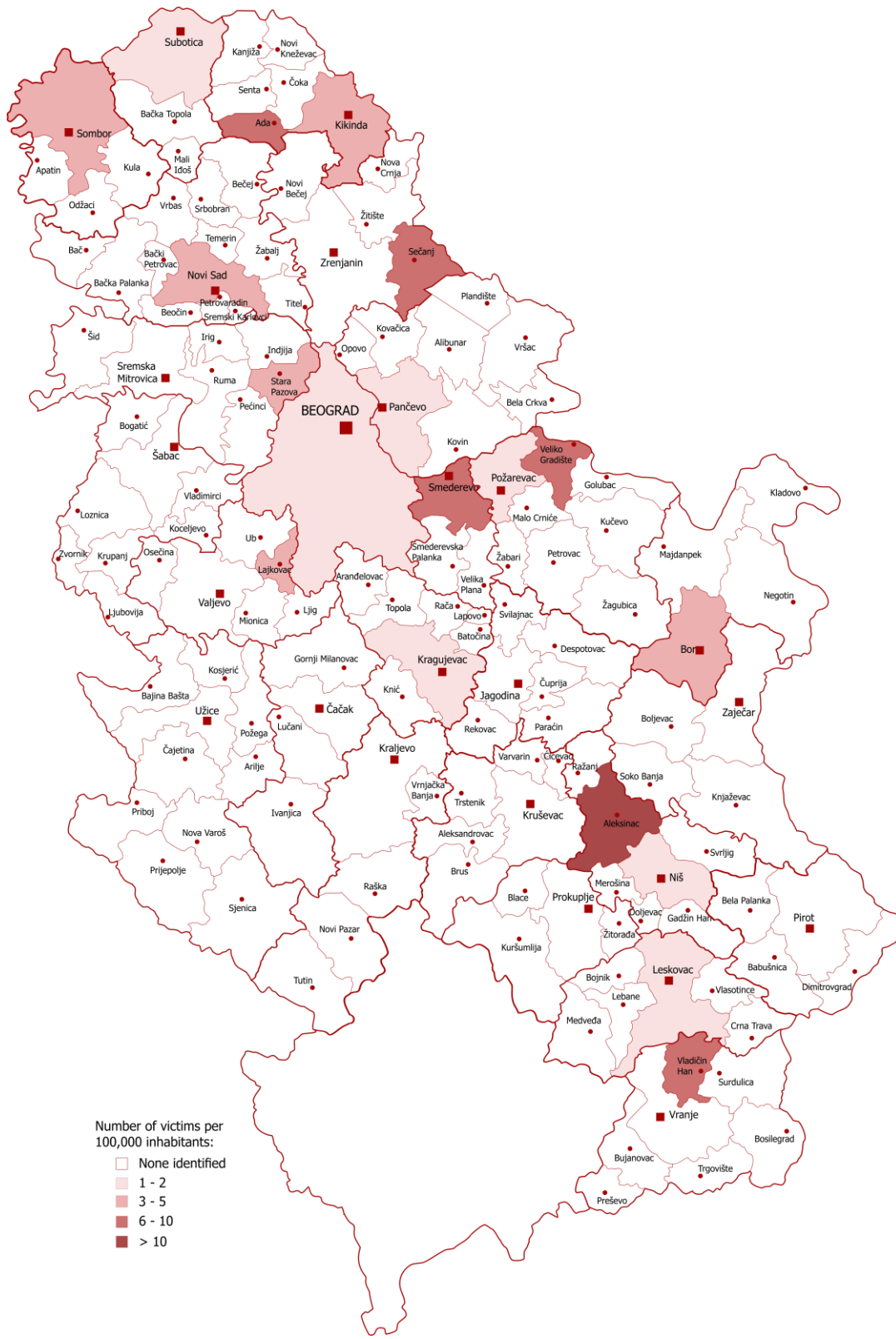
<sup>3</sup> The term “presumed victim”, used for Serbian citizens identified abroad, is used because in Serbia only those victims identified as such by the Centre for Human Trafficking Victim Protection. In this respect, any citizen that addresses CHTVP or is referred to it is a presumed victim, regardless of whether he/she has been identified as victim abroad or not. If Serbian citizens are identified as VHTB, CHTVP takes into consideration the existing findings and information and establishes cooperation with the foreign organizations in order to work effectively and fully protect the victim.

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with UN Resolution 1244, the victims identified in Kosovo are considered national victims of trafficking in human beings.

impact on identification rate, in Smederevo there is a high number of identified victims. For VHTB in Smederevo it is characteristic that they are both recruited and exploited in Smederevo, through sexual exploitation.

Among Serbian cities, the highest number of VHTB was identified in Belgrade. The victims in Belgrade are most often exploited through sexual exploitation (63%), followed by begging (25%) and forced marriage (13%). On the other hand, in Novi Sad identified VTHB were primarily exploited through begging (71%), and one victim was also exploited for criminal activities and forced domestic work, respectively. Based on this, we can conclude that there is a difference in relation to the type of human trafficking identified in different towns in Serbia.

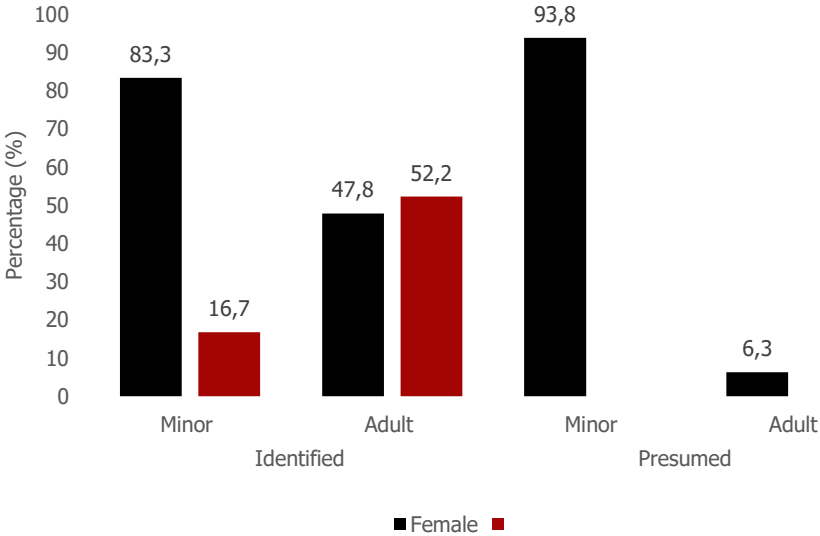
**Graph 1.** Incidence of human trafficking by local self-government units



# 5 MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Victims of trafficking in human are more often women (69%) than men (31%), with a difference between identified and presumed victims, as well as minor and adult VTHB. All presumed victims are female, as well as the majority of minor victims (89%), whereas adult victims are equally represented by women and men (Graph 2).

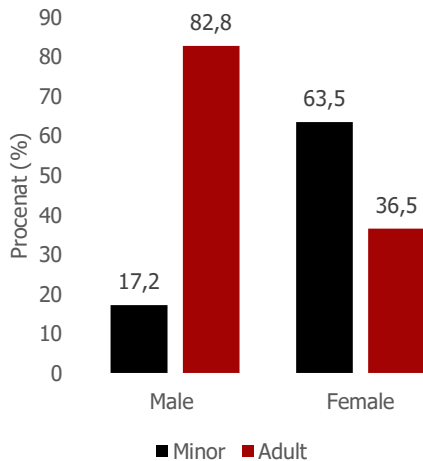
**Graph 2.** *The structure of victims by sex and age, presented by status*



Both minor (49%) and adult (51%) individuals are equally victims of trafficking in human beings. However, while presumed victims are largely minors (94%), 39% of identified victims are minors. Graph 3 also shows that men that are the victims of THB are most often adults, whereas women are more often minors.

**Graph 3.** *The structure of victims by age and sex*





There is no information about the detailed socio-demographic characteristics for the victims of labour exploitation that were exploited in Belarus, so **labour exploitation is excluded from further analysis of socio-demographic characteristics.**

Demographic characteristics of victims in Serbia clearly illustrate unfavourable socio-economic position of the victims before the actual recruitment. **Victims in Serbia have very low education levels, no permanent employment or they are still in school and they mostly come from urban areas.** Even 43% of victims in Serbia did not complete primary school, and 18% of victims completed only primary school. Not one of the identified VHTB had higher education levels. Only one victim was permanently employed before the recruitment and two victims had temporary work engagement. Other victims were either unemployed or in school. In the context of the fact that education institutions do not participate in victim detection, it is important to highlight that nearly one-fifth of the victims were in school at the time of recruitment, which presents potential space for involvement of the education system.

The victims more often come from urban areas – among the victims that data are available for, 74% lived in urban and 26% in rural areas. If looking at adult victims, we can see that these are most often persons without partners, with only 6% of adult victims being married. As for other characteristics, **12% of the victims were re-victimized.** 4% of the victims were recorded as IDPs, returnees and asylum seekers.

Latent class analysis allows us to distinguish roughly between two groups of human trafficking victims in relation to the degree of their engagement with the community. The first group, including 63% of the victims, are individuals that were more educated, unemployed, but some of them working, employed or still in school, and they had a lower degree of re-victimization at 7%. These individuals were either married or did not get married.

The second group is made up of 37% of the victims, who had a very low education level, with even 79% without any level of primary education, or with incomplete primary school, unemployed, difficult to employ and including IDPs and asylum seekers. The degree of re-victimization in this group was high at 33%, which is nearly five times more than the first group. These individuals lived either alone or in common-law marriage.

This analysis indicates that **there are two groups of VHTB in relation to the degree of social exclusion, with 36.9% of the victims being particularly vulnerable.** This social position, in addition to increased victimization rate, is also connected with other characteristics of THB. Thus, the majority of these individuals, when trafficked nationally, were transported to a distance greater than 50 km from their

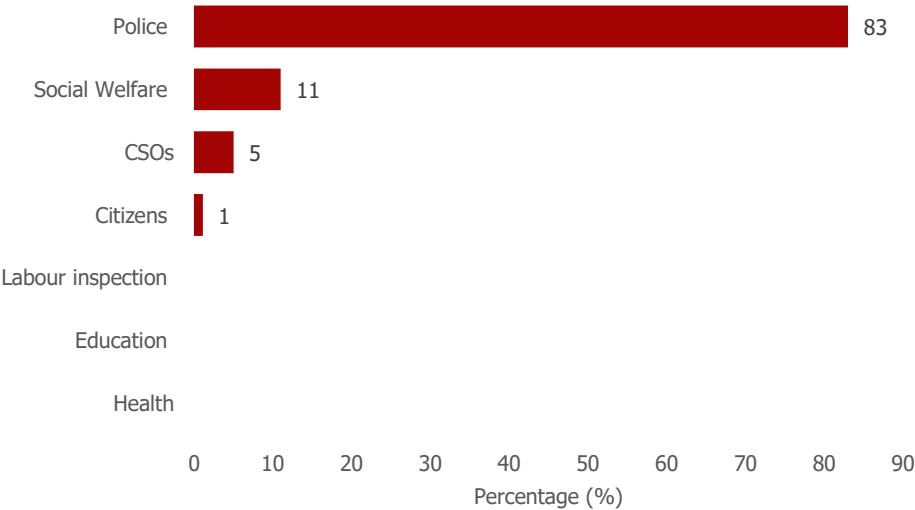
place of residence, and they were somewhat more often recruited by family members (42%), compared to other victims (24%). Also, these individuals were exploited longer than those in the first group, so the people from the second group accounted for only 6% of individuals identified during the first month of exploitation.

# 6 COMMON EU INDICATORS

## 6.1 ORGANISATION/INDIVIDUAL THAT REFERRED THE VICTIM TO THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM PROTECTION

The majority of the victims of trafficking in human beings were discovered by public services (93%), whereas civil society organisations and citizens directly reported 6% of the victims (Graph 2). Although international organisations did not directly refer any victims to the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection that were later on identified as victims, they participated in the discovery of 3 victims of trafficking in human beings.

**Graph 4.** *The structure of VHTB by organisation/individual that referred the victim to the Centre for Human Trafficking Victim Protection*



The police, and to some extent social welfare system, were among the public services active in the process of victim detection, whereas the police referred 8 times more victims than the social welfare institutions. In 43% of the cases detected by the police, they responded to the reports of citizens, international organisations, the victim’s family or the victim herself/himself, and in 29% of police cases, the victims were discovered in the course of regular police work. For 3% of the reports the data based on the assessment are unknown. Among the victims discovered in the course of regular police activities, four individuals were discovered during the arrest of an organised group dealing with THB and intermediation of prostitution. The police referred the Serbian citizens that were exploited for labour in Belarus to the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection, and they comprise 25% of the total number of victims referred by the police to the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection. Based on this we can conclude that the citizens and international organisations are more active than it seems at first, because nearly a half of the victims were discovered owing to their reports to the police. Health and education institutions and the labour inspection were not active in discovering the victims of trafficking in human beings.

While the police recognise also economically exploited persons, the social welfare system, CSOs and citizens do not recognise labour exploitation or exploitation for criminal activities. Social welfare

institutions primarily recognise minor victims, so that children accounted for 88% of the victims referred by this system to the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection.

CSOs also differ in relation to the type of trafficking in human beings that they recognise. While NGO ASTRA referred two adults demonstrating evidence of sexual exploitation living in urban areas to the Centre for Human Trafficking Victim Protection, NGO Centre for Youth Integration discovered three minor victims exploited through begging.

If looking at the structure of victims by sex, it is interesting to see that **all male victims were referred to the Centre for Human Trafficking Victim Protection by the police**. Out of them, 66% male victims were the group of men from Serbia exploited for labour in Belarus. The remaining 35% of male victims were recognised in Serbia, and included individuals exploited through begging, criminal activities and labour exploitation.

The method of detecting the victims of trafficking in human beings is somewhat different depending on the victim's age. The social welfare system participates to a greater extent in detecting minor victims and thus the police to a lesser extent, and CSOs and citizens largely participate in detecting adult victims.

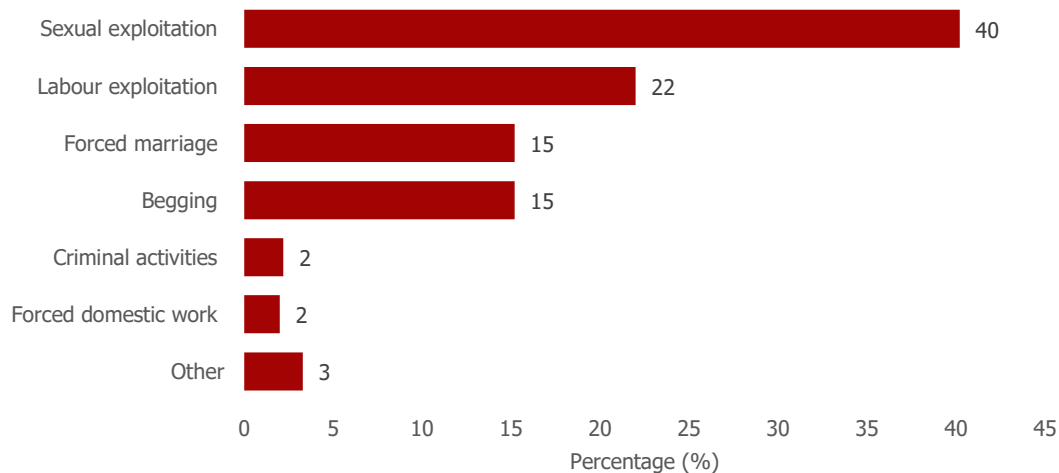
If looking at the type of residence area, **the police detected 88% of the victims living in rural areas**, and the rest of the victims in rural areas were detected by the social welfare system. CSOs and citizens referred only the victims living in urban areas to CHTVP.

Similar structure in relation to organisation/individual that detected the victim also occurs with both identified and presumed victims of trafficking in human beings.

## **6.2 FORMS OF EXPLOITATION**

Even though in 2013 **the most common form of THB in Serbia was still sexual exploitation**, it was present with only 41% of the victims (Graph 3). This is considerably lower in relation to the average for previous three years, during which sexual exploitation was 55% of overall THB. The proportion of labour exploitation increased slightly to 22% from 18% in the previous three years, primarily because of the detection of 19 Serbian citizens that were exploited in Belarus. The proportion of VHTB exploited through begging and forced marriage remained approximately on the same level as the previous years. Trafficking in human beings for criminal activities was not that common, and neither was THB with for forced domestic work. In 2013, no cases of THB were recorded with the purpose of illegal adoption, removal of organs, and in short-term victim status was given to one unaccompanied minor (category Other).

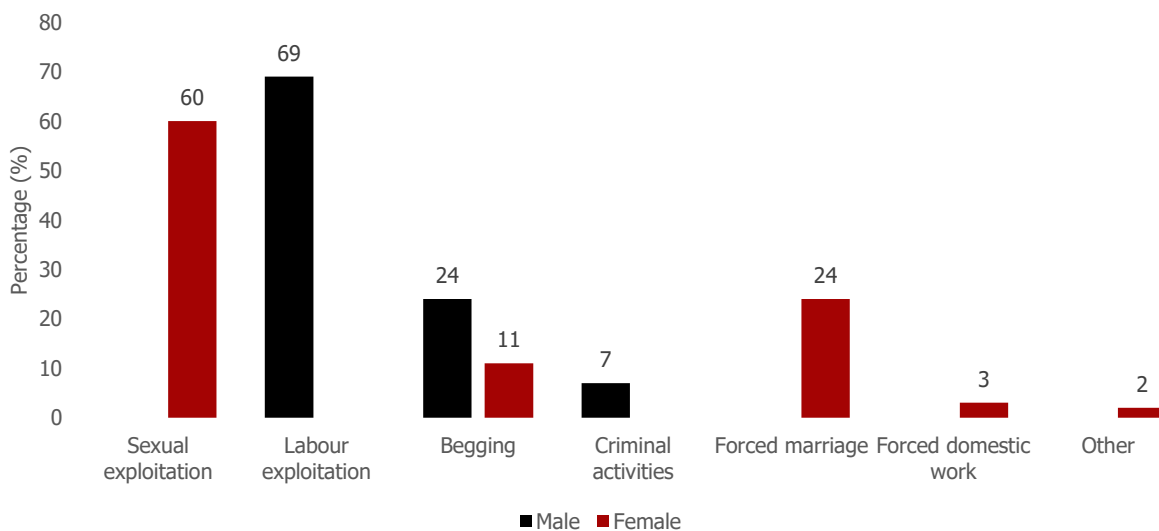
**Graph 5.** *Structure of VHTB by form of exploitation*



Trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation primarily occurs on the national level, with even 95% of the victims both recruited and exploited within Serbia, while labour exploitation has a prevailing transnational character, with 95% of the citizens recruited in Serbia and exploited abroad. Detailed account of the characteristics of national and transnational THB can be found in Section 6.1.

The structure of the victims in relation to forms of exploitation differs considerably in relation to sex, so we can conclude that human trafficking does have a strong gender aspect. Only in the case of begging are the victims both men (50%) and women (50%). In other forms of exploitation there is gender polarisation, with only men being the victims of labour exploitation and exploitation for criminal activities, while in all other cases the victims are women. Therefore women accounted for 60% of the victims of sexual exploitation (Graph 4).

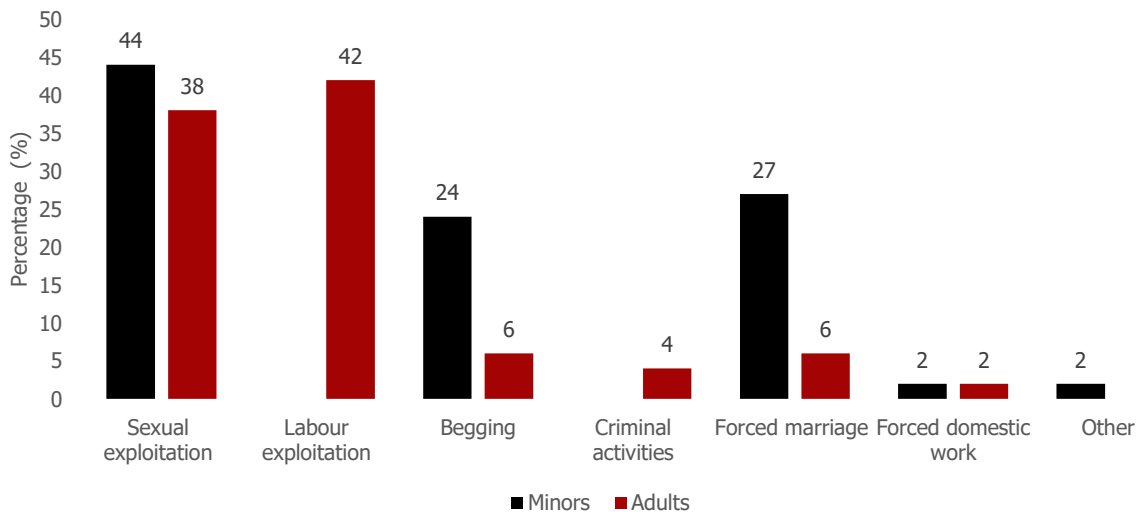
**Graph 6.** *The structure of human trafficking victims by forms of exploitation and sex*



The structure of victims in relation to forms of exploitation depends also on age (Graph 5). Therefore, exploitation through begging and THB for forced marriage was more common for minor VHTB and labour

exploitation was much more common for adult victims. The frequency of sexual exploitation was approximately the same in both age groups.

**Graph 7.** *Structure of human trafficking victims by forms of exploitation and age*



The structure of victims in relation to exploitation forms does not differ considerably in relation to whether the victim is presumed or identified.

### 6.3 CITIZENSHIP

Almost all victims of trafficking in human beings are Serbian citizens (96%). Among the remaining victims, one is Syrian, one Macedonian citizen and the citizenship of two VHTB is unknown.

### 6.4 COUNTRY OF RECRUITMENT

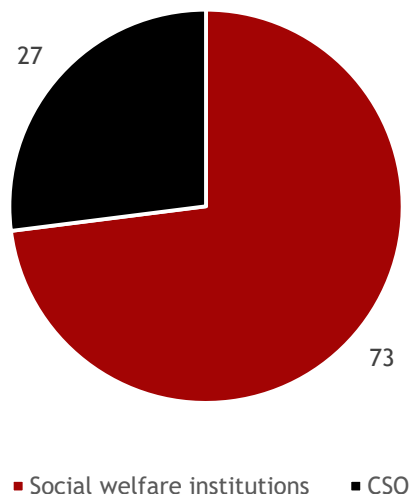
The structure of victims by country in which the victim was recruited, considering that the majority of victims are Serbian citizens, is similar to the structure of victims by citizenship. Serbia was the place of recruitment for 98% of the victims of THB, and 2% of the victims were recruited abroad.

### 6.5 SUPPORT PROVIDED

Tables 28-31 were not included in this report, because data management still cannot provide all the necessary information on the level of each VHTB. However, data collected provide the opportunity to count the services provided. In 2013, the following forms of protection were applied:

- **Fostering:** 33 persons received foster care – 32 children and 1 adult under procedure of deprivation of legal capacity;
- **Housing:** 40 persons were placed in social welfare institutions, CSO accommodation or provided with alternative accommodation. In three-quarters of the cases (73%), the capacities of the social welfare system were used, and in one-quarter of the cases (27%), temporary accommodation in a house run by CSO Atina.

**Graph 8.** *The structure of housing service providers for VTHB*



In addition to these measures of protection, other support activities were also implemented, such as counselling guidance and empowerment, professional psychological assistance, support to establish and improve family relations, victim transport and other types of support, such as providing rent, heating fuel and wood, clothes and shoes and other necessities. Detailed information about the services provided can be found in the Centre for Human Trafficking Victim Protection Annual Report. Service plans for all victims were made with the participation of at least one partner, and out of a total of 92 victims, 18 victims were referred to receive support by CSOs.

If we look at the structure of provided measures of support, we can conclude that the government participated in providing support to the victims with much more funds than just the direct transfers for the protection of VTHB. The funds invested by the government in victim support, because this support goes through the regular activities of institutions, often remain invisible, and it is wrongfully concluded that there is no systematically organised government support for the victims. In addition to the social welfare system, victim support is also funded from the funds collected from the criminal delay prosecution institute.

## 7 THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROCESS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

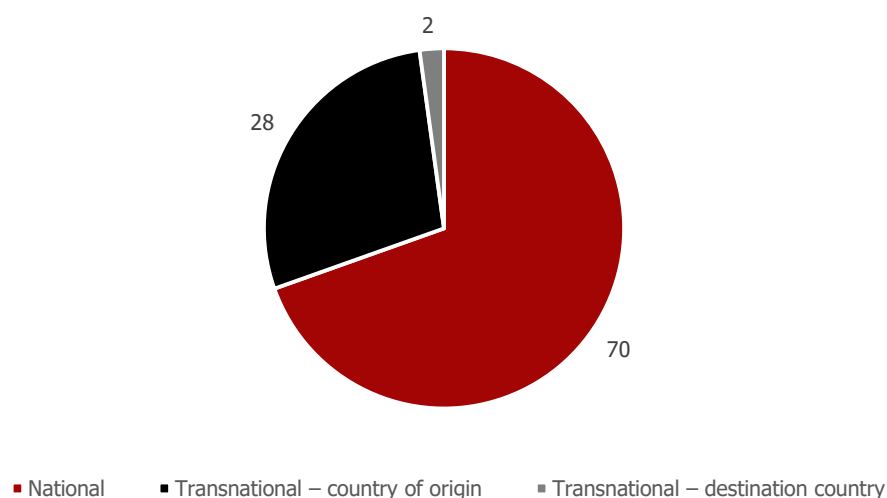
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This section presents the main characteristics of the process of THB in Serbia, with a focus on in-depth understanding of the characteristics of national and transnational THB. Characteristics relating to victim recruitment and exploitation process are presented in detail in order to examine the opportunities for terminating the process of human trafficking as early as possible.

### 7.1 TRANSNATIONAL AND NATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In Serbia, the predominant type of THB is national level THB, which is 2.5 times more common than transnational THB (Graph 7).

**Graph 9.** *The Structure of victims in relation to the type of human trafficking*



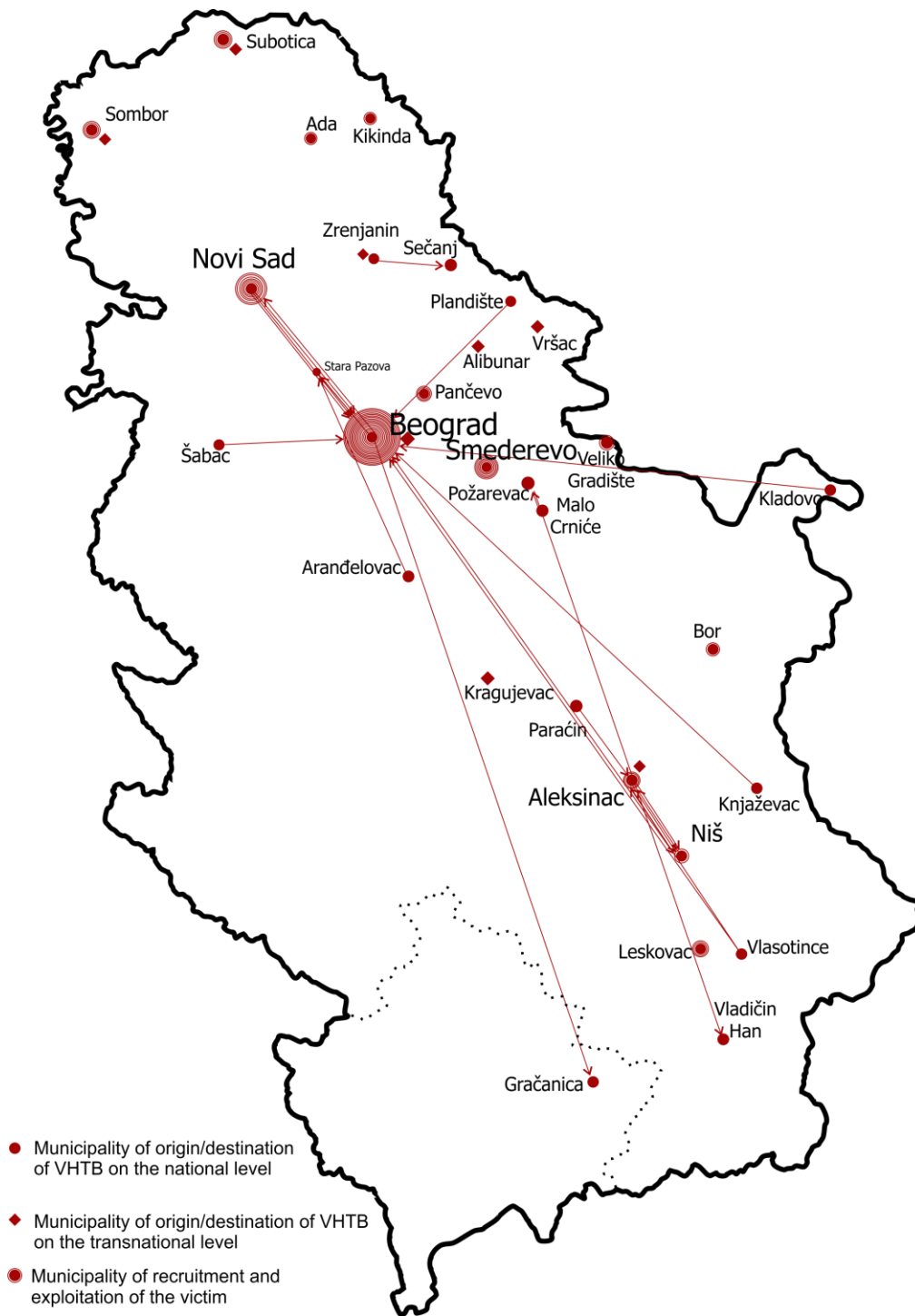
Destination countries for transnational human trafficking are France, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Croatia and Belarus, where a group of 19 victims of labour exploitation were identified. Serbia was the destination for the citizens of Macedonia and Syria. If we compare the number of Serbian citizens exploited abroad and the number of foreign citizens exploited in Serbia, we can see that Serbia is destination country for 7% of the victims of transnational THB, and the country of origin for 93% of the victims of transnational THB. In the context of transnational THB, this **clearly labels Serbia as a country of origin**.

While transnational trafficking always includes migration, the question is to what extent national THB is linked with migration. In order to better understand the connection between migration and THB within Serbian borders, the flows of people on the national level were analysed – the relation between the place



of origin and of exploitation of the victims identified in 2013 (Graph 8)<sup>5</sup>. For the victims of transnational human trafficking only the place of origin is presented, or the place of exploitation.

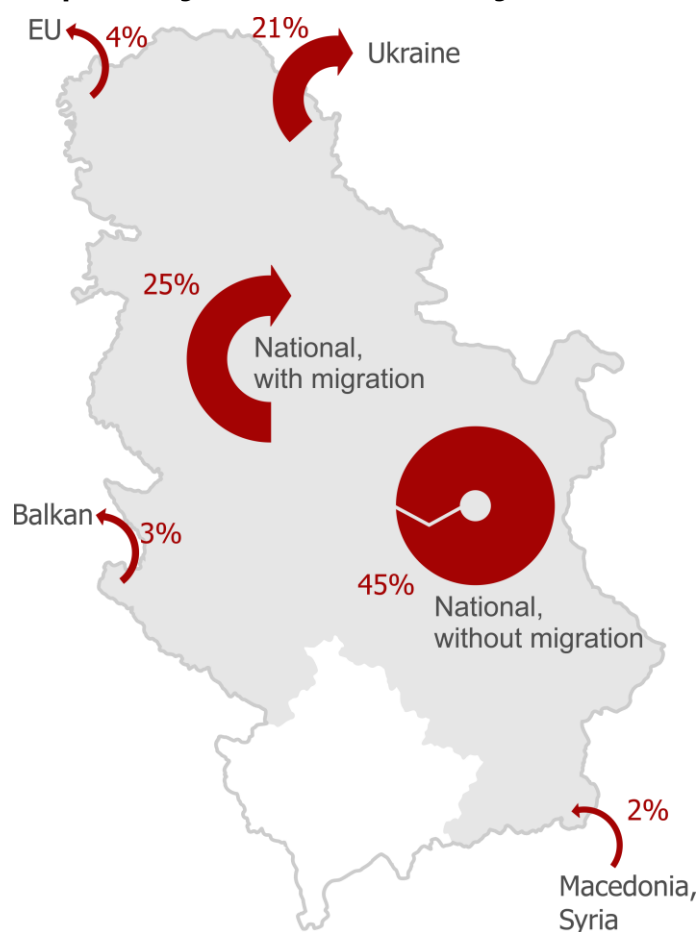
**Graph 10.** *Human trafficking flows*



<sup>5</sup> Data on the place of origin of the victim are missing for 19 victims of labour exploitation that were exploited in Belarus.

Some important information on national level THB can be seen from Graph 8. In Serbia THB largely does not involve migration and therefore even 64% of the VTHB on the national level are both recruited and exploited on the territory of one municipality. The majority of the victims on the national level where there is no migration were the victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, where in 69% of the cases there was no migration, while with national trafficking that includes migration the majority of the victims were exploited for forced marriage, and among them migration occurs in 60% of the cases. If we look at all the VTHB, including the transnational ones, trafficking in human beings without migration is still the most common and accounts for 45% of THB in Serbia (Graph 9). Apart from this, we can see that regional migration more often occurs on the national level, for example between Aleksinac and Niš or Belgrade and Novi Sad, than between two far sides of the country.

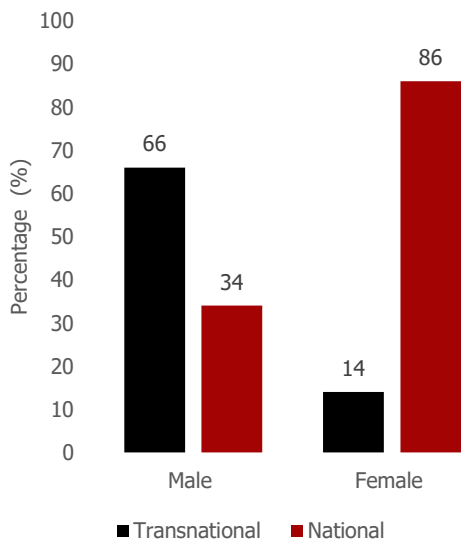
**Graph 11. Migration of human trafficking victims**



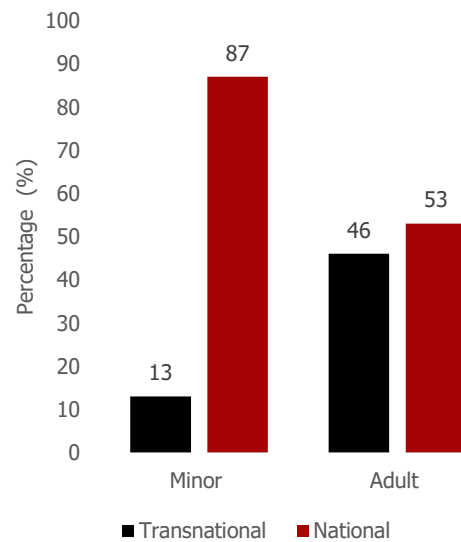
In this respect, if we look at the victims transported within Serbia, **77% of the victims were transported to a distance under 50 km away from the place of recruitment**, 13% to a distance between 50 km and 100 km (mostly on the relation between Belgrade and Novi Sad) and only 11% to a distance above 100 km.

There are great differences between transnational and national THB in relation to sex and forms of VTHB exploitation, and there is also a difference in relation to the victims' age. If we look at differences by sex, **over 4/5 of women are victims of trafficking in human beings on the national level**, while around 2/3 of men are victims of transnational THB (Graph 10). While adults are equally exposed to both national and transnational THB, **minors are largely victims of human trafficking on the national level** (Graph 11).

**Graph 12.** *The structure of VHTB by type of THB and sex*

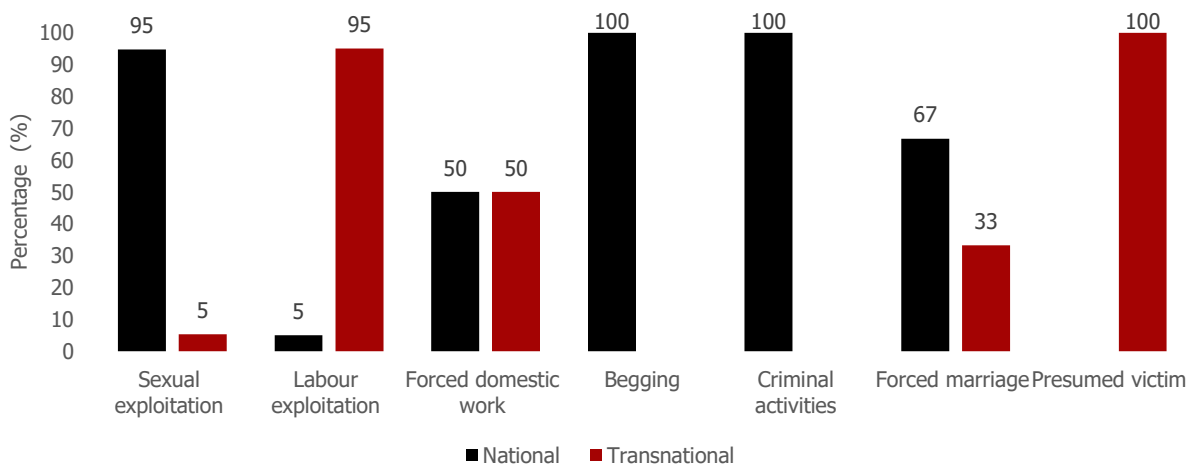


**Graph 13.** *The structure of VHTB by type of THB and age*



There is a considerable difference between the type of trafficking in human beings or the form of exploitation within national and transnational trafficking in human beings (Graph 12). Almost all victims of sexual exploitation are victims of THB on the national level, which also goes for all victims of exploitation for begging and criminal activities. On the other hand, **VHTB for labour exploitation are primarily the victims of transnational THB**. As for the victims that were exploited through forced marriage and forced domestic work, THB occurs on both national and transnational levels.

**Graph 14.** *The structure of the victims of human trafficking by form of exploitation*



## 7.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF RECRUITMENT AND EXPLOITATION

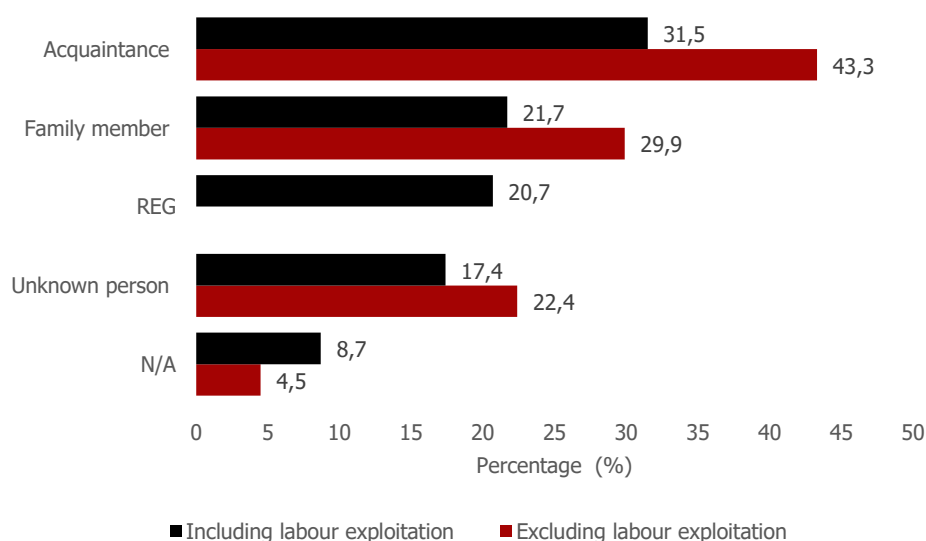
The analysis of the characteristics of recruitment and exploitation includes the description of the following characteristics of the victims and the process of human trafficking: victim age at the moment of recruitment, relationship between the victim and the recruiter, manner of recruitment, duration of the recruitment period, place of residence and duration of exploitation.

When interpreting these results we should have in mind the limitations of the data provided for the victims of labour exploitation in Belarus, for which only data on age at the moment of recruitment and duration of exploitation are available. **As 95% of the victims that were exploited in Belarus were the victims of labour exploitation, all victims of labour exploitation will be excluded from the analysis of the characteristics for which there are no data on these victims**, and this should be taken into account when reading the findings.

**At the moment of recruitment, 59% of the victims were minors and 41% adults.** Minors were recruited for criminal activities, accounting for all the victims recruited for this purpose and for forced marriage (62%). Minors also account for around two-thirds of the victims recruited for sexual exploitation (62%) and begging (64%), while adults were primarily recruited for labour exploitation (100%).

In Serbia, **victims are most often recruited by people they know, which happened in 73% of the cases<sup>6</sup>**, while unknown people recruited 22% of the victims and for 5% of the victims there is no data about the relationship between the victim and recruiter. If looking at the relationship between the victim and the person they knew, we can conclude that victims were somewhat more often recruited by acquaintances, and somewhat less by family members (Graph 13).

**Graph 15.** *The structure of the victims of human trafficking by relationship between victim and recruiter*

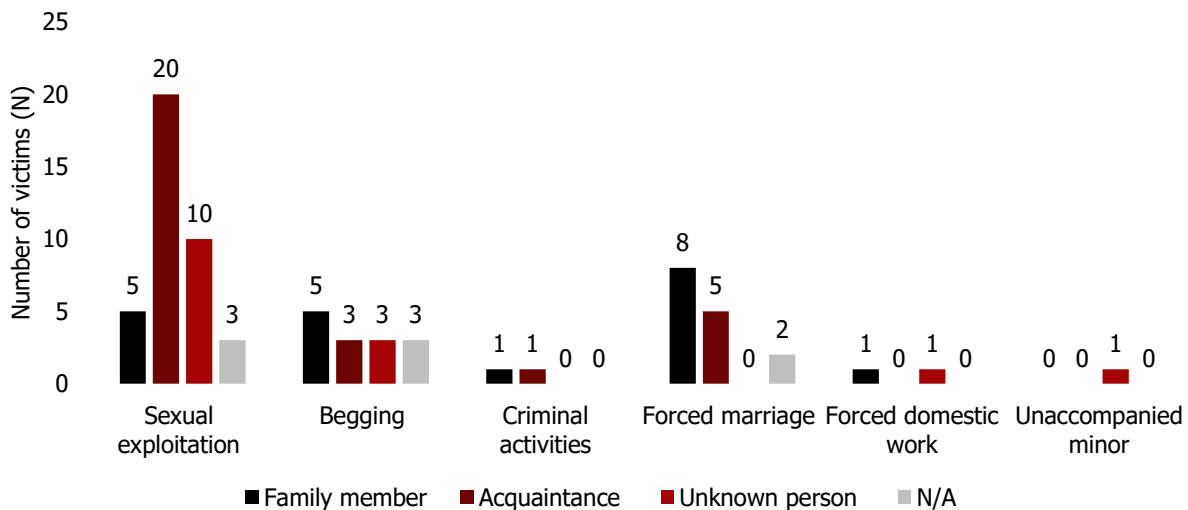


Minor victims were in 81% of the cases recruited by someone they knew, in 15% of the cases someone they did not know, whereas data are missing for 4% of the victims. This proportion is different for adults, who were in 57% of the cases recruited by people they knew, in 38% by people they did not know, and data are missing for 5% of the victims. We can conclude that the **chances for the victim to be recruited by someone she/he knows are around 3.5 times higher if the person is a minor compared to if she/he is an adult.** There is no connection between the sex of the victim and the recruiter.

<sup>6</sup> The data do not relate to the victims exploited for labour.

Depending on the form of victim exploitation, there are differences in relation to the recruiter (Graph 14). Sexually exploited victims were in 53% of the cases recruited by acquaintances, in 26% by unknown persons, while family members recruited these victims in 13% of the cases. Family members recruited the victims exploited for forced marriage more often than other victims (53%), and one-third of these victims were recruited by acquaintances (33%). For the victims recruited for exploitation through begging there are no distinct differences in relation to the recruiter.

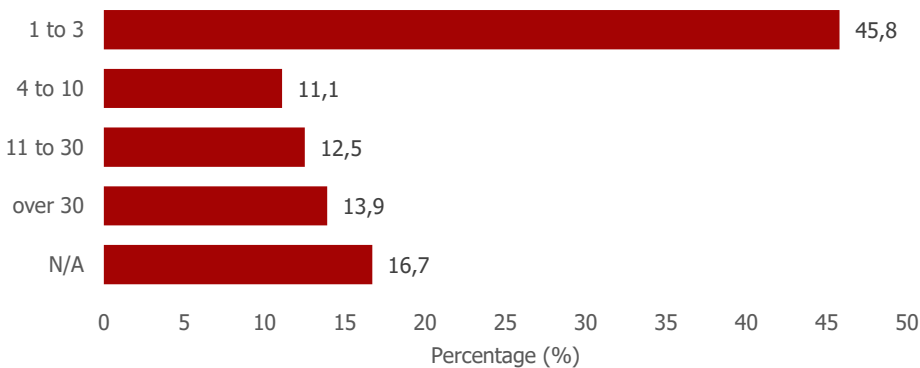
**Graph 16.** *The structure of the victims of human trafficking by connection with recruiter and forms of exploitation*



If we exclude trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation, **the victims were most often recruited through personal contact**, in 82% of the cases. Only 4% of the victims were recruited through social networks, another 3% in other ways, and for 11% of the victims there is no information about the manner of recruitment. High degree of recruitment through personal contact is not surprising because the majority of the victims were recruited by people they knew. The differences by age, sex and form of exploitation are not significant for the manner of recruitment. Although the structure of the data is similar for both presumed and identified victims, there is more data missing about the manner of recruitment for presumed victims.

**The recruitment period is most often short** and in 46% of the cases it lasted for 3 days or less (Graph 15).

**Graph 17.** *The structure of victims by to recruitment period, in days*

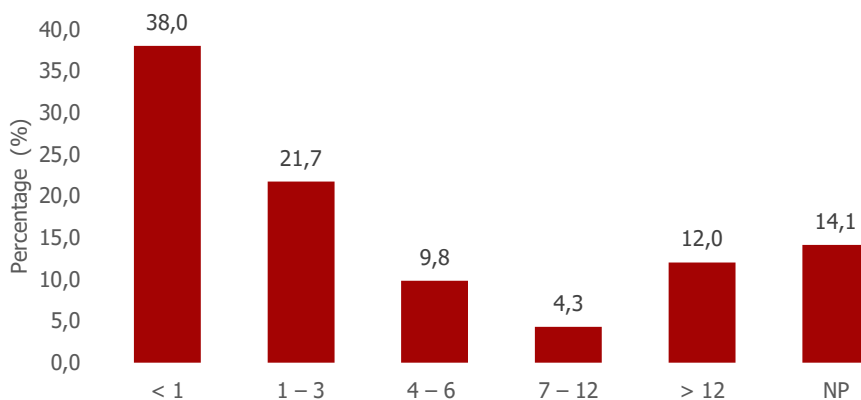


As labour exploitation is excluded, the number of men in the sample is reduced, so the structure of the sample is not suitable for conclusions about differences between the sexes. However, there is an indication that the period of recruitment is especially short for men, and out of 8 men for whom there are data available about the duration of the recruitment period, for 7 of them the recruitment period was up to 3 days. The differences in relation to the duration of recruitment are significant neither in relation to sex nor in relation to the form of exploitation. There is a difference in relation to the presumed and identified victims, where the recruitment period was somewhat shorter with identified victims. While 68% of the identified victims were recruited in the first ten days, only 19% of the presumed victims were recruited in the same period, but the number of missing data is higher with presumed victims at 38%.

During the recruitment period the highest number of victims was living in their own home (61%), but even 14% were living in a social welfare facility. The police identified 80% of these victims and social welfare 20%. Although the number of men was low after eliminating labour exploitation, it is conspicuous that even 44% of men were recruited in a social welfare institution, in relation to 10% of women. The difference in relation to the place of residence of the victim at the time of recruitment is not significant in relation to age and form of exploitation. The victims were recruited in their homes, friends' homes, very close to their homes, in public places (market, fair, sports events, bar, bus or train station, street), close to social welfare institution, as well as during sex work.

If looking at the duration of victim exploitation before they were discovered, Graph 16 shows that **only 12% of the victims spent more than one year in the trafficking chain**, and most often they were exploited for less than a month (Graph 16).

**Graph 18.** *The structure of the victims by duration of exploitation, in months*



If all the victims for whom there is no information about the time spent in the human trafficking chain had been exploited for over a year, the proportion of the victims that were exploited for over a year would have risen only to 26%. The authors can see three main implications of this finding:

1. If looking at this finding in light of the relatively well-founded presumption that the number of victims in the chain of THB is at any given moment considerably higher than the number of victims entering the chain over the period of one year, then this indicates that the victims exploited for over 12 months become almost invisible to the system. In other words, the chances of detecting these victims gradually decrease as the duration of victim exploitation increases.
2. Another possible interpretation is that there are not many victims exploited for longer than one year in Serbia, and that the majority of the victims entering the human trafficking chain are discovered.
3. The short time that the victims have spent in the chain of trafficking can also be interpreted in concluding that as with a large portion of the detected victims of national THB there was no change in the place of residence, the victims have more accessible systems of support and can leave the chain of trafficking more quickly.

In any case, the data available cannot tell us which of the given options is more probable. This question pertains to the evaluation of the entire system of protection and should be considered in more detail in the future.