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***Trafficking in Persons in Moldova:  
Comments, Trends, Recommendations***

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## **Trafficking in Persons in Moldova: Comments, Trends, Recommendations**

### **Introduction**

Since September 2001, specialists from the International Center «La Strada» (Moldova) have been identifying cases of trafficking in persons, assisting in releasing victims from exploitation and in their repatriation, providing material, legal and other assistance, as well as referring the victims to specialized partner-organizations for any other necessary assistance. As a result, we have compiled a database of 150 cases of trafficking in persons. It allowed us to create a typical profile of a trafficking victim. The whole problem of trafficking in persons in Moldova is reflected like in a mirror in the fates of these our compatriots who became victims of this present-day slavery.

As it has already been mentioned, in 2001 we started to render assistance to victims and to accumulate data on the issue of trafficking in persons. However, it has to be kept in mind that our first beneficiaries were the people who had been recruited before 2001 and had been subject to slavery one or even more years before they were released and met employees of the Center «La Strada». Since in «La Strada» we study the mechanism of trafficking starting from the recruitment, the statistical data in this edition are given for the period of 1998-2004. Unfortunately, even now, when we are preparing this publication, victims of trafficking still arrive in «La Strada», supplementing our statistics over the previous years.

Generalizing information about cases of trafficking in persons in Moldova annually, performing comparative analysis of such information per years, and correlating it with the information about the same issue in other countries, we tried to make certain comments and conclusions about the state of trafficking in persons in Moldova and the trends of its evolvement, as well as to work out our proposals and recommendations with regard to organization of counteraction to trafficking in persons in Moldova. It has to do with the social base (sources) of the problem, the risk group (categories of population which become victims of human trafficking most commonly), the factors that push people out of their habitual life and make them ‘easy meat’ for the greedy fishers of «flesh», the methods used by traffickers, the transportation routes and countries of destination, to which victims of trafficking in persons are supplied, manners and types of exploitation of the aggrieved, and other factors which contribute to the maintenance of demand and supply at the international market of «humans as goods», of which our Moldova, unfortunately, became participant, too.

## **I. Trafficking victims: who are they?**

### **1. A Typical Profile of a Trafficking Victim as a Reflection of the Phenomenon of Trafficking in Persons in the Republic of Moldova**

We obtained a typical profile of a victim of trafficking in persons by generalizing information about each victim at the moment of accepting the trafficker's proposal to go abroad: sex, age, marital status, place of residence, educational level, income level, and other information.

The typical profile of victim of trafficking in persons allows not only to imagine better how a typical victim of trafficking in persons looks and what social group s/he is referred to, but also to make conclusions about what external circumstances contributed to their acceptance of traffickers' proposal ("push" factors), as well as about what social group is most vulnerable to slave trade (what is the risk group) and why.

Comparing the data on victims of trafficking in persons per years allows to discover the trends in the evolvement of the trafficking in persons issue.<sup>1</sup> This information is needed to organize identification of trafficking in persons cases, as well as to prepare and carry out counter-trafficking measures.

First of all, it is necessary to point out that a typical victim of trafficking in persons is female. An overwhelming majority (99%) of all the victims of trafficking in persons that accepted the assistance of specialists from the International Center «La Strada», are women. At the same time, we are confident that males also pertain to the risk group and become victims of trafficking in persons. There are already grounds which allow to speak about the tendency of expansion of the trafficking in persons issue over the sterner sex, too.

It is proved by the statistics of calls to the hotline of «La Strada», as well as by the statistics of other non-governmental organizations, which render assistance to victims of trafficking in persons. Thus, in 2004, the hotline operators registered telephone calls from relatives of several men, who left for Russia and the Czech Republic after being enrolled to work at construction sites, and then disappeared. The calling relatives asked for help in the search for the lost. They said that the men, who went abroad, called home and asked for help. The men said they did not know in what locality and even in which part of the country they were, and that they were not paid and were forced to toil 12-14 hours per day.

The results of our research on organizations that render assistance to victims of trafficking in Moldova also demonstrates there have already been registered cases of trafficking in men for the purpose of forced labor exploitation and organs taking.

The small number of identified cases of trafficking in men is explained, in our opinion, by the fact that the mechanism of identification of such cases has not been worked out yet. Generally, identification of cases of trafficking is a complicated process. First of all, it is owed to the fact that the notion of trafficking in persons, as a crime, has a very complicated composition. For instance, deception of a victim may be just one of the elements of a crime of trafficking in human beings, which include transportation, exploitation and other elements. However, the victim itself, and even

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<sup>1</sup> This chapter down we outline a statistical view of data per years only in case there are annual tangible changes. Otherwise, the edition provides only general statistics for the period of 1998-2004.

the specialists who come across such cases of trafficking, may have the opinion that such a person became a victim of deception, and not a victim of trafficking in persons. It is necessary to adopt public measures targeted at studying and describing such cases, at training specialists, and at informing the general public extensively. Only after that it will be possible to identify a larger number of cases of trafficking in men and to adopt the necessary measures.

At the international and national levels, the mechanism of identification of victims of trafficking in persons who are exploited in the sex-industry, is more developed, because exactly this shameful phenomenon of our days excites the international public opinion most of all. It is known that victims of sexual exploitation become most commonly women. Cases of sexual slavery have been widely described in textbooks dedicated to this issue. This allowed to develop a practical way of identification of female victims of trafficking and to render the necessary assistance thereof. Nowadays, cases of trafficking in women are being revealed during special police raids in the countries of destination. Beside that, women-victims themselves often call hotlines of nongovernmental organizations, i.e. there has evolved self-identification of women-victims of trafficking. Previously however, when this phenomenon of sexual exploitation was not sufficiently studied, such cases, when encountered in practice, would be referred to as prostitution or illegal migration.

On the other hand, men are more often exploited as a cheap or gratuitous labor force. Identification of cases of human trafficking in this sphere has not been developed. Victims address neither the police nor nongovernmental organizations. This is why cases of trafficking in men remain unrevealed, with some minor exceptions. It is necessary to study the cases of trafficking in men more deeply, in order to include such cases in the textbooks and in topical editions dedicated to this range of problems.

**Andrei<sup>2</sup>, DOB - 1948, city of Chisinau.**

In 1993, aged 45, he remained alone, with no family, and decided to leave for Russia to his distant relatives and long-time friends, and to work there for one year.

He subleased his apartment, went to Perm (Russia), and got a job as a loader in one military unit. Andrei made friends with drivers of commercial vehicles, who transported agricultural goods from Tajikistan.

In 1995, he was proposed to go to Cherdara, Tajikistan, as a replacement for a diseased driver, and he agreed. Andrei came to this town and met his Tajik acquaintances, who invited him for dinner. During the dinner he was treated to a dish, which, allegedly, contained some somnifacient, because he came to in about two days in an unknown and uninhabited place.

Andrei realized that he had no vehicle, no money, and no papers (passport, driver's license, commodity-transport documents). He reached the nearest small aul (village) where he met a Tajik man. The man heard him out and proposed him to work at his cattle farm (with about one hundred animals) and to do the work about the house. The man also promised to help with getting the car and the papers back. Andrei conscientiously did all the hard work at the farm and in the house, hoping that the man would keep his promise. Yet, after a little while, the man started to ignore Andre's requests to look for the car and to pay the money to buy the returnticket.

Moreover, the man started to make him smoke anasha (drugs) together with his friends, who, to cap the misery, would beat Andrei very frequently. His face and his body bear traces of numerous wounds.

Then the man sold Andrei to another farm. Afterwards, Andrei would be time and again re-sold

<sup>2</sup> Hereinafter the victims' names are changed

to other owners. When setting the price for Andrei, the owners would often make jokes. Thus, for example, one owner said he had paid a small amount of money for Andrei because Andrei resembled an old pack-horse.

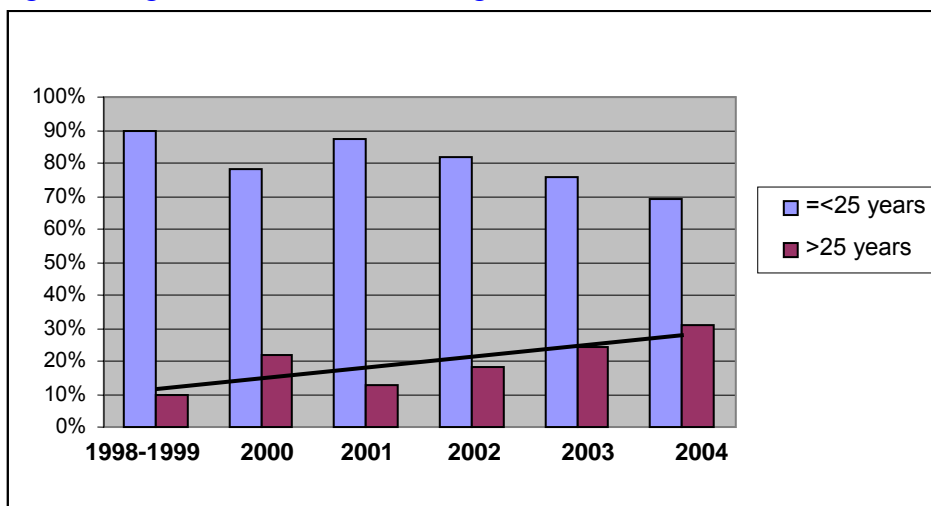
Andrei had worked about three years in Tajikistan before he miraculously managed to return to Russia, and then to Moldova.

## 2. Age of Trafficking Victims

According to our data, the majority of victims of trafficking in human beings are young people under 25. Over the entire period of survey, this age group has maintained a stable majority of the total number of victims.

At the same time, as proved in Figure 1, the number of cases of trafficking in human beings above 25 years has gradually increased starting from the year 2002. If in 1998-1999 people above 25 made up only 10% of the total number of victims of trafficking in human beings, in 2000-2001 they made up as much as 17%, and in 2002-2003 – 22%:

Figure 1. Age Structure of Trafficking Victims, 1998- 2004

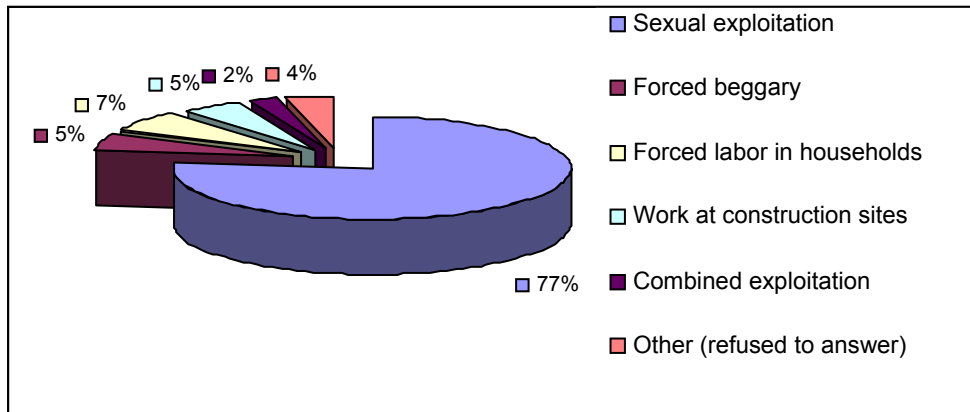


The analysis demonstrates also that the issue of trafficking in human beings extends more and more to the underage. Thus, according to our data, **14% of the total number of victims of trafficking in persons are underage** (young people under 18), i.e., each seventh victim of trafficking is a child. At that, if in 1998-2000 the number of children who suffered from trafficking was 10% on average, in 2001-2004 the number of children made up as much as 15% of the total number of victims.

According to our data, the issue of trafficking in persons touched the people of very different age: the youngest victim was 4 years old at the moment of involvement in trafficking in persons, and the eldest was a 45-year-old. While the age group of 18-25 dominates among the victims of trafficking in persons, there is a stable tendency of increase in trafficking, both in the underage and in people above 25.

Certainly, the most painful thing is that trafficking in persons cripples our children. Children are subject to sexual exploitation most often (77%). Besides that, they are made beg (5%), perform auxiliary work at construction sites (5%), work at households (7%), etc.

Figure 2. Types of Exploitation of Children



Lack of experience and information about the issue of trafficking in persons makes children-victims particularly vulnerable and contributes to their involvement in the traffickers' networks. The increased number of the underage is also explained by the excess demand for such among consumers of sexual services, who prefer to use children for their sexual pleasures, because in this case there is less risk to get sexual diseases and AIDS. Children are forced into begging, because they excite pity at strangers in the streets more often. Sometimes victims of traffickers become young mothers with children at tender years .

**Elena, DOB – 1976, Chisinau.**

In late 1999, Elena got acquainted with a Romany family, who promised to help her get a job of a florist in Poland. They helped her perform a one-month tourist visa and she and her child left for Poland in February 2000. In several months, she called her relative in Moldova and said that her child and she are forced to beg in the town of Katowice (Poland).

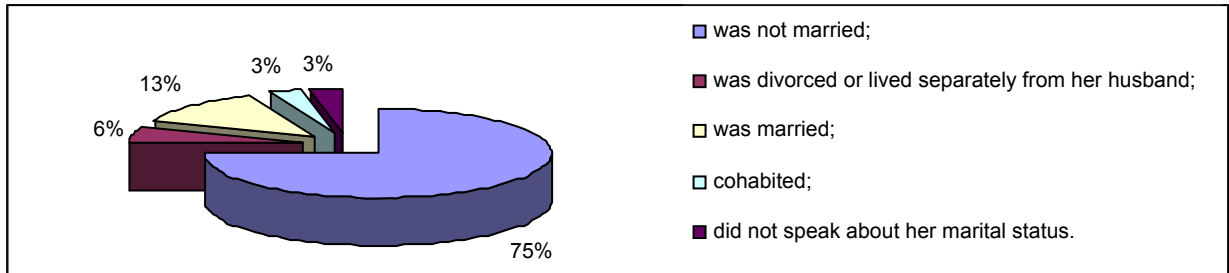
During two years phony visas would be stamped in Elena's passport. She and her child were made beg 14 hours per day. If they did not collect a certain sum during the day, they would not be given food. They lived in a dormitory uptown. One day Elena made up her mind to run away together with her child, but other Romany people found her in the town and returned her to the «owners». Elena was forced to beg with another child, too. She could not call to Moldova, because she was constantly being watched. During the day she had her passport on her, but in the evening the document would be taken away. The bribed police would constantly make them change the places under the threat of arrest.

Only after two years Elena with her child and one more woman, Moldovan by origin, managed to escape from the Romany people at night, when the latter were drunken. They ran away without documents and footwear. They addressed a police officer, who organized their trip to Warsaw. Elena came to Chisinau by bus. The driver let her in out of pity.

### 3. Marital Status and Family Relations

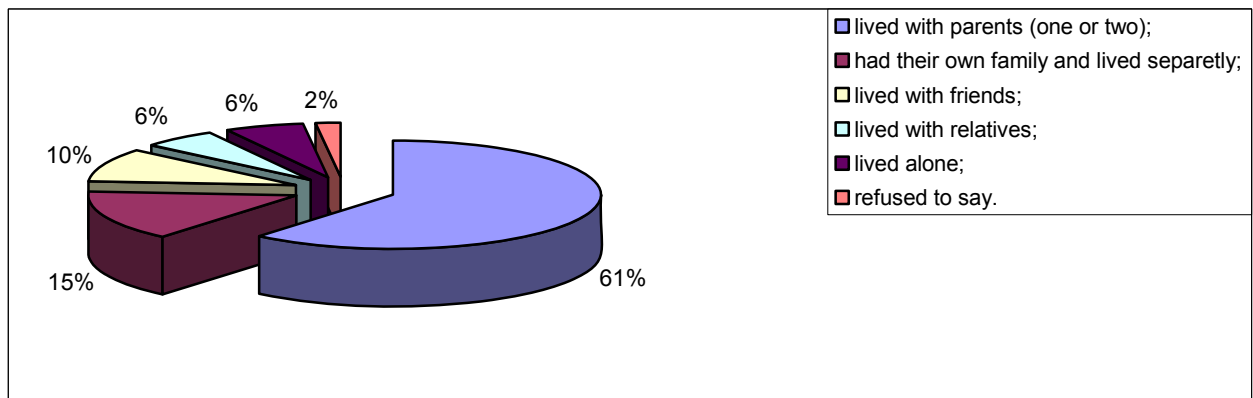
Marital status analysis of the women-victims of trafficking demonstrates that at the moment of accepting the trafficker’s proposal to go abroad the majority of them were not bound by family ties:

Figure 3. Trafficking Victims’ Marital Status



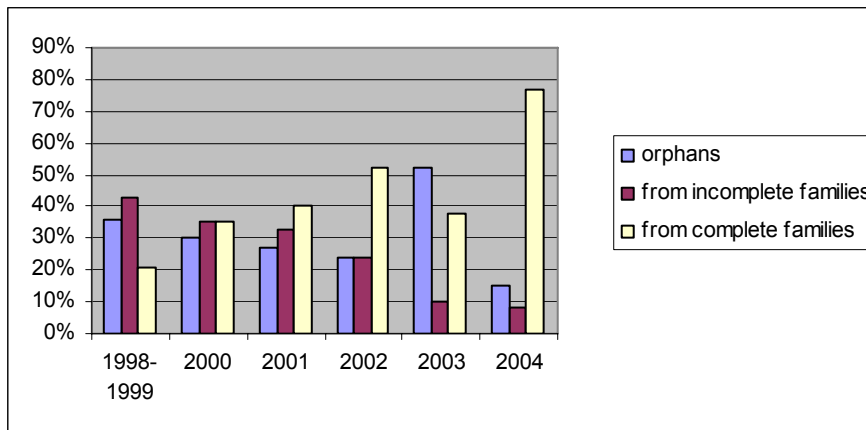
It is obvious that in terms of involvement into trafficking in persons unmarried women are more vulnerable than the married ones. At the same time, the victims were not lone people, because the majority of them lived at that moment with their parents:

Figure 4. With Whom Trafficking Victims Lived Before Going Abroad



The survey of victims’ life demonstrates that 30% of the total number of victims of trafficking in persons were orphans (lost one or both parents in their childhood or adolescence) and 27% were raised in incomplete families (with only one parent):

Figure 5. Orphans and Children from Incomplete Families among Trafficking Victims



The represented data demonstrate that orphan children and children from incomplete families, i.e. children who did not enjoy education in a full family, are also more vulnerable to trafficking in persons than children from full families.

Although the majority of women were not in conjugal relations, according to our data 34% of them have children, thereof:

- 23% had children before going abroad;
- 5% gave birth to children during exploitation;
- 4% came back pregnant and gave birth in Moldova.

25% of women raise children without husbands (single mothers). Their answers demonstrate that the decision to leave was influenced by the desire to ensure material support not only to them, but also to their children. Children who are raised in such incomplete families make up the second generation of the risk group.

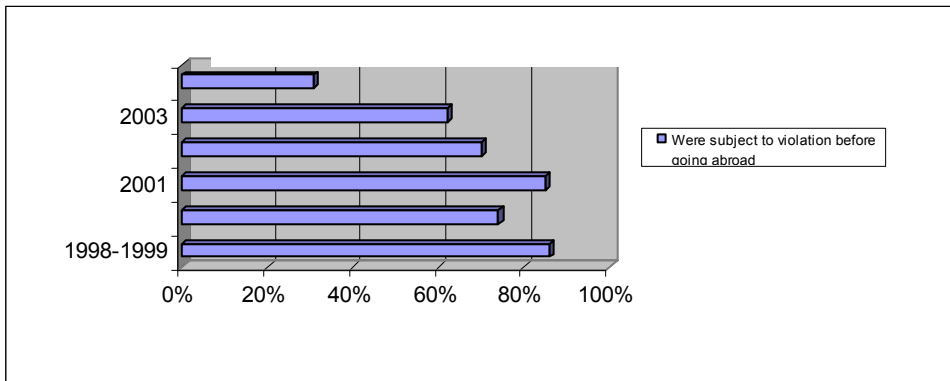
Thus, the statistics give evidence that orphan children and children from incomplete families are referred to the high risk group. If children are left without parental care, they become even more attractive to traffickers, because after graduation from boarding schools such children find themselves in social isolation. Graduates of special children's institutions do not have, as a rule, vital skills and they orientate themselves badly in the reality of life outside the walls of the institutions where they were educated. They have nobody who could give them a piece of advice when adopting a decision to go abroad. If such a person disappears, nobody will look for him/her. The increasing involvement of orphan children, particularly those with psychic problems, in trafficking in human beings, is also confirmed by our colleagues from the International Organization for Migration Mission to Moldova, as well as by our colleagues from a nongovernmental organization – Center for Prevention of Trafficking in Women.<sup>3</sup>

At the same time, however, Figure 5 shows that more and more children from full families also become victims of trafficking in human beings. So, what is pushing them out of their families?

<sup>3</sup> Data from an interview with representatives of IOM Mission to Moldova and the Center for Prevention of Trafficking in Women held in March 2005.



Figure 6. Violence as a “Push” Factor



The interrelation with parents and husbands is one of the most important factors that influence women’s decision to accept a dubious job offer abroad. Lack of mutual understanding, occurrence of psychological and physical violence in families is a strong “push” factor for victims of trafficking in persons. Out of the total number of surveyed women trafficked in 1998-2004, 71% confirmed that they had been previously subject to violation, mostly in their families. These figures prove that very often women accept the proposals to go abroad out of despair. They leave the country hoping for favorable changes, and what they get is modern slavery.

Also the lack of normal family relations affects negatively the process of rehabilitation and reintegration of victims. If a victim comes back to the family in which nobody is waiting for her, or if s/he is totally lonesome and nobody takes care about her/him, it is much more difficult to carry out rehabilitation and reintegration, and it is more time-consuming.

#### **Doina, DOB - 1982, town of Durlesti.**

When she was 18 years old, Doina faced serious family problems. Her parents divorced, and her father left them to live with another woman. Her mother started to excessively use spirits, and even wanted to sell their house. Doina had to support her younger sister on her own. She started to look for a job. Doina’s neighbor said his relatives in Israel could help her get a job as a dancer. He bought her a ticket to Bucharest, explaining that Romania is a transit country and that in Bucharest, in a certain place, she would be met by a taxi-driver, who would take her to the person authorized to act on her behalf.

In Bucharest, Doina indeed was met by a taxi-driver, who took her to an apartment, where there were about 20 girls. A female pimp L. said that Doina had to prostitute until she returns the money, that L. paid for her. It was impossible to escape, because the girls were constantly guarded by a man. She would be taken to clients in a special car, and meanwhile she was being watched by the driver. In a few weeks Doina was re-sold to another female pimp (M.), who treated her severely and gave her food only once per day. Doina’s clients would also sometimes beat her. She was raped after refusing to have sex because of her pregnancy. As a result, she lost the child.

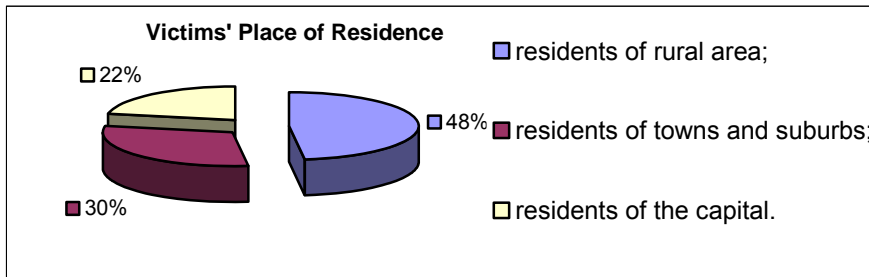
Then Doina was sold to Sebes (Romania). The new proprietress said she would be finding her clients, so that she could pay for the room, the food, the bed-linen, etc. She would let Doina talk to her mother on the phone, but warned her from telling the truth under the threat of reporting her to the police. If the police find out she is a prostitute, she will never get her passport back.

One day, on the Easter Eve, when the proprietress went shopping, Doina managed to run away. Doina went to the police. She received the necessary assistance.

#### 4. Place of Residence

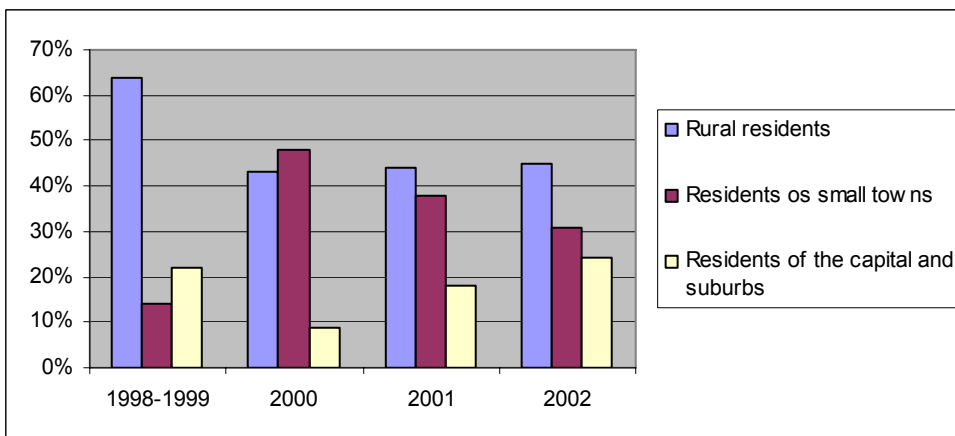
The majority of the victims of trafficking in human beings, beneficiaries of the International Center «La Strada», were born and raised in the rural area:

Figure 7. Trafficking Victims' Place of Residence



At the same time, in 2002-2004, the number of cases of trafficking in human beings in Chisinau suburbs increased, attaining 46% of the total number of victims.

Figure 8. Dynamics of Trafficking Victims' Place of Residence



From the very beginning of our activity, we have been maintaining a thorough statistics of communities, in which the victims lived before going abroad. Annually, we analyze this statistics in order to identify geographical zones of higher risk and to work out preventive measures proposals for these particular regions. Unfortunately, it can be stated nowadays that the «trafficking in persons' geography» is extending in our country and seizing more and more communities. It is obvious, that preventive measures should encompass the entire territory of Moldova.

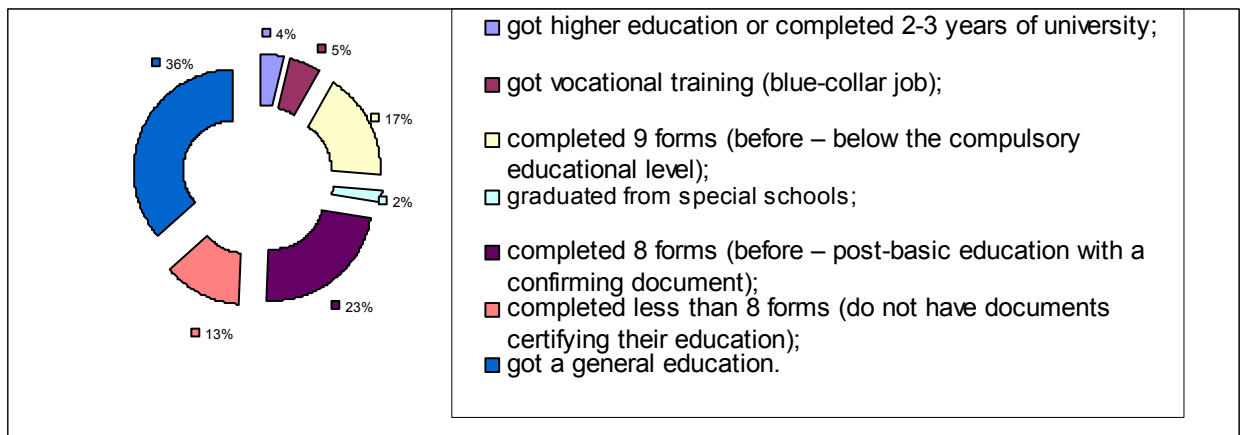
We can point out a certain connection between geographical zones of the Republic of Moldova and certain countries of destination. Thus, residents of northern Moldova more often become victims of trafficking in human beings in post-socialist countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and others. Residents of central and southern Moldova get into slavery in Central Europe, in the Balkan countries, and in the United Arab Emirates. Residents of Transnistria more often become victims of trafficking in human beings in Turkey and in the United Arab Emirates. We cannot explain precisely, what is reflected by these geographical connections: the division of influence spheres

between traffickers in persons, or just personal relations of criminal elements from our country in other countries? Only a special investigation can answer this question.

## 5. Level of Education

Preliminary conclusions about the relation between the level of education and the level of risks to become a victim of trafficking can be obtained from the data analysis of Figure 9:

Figure 9. Trafficking Victims' Level of Education



As the above Figure shows, mainly girls and women with a low level of education become victims of trafficking. Most commonly, they manage to get only a general compulsory gratuitous education. They, as a rule, have no profession, and this makes them completely noncompetitive in the labor market. Those who have a profession find it difficult to get a job because of a high level of unemployment. A low level of employees' salaries is also a big problem. Nowadays, the only vacant work positions are those with the salary level of about 200 Moldavian Leis, which is approximately 3 times less than the minimum of subsistence, and 4.5 times less than the level of average wage in the economic sphere<sup>4</sup>.

However, the Figure also demonstrates that girls with a higher level of education – students or graduates of higher institutions – sometimes also become victims of trafficking in persons. It just requires more complicated methods to recruit them: advertisement in Internet (announcements about dating and marriage with foreign citizens), au-pair system (nanny-student), etc. Sometimes, however, the polled people said that they had been raped and brought out by force.

### **Ludmila, DOB - 1982, city of Chisinau.**

Ludmila was a second-year student at the university, when a friend of hers promised her to get a job as a secretary in a commercial firm in Turkey. During this discussion, Ludmila decided that the proposed variant of employment is not correct; she did not want to go abroad with a tourist visa, also because of some other reasons. When walking out of the bar, where the meeting took place, she was met by two men, who forcedly got her into a car. The next day she was taken to Turkey by car. She was threatened to be killed, should she say anything to the police. When they arrived to Istanbul, she was sold to a pimp, who exploited girls in one of the hotels. There were

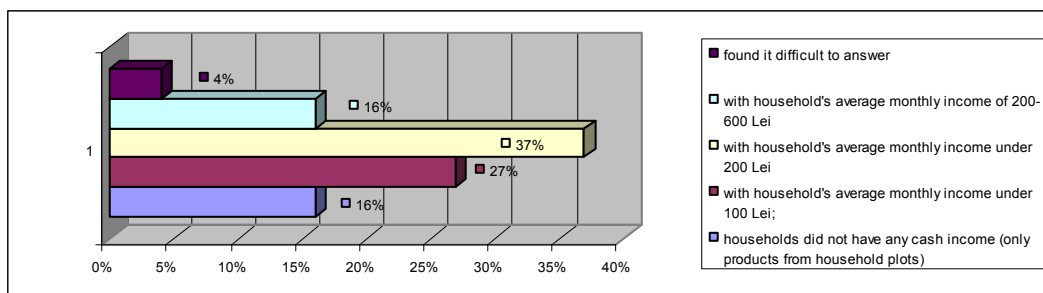
<sup>4</sup> According to the data of Department of Statistics and Sociology in 2003 in Moldova, the minimum subsistence basket was 657 Moldavian Leis and the average wage – 892 Moldavian Leis.

five girls from Moldova. If they refused to serve their clients, they would be beaten. After Ludmila's parents addressed to Interpol, the pimp set her at liberty.

## 6. Employment Problem and Income Level

According to the data of the International Center «La Strada», the majority of families whose members became victims of trafficking in persons is referred to the category of extremely poor. The basic mass of victims was not employed and lived by means of incomes from the household plots. This would allow them to feed themselves and, sometimes, to gain a humble money income from sale of farm products at the market.

Figure 10. Financial Condition of Family



An average monthly income of 200-600 Moldavian Leis per family was reported only by 16% of the polled. Such income could allow residents of the rural area to buy only the cheapest hygienic items and clothes.

The basic mass, however – 80% of the polled – simply lived in misery without any perspectives for improvement of their financial situation, given the level of their professional education. The main reason that made them go abroad was the desire to break the chains of poverty and, often, to escape from domestic violence.

## 7. Knowledge about Future Work

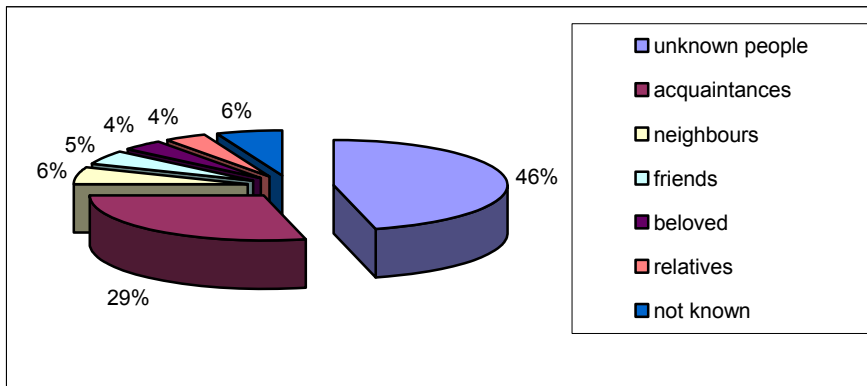
An analysis of the results of the poll among the trafficked women demonstrates that a part of them used to practice prostitution before going abroad and they were aware they would prostitute in another country. Thus, 9% of the polled women said they knew they would prostitute, 86% did not know about the future work, 5% found it difficult to answer. The answer to the question about the victims' awareness of the future work is necessary for organization of work with this risk group.

## II. Mechanism of Trafficking in Persons

### 1. Recruitment

According to the evidence of the polled victims of trafficking in persons, they would most often be recruited by individuals (98% of all cases). Unfortunately, the recruiters are sometimes kin or friends:

Figure 11. Relation Between Trafficking Victim and Trafficker  
Trafficking victims were recruited by:



The recruiter is very often female. If over previous years recruitment was done by equally females and males (50/50), according to the evidence of victims, in 2003-2004 recruitment by women – in 55% of cases, and by pairs – in 35% of cases, started to prevail. Men recruited only in 10% of all cases. Obviously, women-recruiters arouse more belief in victims. Besides that, a psychological approach is used as a bait: a well-dressed and well-groomed woman says: «Do you see how well I live?» or «Can you see how well this or that lady lives?». It excites envy in young poor girls and a desire to have success in life at any cost. They forget about precautions and throw themselves into the “trap”.

In the majority of cases (85%), the recruiters were citizens of the Republic of Moldova, and only in 10% cases they were foreign citizens.

Legal persons – business entities, which offer assistance in a job placement abroad, recruited 2% of the polled victims. Recruitment by legal persons was registered mainly in 1999-2000.

In the majority of cases the recruitment took place in the Chisinau municipality (48%), where the victims would come in search for work. It is still a popular thing to recruit people in the home village/town (37%).

A phony offer of a job placement abroad is the most often used method of recruitment. The majority of those polled (79% of cases) said that they went abroad after receiving phony offers to work abroad (as dancers, waitresses, photo models, etc.). Some people were recruited by means of phony offers of marriage; at that, the recruiter was a foreigner and played the fiancé.

In 1998-2002, recruiters would often lie to girls about the country of destination in which they would be supposed to work. For instance, the girls would be promised to get a job in Italy, Greece, Spain, or any other European country, but in reality they would finally find themselves in the Balkan countries or Turkey. In 2003-2004, traffickers did not conceal the country of destination, i.e. they would offer work in Turkey, Greece, Israel, the United Arab Emirates in the tourist industry, as a dancer, a barman, a hotel maid. To lure young girls, traffickers showed them pictures of exotic

countries, provided them with fake labor contracts with ostensible innkeepers, where they were to work.

Within the last three years, there has been noted a geographical specification of offers used by traffickers to bait would-be victims of trafficking. Such baits can be as follows: care of the aged – Italy; childcare – Germany and Sweden; seller at a market place – Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Turkey; agricultural works – Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

The migrants are sometimes aware of the fact that they will work illegally in the country of destination. However, the lack of possibility of a legal job placement abroad pushes them to accept the assistance of shady persons.

Although generally the victims go abroad voluntarily, 8% of the polled people said that they had been raped and brought out by force. This was mainly the case with underage victims of trafficking in human beings.

The International Center “La Strada” registered 11% of cases of repeated recruitment. In 90% of the cases of repeated recruitment the women came back to Moldova independently after being deported from the country of destination, without receiving any assistance in terms of rehabilitation or reintegration. Being rejected by the family, or having no family at all (in 80% of cases), these persons would repeatedly come to hands of traffickers very easily. In 40% of all the cases of repeated recruitment the women had mental problems. The majority of the cases of repeated recruitment and trafficking was registered in 1999-2001, when the organizations that can identify properly and offer assistance to victims of trafficking in persons have just been created.

## **2. Transportation. Routes of Trafficking in Persons**

In the cases of slave trade that we examined, the borders were crossed:

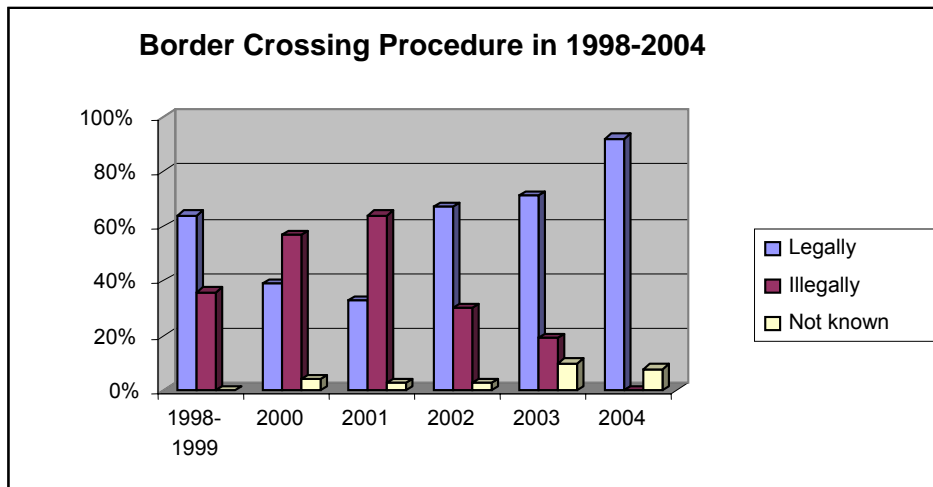
- legally, i.e. through border and customs check-points. At that, the migrants had passports with visas, most commonly with tourist ones<sup>5</sup>;
- illegally, i.e. using faked passports and/or visas, or avoiding border check-points, or bribing the Frontier Service representatives.

The statistics of the International Center «La Strada» demonstrate that until 2002 the majority of victims would cross the border illegally. But from the year 2002, illegal crossing of borders started to decrease gradually. Nowadays, we can state that the majority of victims of trafficking in human beings cross the border legally, having passports and tourist or visitor visas.

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<sup>5</sup> Although the majority of the polled went abroad as workers, and not as tourists, one cannot maintain that the foreign travel was illegal. The foreign travel was done legally, but Moldovan citizens, who came to the country of destination, would then violate the established regime of stay in the country.

Figure 12: Border Crossing Procedure, 2000-2004



Thus, in 2000-2001, the borders were most commonly crossed illegally. For this purpose, traffickers would use parts of the border in the arduous natural objects, like mountains and rivers, which were difficult for border control. Girls would be taken in the first place by cars and micro-buses from Moldova. Then, illegal migrants would walk, travel on pack animals and by boats. Such routes were not simply difficult for physically untrained girls – they were of a real danger for their lives. This type of a dispatch across the border was particularly characteristic to the Balkan countries, Greece, and Bulgaria.

In 2002-2004, traffickers started to prefer to take the girls abroad legally (with passports and visas), using such a modern transport facility which is an airplane. During that period of time, the frequency of use of airlines to transfer the humans as goods increased by 50% as compared to 2000-2001. Why do traffickers in human beings assume heavy expenses related to passing over the goods? Obviously, such a method of supplying humans as goods to the place of destination has become the most reliable for traffickers. Besides that, traffickers use legal border crossing to convince potential victims of the legality of the offered job.

Trains, as a transport facility, are mostly often used to take people to some countries, such as, for instance, Russia and Ukraine, using the services of trainmen.

The method of organization of transportation of humans as goods has also changed. In 2000-2002, the transportation was done in small groups of 2-5 people, who were usually watched by an attendant. In 2003-2004, it was more usual to organize individual trips without any attendant, or with accompaniment only at certain stage. For example, when transferring humans as goods to the United Arab Emirates or Israel, accompaniment is ensured only from Chisinau to the Moscow airport.

### 3. Destination Countries

The analysis shows, that the geography of countries of destination, to which victims of trafficking in human beings are supplied, is not stable:

Table 1

<i>Country/Year</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>
Macedonia	22%	26%	6%	5%	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4%	13%	3%	5%	-
Yugoslavia (currently Serbia and Montenegro)	22%	5%	9%	-	-
Turkey	13%	13%	18%	33%	46%
Russia	9%	13%	9%	5%	31%
United Arab Emirates	-	3%	24%	19%	-
Cyprus	-	3%	3%	5%	23%
Other counties (16 countries)	30%	24%	28%	28%	-

In 2000-2001, the majority of victims of trafficking in human beings would be supplied to the Balkan region countries. The development of modern forms of slavery in Europe in the beginning of the third millennium attracted careful attention of the international community. In order to counteract trafficking in persons in this region there were urgent measures adopted, which are: creation of legal framework, capacity building of representatives of state structures and NGOs, creation of a coordinating mechanism, a development of cooperation between law-enforcement authorities and NGOs, carrying out concrete measures as to identify, assist, and protect victims of trafficking, as well as to prevent trafficking in persons. As a consequence of the adopted measures, in 2002-2004 the flow of humans as goods to the Balkan countries started to run dry gradually. At the same time, however, the supplies of humans as goods to Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Cyprus, and Russia, increased.

These countries' attractiveness to traffickers can be explained by the following:

- high demand for sexual services in these countries;
- no need for a visa when traveling to these countries (Russia), or the visa is issued without any problems at the border when entering the country or through a tourist agency (Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and other);
- in the above-mentioned countries, except Russia and Turkey, there is no legislation, which would define trafficking in persons as a crime and establish responsibility for committing such a crime; also, there is no efficient identification system for cases of trafficking in persons, no assistance and no protection of victims of trafficking in human beings;
- law-enforcement authorities do not adopt necessary measures to combat trafficking in persons (high level of corruption);
- legislation, which establishes criminal responsibility for prostitution. For example, according to legislation of the United Arab Emirates, prostitution is a crime (even forced prostitution) and is punished with deprivation of freedom. As a result, victims of trafficking do not give evidence against criminals;
- legislation, which establishes strict liability for violation of the set regime of stay in the country. For example, people who violated the visa regime in the United Arab Emirates must pay a fine to the Immigration Department in order to get a permission to leave the country;
- there are no non-governmental or international organizations, or governmental structures, which help victims of trafficking in persons escape the place of exploitation.



Natalia, DOB - 1979, town of Taraclia

In April 2003, she came to Dubai (United Arab Emirates) to work as a waitress in a cafe. However, she did not get the job in the café, as she had been promised in Moldova. Instead, together with other women, she was forced to prostitution.

Her proprietor would beat Natalia and other women, would not give them food, and demand that they should earn more money. He was saying it was not his business where they would take the money from, even if they go stealing.

One day, when Natalia came home without any money, the proprietor gave her the passport back and threw her onto the street. He said she should not come back without money. Natalia aimlessly roamed the streets, not knowing where to go, until she was sheltered by a family.

In 1998-2004, Turkey was one of the key countries of destination in the sphere of sexual exploitation of women. The majority of women (70%), who were subject to sexual exploitation in Turkey, knew or surmised from the very beginning that they would render sexual services, but they were deceived as regards the work conditions and payment.

Russia is one of the main countries of destination for the underage, subject to sexual exploitation or involved in beggary. This is a country which an underage can enter having a birth certificate accompanied by parents or by other persons who have the corresponding power of attorney. To transport children into Russia they use false passports, birth certificates, and/or parents' power of attorney, or bribe the representatives of border troops. According to the evidence of the underage who were subject to sexual exploitation in Russia in 2000-2003 policemen, who they addressed, supported the pimps and the traffickers and hindered the girls' release.

Victims of trafficking in persons told us also about the routes of transportation of people abroad. These routes change in connection with the changes of countries of destination. Thus, in 2000-2001, traffickers used following routes:

Moldova – Romania – Yugoslavia (nowadays – the territory of Serbia and Montenegro) – Macedonia

Moldova – Romania – Yugoslavia – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Moldova – Romania – Bulgaria – Macedonia

Moldova – Ukraine – Russia

Moldova – Russia – Egypt – Israel

In 2002-2004, following routes were used more often to transport victims of trafficking in persons:

Moldova – Russia – United Arab Emirates

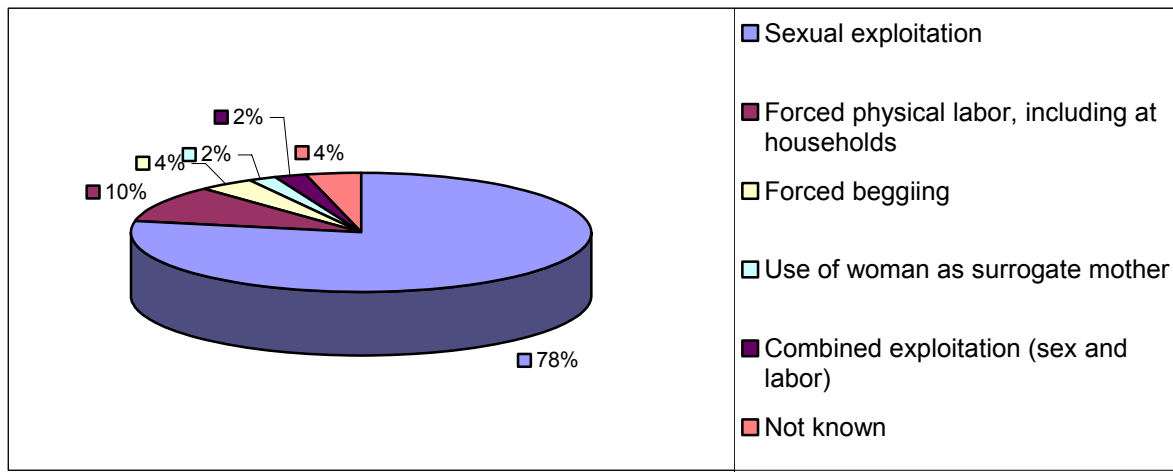
Moldova – Russia – Israel

Moldova – Turkey

#### **4. Types of Exploitation**

According to the statistics of the International Center «La Strada», the majority of victims of trafficking in persons were subject to sexual exploitation:

Figure 13. Exploitation of Trafficking Victims



Although over the recent several years sexual exploitation has been still the main form of exploitation of women, cases of combined exploitation tend to increase. Thus, some of the polled women, who were subject to sexual exploitation in the Balkan region countries, pointed out that besides sexual services, their duties included also cooking. Underage girls, subject to exploitation in Russia and Ukraine in 2001-2003, pointed out that in the daytime they would work as sellers in the market or would be forced to beg, whereas in the nighttime they would be subject to sexual exploitation by the so-called proprietors and, sometimes, their clients, brought by the proprietors.

Some cases of trafficking in persons in Turkey come to particular notice. Several women were sold initially for sexual exploitation. Then they were forced to getting pregnant and giving birth, whereas after childbirth they were forced to carry out household or agricultural work. In the described cases, women gave birth at home; the fact of birth of each child was not registered, and the children did not have any identifying documents. Child search and restitution to its mother are very difficult in this case.

As it has already been mentioned, we receive more and more signals about exploitation of men at construction sites in Russia, as well as about other cases of exploitation of illegal migrant workers. The public opinion, however, refers more often to cases of deception, rather than of trafficking in persons. This affects the fight against such crimes negatively. It does not happen often that the aggrieved men addresses the state or nongovernmental organizations and asks for help. It is necessary to break the stereotypes in this sphere, to adopt measures targeted at self-identification of cases of trafficking in persons.

It is also necessary to point out the increasing number of cases of forcing the disabled, both children and adults, to begging. According to our data, this type of «business» is mainly controlled by the Romany people, who buy orphan children and children left without parental care, or they «lease» the disabled from their relatives for some time. They make then fake documents for such people or bribe representatives of border service, and bring the victims to Poland (the biggest number of cases was registered in 2000-2002) or to Russia (more characteristic for the years 2003-2004) to practice begging.

## 5. Means of Control of Victims and Conditions of Exploitation

As it is known, one of the means of exercising control over victims of trafficking in persons is to deprive them of their passports. This means of control has been used over previous years, it has been embedded in the literature on this problem, and became one of the indicators on the basis of which victims of trafficking in persons are identified at places of exploitation.

At the same time, during last two years, the victims are more rarely deprived of their passports, as compared to previous times, when they would be deprived of their passports almost immediately after accepting the recruiters' proposals. The recruited persons cross the border independently, having their passports on them. They may be deprived of their passports after that, but would receive them back in order to move in the city when going to render services, or in other cases, whenever there is a probability of a contact between the victim of trafficking and representatives of law-enforcement authorities. Thus, one can make a conclusion that the issue of trafficking in persons has become more latent, and the lack of passport has ceased to be an indicator in the identification of cases of trafficking in persons.

Irina, DOB - 1974, Saharna village (Rezina region)

Irina has a husband and a daughter aged six and a half. She dreamt to go make some money abroad in order to improve the financial situation of her family. In 2002, one female acquaintance of hers, who was much older than Irina, offered her a job in Turkey. This woman put Irina in touch with another young girl, named Olga, who conducted the process of her transportation to Turkey and paid the cost of travel.

Upon her arrival to Turkey, Irina was placed in a room of an abandoned casino. By that time, there had already been three girls in that room. They were not deprived of their passports, but they were constantly watched. Periodically, the guard would enter the room and take a girl to the client. The girls were not paid any money; the guard and the clients would severely beat and insult them.

One day Irina and her friend Olga managed to run away. Olga had a Turk boyfriend. They went to his house. Irina wanted to go back home. The Turk bought her a ticket, and Irina came back home.

It can also be pointed out that the average term of exploitation of victims has decreased. In 1998-2000, this term was averagely 2 years, as compared to 5 months in 2003-2004(except for the United Arab Emirates, where the average term of exploitation is still 2 years). This indicates an improvement in the counteraction against trafficking in persons in many countries and earlier identification of cases of trafficking by trained police specialists and other governmental structures as well as representatives of specialized local and international nongovernmental organizations.

There is a tendency for the conditions of exploitation to change. Above all, cruel methods of treatment of the exploited people, such as those registered in 2000-2002 (i. e. beating, maiming, etc.) are being gradually abandoned. Besides that, in the past, the majority of the exploited would not receive any money rewards, whereas over the recent two years 30% of the polled women-victims of sexual exploitation said that after the compensation of all the expenses entailed by the trafficker (after several months of exploitation), the proprietor would start to pay 5 USD for each additional client. Underage victims of trafficking in human beings said that if they served 20 clients per day, they would receive money from two of them. At the same time, however, being given a

token payment, the women had to compensate the expenses connected with their lodging and food, which would be very often more than the money they earned. In 2003-2004, 80% of the victims of human trafficking were to buy the food for the earned money themselves. However, it was usually the cheapest food and, besides that, if the girls were not serving clients for several days (even if it was done for the reasons of the proprietor's security), they would not receive any money and starve.

Traffickers started to use the psychological trick of token payment in order to:

- manipulate the girls, who, anyway, hoped to earn some money in such a manner in order to buy a return ticket and come back to their native country;
- avoid the law-enforcement authorities' sanctions by showing that the women work for a fee and voluntarily;
- get a bigger income from exploitation of the victim, who agreed to serve more clients, hoping to earn more money in a shorter period of time.

Victims of sexual exploitation are allowed to use contraceptives, which evidences the mitigation of exploitation conditions:

Table 2

Use of condom:	1998 - 1999	2000 - 2001	2002 - 2003	2004
Was allowed	43%	38%	51%	71%
Was not allowed	38%	62%	49%	29%

Proprietors' requirement with the use of drugs and alcohol has not changed. 90% of those polled pointed out that proprietors forced them to consuming alcohol and smoking drugs, so that to make them more cheerful. As a result, they became addicted to those. In some countries girls would be booted (former Yugoslavia).

## Conclusions & Recommendations

At the end of this research we would like to share our opinion about the typical profile of a victim of trafficking in persons and a trafficker. We believe, this information can be used to prevent from trafficking in persons and, above all, in information campaigns on this issue:

### **A typical profile of victim of trafficking in persons at the moment of accepting the offer to go abroad:**

A typical victim of trafficking in human beings is a young, poor woman, aged up to 25, a resident of a rural area.

Most commonly, she is an orphan or comes from an incomplete family.

Her relations with her relatives are bad as a rule, and she would often be subject to violation since her childhood.

She has a low level of education because she comes from a poor family and has had access only to general education, which is free of charge.

She does not have a blue-collar occupation; she does not have a permanent place of work and salary. She lives mainly by means of her own household plot, and her parents help her subsist.

She is not married, nor divorced. Every third such a woman has a small child.

Some women are compelled to supplement their salaries by prostitution.

**A typical profile of a trafficker (recruiter):**

The recruitment, as a rule, is done by a woman or a pair (a man and a woman), during a personal conversation, in which the leading role is played by the woman. The female recruiter is a well-dressed, well-groomed and self-confident woman, and her outward demonstrates a successful life. She says that she works abroad and earns well, and can easily help young girls legally get a job abroad as a maid, a dancer, a bartender, etc. If necessary, she can also help get a passport, a visa and organize the travel. She describes all the advantages of getting a job abroad (high salary and lack of any problems), shows beautiful pictures of the country of origin and fake labor contracts with the owner of the foreign company. Most commonly it is a woman unknown to the victim, but she can also be known – a neighbor, and even a relative of the recruited person.

**Conclusion and recommendations**

Further on, we would also like to make some short conclusions about the sources of the problem of trafficking in persons in Moldova, about the key influencing factors and the trends in the evolvement of the issue. We would also like to suggest some recommendations regarding the ways out of the existing situation:

<b>MAIN INFLUENCES AND TRENDS IN EXTENDING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN MOLDOVA</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
1. Poor girls from rural area, without a profession and without a job, are the social basis of trafficking in persons. Sometimes they prostitute to make their living.	➤ When carrying out information campaigns on problems of trafficking in human beings, particular attention should be paid to the following risk groups: a) pupils from rural areas; b) the unemployed; c) prostitutes.
2. Poverty and joblessness, as well as lack of profession, are the key factors that push the youth out of the country and make them accept the offers of traffickers.	➤ Draft a state program for ensuring the access to vocational training; ➤ Measures are needed to combat poverty, increase the employment rate among the rural population, particularly women.
3. Domestic violence and bad relations with parents is an important “push” factor.	➤ Adopt government measures to combat domestic violence.
4. Orphan children and children from incomplete families are a higher risk group of trafficking in persons.	➤ It is necessary to study the reasons of family disruption, develop programs for support and protection of the institution of family.
5. Offers of traffickers are in demand, because with the surplus of labor force in Moldova, there is almost no chance to get a job abroad legally and, therefore, the majority of Moldovan migrants work	➤ Develop a system of assisting Moldovan citizens in job placement abroad.

abroad illegally.	
6. There emerged cases of trafficking in men with the intent of labor exploitation and organs taking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is necessary to study cases of trafficking in men and to develop a system of identification of such cases;</li> <li>➤ Include the aspect of trafficking in men into informational campaigns targeted both at the risk groups, and at the general public.</li> </ul>
7. Although sexual exploitation remains the main form of exploitation of women, the number of cases of labor exploitation and forced begging is increasing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is necessary to study cases of trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced labor and forced begging exploitation and to develop a system of identification of such cases;</li> <li>➤ Include the aspect of trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced labor and forced begging exploitation into information campaigns.</li> </ul>
8. The issue of trafficking in persons is extending more and more on people above 25.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about this issue has to be accessible not only to the youth, but also to the entire population;</li> <li>• Information campaigns have to be carried out not only at schools, but also at higher institutions and specialized secondary schools.</li> </ul>
9. More and more children become victims of trafficking lately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is necessary to improve the work with children from the risk group and their parents.</li> <li>• It is necessary to study the cases of trafficking in children, the methods and means of their transportation abroad and to elaborate the suggestions of strengthening the administrative control over children's travels abroad.</li> </ul>
10. The number of people recruited in Chisinau suburbs has increased.	Strengthen the information campaign for prevention of trafficking in persons in the Chisinau suburbs.
11. The number of recruitment cases using fake marriage proposals has increased.	Include this aspect into information campaigns for prevention of trafficking in persons; spread the information on probable dangers to the population.
12. The number of cases of recruitment via Internet is increasing.	It is necessary to study and analyze announcements in Internet, as well as to introduce governmental control over the announcements placement in Internet.
13. Lately, victims of trafficking have been transported abroad mainly legally.	This information can be used in information campaigns for prevention of trafficking in persons.
14. Transport means and methods of transportation of humans as goods have changed (there are mainly individual travels by airplane without accompaniment).	This information can be used in information campaigns for prevention of trafficking in persons.
15. The number of cases of trafficking in persons in the countries that have created efficient mechanisms of counteracting trafficking in persons (the Balkan region) decreased.	It is necessary to study good practice of counteracting trafficking in persons and to disseminate this information.
16. Turkey holds the leading position in the trade of humans as goods from Moldova. There is a sharp increase in the flow of humans as goods to Russia and the United Arab Emirates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is necessary to inform the international community about this fact to achieve the elaboration of international policy of counteraction against trafficking in persons in these countries;</li> <li>• It is necessary to develop a system of</li> </ul>

	<p>identification, assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in persons;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is necessary to open a diplomatic representative office of the Republic of Moldova in United Arab Emirates.</li> </ul>
<p>17. The conditions of exploitation of victims of trafficking have changed. The victims are now treated more humanely; there are more and more cases when victims start to receive some wages; they are not deprived of their passports. Nowadays traffickers prefer to use the methods of psychological control and manipulation of the victim. Trafficking in persons is acquiring a more latent character, and this can cause difficulties in identification of cases of trafficking in persons in practical work.</p>	<p>Researches in this sphere are needed. It is necessary to work out recommendations with regard to the definition of trafficking in persons and identification of victims, taking into account the changes in the mechanism of exploitation of victims of trafficking.</p>

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