

Human Trafficking Situation in Lithuania

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Human Trafficking Situation in Lithuania

(according to the draft Programme for Human Trafficking Prevention and Control 2009-2012 prepared by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania)

The Resolution No. 189 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania 25 February 2009 (Official Gazette *Valstybes zinios*, 2009, No. 33-1268), resolved as follows:

- To approve the Programme for Human Trafficking Prevention and Control 2009-2012;
- To recommend to the following institutions to take part in implementation of the programme measures:
 - Municipalities
 - Prosecution Service
 - National Courts Administration
 - Law institute
 - General P. Plechavicius young warrior's school, public establishment

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Data about the existing and potential victims of human trafficking and coercive prostitution and support rendered to them in 2005-2008

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| ITCD under MOI | 25 | 27 | 11 | 25 |
| IOM DDB | 135 | 110 | 56 | 86 |
| MSSL | 287 | 402 | 438 | 621 |

Note:

- ITCD – IT and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) of the Republic of Lithuania – (data about the persons recognised as victims of human trafficking during the preliminary investigation according to the Article 147 ‘Human Trafficking’ of the Criminal Code);
- IOM – International Organization for Migration, Depersonalised Database (DDB) of Vilnius Office – (data about the victims of human trafficking);
- MSSL – Ministry of Social Security and Labour – (data about the existing and potential victims of human trafficking and coercive prostitution, and support rendered to them by NGOs);

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Previous Programmes for Control and Prevention of Human Trafficking and Prostitution

1st – 2002-2004

2nd – 2005-2008

3rd – 2009-2012

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Prevention and control of human trafficking

- is based on a systematic approach, i.e. as combating criminal acts, stipulated in the Articles 147, 147-1, 157, 307 and 308 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter “CC”) (hereinafter – acts related to human trafficking),
- the system for coordination of joint actions of national and municipal institutions and organizations, non-governmental organizations (hereinafter “NGO”) against human trafficking shall be further improved and developed.

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The main internal factors that determine human trafficking:

1. Person's unstable material situation that stimulates illegal actions or moving to foreign countries for earnings;
2. Difficulties in entrenchment of gender equality principle and, as a consequence, assessment of a woman as a provider of sexual services;
3. Reduction of the family as a social value role;
4. Praising of money as an essential value in the society, inducing young people to look for easy and fast earnings.

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The main external (regional and global) factors that determine human trafficking:

1. Large demand of prostitution services in western countries;
2. Active operation of ethnic organised criminal structures in foreign countries;
3. Inconsistent regulation of legal responsibility for human trafficking in different foreign countries.

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Factors that influence human trafficking:

- Influence of liberalisation of public and personal values caused by globalisation process on the existence of human trafficking phenomena.
Even 32 percent of people, who, according to the data of the IOM DDB were registered as victims of human trafficking in 2008, knew they were going abroad to *work in the entertainment area and to render prostitution services.*
- Inconsistent regulation of legal responsibility for engagement in prostitution or using prostitution services in foreign countries. Particularly, after Lithuania joined Shengen Space and a visa-free regime with the USA was introduced.

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According to IOM data, the main countries of destination:

- The United Kingdom
 - in 2005, 32 persons returned from the UK,
 - in 2006 – 26 persons,
 - in 2007 – 19 persons,
 - in 2008 – 17 persons.

- Germany
 - in 2008 – 9 persons, in Lithuania victims of human trafficking applied for support to NGO in Lithuania
 - in 2005 – 14 persons,
 - in 2006 – 7 persons,
 - in 2007 – 2 persons.

- Greece
 - in 2008 – 3 persons were returned and support was rendered.

- Ireland
 - in 2008 – 2 persons.

- Italy, Spain, France, Czech
 - in 2008 – 1 person from each country.

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Based on the data from Klaipeda County Police Headquarters,
Organised Crime Investigation Service

- Klaipeda:
 - in 2008, 21 persons were detained (one girl twice), 3 of them men (one of them a client);
 - in 2009, 5 persons were detained (1 of them a client).

Data of Police Department

- Vilnius:
 - In 2008 – 207 persons,
 - In 2009 – 116 persons.

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- Assessment of the data collected from competent national institutions and organisations, NGOs and international organizations, the signs of human trafficking in Lithuania became noticeable from 2004 (and particularly from 2006 to 2008).