# I. SOCIOLOGIJA IR SOCIALINĖ POLITIKA

# (RE-)INTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTO THE LABOUR MARKET

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Submitted on 13 of September 2010 Accepted for publication on 17 of November 2010

#### Abstract

Trafficking in human beings is not a new social phenomenon, as its history reaches even ancient times. Lately though, because of the rise in migration (caused by economic crisis around the world), its magnitude has increased significantly in Lithuania and other European Union (EU) Member States. In order to tackle this issue, counter-trafficking policies are implemented in these countries, covering both legislation and practical activities related with provision of social assistance to victims as well as other policy measures. This article investigates one of the most urgent issues in this area, namely, the victims' of human trafficking (re-)integration into the labour market as a necessary prerequisite for their integration into society. The research is based on the analysis of the situation in three EU Member States—Austria, Finland and Lithuania, focusing on the role of NGOs and their activities in provision of social assistance for the victims of trafficking. The personal experience and views of experts in the field of counter-trafficking are discussed, providing the main findings of conducted research—*which are* semi-structured interviews with the representatives of these organizations.

Keywords: human trafficking, integration, labour market, social welfare

### Introduction

Human trafficking<sup>1</sup> is one of the most urgent social, economic and political issues in Europe and worldwide. Statistical and secondary research data show that that the scope of this phenomenon in-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Most commonly used definition of trafficking in human beings is presented in the United Nations (UN) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000). According to Article 3, trafficking in persons means "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion ... to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation ... of

creases—annually around 12.3 million people are trafficked within or outside their home countries (Trafficking in Persons, 2008a). Besides traditional forms of trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation, new latent forms (such as for harvesting of organs and other body parts) have begun to appear as well.

Due to their geographical location and a high economical development level, many old EU Member States (e.g., Austria and Finland) are transit and destination countries for victims of human trafficking,<sup>1</sup> while Lithuania and the other new Member States, as less economically developed countries, are not only transit and destination points, but also the countries of origin of this phenomenon. For example, about 3000 women are trafficked from the Baltic states every year, and among them about 1000–1200 women from Lithuania (Bazylevas, 2007).

Human trafficking is not a new area of social research in Lithuania and abroad. For example, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Vilnius office has conducted comparative and indepth studies on the situation of trafficking in human beings, public perception, legal issues and the fight against trafficking crime problems (Sipavičienė, 2004; Sipavičienė, Gaidys, 2002). Meanwhile investigations at the Šiauliai University Social Research Centre focused on rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of women trafficking (Ruškus et al., 2005). There is quite considerable literature on the situation on human trafficking in different EU Member States and a number of publications presenting a comparative analysis of international research data.<sup>2</sup>

Assistance for victims of human trafficking and their integration into society/the labour market is one of the main principles of the EU policy in the counter-trafficking field. However, this issue is not given enough attention in academic discourse—very few studies can be mentioned in this respect. For example, a research of employers' attitudes towards victims of human trafficking initiated by the Lithuanian non-governmental organization Missing Persons' Families Support Centre (Missing persons', 2005).

Victims' of human trafficking (re-)integration into the labour market process (as a necessary prerequisite for the start of an independent and full-fledged life for the victims) was chosen as the topic of this article by taking into account both the urgency of the problem and a shortage of studies in this field. In order to answer research questions (such as: How is the issue of victims' of human trafficking (re-)integration into the labour market solved in the EU Member States? How does victims' of human trafficking (re-)integration depend on the welfare state model? What measures should be taken in order to solve victims' of human trafficking (re-)integration into the labour market problems more successfully?) the main policy actions are discussed and the opinions of experts working in the countertrafficking field who represent different welfare state models' countries—Austria (conservative corporatist welfare state regime), Finland (social democratic welfare state regime) and Lithuania (mixed model)—are analyzed based on the results of a qualitative survey conducted in 2009-2010.

#### **1. Policy Measures and Their Implementation**

As was mentioned, Austria and Finland are transit and destination countries for the victims of human trafficking while Lithuania is also a country of origin. Therefore, speaking about the victims' (re-)integration into the labour market process, it is important to note that different target groups are involved in this process—in Austrian and Finnish cases they are mostly non-citizens (women who were trafficked from other countries such as Romania, Bulgaria, Russia or Estonia) while in Lithuania's case, a majority of victims are actually Lithuanian citizens. Although victims' (re-)integration is very problematic because of the consequences caused by their past experience, social (re-)integration of citizens in their native countries is not related to such problems as knowledge of the language or cultural differences. Meanwhile, non-citizens "may face barriers because of unfamiliarity with the lan-

the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal organs."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Austria is a transit and destination country for women trafficked from Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Slovakia, and Nigeria for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour (Trafficking in Persons, 2008b). Finland is also considered a transit and destination country for human trafficking. Citizens of Russia, China, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Caucasus, Thailand, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are trafficked to this country and usually pass through it on their way to Sweden and Western European countries. According to a working group, which drafted the first National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Finland (2006), the number of victims might reach hundreds each year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For example, analysis of situation in Austria, Finland and the other EU Member States is presented in an educational booklet for teachers and students *Human Rights and Trafficking in Women and Young People* (Nachbaur et al., 2007) and is included in comparative articles such as *Trafficking and Human Smuggling: A European Perspective* by Salt (2000) and *Trafficking in Women and Children in Europe* by Lehti (2003).

guage and with the institutional structures of welfare, and lack of knowledge of their entitlement" (Kofman et al., 2000: 152).

These cultural factors are not the only ones that affect the (re-)integration into the labour market process—the access for social services provisions conditioned by welfare state regimes are of no less importance in this respect.

As is known, the core idea of the welfare state is social citizenship. Its concept "must involve the granting of social rights. If social rights are given the legal and practical status of property rights, if they are inviolable, and if they are granted on the basis of citizenship rather than performance, they will entail a 'decommodification' of the status of individuals' vis-à-vis the market" (Esping-Andersen, 1990: 21).

Research of the Austrian national legislation shows that victims of human trafficking have a right to receive a residence permit on a humanitarian ground, however it does not ensure that a work permit will be also issued. This also means that victims are excluded from all kinds of social services, as Austria is clustered to a conservative corporatist welfare state regime based on participation in the labour market<sup>1</sup>. Although Finland belongs to a social-democratic welfare state regime, characterized by a high rate of universalism and, accordingly, it ensures equality of the highest standards. Research reveals that non-citizens of the country, the same as in Austria, face difficulties in integration into the society of the country. A residence permit is also obligatory in order to enter the labour market in the country<sup>2</sup>.

Although Lithuania is called a mixed model welfare state, with regard to the social insurance system, as well as the type of social support (services in day centers, social benefits, etc.) it can be counted as a conservative corporate welfare state. In view of this, the situation for (re-)integration of victims of trafficking is better than in Finland. Although the victims' integration requires a lot of effort both from the victims and the institutions that provide assistance for them, the fact is that most victims are citizens of the country, and this makes their integration into Lithuanian society and the labour market easier.

The process of (re-)integrating victims of human trafficking into the labour market is very complicated not only because of the above-mentioned reasons, but also because they make a very specific social group with a harmful experience in their past and a lot of psychological and economic problems: "above and beyond the material aspects, sexual exploitation can harm victims of trafficking both physically and mentally for the rest of their lives ... victims run the risk of being rejected by their family or the community, of being unable to find viable employment" (Action against , 2004: 38–39).

There are numerous organizations which provide assistance to victims of trafficking and work in the field of prevention/education. For example, in Austria, the IOM Vienna office and some NGOs (LENA, MAIZ, Sophie) play an active role in combating human trafficking. One of the most important among these is Lefö, "a recognized victim protection institution, which operates on a national level on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior and the Women's Directorate within the Federal Chancellery of Austria" (Lefö, 2010: 6). This organization works in the field of women's rights protection and with victims of violence since 1985. Lefö provides psychological, organizational and interventional support. Among some of the services offered are (re-)integration of victims into the labour market through "German courses, further training and integration opportunities" and "counselling and intervention regarding residence permit and labour law" (Lefö, 2010: 7).

In Finland, a system providing services and support for victims of human trafficking was formalized in the beginning of 2007 (Human trafficking, 2009). Various kinds of services (such as "the reception of customers and the necessary emergency help, arranging housing, social and health care services, advisory and legal services as well as support for integration or safe return") are provided for the victims by NGOs such as Pro-tukipiste, Monika (Multicultural Women's Association), and two asylum centres—Oulu and Joutsenu (Ministry of the Interior (Finland), 2009). However, not only the NGOs

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In order to be employed, an individual who is a non Austrian citizen must have a work permit, which is provided only in case a person has a residence permit. "According to 69a article of the Austrian Law on residence and Settlement of Foreigners (NAG) stipulates that victims and witnesses of human trafficking are to be granted a residence permit for a minimum period of validity of six months" (Lefö, 2010: 6). Although, according to this law, victims are not forced to testify to the police, their status as a victim must be identified by competent institutions. Moreover, this permit "does not provide for direct access to the Austrian labour market" (Lefö, 2010: 6). One more way to receive a residence permit is to agree to testify. This way, as witnesses of a crime, women can receive residence permit on humanitarian grounds. "Such residence permits may be granted to trafficked individuals (art; 217 of the Criminal Code) who are prepared to testify in court as witnesses and thus assure the prosecution of the perpetrator(s) or who intend to raise civil law claims against the perpetrator(s), for the period required for Such court proceedings" (OSCE, 2010).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The requirements for victims of human trafficking are set up and the points in order to receive a residence permit are listed in Sections 52b and 52c of the Aliens Act, adopted in 2004 in Finland. Victims of human trafficking face a lot of challenges in order to receive a residence permit in this country. First of all, they have to be defined as victims and the identification process usually is very complicated.

play an active role in victim assistance provision process—as is indicated in the National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, "for the purpose of organizing services for victims and guiding victims to use them, cooperation between the third sector and the authorities is important" (National Plan, 2006:55). Organizations providing assistance for victims, undertaking outreach work and actively participating in victim identification are funded by Finland's Slot Machine Association (Rahaautomaattiyhdistys [RAY]).<sup>1</sup> Funding NGOs in this way is quite unique and not a widespread practice. However, according to the revised National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2008), it is expected that in the future the funding of NGOs will be covered by government grants.

In Lithuania the first counter-trafficking actions were implemented earlier, if compared to Austria and Finland: a programme for the prevention and control of trafficking in human beings for 2005–2008 was adopted in 2005 as a continuation of the programme for the control and prevention of trafficking in human beings and prostitution for 2002–2004. Differently than in the case of Finland, the NGOs in Lithuania are funded by the national government, and most of them participate very actively in the programmes supported by EU funds or international organizations. There are numerous organizations, which give assistance (temporary housing, assistance of finding training and a job, medical and legal assistance, etc.) for this social group<sup>2</sup> as well as implementing preventional and educational projects aimed to decrease the number of human trafficking victims in Lithuania.

Although according to the Trafficking in Persons Report (2009a) all three countries are placed in the first tier among the countries that fully comply with minimum standards in the combat with trafficking, there are still a lot of issues that should be tackled:

- It must be ensured that convicted traffickers serve adequate time in prison; victim identification and protection must be improved; systematic care for victims of child trafficking must be established; services for (potential) victims of trafficking in men must be improved in Austria (Trafficking in Persons, 2008b).
- The collection of anti-trafficking law enforcement data must be improved; training sessions for prosecutors and judges on trafficking cases should be organized; the problems of victim identification should be solved in Finland (Trafficking in Persons, 2008c).
- Anti-trafficking training for law enforcement and judicial officials should be developed, in order to ensure vigorous investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases; the conviction and sentencing of traffickers should be implemented; witnesses' protection in trafficking cases should be improved; the cooperation between governmental institutions and NGOs, especially in rural areas, must be extended; prevention projects, which would help to spread issue of trafficking to society and to decrease the number of the victims, must be implemented in Lithuania (2008d).

As we have seen, recommendations of international experts include a broad spectrum of antitrafficking problems and activities, however, the specific issues of victims' (re-)integration into the labour market are not discussed. In order to "fill this gap" and to receive more extended information on the situation and problems in this specific area, semi-structured interviews with Austrian, Finish and Lithuanian experts who work in human trafficking field and/or provide services for the victims were conducted.

#### 2. Activities of NGOs : Viewpoint of National Experts

Research methodology. The research was implemented in three countries—Austria, Finland and Lithuania from February of 2009 to March of 2010. Experts from the leading institutions in the counter-trafficking field (Lefö, Vienna office [Austria], Joutsenu Reception Centre, Evangelical Lutheran Church, MONIKA, Finland; Missing persons' families support centre, Missing persons' families support centre, IOM, Vilnius office [Lithuania]) were selected in each country according to the nonprobability form of purposive sampling method. All interviews in Austria and Lithuania were recorded. Due to the absence of possibilities to organize a meeting with experts in Finland, they were interviewed through e-mails. (The same questions that experts from the other two countries were asked

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> It "was founded in 1938 by six NGOs active in health and social care. RAY holds a monopoly on slot machine gambling licenses. In 2007, RAY provided €306 million in funding for health and social welfare organisations, divided between 1,100 applicant organisations for 2,400 projects and activities" (Finland's NGOs play a vital role in social services reform, 2007).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Among them is IOM (Vilnius office), the Caritas programme An Aim For Victims of Prostitution and Human Trafficking", Missing Persons' Families Support Centre, Women crisis centre in Kaunas area, Mother's and child's pension in Vilnius, Kaunas Women Centre and others.

during face-to-face interviews in this case were applied in the form of a questionnaire).<sup>1</sup> The total number of respondents was 11 (2 from Austria, 3 from Finland and 6 from Lithuania), they represented different occupations/positions in the organization (social workers, counsellors, project coordinators/managers, administrative staff).

Issue of human trafficking in Austria, Finland and Lithuania. Experts were asked to explain the situation of human trafficking in their countries as well as to express their opinion about the urgency of the problem during the interviews. All respondents agreed that human trafficking still remains a covert phenomenon. Despite the increase of its scope, an indifferent attitude from society and its institutions was strongly emphasized by the Lithuanian experts. According to the Finish experts, most cases of trafficking are related to labour exploitation and only some of them are cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Respondents from Austria have also agreed that trafficking in human beings is a big issue and explained the existence of this phenomenon in their country by its geographical location. But, differently from the Lithuanian and Finish cases, none of the Austrian experts considered this issue as hidden in society.

(Re-)integration into the labour market of human trafficking victims: the main problems. As was mentioned previously, in Austria and Finland victims of human trafficking are not citizens of the countries, thus the knowledge of language plays a very important role. A representative from Lefö has noticed: "when a woman really wants to stay in Vienna, one of the most important is the language and to find a job" (Interviewee 8, Austria). Mostly woman are not able to find a job "because they don't know so good German" (Interviewee 8, Austria). An expert from Finland has indicated that the main difficulties for victims' integration into the labour market rise because the victims' "language (Finnish or Swedish) skills do not meet requirements of labour markets" (Interviewee 9, Finland). Another Finnish respondent has also mentioned "difficulties with language" (Interviewee 11, Finland).

Talking about difficulties that victims face in the (re-)integration into the labour market process, not only *language barriers* should be mentioned. *Lack of education* as the greatest problem was indicated both by the Lithuanian the Finnish experts: "Generally many victims have low level of education" (Interviewee 9, Finland); "... a problem is that mostly girls are not graduated ten classes, thus they can not continue studies and to get profession" (Interviewee 2, Lithuania); "... women are with very poor education. Usually they have to graduate secondary school; education they have is not enough in order to receive support and courses from the state. This is the greatest issue" (Interviewee 3, Lithuania). Because of low education, most women are employed in unskilled jobs such as "... cleaners, assistants ... jobs are searched in super markets" (Interviewee 8, Austria). One of experts added that "there are some exceptions – we have nurses and accountants" (Interviewee 3, Lithuania).

Lack of motivation was also indicated among the main negative factors—majority of victims were brought up in so-called "social risk' families or children's foster homes and "there was no motivation from the little days ... there was no care, encouragement that you should study, that education is your duty" (Interviewee 2, Lithuania). Lack of motivation and indecision of women usually become an obstacle in getting a job: "They usually do not know how to represent themselves, they say something and do not leave positive impression" (Interviewee 2, Lithuania); "Usually it let people imagine that such women will not be able to work, to do any kind of job, that she has problems of the behaviour, that people cannot trust her" (Interviewee 3, Lithuania).

Social workers and other officials who work with victims do not leave them alone and usually lead girls and women to the employees—"... we go together to employees" (Interviewee 3, Lithuania), "... tell them before the meetings how to present yourself for the employee, how to look motivated, resolute, responsible" (Interviewee 4, Lithuania).

Health problems related with the incurred physical, psychological and sexual violence as well as alcohol and drug addiction are especially hard cases: "... the girl was very hard-working and tidy, but had problems with alcohol—the absenteeism, excuses from the job started ... girls were used to alcohol and drugs ... in one case girl really tried to be cured, participated in anonymous alcoholics club ... It repeats one time, other, on such way you are really not able to keep the job" (Interviewee 2, Lithuania). Experts in Finland have also mentioned victims' health problems among the main negative factors in the process of (re-)integrating into the labour market "... trauma, psychological conditions effect the ability to learn and absorb new things in general" (Interviewee 11, Finland). In Austria, health problems even do not allow women to receive legal status, which is essential in order to enter the labour

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Questions for the experts from International Organization for Migration (IOM) were slightly changed and adapted, considering that IOM does not provide direct assistance to the victims and does not participate directly in the victims' (re-)integration into the labour market process.

market. As one expert remarked, "... they are too much traumatized or are too afraid to make a statement in front of police, it is absolutely hard for them to get a legal status here" (Interviewee 8, Austria).

Experience of human trafficking and participation in rehabilitation programmes is a very controversial issue—in most cases employers are not informed about these facts by victims, and experts agree that openness in this case "... would not help girls to find a job" (Interviewee 4, Lithuania). Experts in Austria also keep the same position: "... we don't write her exact story, because we don't want the employees to know whole story, but we write like that they are victims of the crime and are witnesses of the crime and in the court procedure ... if we write this down and if the woman says no, when we have to find other way" (Interviewee 8, Austria).

Have the victims ever faced an unfavourable attitude from employers? This question is answered negatively by a majority of respondents: "... no we have not faced such cases" (Interviewee 1, Lithuania); "... during my career I don't have such stories" (Interviewee 8, Austria). The experts stated that "... many employees are kind" (Interviewee 3, Lithuania). Even if they know about the victims' past it does not mean that they will be opposed to them: "... we had one employer, for her it was not matter, she knew that women, their past and she did not care about it" (Interviewee 1, Lithuania). Respondent from Austria has indicated that in most cases women "... are rejected ... not because of their story, because they don't know so good German, because employee is not willing to go through all this long procedure, because there are lot of women who have legal status and free entrance to labour market" (Interviewee 8, Austria). However, a story when women had to quit job because she told her past experience for the employee was told as well: " ... girl worked in the restaurant of the hotel, this girl was a prostitute in Lithuania ... she could not work there, because sometimes she met her former clients. However she did not know how to hold her tongue on the teeth and accidently told this for her manager. After this she had to quit job" (Interviewee 2, Lithuania). Thus, there is always a hesitation whether it is better to tell or to hide women's past experiences and the fact that they belong to a rehabilitation programme: "May be for ones it is better to hide, meanwhile other ones do not want to hide ... may be today or tomorrow somebody will find out about my past, so may be I will tell everything that I will not feel fear" (Interviewee 1, Lithuania).

Talking about the process of victims' (re-)integration into the labour market, Lithuanian experts noted that the *overall bad economic situation* in the country is also an important factor: "... common situation in Lithuania is very hard ... it is difficult to find job" (Interviewee 3, Lithuania); "... when unemployment is high ... for the clients this has a serious impact" (Interviewee 4, Lithuania).

(Re-)integration of human-trafficking victims into the labour market: provision of social services. All organizations, except the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and IOM Vienna office provide or (as IOM Vilnius office) have provided in the past services related to (re-)integration into the labour market. For example, such kind of assistance is included in the packet of services that is provided by missing persons' families support centre and Lithuanian Caritas project in Lithuania, Lefö in Austria, as well as Joutsenu Reception Centre and MONIKA. In most cases, services are included with regular activities implemented by organizations and there are no separate projects devoted only to assistance in (re-)integration into the labour market: "... almost all are related to integration into the labour market" (Interviewee 1, Lithuania); "Integration into the integrated services provided in the frame of reintegration in general" (Interviewee 4, Lithuania).

Respondents have mentioned different types of provided assistance:

"... open pages on the Internet, where are jobs advertisements, search job on the news papers, go together to Labour exchange office ... we talk with experts" (Interviewee 2, Lithuania).

"... we send to the any kind of courses through Labour exchange offices. When they get any qualification and when we know, where she would like to work, we are looking to the possibilities in the community, we write CVs together, search job on the Internet, go together to employees and later assistance for whose who works – how successful they are, etc." (Interviewee 3, Lithuania).

"... we try to find out, what kind of job women would like and could work, how to plan job searches, how to present yourself to the employee" (Interviewee 4, Lithuania).

"... supporting our women in Internet research to find jobs ... to make CV, then to look what can you do, what kind of education do you have, what are you interest ... teaching German" (Interviewee 8, Austria).

"We can give advice how to apply job in Finland, also advice in residence and job permit issues, also psychological services and therapy are given to victims of trafficking to help them to (re-)integrate into the labour market" (Interviewee 9, Finland).

"... orientation into society and consultation on studying and work opportunities, Finnish language education, teaching how to write a CV, belong a link between employment authorities and clients" (Interviewee 11, Finland). During interviews, experts of the three countries also spoke about the *challenges* that they faced in their activities and shared their ideas on how to improve the present situation. First and foremost, all respondents were of the opinion that it was very important to ensure a dialog among government institutions and NGOs: "... cooperation is very essential" (Interviewee 4, Lithuania); "We are really not involved in those financial conversations of the Ministry" (Interviewee 8, Austria); "Government should pay more attention to the practitioners' work and listen what practitioners say, that must flick out their heads from the cabinets ... should show more than only with words – let's be united in a combat of human trafficking" (Interviewee 3, Lithuania). Because of financial difficulties NGOs have a lack of support and can not implement a lot of activities, including preventive work: "Stable and good funding both for preventive activities and victims rehabilitation" (Interviewee 4, Lithuania); "We had information centre ..., where it was able to apply for any question ... both those, who leave, return and who stay here ... you close it and this is a problem ... it must have a continuity" (Interviewee 5, Lithuania);

Experts from Lithuania noticed that most victims did not apply for assistance because they were afraid of publicity, thus it was important that victims "... would know that integration exists ... that they are able to get assistance ... that it will be anonymous ... and it is not relevant to cooperate with police" (Interviewee 5, Lithuania).

Some specific issues relevant to one of the countries under investigation were mentioned by the respondents. For example, Austrian experts have emphasized the issue of domestic workers' exploitation in diplomat households: "This is really difficult for us, because they have ... diplomatic status ... But it is increasing and we are working on it that we would have more chances to fight for women's rights" (Interviewee 8, Austria).

Thus, thematerial from these interviews show that there are still a lot of issues that should be tackled and improved, both in legislative framework and practice level—as one of the experts noted, "...it would be ideal if society looked at it differently, but such things do not change so fast and the girls need to live, work and study for this moment" (Interviewee 4, Lithuania).

#### Conclusions

1. Social citizenship is an important factor in the process of (re-)integrating human-trafficking victims into the labour market in Austria and Finland (as transit and destination countries)—despite different welfare state models (conservative corporate welfare state regime in Austria and social democratic in Finland), a residence permit is obligatory in order to enter the labour market in these countries. Meanwhile, Lithuania (first and foremost as a country of origin) faces problems related with the provision of social assistance to the citizens of the country.

2. Semi-structured interviews with experts working in counter-trafficking fields in Austria, Finland and Lithuania show that NGOs play the most important role in the process of victims' (re-)integration into the labour market. Their services include assistance in searching for a job, preparation for job interviews, cooperation with employees and Labour Exchange officers, advice on receiving residence and work permits and other kind of assistance that is important for successful victims' (re-)integration.

3. In the opinion of interviewed experts, victims of human trafficking are not able to integrate into labour market successfully because of low education and a lack of personal motivation. Health problems related with the incurred physical, psychological and sexual violence as well as alcohol and drug addiction also among the main negative factors in this process.

5. As research data shows, a clear counter-trafficking strategy should be developed and implemented in all three countries, accordingly, financial resources should be allocated for NGOs in order to ensure stability in provision of assistance for victims. Raising awareness of the issue is also very important both for the representatives of authority and law enforcement institutions and society in general, especially nowadays when unsafe migration is increasing because of the economic crisis in Europe. The interviews with experts revealed that attention must be paid to such forms of trafficking that are specific to each country.

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# PREKYBOS ŽMONĖMIS AUKŲ (RE-)INTEGRACIJA Į DARBO RINKĄ

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#### Santrauka

Kaip liudija tyrimų duomenys, didėja prekybos žmonėmis mastai Europoje ir kituose pasaulio regionuose. Daugeliui valstybių, tarp jų ir Lietuvai, tai tampa viena iš aktualiausių socialinių problemų. Siekiant kovoti su šiuo reiškiniu, Europos Sąjungos (ES) valstybės narės, tarp jų ir Lietuva, įgyvendina priemones, apimančias ir teisinės bazės tobulinimą, ir įvairių sričių praktinę veiklą (tiriamasis darbas, prevencija, pagalba aukoms ir t. t.). Vienas svarbiausių šios veiklos tikslų yra skatinti prekybos žmonėmis aukų (re-)integraciją į darbo rinką kaip pagrindinę jų visaverčio dalyvavimo visuomenės gyvenime prielaidą. Straipsnyje, remiantis atlikto kokybinio tyrimo – pusiau struktūruotų interviu su ekspertais, dirbančiais pagalbos prekybos žmonėmis aukoms institucijose – rezultatais, yra aptariama, kaip šie klausimai yra sprendžiami trijose ES valstybėse narėse – Austrijoje, Lietuvoje ir Suomijoje. Tyrimu buvo siekiama atskleisti, su kokiomis problemomis susiduria prekybos žmonėmis aukos (re-)integracijos į darbo rinką procese ir koks yra nevyriausybinių organizacijų vaidmuo, sprendžiant šias problemas.

Pagrindinės sąvokos: prekyba žmonėmis, integracija, darbo rinka, socialinė gerovė.