

2014 SITUATION REPORT AUSTRIA
FORECAST 2015

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

2014
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HUMAN BEINGS
TRAFFICKING IN

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AUSTRIA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

08	INTRODUCTION	
09	MEASURES AND INITIATIVES	
	THB TASK FORCE	
	INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION	
	CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AUSTRIA HOTLINE	
	BASIC AND ADVANCED TRAINING	
11	IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS	
13	STATISTICAL DATA	
19	PROSTITUTION IN AUSTRIA	
	LEGAL SITUATION IN THE PROVINCES	
	TYPES AND TRENDS OF ENGAGING IN PROSTITUTION	
	SITUATION IN THE PROVINCES	
29	FORECAST	
31	FURTHER PUBLICATIONS, CONTACT DETAILS AND EDITORIAL	

FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

Austria takes the leading part in the international fight against trafficking in human beings. Our answer to this sensitive subject is clear and precise: Protect victims and punish offenders. We therefore will continue along this path, pool our forces against trafficking in human beings and take vehement action against it also in future.

The core task of the Austrian police is to quickly identify the victims, who need to be treated appreciatively and sensitively in this difficult situation. The police often are the first contact point for victims. One first and important step is to make them feel safe with the police.

Apart from training courses within the police, close cooperation and the exchange of information with the numerous NGOs constitutes a focal point of our work. We therefore want to take the opportunity to thank the CID officers in charge in Criminal Intelligence Service Austria and the Provincial CIDs. They do a very good job which requires tact and empathy.

Johanna Mikl-Leitner
Federal Minister of the Interior

General Franz Lang
Director of Criminal Intelligence Service Austria

INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in human beings is a grave human rights violation and may concern women, men and children equally. Sexual exploitation is one of the main reasons for trafficking in human beings. With the Sexual Offences Law Amendment Act 2013, which came into force on 1 August 2013, the elements of the offence 'trafficking in human beings' were expanded. Pursuant to section 104a of the Austrian Penal Code, exploitation does not only comprise sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and exploitation by removal of organs, but also exploitation for the purpose of begging and for the purpose of committing punishable acts. Austria is a transit country as well as a country of destination for trafficking in human beings in all its forms of exploitation, except for trafficking in organs.

The UN protocol on trafficking in human beings (Federal Law Gazette. III no. 220/2005) defines as trafficking in human beings / children „the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons [...] for the purpose of exploitation“. This is mostly done by „means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability“. In many cases children are „bought“ from their parents or legal guardians. In case of children it is also trafficking in human beings, if no such pressure was applied. A possible „consent“ given by the child or the legal guardian is not relevant. Austria has adopted this definition in its national legislation (Section 104a of the Austrian Penal Code). By definition 'children' are girls and boys under the age of 18.

THB has many faces. One large area is forced prostitution and/or sexual exploitation. Prostitution in general comprises all sexual acts with physical contact provided on a commercial basis and against payment. In Austria, engaging in prostitution is regulated by laws at the national and provincial level, and thus is legal if in compliance with the statutory framework conditions.

The 2014 THB situation report focuses on sexual exploitation of human beings.

MEASURES AND INITIATIVES

THB TASK FORCE

In November 2004, for a better coordination of the measures against trafficking in human beings, the THB Task Force (Task Force Menschenhandel - TF-MH) was established under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs (BMEIA). The Federal Ministry of the Interior has been actively participating since the foundation of the Task Force. So far, four national action plans for combating trafficking in human beings have been published. Currently, the national action plan 2015 to 2017 is being implemented.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Austria supports the international activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Global Initiative To Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) and the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). In general, national and international coordination and cooperation as well as the fight against poverty in the partner countries are intensified. Crime prevention aims at a general sensitisation and awareness-raising of the public and particular occupational groups. Further important strategies refer to victim protection. These are among others improved cooperation in the field of identification of possible victims, comprehensive counselling and support as well as improved social integration of victims of trafficking in human beings.

In recent years, Austria has concluded several international agreements on combating trafficking in human beings, e.g.:

- the UN Convention including the Palermo protocol (1 September 2000 and 15 November 2000 respectively),
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (24 July 2003),
- the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (16 May 2005),
- the Stockholm Programme (December 2009) and
- the Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (5 April 2011).

Austria is contracting party to all relevant international legal instruments against trafficking in human beings.

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AUSTRIA HOTLINE

In April 2010, Criminal Intelligence Service Austria (BK) established a reporting office, in order to intensify the fight against trafficking in human beings. Citizens can report information on trafficking in human beings by phone +43 (0) 1/24836-985383 or by e-mail under menschenhandel@bmi.gv.at. The reporting office is reachable 24/7. In 2014, 540 tip-offs / enquiries were received by this hotline. Tip-offs may be given anonymously. The BK-Hotline was not set up as emergency number, but as additional measure in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

BASIC AND ADVANCED TRAINING

Considerate treatment of victims is the centre point of the basic and advanced law enforcement training. Therefore, the police invests large sums of money in training and sensitization of officers who often have first contacts with the victims. Instructions on the subject of trafficking in human beings are already given during the basic training courses of the Federal Police. Such instructions are fixed components also in training courses for commanding and senior officers. In addition, instructions are given within the framework of in-service further training. The Federal Security Academy (SIAK) of the Federal Ministry of the Interior annually offers two advanced training courses for police officers on trafficking in human beings and victim identification. One course was also offered at the Finance Academy for the financial administration. These courses are organised by the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria in cooperation with the intervention agency for persons affected by trafficking in women (LEFÖ/IBF). Moreover, two training courses were held for sensitization regarding victim recognition in the police detention centres in Austria.

Officers of the competent investigating units in the Provincial CIDs also hold annual training courses for the so-called „red-light district investigators“.

IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS

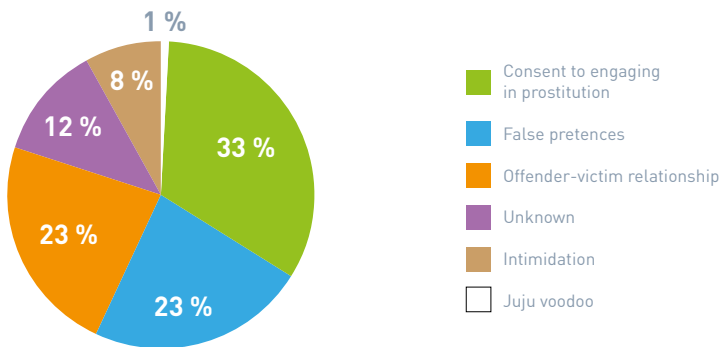
It is sometimes difficult to identify trafficked persons, because they do not see themselves as victims. A frequent problem is the actual identification of victims. In 2014, trafficked persons could partly be identified by (unmarked) police patrols, e.g. during checks carried out in the milieu, by being present on the spot and by establishing forged documents. Some victims succeeded in contacting their families at home, who then informed the police. Others asked passers-by or the prostitutes' clients for help or filed complaints upon the advice of an NGO. In identification of victims police checks play an important part.

Identified victims and suspects are mostly from the EU countries Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria. Despite the fact that the cooperation with the police and NGOs in the countries of origin of the victims is considered very good, there are nevertheless problems. Victims returning to their home countries on their own, partly withdraw their information given on the suspect or no longer are available for giving evidence in legal proceedings and/or no longer are willing to return to Austria.

The major part of identified victims had been recruited within the EU. More than half of the victims came to Austria from other European countries. Also within Austria victims moved a lot.

Victims of trafficking in human beings are recruited in various ways:

BREAKDOWN OF THE METHODS OF RECRUITMENT IN AUSTRIA IN 2014



Source: Investigation files of the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria and the Provincial CIDs in Austria as well as information given by persons affected

33 percent of the identified victims had agreed to engaging in prostitution prior to having been brought to Austria. The major part of them fell victim to cross-border trade in prostitution (section 217 of the Austrian Penal Code).

As was established, 23 percent of them were brought to Austria under false pretences where they then were exploited for prostitution or labour. They were deceived with promises of a high income and a better life. The offenders create dependencies by not telling them how much they owe them for the costs for travel and accommodation.

Another important factor was a possible relationship between offenders and victims. This recruitment technique mainly refers to the „lover boy method“. This method also includes relationships between the victim and her family, relatives, friends or acquaintances. The „lover boy“ method means that offenders simulate affection and love towards the victims in their home countries. By socially separating them from their families and circle of friends, the women are made emotionally dependent. Then, offenders persuade them to engage in prostitution in Austria for a short while, since in that manner a lot of money could be earned, with which it would be possible to set the basis for a solid life together in the home country. If after some time these women realize that they are not allowed to keep anything of the income they earn and that no cash reserve is built for their future as a couple in their home country or if they wish to stop working as prostitutes, offenders then use force and violence. This affects in particular victims from socially disadvantaged families and/or families with a low level of education or lack of self-esteem.

The method of recruitment by „intimidation“ includes in particular dangerous threats and maltreatment. The threats are often not aimed against the affected individuals themselves, but against close family members such as children.

Another method of recruitment is juju voodoo which is practised in Nigeria. According to available information, each victim has to undergo a ritual, in which animist actions are carried out on the victims, which are difficult to understand from a European point of view. In particular because the victims see themselves thoroughly bound to these oaths and have great fear to die or to go mad if they break the oath. In addition, the offenders threaten the victims in Europe to use force against family members in Nigeria.

Victims are still recruited in their countries of origin mainly through print media, the Internet, model agencies as well as directly by the offenders in night clubs and bars or by women already engaging in prostitution.

STATISTICAL DATA

During the investigations carried out in 2014, not only criminal organisations, but increasingly also lone offenders were among the suspects identified, as was the case in the previous years.

In 2014, in the procedures concluded by the police, 61 suspects were identified pursuant to Section 104a of the Austrian Penal Code (trafficking in human beings) and 38 pursuant to Section 217 of the Austrian Penal Code (cross-border trade in prostitution).

Identified suspects 2014		Section 104a of the Austrian Penal Code	Section 217 of the Austrian Penal Code
Total	male	46	29
	female	15	9
	totaö	61	38
under 10 years of age	male	-	-
	female	-	-
10 to 14 years of age	male	-	-
	female	-	-
14 to 18 years of age	male	-	-
	female	-	-
18 to 21 years of age	male	3	2
	female	-	-
21 to 25 years of age	male	3	2
	female	3	3
25 to 40 years of age	male	20	15
	female	4	4
40 years of age and older	male	20	10
	female	8	2

Austrian and foreign suspects identified in 2014		Section 104a of the Austrian Penal Code	Section 217 of the Austrian Penal Code
Austrians	male	7	7
	female	2	1
	total	9	8
Aliens	male	39	22
	female	13	8
	total	52	30

Top five nationalities of suspects identified in 2014		Section 104a of the Austrian Penal Code	Section 217 of the Austrian Penal Code
Romanian	male	18	11
	female	11	3
Bulgarian	male	9	2
	female	1	-
Hungarian	male	1	5
	female	1	4
Slovakian	male	4	-
	female	-	-
Serbian	male	2	2
	female	-	-

Source: Police Crime Statistics of Austria

The majority of the suspects exploited their victims in brothels, followed by street prostitution and public venues. As for labour exploitation, the domestic and care sectors, cleaning companies and the building trade were in the foreground. Like the victims, European suspects came mostly from Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria. In cases of exploited individuals from African countries, mainly from Nigeria and China, the exploiters also came from these countries.

Regarding sexual exploitation it was established that the suspects mostly withheld the earnings of the prostitutes and/or took the money from them. Victims fall into financial servitude, because they have to pay back to the offenders „debts“ accrued by e.g. travel costs or the „purchase“ of a person. Another effective form of control in sexual exploitation were threats against the victim herself or against her family members or friends. These forms are also reflected in labour exploitation. Cases of labour exploitation in which earnings are completely withheld were identified in the cleaning and building industries. In cases of exploitation in the domestic and care sectors, the victims received a fraction of the agreed salary.

Analysis of the suspects' networks revealed that suspects perform at least two different roles. Most of the suspects act as „cashiers“, others transport the victims to Austria and recruit victims.

In 2014, sexual exploitation was clearly the main form of exploitation. Labour exploitation was identified in the domestic and care sectors, in cleaning and building trade and in Asian restaurants.

The number of trafficked females was predominant in the areas of sexual as well as labour exploitation. According to the Police Crime Statistics, in 2014 a total of 79 individuals affected by trafficking in human beings and cross-border trade in prostitution was identified. This includes only those individuals affected who are explicitly named in the respective final report sent to the public prosecutor's office in charge.

Identified victims 2014		Section 104a of the Austrian Penal Code	Section 217 of the Austrian Penal Code
Total	male	26	-
	female	22	31
	total	48	31
under 6 years of age	male	-	-
	female	-	-
6 to 10 years of age	male	-	-
	female	-	-
10 to 14 years of age	male	-	-
	female	1	-
14 to 18 years of age	male	-	-
	female	2	2
18 to 21 years of age	male	-	-
	female	1	5
21 to 25 years of age	male	-	-
	female	8	11
25 to 40 years of age	male	13	-
	female	5	13
40 to 65 years of age	male	9	-
	female	3	-
65 years of age and older	male	4	-
	female	2	-

Austrian and foreign victims identified in 2014		Section 104a of the Austrian Penal Code	Section 217 of the Austrian Penal Code
Austrians	male	-	-
	female	-	1
	total	-	1
Aliens	male	26	-
	female	22	30
	total	48	30

Top five nationalities of victims identified in 2014		Section 104a of the Austrian Penal Code	Section 217 of the Austrian Penal Code
Romanian	male	15	-
	female	8	13
Bulgarian	male	4	-
	female	1	5
Hungarian	male	-	-
	female	2	7
Slovakian	male	3	-
	female	3	-
Serbian	male	-	-
	female	3	2

Source: Police Crime Statistics of Austria

The main countries of origin as regards exploitation for begging are Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia. Affected individuals very often suffer from serious physical impairment.

Trafficked children mainly almost always come from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania and Bulgaria. These affected individuals are primarily members of an ethnic minority and are exploited by forcing them into begging and committing criminal offences

such as property offences. In 2014, however, an increase in the number of minors affected by sexual exploitation stemming from Hungary had been observed.

In 2014, there were more investigations carried out by the police in the fields of labour exploitation and trafficking in children. Yet, this does not mean that these forms of exploitation occur more frequently in Austria, but that by information campaigns and media relations it was possible to achieve a sensitization of the public including the police. Thus, more complaints have been filed.

So far, no information on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ harvesting is available in Austria.

Victims are protected by the law enforcement authorities within the framework of the responsibilities pursuant to the Security Police Act. In addition, for high-risk victims a victim protection programme is available. Female victims are moreover cared for by the intervention agency LEFÖ/IBF. Pursuant to Section 25 of the Security Police Act (SPG), this NGO was delegated with the support of female victims by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs (BMBWF). The intervention agency supports women affected by trafficking in women within the meaning of Sections 217 and 104a of the Austrian Penal Code – women who were exploited for prostitution and for other activities, threatened and physically and/or psychologically abused. In case police officers identify women as victims of trafficking in women, but do not classify them as „High-Risk Victims“, they are sent to LEFÖ-IBF for support and counselling.

Since December 2013, the Vienna Men's Health Centre „MEN VIA“ has been offering complementary support for trafficked men. „MEN VIA“ was set up as a pilot project with the support of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMASK). In 2014, „MEN VIA“ supported several male victims. As in LEFÖ/IBF, comprehensive counselling and support is planned for 2015.

In Vienna, minor victims are supported by Vienna's Municipal Department MA11 („Drehscheibe“), and in the other provinces by child and youth services. The children receive appropriate care through a long-lasting, confidence-building process. Successful treatment and overcoming of traumatic experiences is only possible if the children have confidence. The „Drehscheibe“ employees have good contacts to employees of the embassies and NGOs in the countries of origin, who help with locating family members and care for the children during their return. „Drehscheibe“ also gives support with reintegration of the children in their home countries.

PROSTITUTION IN AUSTRIA

Prostitution comprises all sexual acts involving physical contact provided on a commercial basis and against payment. In Austria, engaging in prostitution is regulated by laws at the national and provincial level, and thus is legal if in compliance with the statutory framework conditions. Since 1984, sex workers have been obliged to pay income tax and since 1998 they have been entitled to social insurance. Contrary to a decision taken in 1989, the Supreme Court declared in its verdict ref. no. 3 Ob 45/12g dated 18 April 2012 that sexual services which are paid for are no longer unethical. If the sexual act was performed or endured against previously agreed payment, this agreement constitutes an enforceable payment claim. There is no enforceable claim to performance or endurance of sexual acts. Nevertheless this occupational group is still highly stigmatised.

The AIDS Act and the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Act prescribe examinations by public health officers. Prior to beginning their activities, sex workers have to undergo an examination by a public health officer regarding sexually transmitted diseases and then they have to do so on a weekly basis. These examinations as well as a quarterly check-up by a public health officer for HIV infection and an annual tuberculosis test are recorded on a health card.

All other provisions, in particular the prerequisites for offering and engaging in sexual services, are regulated by laws at provincial levels. Thus, the individual provinces have different regulations. Yet, all laws at the provincial level contain provisions on prohibition zones and protection zones around certain objects.

LEGAL SITUATION IN THE PROVINCES

Burgenland

Prostitution is regulated by the ‚Landes-Polizeistrafgesetz‘. The activities are not subject to approval, yet they have to be reported to the respective municipality. Prostitutes have to inform the municipality in person that they engage in prostitution. It is required that they are of full age and do not have any sexually transmitted diseases. Prostitution in private residences is forbidden, yet house calls are admissible.

Carinthia

Prostitution is regulated by a specific Law on Prostitution. Engaging in prostitution is only allowed in approved brothels. Persons engaging in prostitution have to be of full age. The municipal council issues regulations on sanitary facilities, public order and security, preservation of public peace as well as on business, e.g. sale of alcoholic beverages, hours of operation, equipment, etc.

Lower Austria

In Lower Austria, prostitution is also regulated by a specific Law on Prostitution. The activities are not subject to approval, yet they have to be reported to the respective municipality. Prostitution is illegal in „close proximity“ to protected objects, such as churches, schools and hospitals (prohibition zones / protected areas). Prostitution in private residences is forbidden, yet house calls are admissible. Only persons over 19 years of age may engage in prostitution.

Upper Austria

Pursuant to the ‚oberösterreichisches Sexualdienstleistungsgesetz‘ which entered into force on 29 September 2012, persons of age with a legal residence permit and who are not under guardianship may engage in prostitution at a legal place of work in Upper Austria. Approved brothels are considered as legal places of work. House calls are allowed, if no minor persons are residing in the flat at the time the sexual service is rendered. Advertising unsafe sex practices is forbidden in Upper Austria.

Salzburg

In Salzburg, engaging in prostitution is regulated by the ‚Salzburger Landessicherheitsgesetz‘ and only admissible in brothels approved by the municipalities. Minors and apparently pregnant women must not engage in prostitution. 300 meters have to be kept as minimum distance from protected objects. Prostitution in private residences and house calls are forbidden. The municipalities issue rulings governing the conditions for brothels, e.g. maximum number of prostitutes and outfit of sanitary facilities.

Styria

Prostitution is regulated by a specific Law on Prostitution. Engaging in prostitution is only allowed in approved brothels, house calls are admissible. An application for permission has to include house rules. The permission is considered as granted if the ruling is not issued within three months. By means of an ordinance, the municipalities may issue more detailed provisions on the operation of a brothel. The minimum age for engaging in prostitution is 19.

Tyrol

Prostitution is regulated by the ‚Landes-Polizeigesetz‘. Prostitution is only admissible in brothels approved by the municipality. Prostitution in private residences and house calls are forbidden. In addition, initiating relations for engaging in prostitution outside of brothels approved by the authority, in particular in the street, in print media or in electronic media, is forbidden. In the Tyrol, prior to granting permission to open a brothel, a needs-related examination is carried out in due consideration of population and tourism structure, whether there is already a brothel, and whether forbidden prostitution has come to particular attention. The minimum age for prostitution is 18.

Vorarlberg

In Vorarlberg, there is no special Law on Prostitution. Prostitution is regulated by the ‚Sittenpolizeigesetz‘. Engaging in prostitution (according to the legal provisions: engaging in and offering of business-like indecency) is only allowed in brothels approved by the authorities and only for persons having turned 24. So far, no brothel has been approved in Vorarlberg, thus legal prostitution is not possible. Therefore, there are many table-dance bars in Vorarlberg. The ‚Sittenpolizeigesetz‘ contains provisions on proceedings for approving brothels, on prohibition zones, on obligations of brothel operators, the advertising ban, etc

Vienna

The new 'Wiener Prostitutionsgesetz' came into force on 1 November 2011. Since then, all places in which prostitution is offered have been subject to a duty to report to the authorities and an authorisation procedure. The authority has to check whether the future operator is reliable. Prostitution in private residences is forbidden. Engaging in prostitution in the street within residential areas and areas of cemeteries, garden plots or public transport stops is forbidden. The authority may determine zones where street prostitution is allowed. Minors, persons giving rise to custodial concerns and persons not fulfilling the health requirements must not engage in prostitution.

Clients who contact prostitutes for services outside of the zones where street prostitution is allowed and in unapproved brothels commit an administrative offence pursuant to the Vienna Law on Prostitution. This does not include establishing contacts via phone, e-mail or other communications media.

TYPES AND TRENDS OF ENGAGING IN PROSTITUTION

In all provinces it can be seen that hardly any Austrians offer sexual services today – at least in the field of legal prostitution. About 95 percent of the sex workers in brothels and in the streets are migrants, the major part of them coming from the new EU countries, in particular Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria. In principle, nationals of EU countries have the opportunity to legally offer sex work on a self-employed basis, in case of third-country nationals the legal situation is much more restrictive. For example a residence permit a third-country national received from another EU country does not entitle him/her to engage in prostitution in Austria.

The trend observed during the past few years that mega-brothels with up to 60 sex workers have been opened in the form of naturist spas continues. The objects are built by construction companies founded specifically for this purpose or company buildings are converted. For the operation of the brothel a dedicated operating company is founded. It was established that increasingly individuals from the German red-light districts try to gain a foothold in Austria through these brothels. Yet, Austrians still appear as holders of the respective permits for the brothels. Some of the newly opened brothels with up to ten sex workers are operated by nationals of one of the new EU member countries.

The classical forms of engaging in prostitution in brothels, bars, sauna clubs, and massage parlours, however, have not become less important. In the past years, however, offering sexual services via the Internet and/or mobile phones as well as in walk-in brothels has been becoming more and more important.

In addition, the demand for SM studios and transsexuals is increasing. In these sectors higher prices are charged.

Prostitution offered through escort agencies is most difficult to monitor, also because it involves legal as well as illegal prostitution. Officially, an „escort“ is offered, yet in reality in most cases this escort service comprises also sexual services.

Prostitution in private residences - rendering sexual services in private homes - is forbidden in all provinces. In some provinces, house calls in clients' residences are allowed. It is also very difficult to monitor this illegal form of engaging in prostitution and may only be possible by monitoring advertisements in print media and on the Internet.

Presently, Vienna is the only province where it is possible to legally engage in prostitution „on the street“. The places in Vienna where it is possible to legally engage in street prostitution are determined in the ‚Wiener Prostitutionsgesetz‘ as well as ordinances based on this law. By ordinance, time limits were set in the two street prostitution zones in the Vienna districts of Liesing and Floridsdorf. The zone in Liesing is confined by the the following streets: Carlberggasse, Forchheimergasse, Liesinger-Flur-Gasse, Ketzergasse, Pellmannngasse, Siebenhirtenstrasse, and Seybelgasse; the one in Floridsdorf by the Einzinger-gasse, the motorway A22, the provincial border to Lower Austria along Lohner-gasse and Prager StraÙe.

Otherwise, presently illegal street prostitution can be noticed only in Innsbruck and Salzburg, where the police tries to curtail street prostitution by means of comprehensive checks and punishments.

As of 31 December 2014, 761 red-light establishments were registered with Criminal Intelligence Service Austria. In Austria, red-light establishments are mostly operated as brothels, walk-in brothels, sauna clubs, go-go bars, bars, studios, hostess bars, and peep shows. In Vorarlberg, no brothel has been approved, the registered establishments are go-go bars. In the Tyrol, compared to the Eastern provinces the number of 31 go-go bars and ten brothels is high. Over the past few years, walk-in brothels and sauna clubs have been opened or brothels have been converted into walk-in brothels and sauna clubs. Also large enterprises with 50 to 70 sex workers were built. These trends still continue.

Number of red-light establishments in Austria in 2014	
Burgenland	30
Vienna	301
Styria	114
Carinthia	41
Upper Austria	101
Lower Austria	64
Salzburg	49
Tyrol	41
Vorarlberg	20
Total	761

In 2014, the number of sex workers registered in Austria was about 7,400; in 2013, the number was 6,500. As Vienna is the only province where sex workers are registered centrally, these numbers are based on the results of structure-related investigations and checks. As in the previous year, most sex workers in Austria came from Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria. As in the past years, the number of male sex workers again increased. They mainly work as transvestites in walk-in brothels or gay clubs and/or gay escort agencies. They are originally from South America and are mostly Italians or Spanish nationals.

SITUATION IN THE PROVINCES

Burgenland

Individuals engage in prostitution mainly in the 30 bars operated as brothels. Sporadically, there is illegal prostitution in private residences. In the province of Burgenland no escort agencies are known. There are no indications of street prostitution. As in 2013, it was increasingly noticed that above all in the southern region of Burgenland numerous female Romanians take accommodation in private residences together with compatriots. The women engage in prostitution in the province of Burgenland and in the neighbouring province of Styria. Their companions have no employment, but apparently make a living from the income of the prostitutes. Thus in 2015, investigations were initiated for suspicion of exploitation of prostitution. Increasingly, Hungarian nationals take over or open brothels in Burgenland. As regards trafficking in human beings, in 2015, the focus is on labour exploitation, since there are grounds to suspect agricultural labour exploitation.

Carinthia

Presently, a strong trend to so-called sauna clubs can be noticed in the province of Carinthia. In a sauna club in Villach and in a new sauna club in Arnoldstein, district of Villach, on average 60 women daily offer sexual services. The two clubs are visited daily by at least 200 males, mainly Italians. In the district of Villach, German and Italian operators plan two more sauna clubs, in each of which 60 women shall offer sexual services mainly to Italian customers. Although approvals have been granted, building has not yet started.

In 2014, because of the sharp increase in Romanian and Bulgarian companions of the women offering sexual services in Carinthia, three targeted operations in all 41 brothels were carried out with the support of Criminal Intelligence Service Austria. In the process, investigative leads for suspicion of trafficking in human beings, cross-border trade in prostitution and exploiting prostitution could be gained. Follow-up investigations are still ongoing.

Lower Austria

Illegal prostitution in private residences and on the street play a rather minor role in Lower Austria. Illegal street prostitution takes place almost exclusively in motorway parking areas along the motorways A1 and A2. Escort agencies mostly operate from Vienna. No escort agencies are based in Lower Austria, but some have bogus addresses there. Especially in the southern districts such as Wiener Neustadt Stadt, Wiener Neustadt Land, Neunkirchen and Baden, there are several pubs and bars operated by Turkish and Albanian nationals in which managers and operators are constantly changing. About 15 of these pubs

and bars have bar hostesses who are mainly from Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria. They illegally engage in prostitution in the back rooms of the pubs and bars as well as in hotel rooms. In 2014, a further increase in the number of women offering sexual services and of brothel operators from Romania was observed. The trend to convert brothels into walk-in brothels continues.

Upper Austria

In Upper Austria, the trend towards walk-in brothels instead of normal brothels is continuing. Presently, there exist eleven walk-in brothels. Three establishments serve as walk-in brothels by day and as regular brothels by night. Operators plan to build a large walk-in brothel with at least 50 prostitutes. In 2014, several illegal massage parlours were closed by the authorities. In Upper Austria there are only isolated cases of prostitution in residences. There are no indications of street prostitution. In Upper Austria there are links between rocker groups and the red-light scene.

Salzburg

In Salzburg, a sharp increase in the number of young female Romanian sex workers can be observed, who start working as prostitutes already a couple of days after their 18th birthday. Street prostitution is forbidden in Salzburg. Nevertheless, in the City of Salzburg illegal street prostitution has emerged – with five up to 15 female Romanians offering sexual services. In 2014, more and more female Romanians were identified who engaged in illegal prostitution in hotels. There still are ten escort agencies. There are links between agencies and legal brothels. In Salzburg, also international agencies with their principal offices abroad offer sexual services. These agencies advertise exclusively via the Internet and/or respective magazines.

Styria

In Styria, illegal prostitution in private residences and/or on the street as well as engaging in prostitution through escort agencies play a minor role. There is a connection between the rocker scene and the various sex trade establishments. Members of rocker clubs operate some establishments or are employed in such establishments. Due to closures and/or new openings, the number of brothels varies constantly. Five of the 114 approved brothels are walk-in brothels. Two brothels were rededicated into asylum seeker accommodations. They are run by the same operators.

Tyrol

Illegal street prostitution in the City of Innsbruck continues to be a key issue. From 1 July 2013 until the summer of 2014, there was a special investigation team „Rotlicht“ („Reg Light“). The team members succeeded in reducing the number of originally 50 street prostitutes, yet 20 to 30 women still offer their services in the streets every day. The female sex worker fluctuation is high. There are plans to change the Tyrol's Police Act (TLPG). Among other changes, it is considered to also punish prostitutes' clients. Nearly exclusively women from Romania and Bulgaria engage in prostitution on the street and in the brothels of Innsbruck. Investigations for suspicion of trafficking in human beings and cross-border trade in prostitution have been initiated which have not yet been concluded. In 2014, four to eight escort agencies placed advertisements in the local media. Illegal prostitution as well as erotic massages are mainly offered in Innsbruck, but sporadically also in the districts of Kufstein, Innsbruck-Land and Schwaz.

Vorarlberg

In Vorarlberg, no brothel approved by the authorities exists. For some time, there has been a request for approval of a brothel in Hohenems, yet the proceedings are still ongoing. Illegal prostitution in private residences is offered through advertising on the Internet and in the print media as well as via escort agencies. In addition, prostitution is illegally offered in „table girl bars“. In the Greater Bregenz Area, there is also street prostitution to a small degree.

Vienna

Since new Vienna Law on Prostitution came into force on 1 November 2011, a total of 301 brothels have been approved. Nine licensing procedures are still pending and 31 applicants have been rejected. In total, 21 illegal establishments and/or residences have been closed by the authorities. Mainly women from Romania and Hungary and some women from Nigeria engage in legal street prostitution in the 21st district, Einzinger Straße/Autokader Straße, and in the 23rd district, Brunner Straße. Other allowed places have not gained acceptance. There is illegal street prostitution in the quarter ‚Stuwerviertel‘ in the second district and Westbahnhof/Mariahilfer Straße in the 15th district. In the ‚Stuwerviertel‘, an increase in illegal minor prostitutes was observed in 2014. In this regard, Criminal Intelligence Service Austria together with the Vienna Provincial CID (LKA), the specialised police service for compensatory measures - Fachinspektion Ausgleichsmaßnahmen (AGM) Seitenhafenstraße as well as the National Investigation Office in Budapest carried out structural investigations and checks regarding identification of potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

As of December 2014, 3,513 women and 70 men were registered as legal sex workers in Vienna. In Vienna it was noticeable that the number of Bulgarian women offering their sexual services mainly in the street and also in brothels decreased considerably.

The decline can be attributed to „Operation Haskovo“ targeting a criminal group from Bulgaria suspected of trafficking in human beings and other criminal offences. The investigation proceedings have not yet been terminated, but there have already been several final convictions by the Vienna Regional Court for Criminal Matters. As of December 2014, 21 defendants were finally sentenced to 78 years and six months of imprisonment in total. Up until then, victims had been awarded damages amounting to a total of EUR 141,380.

PROSPEKTS

Already in 2014, special attention was given to exploitation for the purposes of begging. Experience has shown that the identification of human traffickers, who may also be found within families, will pose a challenge also in the years to come.

Another focus is put on the identification of labour exploitation in different groups – from the food service industry via agriculture and construction industry to private households. For reaching the highest possible efficiency, cooperation with the fiscal authorities and the labour inspectorate will be further extended.

The aim is to continue to pass on know-how in this sector in the form of training, lectures and courses offered to all colleagues, affected institutions and organisational units, so that the identification of possible victims of trafficking in human beings is further improved.

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS 2015

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