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TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION - LEGALISED OR CRIMINALISED IN THE

EU

(Case study of Romania, Poland, Cyprus and Bulgaria)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Abstract.....	7
1. Introduction.....	8
2. Legislation, Poverty, Corruption: problematic dimensions of the crime Human Trafficking.....	15
2.1. What is “human trafficking for sexual exploitation”.....	16
2.2. The dimensions of human trafficking for sexual exploitation into the boundaries of the European Union.....	18
2.2.1. European Union legislative acts.....	19
2.3. What are the main factors contributing development of the crime “human trafficking”.....	23
2.3.1. “Push” factors.....	24
2.3.1.1. Political insecurity.....	24
2.3.1.2 Conflict situation as a factor for increasing human trafficking.....	25
2.3.1.3 Public officials vulnerable to corruption.....	25
2.3.2 Socio-economic factors contributing human trafficking for sexual exploitation.....	27
2.3.2.1 Poverty.....	27
2.3.2.2 Social exclusion, gender inequality and feminisation of poverty.....	29
2.3.2.3. Discrimination.....	30
2.3.3 “Pull” factors.....	30
3. Romania, Poland and Cyprus in the fight against human trafficking for sexual exploitation –comparative analyses.....	33
3.1. The effectiveness of eradication the root causes in the context of THB for SE in Romania, Poland and Cyprus.....	34

3.1.1. Poverty and social exclusion.....	34
3.1.2. Unemployment.....	35
3.1.3. Ethnical discrimination.....	35
3.2. Fighting corruption in Romania, Cyprus and Poland.....	35
3.3. Implementation and harmonisation of the EU legal Framework within the national legislation in human trafficking for sexual exploitation in Romania, Poland and Cyprus...36	
3.3.1. The action element- “ <i>The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons</i> ”.....	38
3.3.2. The means element.....	39
3.3.3 The purpose element.....	40
3.3.4 Penalties.....	41
3.3.5 Aggravating Circumstances.....	41
3.4 The gap between <i>de jure</i> and <i>de facto</i>	43
3.4.1. Romania-step up to success.....	43
3.4.2. Poland “a good example?”.....	46
3.4.3. Cyprus- on the bottom of the list.....	49
4. Case study: Bulgaria between criminalisation and legalisation of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.....	55
4.1. Bulgarian law on criminalisation of trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation.....	56
4.1.1. The Act of Human Trafficking.....	59
4.1.1.1 Domestic human trafficking.....	59
4.1.1.2. International human trafficking.....	61
4.1.2. Trafficking for exploitation as a purpose of the crime.....	62
4.1.2.1. Debauchery (sexual exploitation).....	62
4.1.2.2. Purpose of forced servitude (enslavement).....	63
4.2 The Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and European Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and its implementation into Bulgarian Legislation.....	65

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

4.3 Where is the gap between “de jure” and “de facto”67

4.3.1. What are the main factors contributing to the involvement in human trafficking for sexual exploitation?.....69

4.3.2. The real situation in Bulgaria in the context of human trafficking.....72

5. Conclusion.....73

6. Bibliography.....78

ABSTRACT

Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation is one of the priorities in the policy of European Union. The criminalisation of the phenomenon is important because it directly relates to the protection of human rights and the prevention of the involved of greater societal circles. At the European regional level the root causes leading to human trafficking are hidden in the poverty, lack of democracy, corruption among the authorities, gender inequality and violence against women. In 2011, the European Commission adopted the Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, which established new norms on international level. To what extent the implementation of EU legislation is able to fight trafficking of women for purpose of sexual exploitation?

In theory, EU legislation for the eradication of the crime of THB for sexual exploitation has a comprehensive and complete character that establishes the assumption for further effectiveness and success. Unfortunately, it is not true, because in the process of implementation and harmonisation into the national level, the domestic authorities translate and interpret law in their own capacity and perception, which contributes for shifting the meaning of the concept. This is one of the main shortcomings of the EU law.