# Experiences in assisting victims of labour trafficking in cooperation with municipalities in Finland

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National Assistance System for Victims of Trafficking

#### Human trafficking in Finland

- Geographical location at the edge of the EU
- A transit point from Asia to other EU countries and North America
- Labour trafficking
- Fewer victims of sex trafficking get referred where the crime has taken place in Finland
- Most referrals concern immigrants or asylum seekers

#### Introduction

- Act on the reception of persons seeking international protection (746/2011); separate section in the Act
- Assistance for victims of trafficking is separate from that provided to asylum seekers.
- Joutseno reception centre (a government agency) manages and develops the assistance system
- All victims receive assistance through the assistance system irrespective of gender, age, nationality, status in Finland, the type of exploitation, ...











#### Haetko apua?

Ihmiskaupan uhrien auttamiseksi on olemassa monia keinoja ja toimijoita.

Täältä löydät ohjeita muun muassa ihmiskaupan uhrien auttamisjärjestelmään liittyen.

Lue lisää

#### Haetko tietoa?

Ihmiskauppaan liittyen on saatavissa paljon erilaista tietoa.

Tieto-osioon on koottu keskeisimmät toimintasuunnitelmat, yhteystiedot ja yleisellä tasolla oleva tieto ihmiskaupasta.

FÖRLÄGGNING RECEPTION CENTRE

### A single entry point to services

#### A possible victim of trafficking



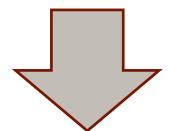
## National assistance system



**Councils** 



Children's Services



Service providers/NGOs



Asylum seeker reception centres

## Defining the client – victims of labour trafficking

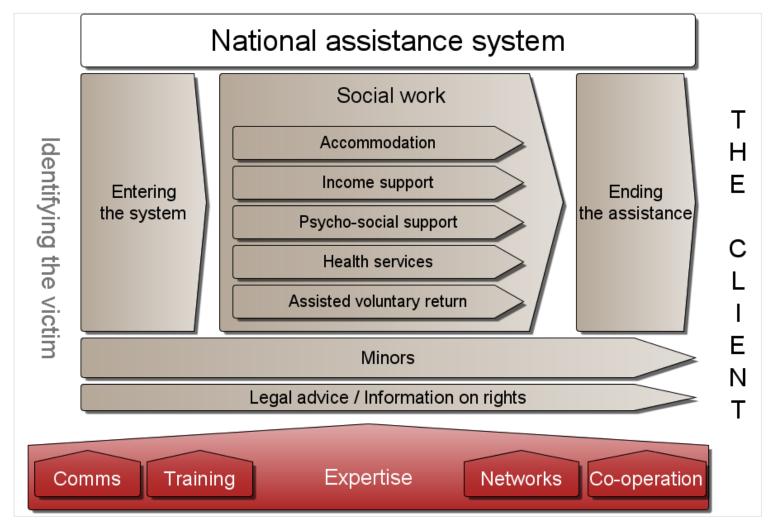
- Forced labour: restaurants, greenhouses, agriculture, factories, building sites, cleaning, ethnic shops...
- EU citizens (registered / or unregistered), people with residence permits (work)
- People with registered municipality
- Mostly men, but also women, couples and families

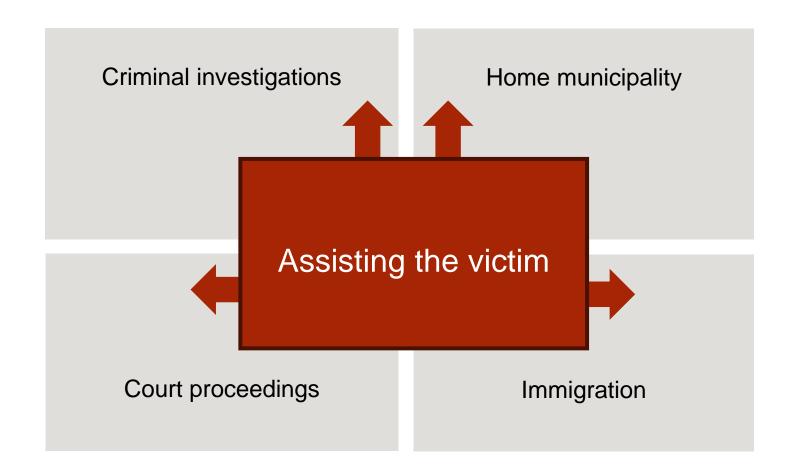
#### Case

- Contact from the police
- 10 possible victims of labour trafficking (Vietnamese)
- Working in ethnic restaurants
- Residence permits
- Police raid a special day targeting the suspected restaurants
- Police and Assistance System close cooperation

#### Case

- The decision of acceptance immediately
- Security assessment suitable accommodation, basic needs
- Contact to the home municipality
- Cooperation with the home municipality: services and support to the victims
- Court ruling: Human Trafficking (for forced labour)





#### Challenges

- Lack of knowledge: the phenomenon of trafficking and the rights of a victim of trafficking
- Municipalities do not use the available support and expertise
- Identification still the challenge
- Forced labour attitudes
- Regional differences amongst municipalities
- Regional differences in resources

### Thank You!