

International Law Enforcement Cooperation with a view of assistance for victims of THB Europol Perspective

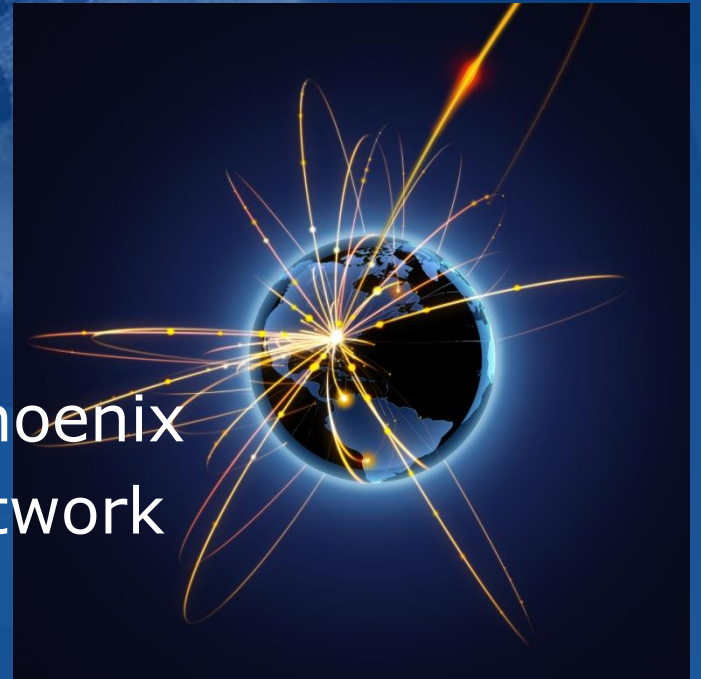
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Angelika Molnar

Project Manager of Focal Point Phoenix

Serious and Organised Crime Network

EUROPOL



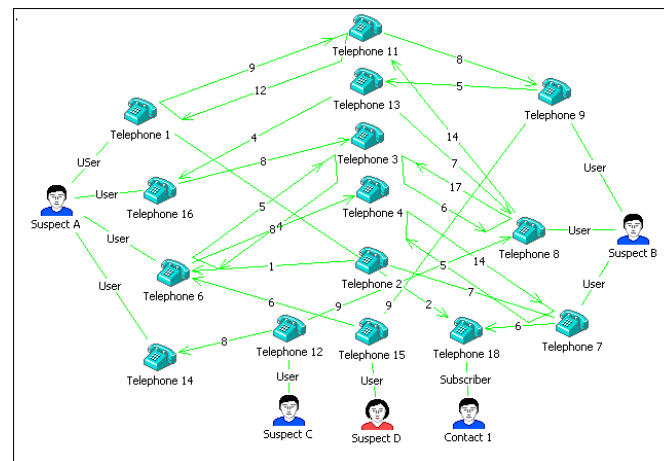
EUROPOL

- European Union law enforcement agency
- handles criminal intelligence and provides analysis
- area of serious international crime and terrorism
- two or more EU Member States concerned
- has no executive powers

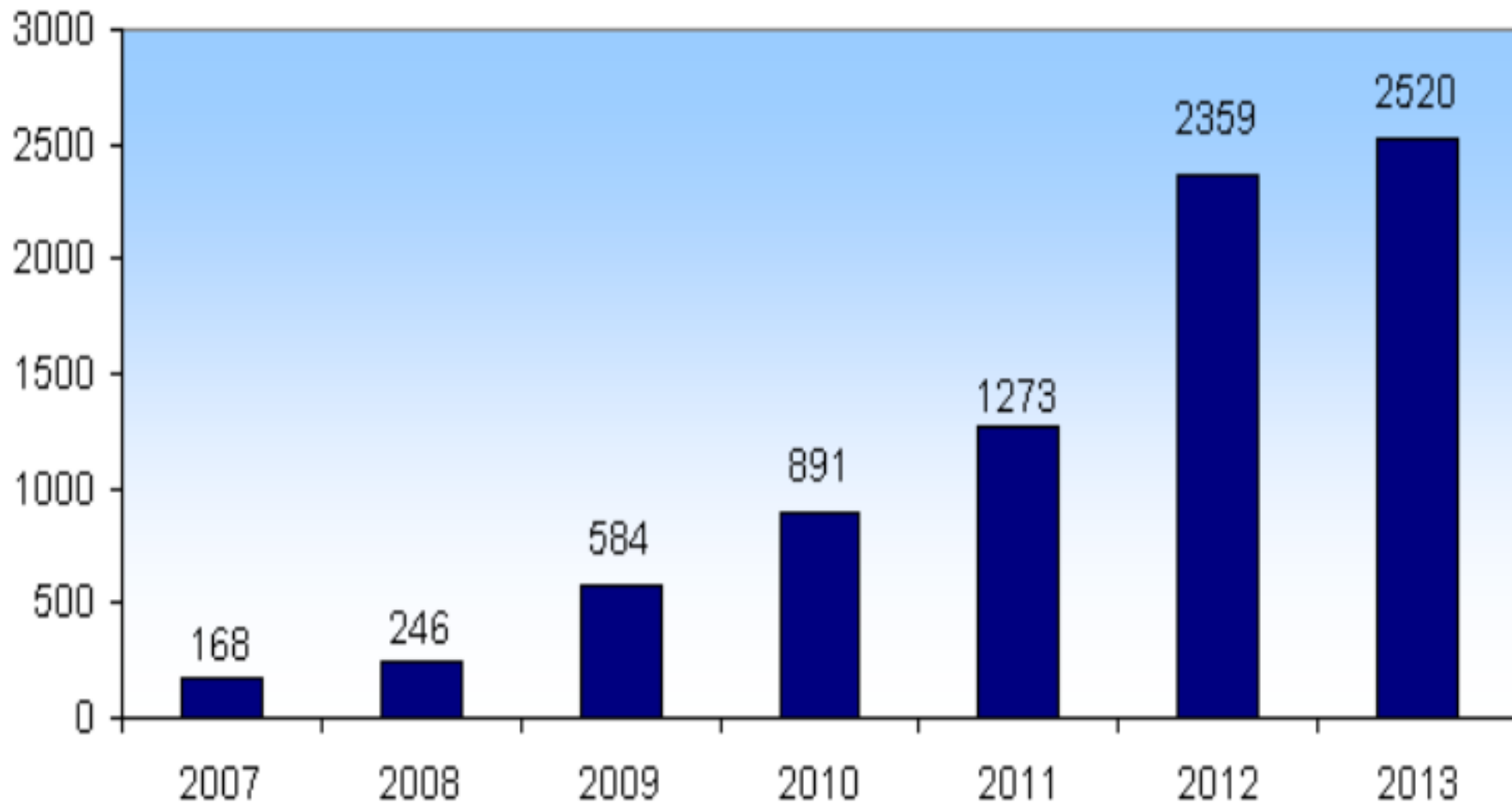


The role of Europol

- Facilitation of information exchange and intelligence sharing
- collection, storing and processing of data
- supporting cross-border operations
- analysis and dissemination of operational information from and to Europol operational partners in order to
 - develop case beyond borders
 - link different and apparently unlinked cases
 - identify opportunities for investigators that cannot be recognised on national level
 - identify larger (possibly the whole) trafficking networks

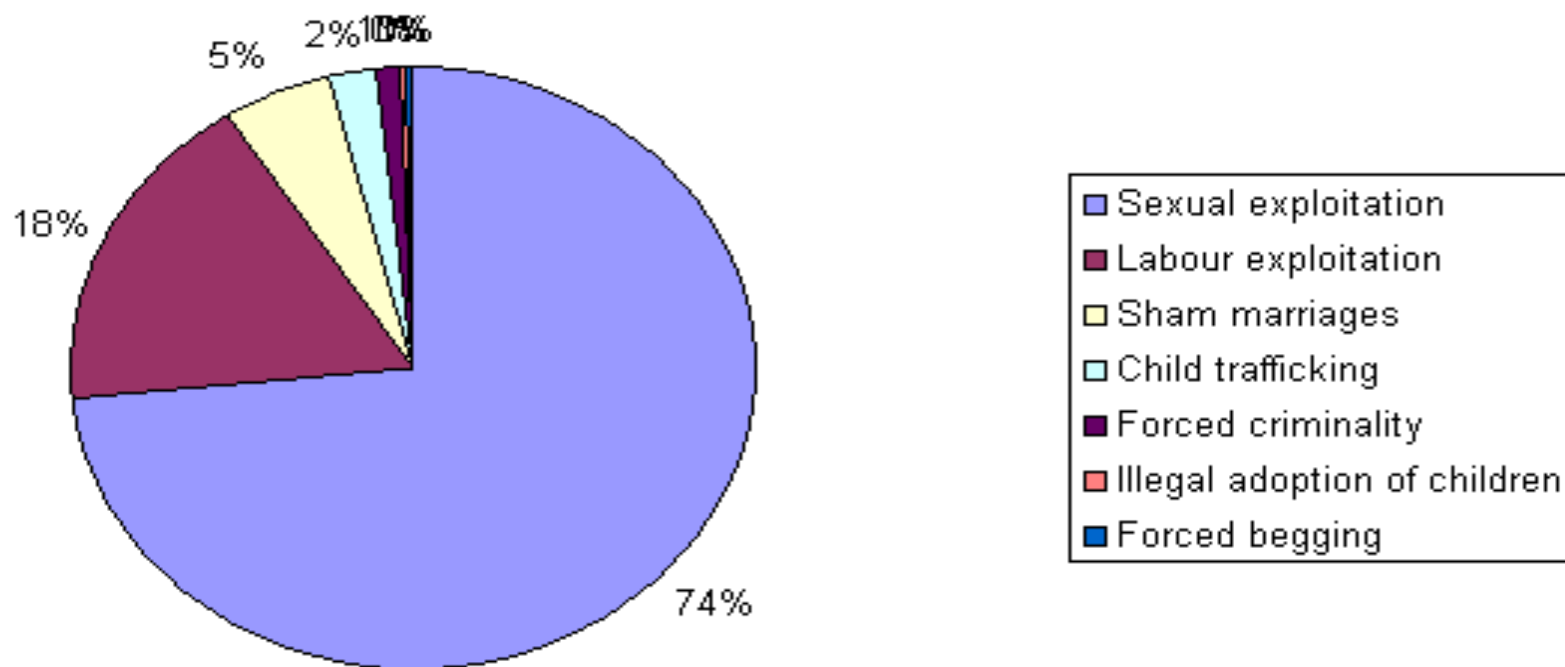


Number of contributions received by FP Phoenix



Different forms of exploitation

Contributions per types of exploitation - 1st quarter



Forced criminality

Reported cases involve trafficked persons forced to engage in various criminal activities, including

- fraud and deception,
- property crime, such as
 - pick-pocketing,
 - shoplifting,
 - burglary
 - metal thefts
 - organised street begging,
- drug production/transportation,



Challenges for law enforcement

Professional and organised criminals are involved in trafficking on a daily basis because it is seen as a high reward criminal activity with little or no risk of prosecution

In most trafficking prosecutions the main evidence is likely to be the testimony of a trafficked person

This is recognised by the traffickers and they implement and undertake strategies aimed at preventing a victim of trafficking cooperating with the authorities

Law enforcement authorities investigating trafficking related cases must be aware of this situation and determine what action must be taken to safeguard and protect the victims.

Referral of and assistance for victims

- Humanitarian duty of care towards the victim
- Legal duty of care towards the victim – International / national legislation
- Comprehensive and appropriate victim assistance and support increases the likelihood of a successful investigation and prosecution, it also effectively breaks the trafficking cycle

The role of law enforcement

There are many occasions when criminal justice practitioners are required to ensure the protection of victims in jurisdictions outside their own.

Examples include:

- establishing safety plans for victims and their family members,
- assessing risks to the victim and family prior to the return,
- arranging adequate return,
- identifying appropriate victim-witness support services,
- transferring the victim witness to courts abroad or use of video testimonies instead.

Referral of and assistance for victims in other jurisdictions

In case of trans-border trafficking cases, transnational cooperation is key in ensuring a comprehensive victim assistance, especially between countries of origin and destination

Whilst law enforcement and justice authorities should take the lead in establishing risk and the action that needs to be taken, it is likely that the action identified will involve non-governemental actors

Making effective use of the mechanisms in place to refer and support victims should be seen and recognized as good practice.

Conclusion

In order to respond effectively to emerging and identified patterns, trends and the growth of the crime of human trafficking, coordinated action is fundamental

Investigators have a humanitarian and legal duty of care to protect victims of trafficking

There is a need for cooperation between governmental and non-governmental actors, both nationally and transnationally

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Angelika MOLNAR

Project Manager

Analytical Work File (AWF) Phoenix

Europol

Tel: 0031 70 353 1610

E-mail:

angelika.molnar@europol.europa.eu

Thank you