2024 Trafficking in Human Beings Assistance Statistics and Trends

General Overview

In 2024, our members assisted a total of at least **5.451** persons. This represents a slight increase, compared to the previous two years, as in 2023 a total of 5.103 persons were assisted[1] and in 2022[2], approximately 4.000 persons were assisted. This total number is based on statistical data from 28 out of 33 LSI members from 22 European countries.
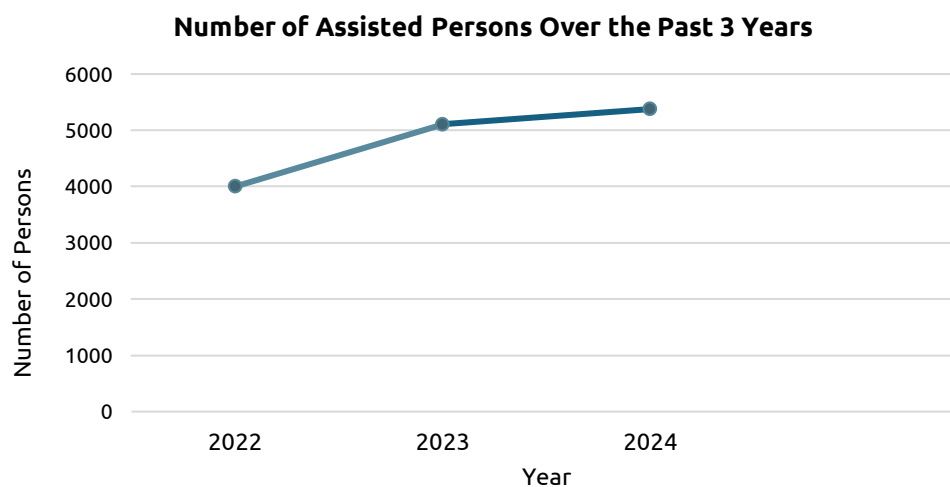

Figure 1

Fifteen out of the **28** (52%) organisations reported to having assisted more presumed victims compared to the previous year, while seven (26%) reported similar numbers. Only six (22%) reported a lower number in 2024 compared to 2024.

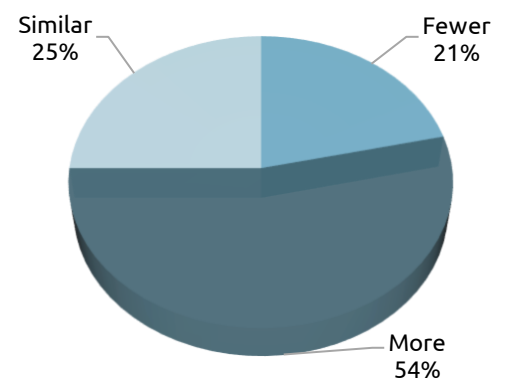From the total number of reported assisted (presumed) victims, **692** victims were internally displaced.[3]

Figure 2

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[1] This increase is partially caused by the fact that for the year 2025 we had 28 members responding to our questionnaire, while in 2023 we had 26 members responding. Some members reported numbers including both newly assisted victims but also victims who benefited from assistance in 2023, which continued in 2024.

[2] In 2022, exact figures from members were not collected and the number only represents an estimate. Moreover, the number of member organisations was also lower compared to the following years which, in turn, influences the total number of assisted persons.

[3] This figure is based on the reports of 17 out of the 28 responding members.

We know that at least **283** persons benefited from a reflection and recovery period in 2024[4].

One hundred and nineteen (119) persons applied for compensation, while only **23** individuals received compensation. This means that only **19%** of the victims assisted with compensation claims were granted compensation after their application.[5]

Gender & Age Groups

From the persons assisted, the majority was female (**3.753 persons**; **67%**). The number of assisted males was slightly less the half of the females (**1.789 persons**; **32%**). Seven of our members also reported having assisted 13 non-binary people, and 19 trans people. These findings are in line with Eurostat's 2023 figures, which also state that the majority of trafficked victims were female (63,3%), signalling a slight increase compared to Eurostat data for 2022.

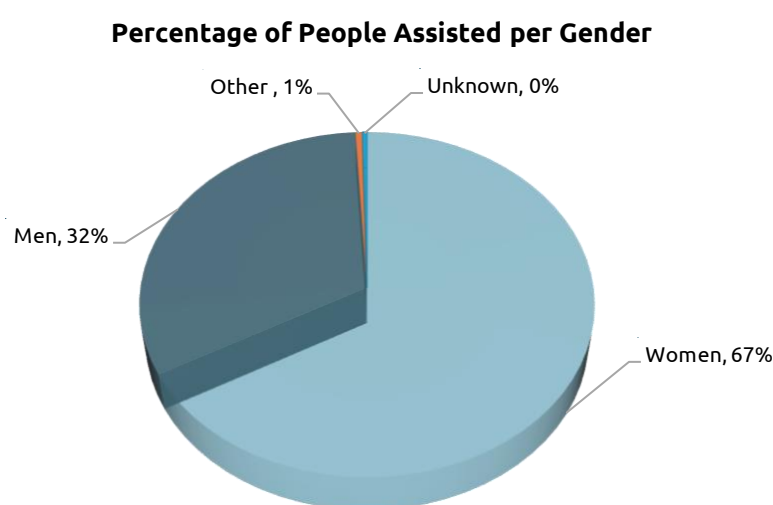**Percentage of People Assisted per Gender**

Figure 3

Most organisations assisted victims in the age categories: *18-25 years old* and *26-35 years old*, with all 28 members having reported to assist persons from these age groups. The least reported category was *over 55 years old,* with 17 out of 28 organisations reporting victims from this age group. Despite this, we see that overall people from all age groups are registered as victims of trafficking.

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[4] Based on data from 11 member organisations.

[5] Seven organisations could provide us with the number of people who applied for compensation, however, only five could also provide the number of people who received the compensation. As procedures to claim compensation can be quite lengthy, it is possible that some of the persons that claimed compensation will still be awarded compensation in the future.
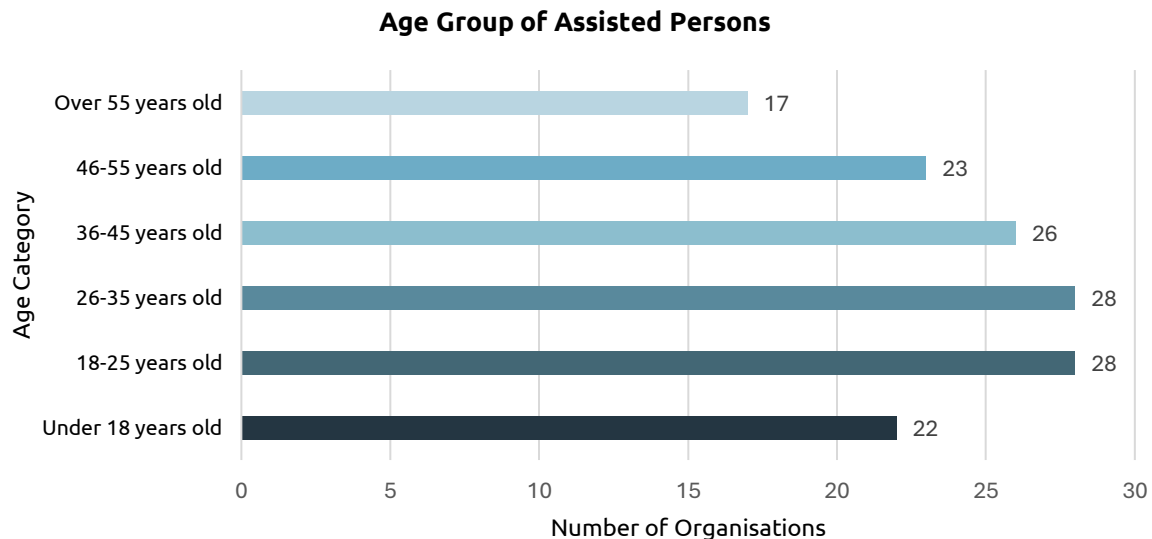
Age Group of Assisted Persons

Figure 4

Online recruitment

In 2024, a total of **111** persons had been recruited online.[6] In addition, 11 other organisations indicated that they had supported victims recruited through online channels but were unable to provide exact figures. Several other members stated that they do not systematically register the method of recruitment and or whether this concerned off- or online recruitment. While there are reports of online exploitation, no exact numbers were provided.

Residence Permit & International protection

Regarding residence permits, a total of **715** assisted persons were reported to have received one.[7]

A total of **120** persons were reported to be beneficiaries of international protection, based on data from 11 organisations. It is important to note that not all members collect this information, and access to international protection often depends on national legislation, with some countries applying special procedures for victims of trafficking, including tailored residence permits or protection statuses.

Finally, **43** persons were reported to have received refugee status or subsidiary protection on the grounds of human trafficking, based on data from six organisations. Many members stated that they do not collect or track this information, which likely leads to underreporting in this area.

Nationality of Presumed Victims

Most assisted persons by our members were of Nigerian nationality (**353** people), followed by Dutch (**289**), Colombian (**258**) and Romanian (**201**).[8] See *Figure 6* for an overview of all nationalities.

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[6] Based on the reports from 7 member organisations.

[7] This is based on the report of 18 organisations.

[8] The numbers as well as the *Figure 5* are based on the information from 16 organisations.

When looking at whether the assisted persons were nationals of a European country, we see that only **34%** of them were. The other 66% were citizens of countries outside Europe. This trend of an increased number of Third Country Nationals (TCNs) is also confirmed by the 2023 Eurostat data, which states that **64,1%** of victims were citizens from non-EU countries.[9]

**Percentage of Assisted People:
Europe vs. outside Europe**
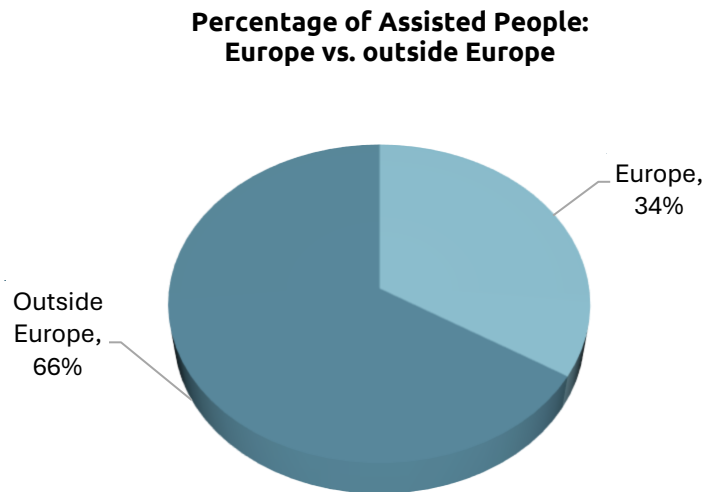
Europe,
34%

Outside
Europe,
66%

Figure 5

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[9] Eurostat makes the division between EU and non-EU nationalities, while we divide into *Europe* and *outside,* as some of our members are in European countries outside the EU.

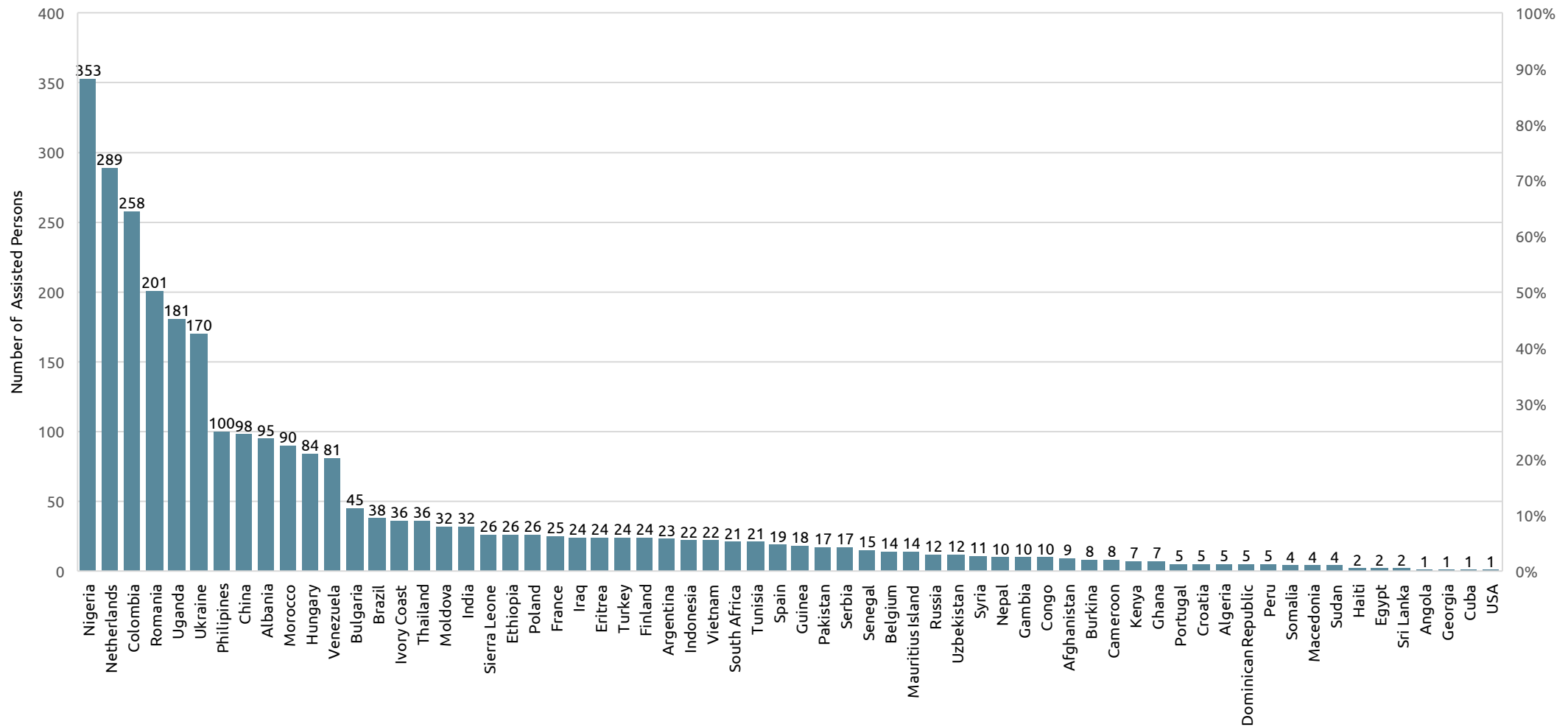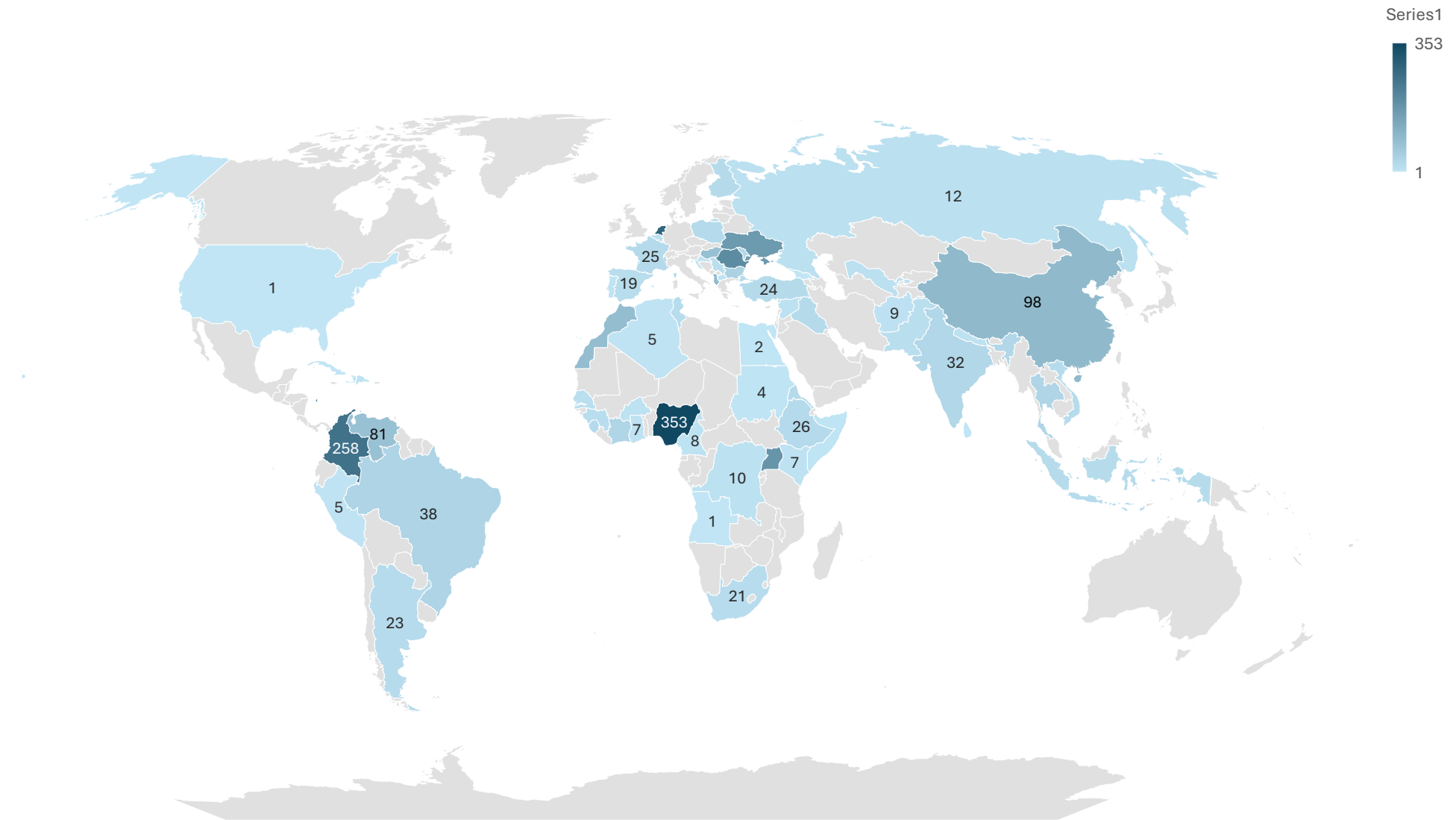# Number of Assisted Persons based on Nationality*

Figure 6

*Based on registration data from 17 organisations

Number of Assisted Persons Based on Nationality*

Series1

353

1

Netherlands	
UK	25
Spain	19
USA	1
Algeria	5
Egypt	2
Russia	12
Ukraine / Romania	24
China	98
Afghanistan	9
India	32
Sudan	4
Ghana	7
Nigeria	353
Cameroon	8
Ethiopia	26
Somalia	7
Colombia	258
Venezuela	81
Peru	5
Brazil	38
DRC	10
Angola	1
South Africa	21
Argentina	23

*Based on registration data from 17 organisations

6

Figure 7

Types of Exploitation

When looking at the overall types of exploitation faced by the persons we assisted, we see the following:

- **Sexual** and **labour exploitation** remained the **most frequently reported forms**, with almost no change between the two years (23 vs. 24 organisations for sexual exploitation; 25 vs. 24 for labour). This suggests a consistently high prevalence of these forms across both reporting periods.
- The number of organisations that assisted victims of **forced criminality** remained quite similar to 2024 (15 in 2023 to 14 in 2024), while forced begging increased noticeably, from 9 to 16 organisations reporting this, marking the most significant rise among all categories.
- Less commonly reported forms of exploitation, such as the **exploitation of surrogacy, illegal adoption**, and **forced organ donation**, remained rare. The number of cases of trafficking for the exploitation of surrogacy decreased from 2 to 1), while forced organ donation increased by 1 in 2024.
- A case of exploitation of Illegal adoption, on the other hand, was mentioned for the first time by one member organisation in 2024, after no reports in 2023.
- Reports of exploitation of forced marriage increased from eight to 10 organisations reporting it in 2024. For 2023, we reported approximately 20 cases or more. For 2024, we have **38** people registered as exploited for forced marriage (see *Table 1*).
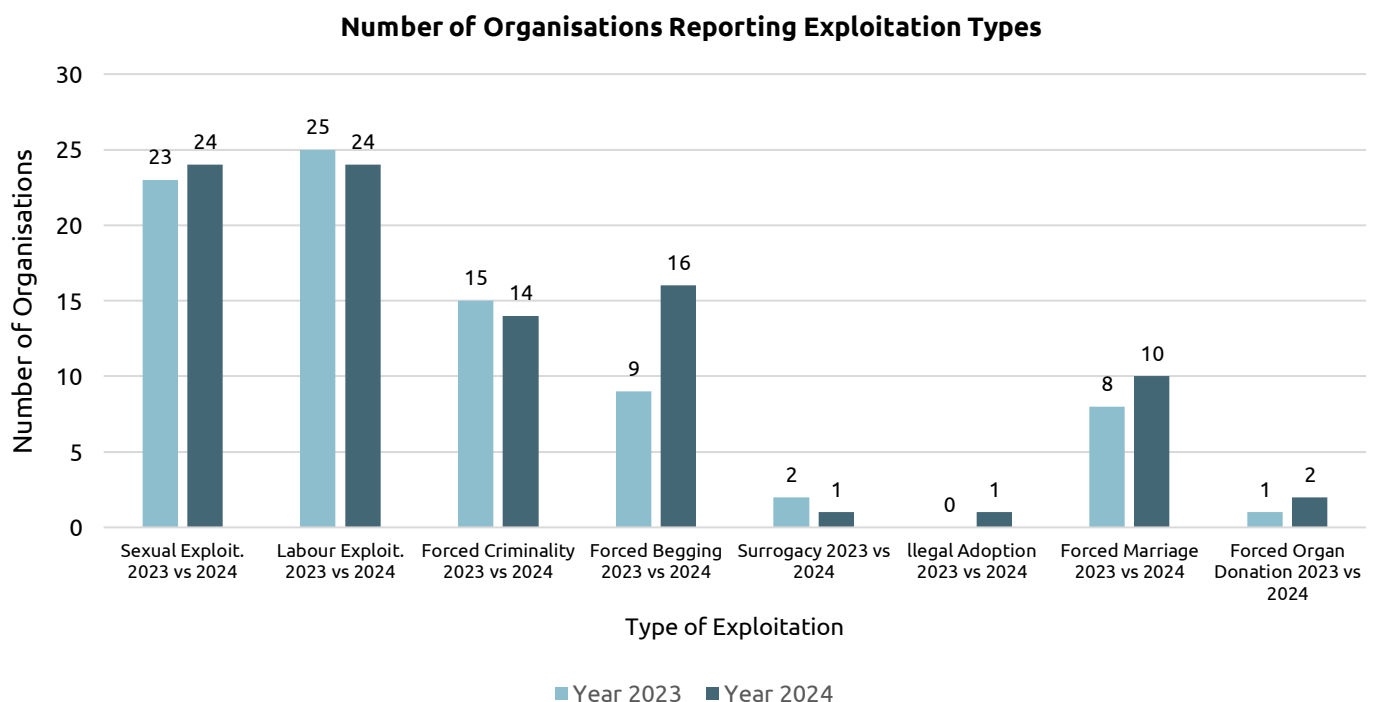

Number of Organisations Reporting Exploitation Types

Figure 8

Twelve of our members could provide us with precise figures on the number of people they assisted. When analysing this data, the highest number represents the cases of **sexual exploitation (1.020 people)**, followed by **labour exploitation (892 people)** and **forced begging (68 people)**. We also see an increase in the **exploitation of forced marriage**: in 2023, members reported that they assisted around 20 persons, while in 2024 this number was **38** persons. *Table 1* offers an overview.

Type of exploitation	Number of persons
Sexual exploitation	1020
Labour exploitation	892
Forced begging	68
Exploitation involving minors	69
Exploitation of forced marriage	38
Forced criminality	35
Multiple types	11
Exploitation of Surrogacy	2
Forced organ donation	2
Unspecified	80

Table 1

Sectors where Labour Exploitation occurred

The most frequently reported sector of exploitation in both years was **domestic work** (incl. care work), with a notable increase from 19 organisations reporting this in 2023 to **23** in 2024. Reports of exploitation in **agriculture** also rose, from 15 to **20** organisations now reporting this sector.

Construction remained stable, with the number of members reporting this being the same in 2024 as in 2023 (**15** organisations). Overall, there is a slight decrease in reports relating to exploitation in the **hospitality** and **transport sectors**. However, some members continue to report a high prevalence of exploitation in the hospitality and tourism sectors at the national level.[10]

The "**other**" category (which includes factory work, logistics, delivery) saw reports from **14** member organisations in 2024.[11]

For an overview, see *Figure 9.*

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[10] It should be noted that a lower number of organisations reporting cases in the hospitality sector does not necessarily indicate a real decrease in exploitation. In some contexts, cases may remain underreported or data unavailable. For instance, our member in Albania highlighted that exploitation in the hospitality sector remains widespread.

[11] While such cases were reported in 2023, it is unclear how many organisations reported cases this year, making it difficult to draw a comparison with 2024.
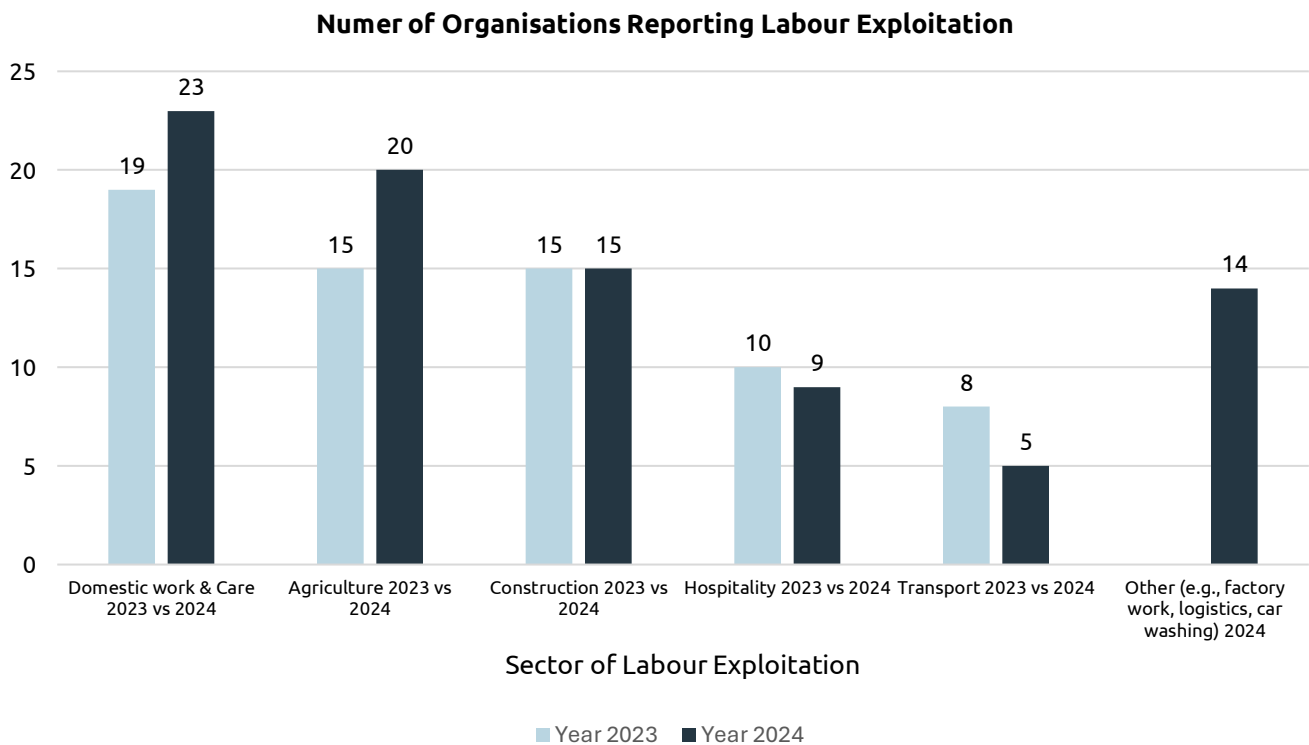
Numer of Organisations Reporting Labour Exploitation

Legend: Year 2023 | Year 2024

Figure 9

Ukrainian Nationals

Eighteen out of 27 member organisations reported to have assisted new persons coming from Ukraine in 2024. Predominantly, these were Ukrainian nationals (**112** presumed victims). This signals a decline compared to last year, when the reported number of persons was 187. However, four of our members declared that they also assisted people of different nationalities who were coming from Ukraine. Despite the small decline in 2024, we expect that the exploitation of people coming from Ukraine will increase in the following years. The continuation of the war and the gradual weakening of state support systems for newly arriving individuals, as well as for those already residing in host countries.

Persons Assisted from Ukraine

Figure 10

In 2023, seven organisations reported assisting more Ukrainians compared to 2022, while eight reported fewer, and another eight said the numbers were similar. In 2024, only **four** organisations reported an increase compared to 2023, while **10** reported a decrease, and **13** noted similar levels of assistance.

These results suggest that while some organisations experienced a continued decline in the number of Ukrainians assisted, a growing number reported similar numbers as in the previous year.

Persons coming from Ukraine: 2024 vs 2023

Figure 11

Trends

The following trends were noted by our members. However, not all identified trends are supported by the statistical data we collected.

1. **Use of ICTs & Online Recruitment**
   - Members report a continued increase in the use of digital technologies (ICTs) for recruitment. Online job placements are used to recruit both men and women (mostly TCNs but not only); in some cases, the exploitation takes place online (e.g., scamming).
   - This increases vulnerability and makes it harder for victims to seek help, potentially explaining lower assistance numbers despite ongoing exploitation.

2. **Growth in Forced Criminality Cases**
   - Members' data show an increase in forced criminality involving both men and women, with a continued trend of mixed forms of exploitation.
   - One member reported an increase in the recruitment of young girls for the sole purpose of criminal exploitation

3. **Rise in Labour Exploitation**
   - Labour exploitation remains widespread, with some members reporting increases in specific sectors (hospitality sector - including restaurants – and meat sector)

4. **Sexual Exploitation**
   - Continued reports of sexual exploitation, including:

     o A rise in male victims, including minors. trafficked for sexual exploitation

     o An increase in addiction problems among victims of sexual exploitation.

     o A sector-specific rise has occurred, where sexual exploitation has increased in tourism settings.

     o More sex workers move to online platforms, making outreach and detection harder.

5. Increase in the reported number of cases concerning **forced begging**.

6. The number of cases of **forced marriage** cases remains similarly high, with one of our member reporting an increase compared to previous years.

7. The number of **third country nationals** exploited in different sectors remains significantly high. Some countries report a year-by-year increase, while others draw attention to seasonal/ posted workers highlighting specific sectors (hospitality, agriculture, construction).

8. **Exploitation and Vulnerability Among Non-EU Students:**
   - One of our members reported a growing number of non-EU students facing economic hardship and labour exploitation. Some arrive initially on seasonal work permits, later switching to study permits. Sometime, this can also include the spouses these students.

Brief Comparison 2023 vs 2024

Trend Area	2023 identified trends	2024 developments
ICTs & Online Recruitment	Rise in online sexual exploitation and CSAM	Continued rise in ICT use for recruitment, making
Sexual Exploitation	Increase in private/apartment-based exploitation and sex tourism	Sex tourism continues to be an issue. Two of our members also report an increase in the number of men who were sexually exploited.
Forced Criminality	Growth in forced drug trafficking, especially involving male victims.	Reports of forced criminality remain similarly high.
Labour Exploitation	The highest numbers reported are from the domestic, agriculture and construction sectors.	The highest prevalence of reported sectors remains the same.
Multiple Forms of Exploitation	Rise in mixed exploitation cases	Similar reports
Victim Characteristics	The number of reported female victims is still the highest when compared to numbers of men or other genders, though an increase in the exploitation of men is noticed.	Similar trend, the number of women is the highest, but reports show an increase in the number of men assisted
Origin of the assisted persons	Rise in victims from countries outside the EU, especially Vietnam, Colombia,	The number of victims from Colombia and Venezuela still remains high, followed by Nigeria, Ukraine, Romania and Albania. We also

	Venezuela, Paraguay, Nigeria and Ukraine	see a significant number of Chinese people reported. Several organisations report an increase in the number of TCNs.
Cases involving minors	For 2023, one of our members reported an increase in CSAM.	Three of our members noticed an increase in the assistance they offer to minors. Reports show that both boys and girls are recruited for sexual exploitation and/ or criminal exploitation.

Methodology

We distributed our data collection survey to our members in April 2025, until the end of June 2025. The questionnaire used for this data collection was a revised version of the one we used in the previous year, with the new version now fully aligning with the requirements for EU MS embedded in the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive (minimum statistical data to be provided by EU Member States according to Article 19a of the amended Directive).

Twenty-eight out of **33** members from **22** different European countries filled out the questionnaire, providing us with the exact figures for the people they assisted.

Disclaimer

Not all members who filled out the questionnaire differentiated between new cases or cases assisted in earlier years. Some members report hotline calls as well.