

## Case 15

**Contributor: HfÖV/IPoS**

**Assessed case number: 320 Js 61830/16**

**Title: Human Trafficking and Prostitution**

- **What type of trafficking/exploitation is being analysed?**

Sexual THB	Forced Labour	Forced Criminal Activities	Minor Exploitation and forced adoption	Polycrime	Other (Specify the type)	All the aforementioned
X						

- **Please provide a brief description of the case (about 500 words)**

The Romanian perpetrator and the Romanian female victim were both preliminarily arrested as they vigorously argued with each other on the street. During questioning, it turned out that she wanted to free herself from forced prostitution.

Based on the statements, possible links to a criminal group in Romania, Bulgaria and Switzerland were identified.

A European Investigation Order was issued in each case, but this did not lead to any results. This is surprising, because a witness (customer of the victim) had testified that he had been offered to ransom the woman for 10,000.00 EUR.

- **Which is the *modus operandi* of the entities using cyber tools for trafficking and/or exploitation?**

MODUS OPERANDI	Yes/No	Description
To add:	No	
Other	Yes	Based on the statements, possible links to a criminal group in Romania, Bulgaria and



		Switzerland were identified.
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• **Please provide more details on the perpetrator(s):**

Was/were the perpetrator(s) male or female?	male
Which is the nationality of the perpetrator(s)?	Romanian
In which country was he/she, were they operating?	Romania/Germany (and potentially Bulgaria, Switzerland)
Was it an individual or a group?	
Were there any preliminary indicators for early detection?	
Which other aspects are important?	

• **Which were the main characteristics of the victim(s)?**

THB Victims	Involved (x)	Please describe in more detail
Men		
Women	X	
Minors		
LGTBI		
Country of origin	Romania	
Country of exploitation	Germany	
Capturing Method		
Coercion Method (debt-bonded, victims' families threatened...)		
Handing over the passport		
Other		
Unknown		

• **What were the money laundering mechanisms used by traffickers?**

Money Laundering Mechanisms	Involved (x)	Please describe in more detail
Checks and money orders to anonymous post office boxes		
Back accounts in foreign countries		
Funnel account(s)		
Route cash from different cities		
Money Mules		



Hawala System		
Purchase of corporate vehicles or real estate		
Cash business entities such as restaurants or bars		
Other		
Unknown		

• **Has the case been tried or is it still under investigation?**

Legal Procedure	Yes/No	Please describe in more detail
Case with judgment	Yes	320 Js 61830/16
Under investigation		

• **What was the economic evidence of the crime?**

Economic evidence	Yes/No	Please describe in more detail
Money Transfers	No	
Banks Accounts	No	
Unjustified Financial Wealth	No	
Network Accountancy	No	
Financial Study of the Victim	No	
Wallet Cards	No	
Suspicious transactions	No	
Cryptocurrency exchanges or payments	No	
Cash payments	No	
Faster Payments Inwards (FPI) from the same entity	No	
Same mobile number or email address	No	
Hawala Payments	No	
Various bank accounts beneficiaries	No	
Others	No	
Unknown	Yes	

• **What activities in internet were considered suspicious?**

Internet Activities	Yes/No	Please describe in more detail
Online money transfers	No	
Purchases at online gaming sites	No	
Ads on Backpage.com or similar sites	No	
Social media to recruitment	No	



Use of digital platforms to advertise deceptive job offers and to market exploitative services to potential paying customers	No	
Fishing potential victims by posting advertisements	No	
Use of video equipment to stream and broadcast exploitative services	No	
Used of multiple online profiles	No	
Use of specific apps: Please circle the relevant apps or add the name at the end if not listed	No	<p>Ex:</p> <p>1) <b>For Advertising</b> : Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.;</p> <p>2) <b>For Recruitment and Communication:</b> FaceTime, IMO, Messenger, Signal, Signal, Skype, Viber, WA, WeChat, Zalo, etc.</p> <p>3) <b>For Logistic:</b> video-sharing platforms distributing essential logistic instructions, satellite images and photos, planned routes, Google Maps waypoints, GPS data, etc.; Guidance, including mapping applications (Maps.me, Google Maps) for remotely guiding migrants across borders through tailor-made tutorials and YouTube videos containing detailed guides on how to navigate migrant routes, where to cross borders or buy fake documents, how to find smuggling hotspots, shelter or assistance, etc.;</p> <p>4) <b>For Payments</b>, online transfer of fees and documentation of payment proof via messaging services, hawala, etc.</p> <p>5) <b>Countermeasures adopted by smugglers to anonymize their services</b>, AppLocks, Secure Folders, burner applications, DiskDigger, private VPN connections, or clone apps, Fake GPS and modified display caller ID (Numberbook).</p>
Others	X	unknown

• **Other relevant information or important case specificities:**

	Please describe in more detail
	This case looks as if better investigations and more interest in the subject-matter could have resulted in something of transnational interest.
	The case was closed by court decision without any convictions.

