

# **Hidden in Plain Sight: The Reality of Forced Labour in Poland**

**9-10<sup>th</sup> April, Warsaw**



**POLAND25.EU**

# Number of victims

Recent years have brought **significant challenges** in the area of countering human trafficking in Poland.

The protracted armed conflict in Ukraine and persistent tensions on the Polish-Belarusian border continued to **affect migration dynamics in the region**.

Poland, due to its geographical location and the assistance measures taken, remained a **key transit and destination country** for those seeking safety and better living conditions.

316

2024

1043

2023

277

2022

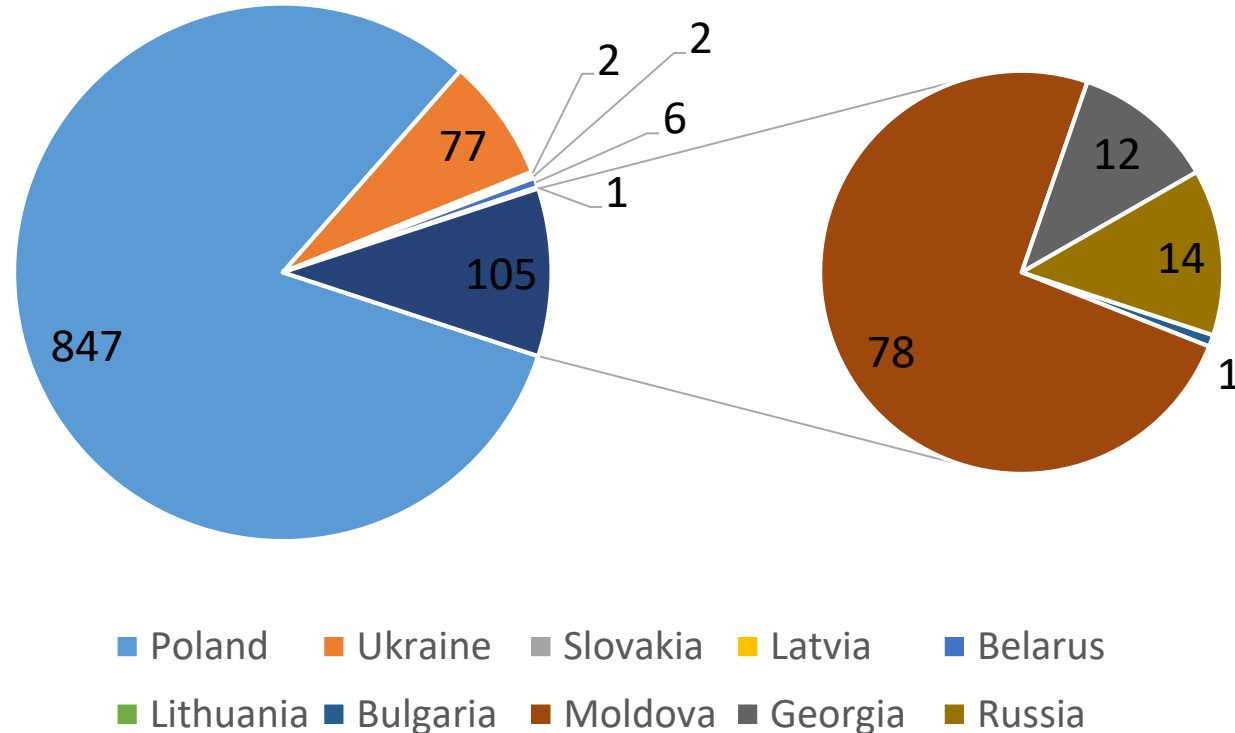


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Poland, as a country bordering Ukraine and actively accepting refugees, has become a place of increased risk of human trafficking.

According to data from the National Prosecutor's Office, in 2024, **46 Ukrainian citizens** were granted the status of aggrieved party: 3 people were exploited in prostitution, **43 in forced labour**.

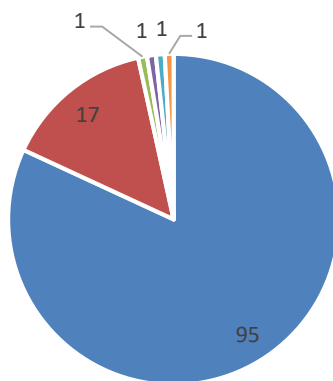
Europe - Number of Victims 2022-2024





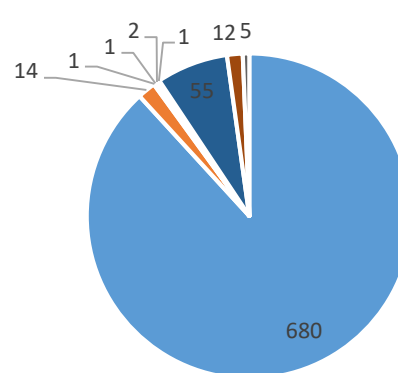
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Europe - 2022 Number of Victims



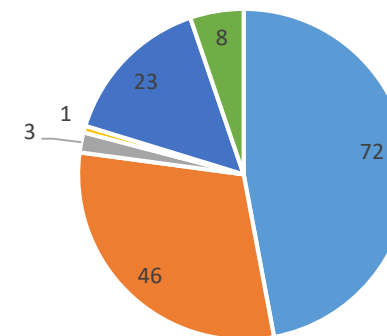
■ Poland ■ Ukraine ■ Slovakia ■ Latvia ■ Belarus ■ Russia

Europe - 2023 Number of Victims



■ Poland ■ Ukraine ■ Slovakia ■ Latvia ■ Belarus  
■ Lithuania ■ Moldova ■ Georgia ■ Russia

Europe - 2024 Number of Victims



■ Poland ■ Ukraine ■ Belarus ■ Bulgaria ■ Moldova ■ Russia

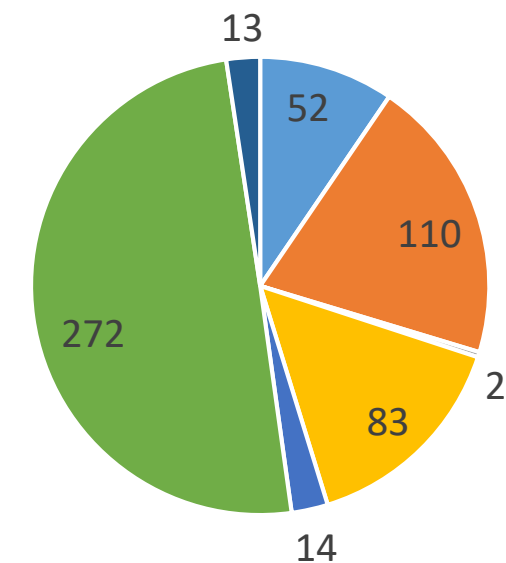
We should not forget that **Poles** are also victims of human trafficking in other European countries.



In the last 3 years Poland has recorded a significant increase in the number of Latin American victims of human trafficking.

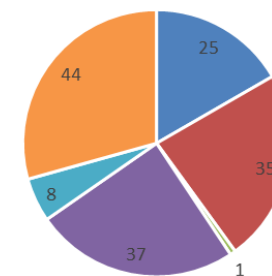
These individuals have been exploited mainly in **forced labor** and are the largest group among foreign victims of human trafficking registered in Poland last year.

Americas - Number of Victims 2022-2024



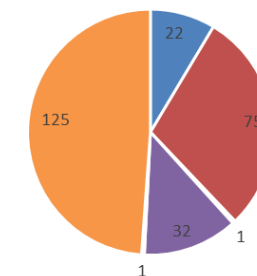
- North America Mexico
- Central America Guatemala
- Central America Honduras
- South America Venezuela
- South America Peru
- South America Colombia
- South America Argentina

Americas - 2022 Number of Victims



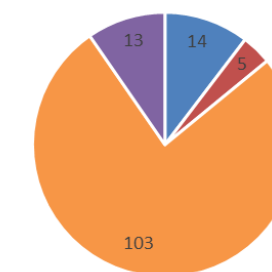
- Mexico
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Venezuela
- Peru
- Colombia

Americas - 2023 Number of Victims



- Mexico
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Venezuela
- Peru
- Colombia

Americas - 2024 Number of Victims



- Venezuela
- Peru
- Colombia
- Argentina

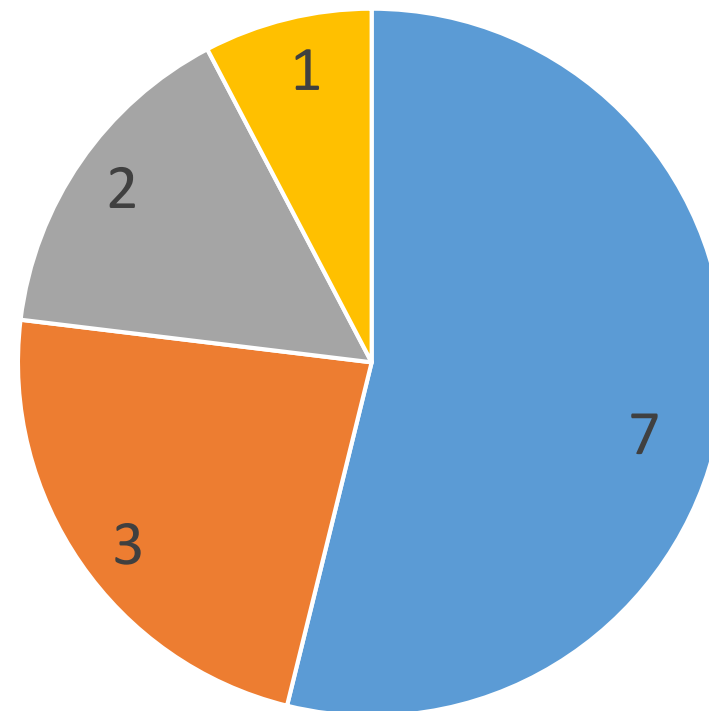


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There has been a small but visible increase in the identification of victims of human trafficking from Central Asian countries, such as Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, who have been exploited in forced labour.

The growing number of migrants from these countries is a result of the **difficult economic, social or political situation** in these countries.

Central Asia - Number of Victims 2022-2024



■ Turkmenistan ■ Uzbekistan ■ Tajikistan ■ Kyrgyzstan



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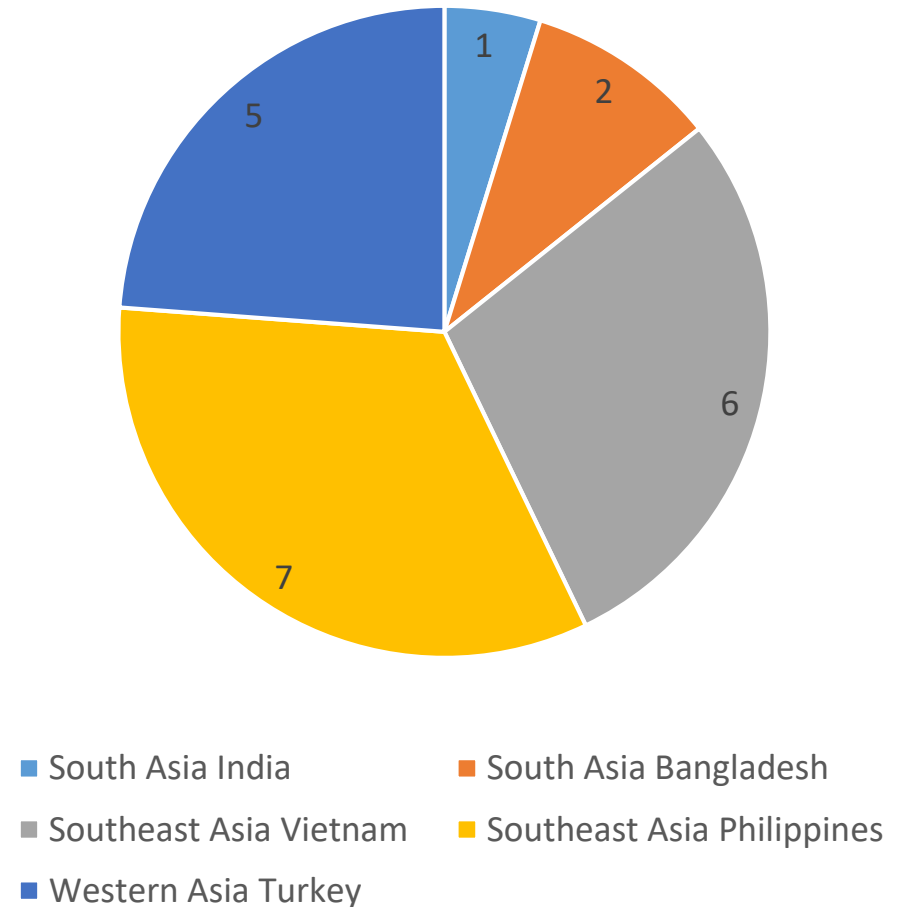
Employers are increasingly looking for **employees from distant parts of the world**, e.g. India, Nepal, the Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

People employed in sectors such as:

- construction,
- agriculture,
- manufacturing,
- and transportation

are at risk of forced labor. They are often forced to work overtime, without adequate compensation, and working conditions that fall far short of those promised.

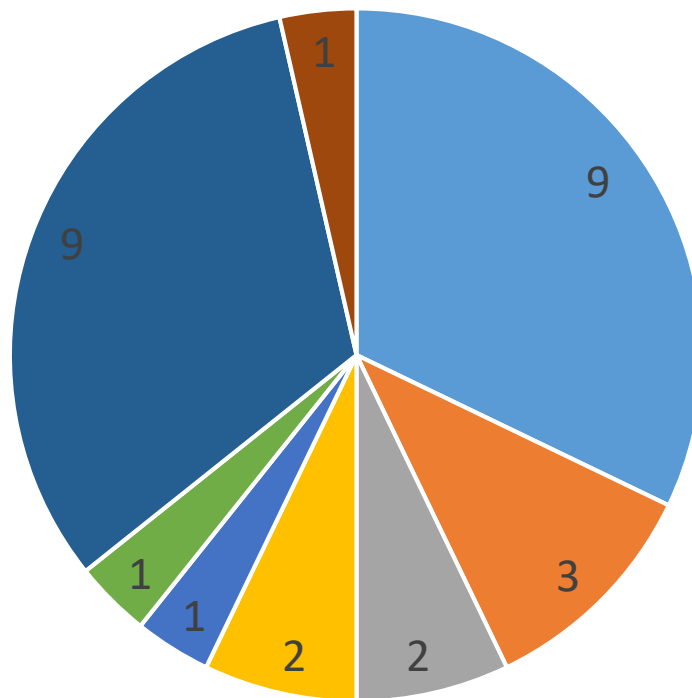
Asia - Number of Victims 2022-2024





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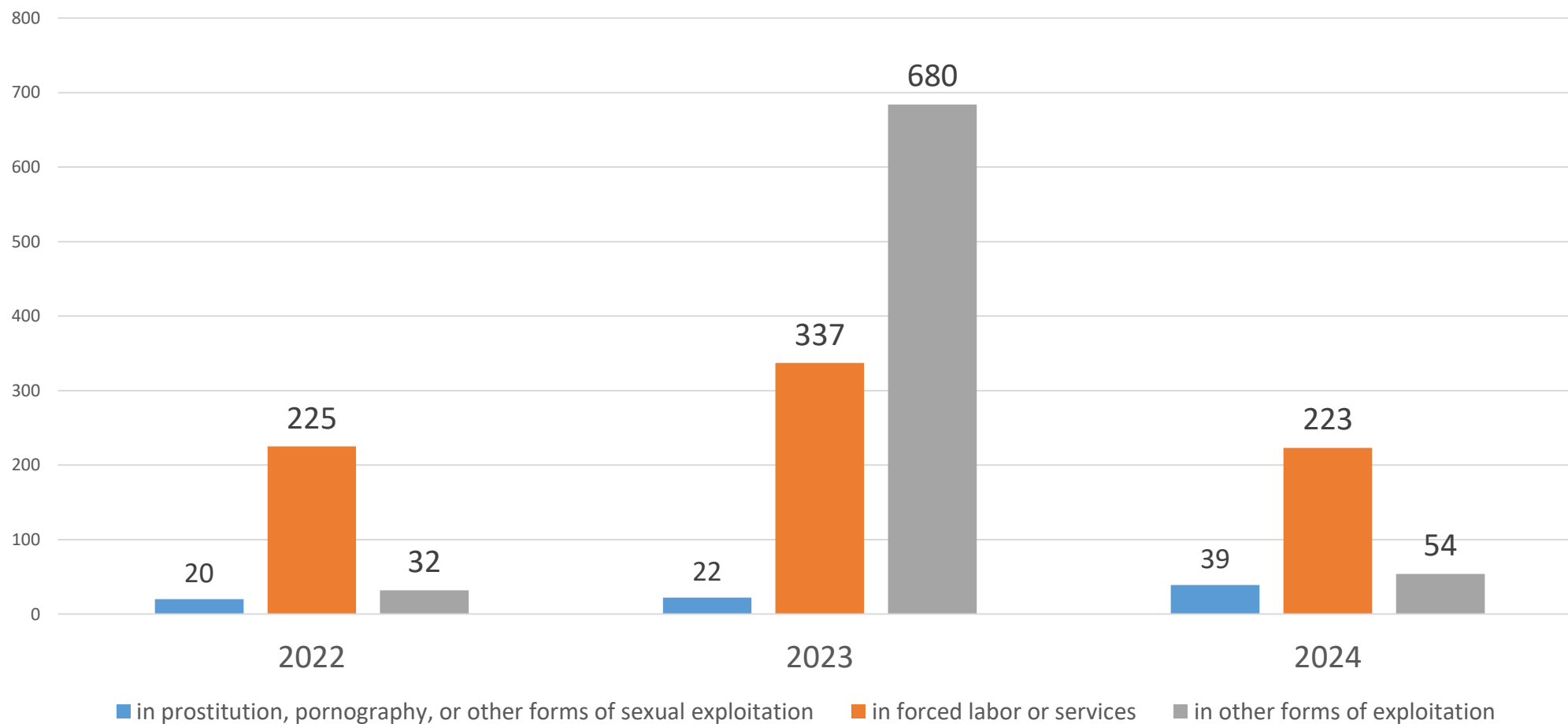
## Africa - Number of Victims 2022-2024



- |                            |                           |                          |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| ■ North Africa Morocco     | ■ East Africa Ethiopia    | ■ East Africa Mauritius  |
| ■ West Africa Sierra Leone | ■ West Africa Guinea      | ■ West Africa Mauritania |
| ■ Central Africa Congo     | ■ Central Africa Cameroon |                          |



## Form of exploitation of victims between 2022 and 2024

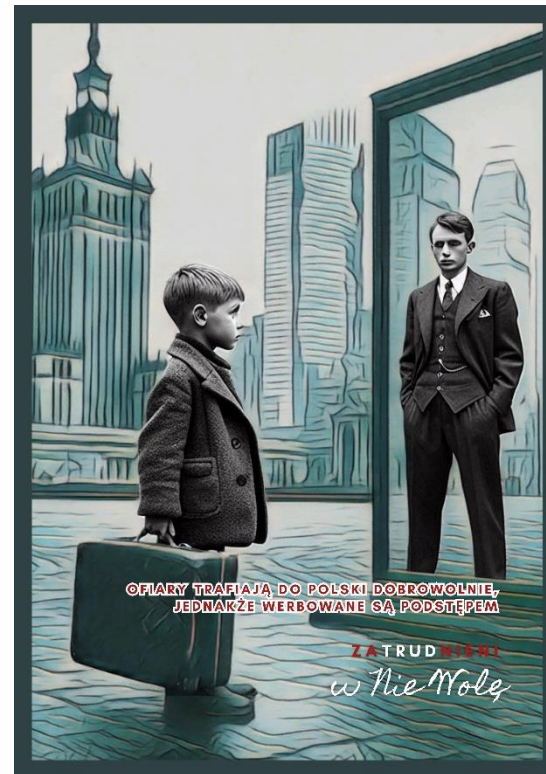




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## Employed in Slavery

An information campaign to raise awareness of the phenomenon of human trafficking, in particular the exploitation of forced labour.





Polska prezydencja w Radzie UE

Polish presidency of the Council of the EU

Présidence polonaise du Conseil de l'UE