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Migration and Integration Fund
of the European Union



Trafficking in persons: detection trends and patterns in Western and Southern Europe

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The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- Guardian of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC), and its annexes
 - The Protocol against Trafficking in persons
- An international commitment:
 - To prevent trafficking
 - To protect victims
 - To prosecute offenders



The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

- World's largest database (350,000 victims)
- Periodic global data collection to capture officially detected cases of trafficking in persons
- 148/193 countries covered in the 2020 edition

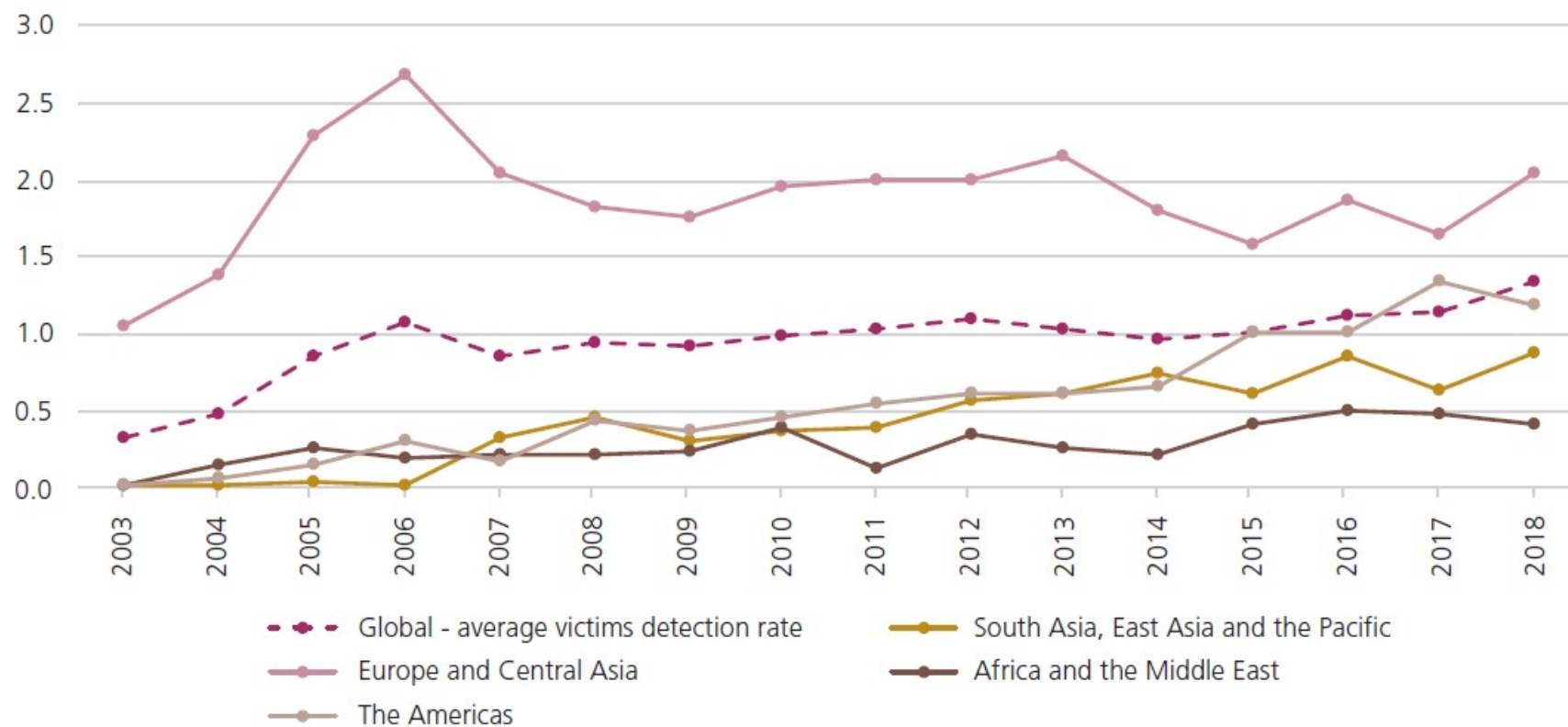


An overview of victim's detection

- Rescued by Law Enforcement Authorities
- Identified by the Criminal Justice Systems during a trial
- Identified by NGO or social services in some countries



FIG. 41 Average victims detection rates (per 100,000 population) globally and by region, 2003–2018



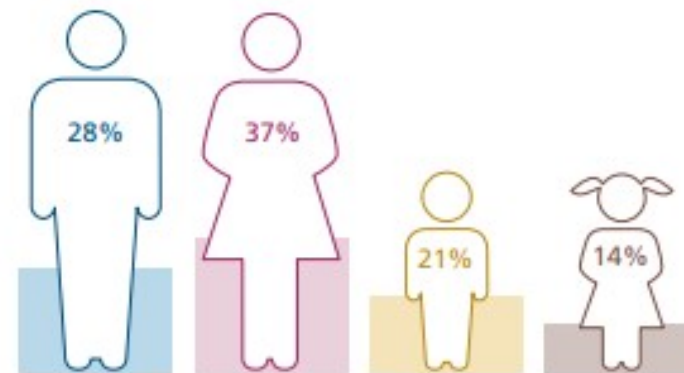
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.



Western and Southern Europe

- Most detected victims are **women**, but *men* and *boys* are being increasingly detected.
- Most detected victims are **foreigners**, but W&SE countries are increasingly detecting *their own nationals*.

FIG. 94 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Western and Southern Europe,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)

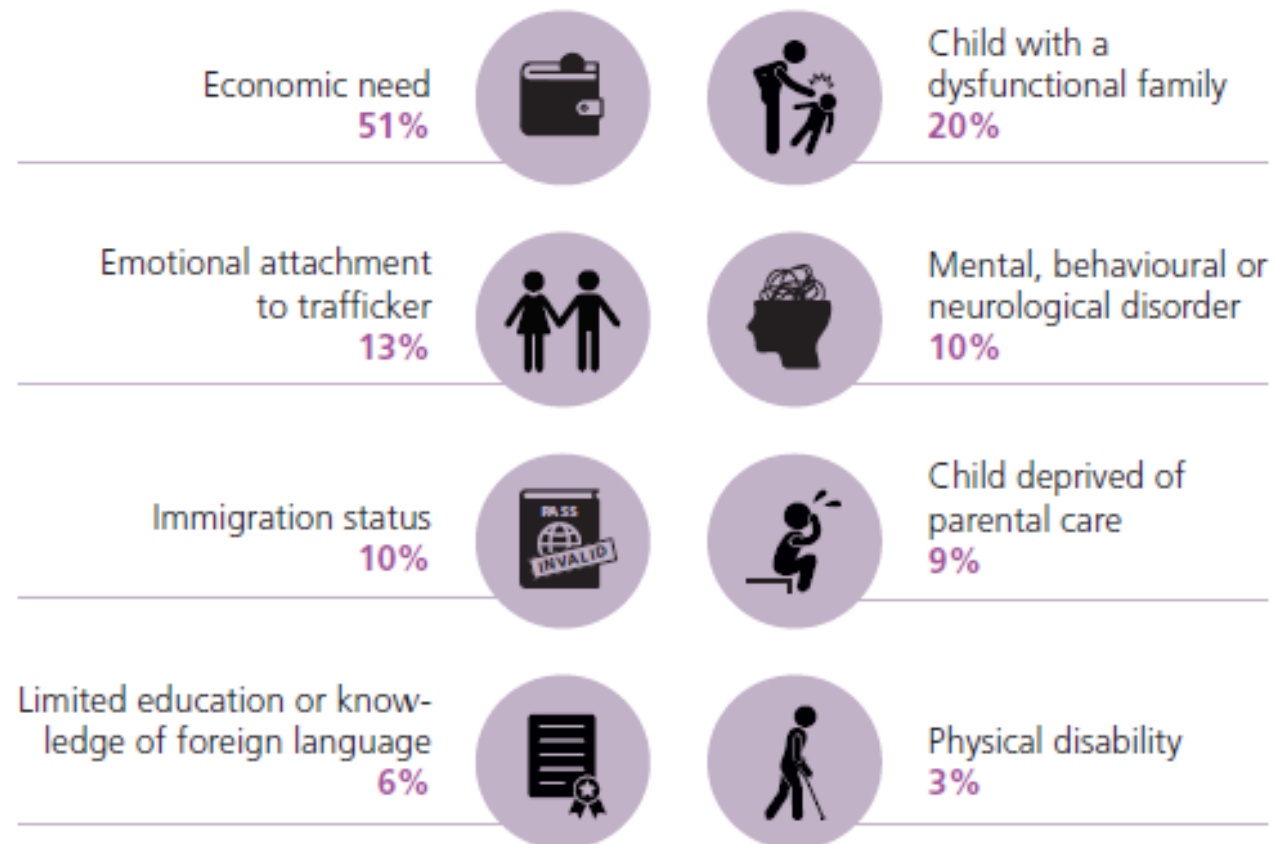


Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on information on the sex and age of 11,839 victims detected in 21 countries in Western and Southern Europe.



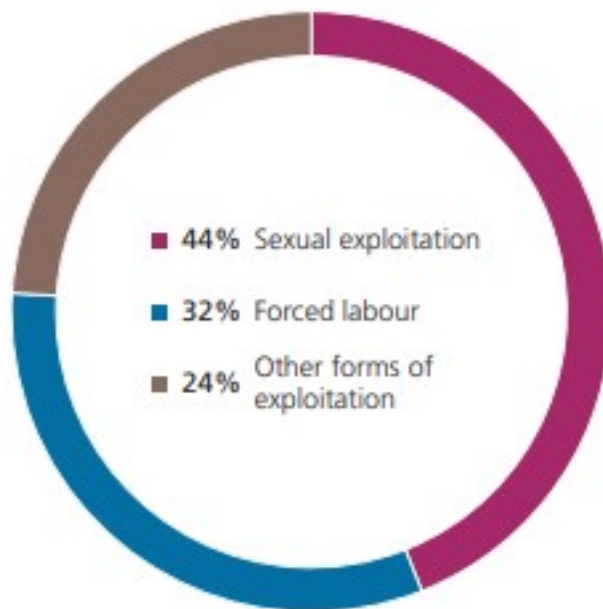
Percentage of cases by pre-existing factors reportedly affecting the victim's condition before recruitment



Source: GLOTIP collection of court case summaries: 489 cases from 71 countries, 2,953 victims and 1,609 offenders



FIG. 95 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Western and Southern Europe,* by forms of exploitation, 2018 (or most recent)



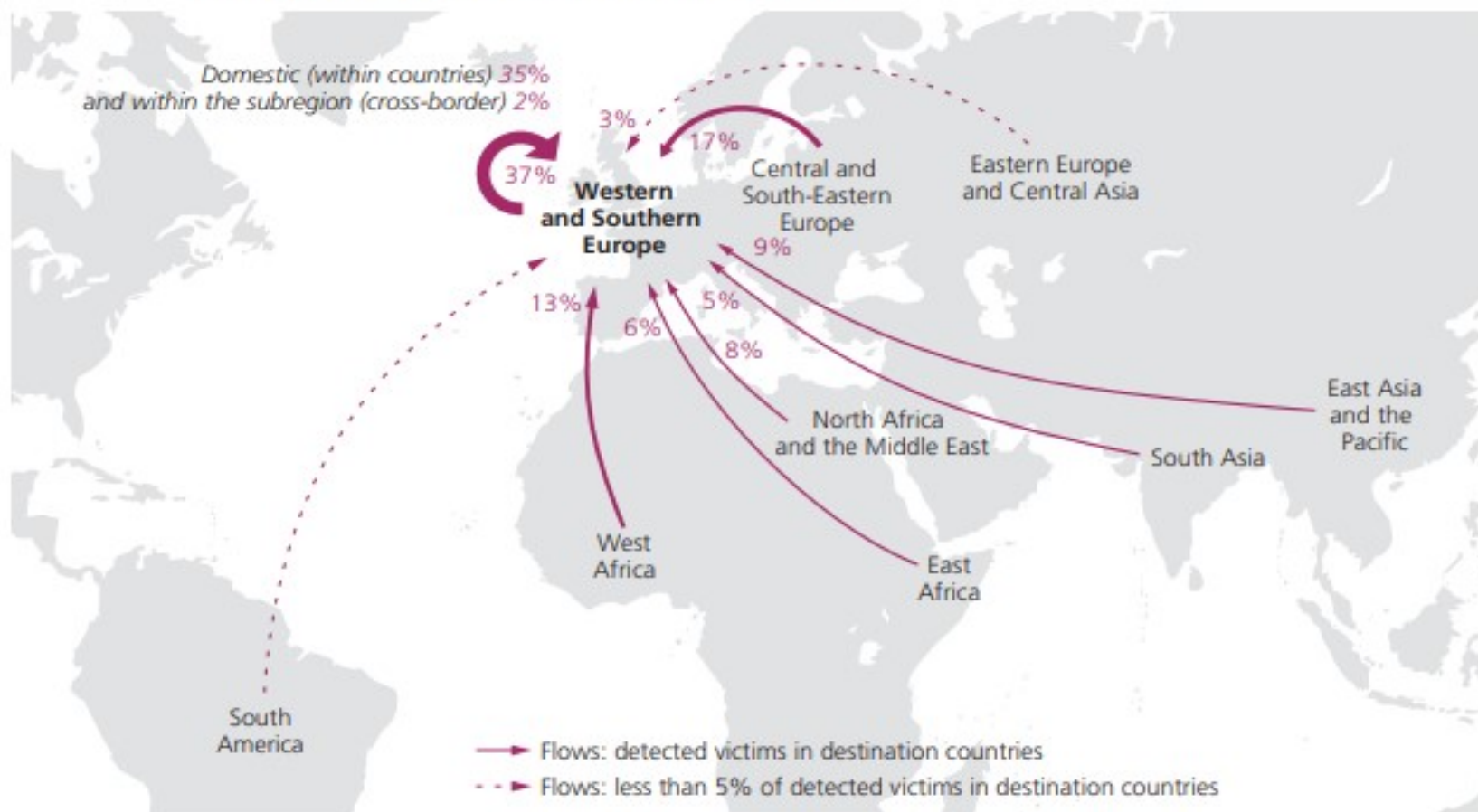
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on information on the form of exploitation for more than 11,330 victims detected in 19 countries in Western and Southern Europe.

- Sexual exploitation remains the most detected form of trafficking in W&SE
- however, trafficking for forced labour and trafficking for other purposes, mainly for *criminal activity* and *exploitative begging*, are being increasingly detected.



MAP. 10 Shares of trafficking victims detected in Western and Southern Europe, by major areas of origin,* 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

*Based on information on the citizenship of 7,810 detected victims detected in 20 countries in Western and Southern Europe.



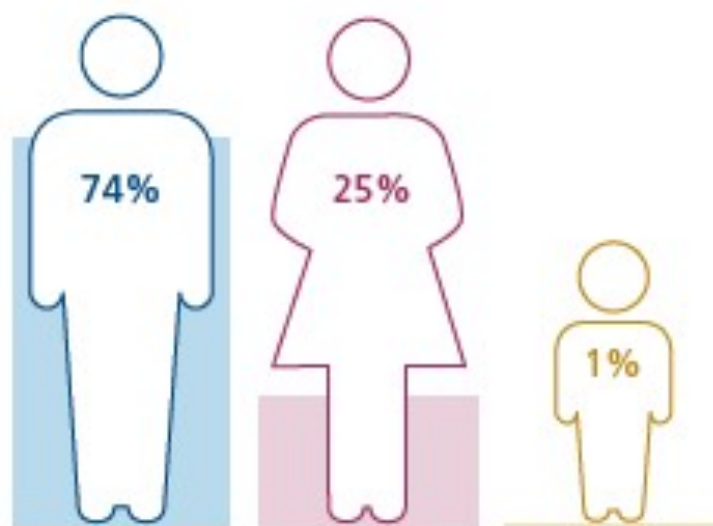
Trafficking and Mixed Migration to Western and Southern Europe

- Irregular arrivals from Nigeria have decreased since 2018: other profiles of persons at risk
- Ukrainian women at risk of trafficking
- Concerns around the victimization of boat drivers by smuggling organizers based in North Africa – potential victims of trafficking for forced criminality



FIG. 100 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)

11 countries (n=1,092 persons convicted)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.



**Business-enterprise-type
of organized criminal groups**

Three or more traffickers systematically working together to traffic persons as a core component of their criminal activities.



**Governance-type of
organized criminal groups**

Practice security governance in a community or territory by means of fear and violence, and may be involved in multiple illicit markets.

Beyond detection: Prevalence studies

- In Madrid
 - we only observe 26% of people in trafficking processes
 - **74% are hidden or invisible** in the eyes of organizations, authorities, and society in general.
- For every **1 female** victim observed, it is estimated that there are **2.5 unobserved**.
- For every **1 male** victim observed, it is estimated that there are **9.2 unobserved**.





Thank you!

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Useful links and references

- UNODC Research on Trafficking in Persons:
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>
- UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants:
www.unodc.org/res/som
- Paper on the Conflict in Ukraine:
https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/Conflict_Ukraine_TIP_2022.pdf

