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Investigating and prosecuting human trafficking

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Abstract

The combat of human trafficking has climbed higher on the political agenda, especially in the recent years. The purpose of this presentation is to describe in which manner human trafficking is investigated and prosecuted in the Netherlands by the National Prosecution Service.

Human trafficking cases are mainly handled by the National pps, particularly the cases that concern international organised crime. In 2010 there were approximately 1000 victims of human trafficking in the Netherlands. These victims are subject to forced prostitution and various forms of forced labour. The criminal situation will be outlined. This presentation will furthermore discuss the national regulation related to human trafficking and the new EU-directive which should be implemented within two years from now.

The police and the National Prosecution Office give priority to the investigation of human trafficking. The view on the nature of organized crime has been changed since the early 1990s. As a result of this criminal investigation strategies have been changed. Prompt interventions are now often combined with a more long-term investigation strategy.

Cooperation and the exchange of information are crucial to combat human trafficking. Hence, some new successful approaches and projects have been developed which will be discussed in the presentation.

Transit crime such as human trafficking is difficult to combat. Therefore, the Netherlands emphasizes the importance of international and bilateral cooperation.

The presentation will conclude with the discussion of some recent and successful Dutch cases.