

Introduction

This part of the report contains the key figures Myria requested from a range of relevant stakeholders in the field of human trafficking and smuggling in Belgium. It presents the most recent data on the subject and, insofar as it is possible, a comparison with figures from previous years in an effort to place them in a broader perspective.

The stakeholders who gave Myria their figures are:

- The federal judicial police, with information taken from the National General Database (NGB);
- The National Social Security Office's inspection service (NSSO, Thematic Directorate for Trafficking in Human Beings, ECOSOC teams);
- The College of Prosecutors General, with information on the prosecutions made by the public prosecutors' offices and the labour prosecutors' offices;
- The Immigration Office (IO);
- PAG-ASA, Payoke et Sürya : centres specialised in the reception and support of victims of human trafficking and aggravated forms of human smuggling; since March 2023, Myria has had access to anonymised data from the three centres via the MyEldo digital platform, a tailor-made system to manage cases within the centres and provide a better picture of victims in Belgium.
- The Criminal Policy Department (CPD) of FPS Justice, with information on final convictions.

This part then examines three subjects in greater depth:

1. An external contribution from the NSSO's inspection service (Thematic Directorate for Trafficking in Human Beings) provides more detailed statistics on investigations carried out by the ECOSOC teams in 2023;
2. An external contribution from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Belgium and Luxembourg explains how the IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme works and describes the victims of trafficking to whom IOM Belgium and Luxembourg has provided assistance through this programme in 2022 and 2023;
3. Finally, in collaboration with Esperanto and Minor-Ndako, Myria draws up a picture of the (presumed) child victims of trafficking and aggravated forms of human smuggling that Esperanto and Minor-Ndako have received and supported in recent years. This is in accordance with Recommendation 94 of the Special Parliamentary Commission responsible for evaluating legislation and policy on human trafficking and smuggling. In addition to improving statistics on minors, Myria has been asked to include a report specifically targeting child victims with each annual report. This contribution is an initial response to this request.

Please note:

- The figures in this report in no way reflect the true extent of the phenomenon of human trafficking and smuggling. They only relate to the facts, the victims and the perpetrators identified as such by the authorities. No statement can be made about unidentified acts.
- These figures and their evolution provide information on the authorities' actions to combat human trafficking and smuggling rather than on these phenomena as such.

- The figures of the various stakeholders are not harmonised with each other and in no way give a coherent and uniform picture of these criminal phenomena. This limits the possibilities of evaluating policies, of contributing to strategic analyses and of reporting to the European institutions. It goes without saying that Myria collaborates with the stakeholders mentioned with a view to gathering the highest quality figures possible.

