

CHILDREN FROM THE UNHAPPY SIDE OF TOURISM

Ildikó Ernszt
University of Pannonia, Hungary
dr.ildiko.ernszt@gmail.com

Abstract:

Not only tourists, but in some cases local communities also have to pay their share for the explosive development in tourism. The more vulnerable groups - the children, the women and the older age groups - are in a bigger danger: they can easily be exploited in the race for profit. A special attention must be devoted to safeguard their special interests in order to avoid their victimization.

The exploitation of children appears in different forms in tourism industry: the sexual exploitation, child labour and child trafficking have devastating effects both on children themselves and society as well. Most victims live on the periphery of society, they have bad family conditions; abused, neglected at home. It is extremely hard to address these crimes, since several contributing factors are deeply rooted in the society; there are problems, anomalies regarding the execution of legal norms on this field, furthermore, the expansion of online world has made the perpetration of these acts easier.

Actions addressing these crimes are extremely wide-ranging, and only a holistic approach can be successful: e.g. awareness raising, trainings for employees of the tourism sector, the promotion of ethical tourism, conscious tourism planning and the punishment of the perpetrators of these crimes have also an important role.

Key words: children, tourism, sexual exploitation of children, child labour, child trafficking

1. THE BLACK PART OF THE SHINY INDUSTRY

1.1. Young Bodies on Sale

Children should be the most precious treasures of every society. If a society treats its children well, then has invested in its future development. However, these sentences are already cut bones, not all countries, societies seem to act based on these principles. It is especially true for economic areas – like tourism, where the race for profit writes over everything.

It cannot happen in our country in Europe– this is our first reaction, when we hear about the flourishing of child prostitution in tourism in the Far-East countries. It simply cannot affect us at all. Unfortunately, the black reality refutes the falsehood, in which we rock. In February, 2018 the following news came from the Hungarian Press: 12 offenders were accused in Zala county for procurement and exploitation of child prostitution. The offenders have organized the prostitution of juvenile girls for about five years (2011-2016) to different foreign countries: Germany, Qatar and Malaysia. They have rented apartments, hotel rooms for them, advertised them and have gained profitable financial gain: the exploited girls have earned 500-1000 Euros per day: totally a sum of ca. 90.000 Euros. The Prosecution office have proposed to impose a prison sentence and the confiscation of the financial gain.” (<http://ugyeszseg.hu/lanyokat-futtatott-kulfoldon-a-zalai-bunbanda/>; 2018. 02. 20.)

Researches strengthen the fact, that Europe¹ appears both as a “source continent” of offenders, but also as a scene of child sex tourism. Besides the classical child sex tourism destinations (South- South-East Asia, West- South Africa, Latin-America) there are newly emerging destinations as well, like Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine. It is also an interesting trend, that the 68% of British offenders commit this crime in North- and Western Europe, North-America, Australia; so not on the territory of developing states, as we would expect. (Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, June, 2013, 15. o. In: http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/CEOP_TACSEA2013_240613%20FINAL.pdf)

The violence against children in tourism cannot only appear in the form of sexual exploitation; but children can easily be trapped in the devilish pitfall of forced labour, child pornography, child trafficking – which appear hand in hand with each other. These kinds of crimes are frequently promoted by “organized criminal networks”. (Interpol, 2018)

The UN study about the violence against children testifies, that sexual violence itself affects more hundreds of millions of children: 150 million girls and 73 million boys. Of course, these numbers are pure estimates, and count only for the top of the iceberg. ILO (International Labour Organization) estimates that there are about 5,5 million children, who suffer from forced labour. (In: the code.org, <http://www.unviolencestudy.org/>) The tourism industry is responsible for a big proportion of these high numbers.

States accepted several international agreements to address these crimes, effective enforcement is crucial.²

¹ In Europe there are several legal norms against sexual exploitation of children with special regard to the following ones: Directive 2011/36/Eu Of The European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 On Preventing And Combating Trafficking In Human Beings And Protecting its Victims; Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography; the 1996 European Social Charter; Resolution 1926 (2013) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council „Fighting Shild Sex Tourism”; European Convention on Human Rights, Rome, 1950. (ECPAT, 2014, p. 46)

² 1966. International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights; 1989. New York Convention on the Rights of the Child; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000; European Social Charter, 1961, revised in 1996; Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) (Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour); Protocol To Prevent, Suppress And Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women And Children, Supplementing The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000; Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, 2007.; Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (ETS 185, Council of Europe, 2001); 2005 the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS 197); 2017 UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics (not entered into force yet)

1.2. Some Ways of Children's Exploitation in the Tourism Sector

Child trafficking

Where there is a demand, the supply will also be there, soon – if the right amount of child victims for forced labour, child work, sexual exploitation is not available, the criminal groups will ensure that. They will transport children even from distant countries or just from other regions of the country – starting and building the hellish spider's web of child trafficking; humiliating young people to be mere objects and selling them on the sexual market. These victims will be even more defenceless, and their situation is more hopeless, since there is no defense mechanism behind them, and they have to survive as the victims of hyenas, for whom the moral and ethical values do not mean too much.

Interpol mentions the three types of human trafficking: trafficking for forced labour; for sexual exploitation and for the harvesting of tissue, cells and organs. (Interpol; <https://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Trafficking-in-human-beings/Trafficking-in-human-beings>) The first two types have the most relevance in tourism.

Child labour

Besides the extraordinary irregularity of the tourism sector, the low salaries and status of the employees all contribute to the phenomenon, that young children appear as workers. Furthermore, they are "offering" unskilled labour, and however, in a lot of cases the salary is extremely low, the possibility of getting tips can "compensate" them for that. The best paid children in the industry are the ones, who are in connection with tourists: like waiters/waitresses, bar hostesses, receptionists; in the worst paid are the ones who never have any interaction with guests: children working in the kitchen or cleaners. (Edralin, 2002, p. 1-2). In Petra (Jordan) an action plan was elaborated to address the problem of child work in the famous touristic place. (Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority et al, 2014) Four important elements, key areas were identified, that has to be dealt with:

- Education is the first component of change: it should be widened for the whole community, with special regard to the change of the social and cultural attitudes.
- Awareness raising and advocacy for all stakeholders of tourism sector to do their share in the fight against child labour.
- The enforcement of the existing legislation and the clarification of responsibilities and powers of different authorities are also needed for success.
- Economic alternatives should be created and offered for the community – to create the possibility for the families to make their living from else than sending children to work. (Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority et al, 2014)

Sexual exploitation of children

The problem of the sexual exploitation of children has been on the international agenda for three decades now: since then several biases had to be forgotten, a lot of things have changed, modern technology has broken in. But there is something that has not changed: the greed of perpetrators, their hunger for money, the fact that they ruin children in a glittering world – dehumiliating them to be mere objects to use.

No continent is clear from the sexual exploitation of children in tourism: besides the long affected destinations, unfortunately there are emerging ones as well. However, each region has its special features relating to the topic, (See Table1) there are certain similarities. The offenders use modern technology more frequently, and the domestic or intra-regional travelling dominates, so the offenders are also from the same region in most cases.

Table 1: The characteristics of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism in different regions of the world

REGION	MOST AFFECTED COUNTRIES	FEATURES	“NOVELTIES”
EAST-ASIA	China, Mongolia Thailand	Most offenders are from Asia Trade in virgins Problems: Inconsistent laws, definitions of children and ‘consent’ in different countries	Business travel is accompanied by sex in certain cases (sometimes with minors as well) Compensated dating
EUROPE	Turkey Moldova Ukraine	Internet: chat rooms: getting information, getting into touch with future victims Boy’s involvement: largely undetected, unaddressed	For a long time: only source of demand - now: destination countries Source market: orphanages as well
LATIN-AMERICA	Brasil Mexico Columbia (emerging destination)	Increased availability of drugs, arms – relationship with the crime High level of human trafficking	Specialized “tour guides” Age of exploiters is lower than expected Online forms
MIDDLE-EAST AND NORTH-AFRICA (MENA)	Morocco, Egypt, Tunesia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Kenya, South Africa, Madagascar	Conflicts, wealth disparities lead to migration Low status of women and girls Harmful traditions Problems: effective law enforcement, lack of harmonised laws (escape to other countries)	transit or destination region for trafficking
NORTH-AMERICA	US, Canada: mainly source countries for offenders – and emerging new destinations	No official data, but signs suggest: indigenous group at special risk Trafficking: for businessmen, conference attenders	children are involved in a younger age, some children are involved for their survival
THE PACIFIC REGION	Little recent research Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Fiji	Limited data Special risk to indigenous communities norms fuel the risks: child marriage, tolerance of violence and commercial sex, low social status of children, taboos around sexual matters	Pacific Island countries – emerging destinations – with legislation lagging
SOUTH-ASIA	India Sri Lanka	Social norms – flourishing of the crime Boys: street-based sexual exploitation, girls: brothels Lack of social safety net Only a few victims get support	prostitution of boys – better organized Nepal: children “accompany” tourists in the mountains
SOUTH-EAST ASIA	Thailand, the Philippines	Vast majority of offenders are nationals; most foreigners come from: China, Japan, Taiwan, South-Korea, Vietnam (because of virgins)	Emerging destinations: Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar Webcam –based child sex tourism

		Free-trade zones, special economic zones: places of the crime No country has a specific plan or a designated agency on this field	
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, The Gambia and Tanzania (Zanzibar)	traditional venue: beach attractions Phenomena that fuel the crime: girls" special vulnerability: some places: child marriages, excluding girls' from inheriting land; children's low social status; „transactional view of sex"	use of new types of infrastructure for this purpose: "voluntourism", military bases, camps; refugee camps, adult sex trade and entertainment industry,

Source: ECPAT, (2016); ECPAT (2014a-f)

Several challenges have to be faced, which makes it extremely hard to eliminate, address the crime:

- These crimes are generally underreported: there are only rough estimates about the scale of the problem, nobody knows exactly, how many children are affected by this evil act, it is impossible to measure the scale and address the problem. It is generally true, that the violence against children stays hidden, so the ratio of latency is extremely high. There are more reasons for that: There is a fear to talk about it; the violence against children is socially accepted in certain parts of the world. (UN General Assembly, 2006, p. 8).

-Furthermore, it is still shameful to fall a victim of sexual violence: even for adult women - in case of children it is even more devastating and sinful. Talking about sexual violence is a very sensitive, tender ground; it is approved by the results of a research conducted in Hungary in 2015. However, all responders were adults and 78% of them were women – the outcomes suggest the attitudes of a society towards this kind of crime. 66% of all responders answered, that sexual violence is reported to the police only in 5% of all cases; further 29% commented, that this ratio is the quarter of all cases. They have also remarked about the reasons for not reporting these cases to the police. The results are shocking, meaningful and telling. (See Table 2.)

Table 2: The reasons for NOT reporting sexual violence by the victim to the police

afraid of stigmatising	75,5%
afraid of being blamed, that he/she provoked the crime	73%
shame, guilt	74%
fear of the revenge of the perpetrator	69,5%
lack of faith in the success of the criminal procedure	65%
afraid of suffering further grievencencies during the criminal procedure because of the authorities	58%

Source: Parti et. al., 2016, p. 13

-Besides there are no safe and „trusted ways" to report the cases; people in certain countries do not trust police; and they cannot turn to the authorities with their problem. (UN General Assembly, 2006, p. 8)

-Perpetrators are not punished seriously, and there are deficiencies in the effective execution of the existing legal norms. Capacity building is needed in the justice sector, increased resources should be addressed for the enforcement. In addition, corruption makes the fight against extremely hard. Great efforts are needed in greater use of channel of information exchange as well.

-In certain places of the globe this crime is still a taboo, besides certain societies release the perpetrators. (ECPAT, 2016, p. 16; Report of the 30th meeting of the World Tourism Network on Child Protection, 2015., p. 2)

-Online world has eased committing the crime. <https://www.unicef.org/endviolence/endviolenceonline/> Internet is assistance of the offenders, since with its help they can contact children directly, faceless. It is also a characteristic, that as soon as the authorities become more rigorous against the crime, criminals move their "headquarters" to another country immediately.

- The situation is further complicated by the fact, that new destinations are born very quickly thanks to the appearance of new tourist destinations.
- It is a new phenomenon, that rented houses, smaller pensions, hotels, massage parlors are becoming the venues of the crime more frequently; while the perpetrators are constantly changing.
- There is also another shocking trend: The sexual abuses against small children, who can not even talk - are getting more frequent – that is how offenders prevent them from making burdensome testifies against them. (World Tourism Network on Child Protection, 2015., p. 2)

Table 3: Some challenges and aggravating factors making hard to address the sexual exploitation of children in tourism

SOCIAL PROBLEMS	PROBLEMS OF EXECUTION OF NORMS	OTHER
hard to address the root causes social acceptance social customs greed for money taboo topic low status of children in certain places	lack of norms lack of reliable data high latency lack of resources for enforcement corruption untrust towards authorities	online world has made it easier to commit the crime appearance of new destinations very fast criminals are adapting quickly to the circumstances changing profile of perpetrators smaller pensions, rented appartements – as new venues of the crime children are involved at a younger age

Source: UN GA, 2008; ECPAT, 2016; Report of the 30th meeting of the World Tourism Network on Child Protection, 2015

2. FORGET THE STEREOTYPES! - VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

The victims

Child sex workers, and the victims of child traffic and forced labour have common features. It is generally true, that most of them live in poverty. In a lot of cases they are at the periphery of society, low educated or not educated at all. Most children have bad family conditions – they are abused and neglected at home. A lot of them live on the streets. AIDS orphans, orphans are also typical victims. Children from minority groups seem to be even more vulnerable to these crimes. The opposite of these features can also be considered to be protecting factors. (ECPAT, 2008, p. 12)

However, regarding the sexual exploitation of children there is also another worrying trend: children from the middle class also appear on the list of victims: they are governed by materialism and want to get a lot of money with having sex with foreigners. Unfortunately, they have no idea about the extremely serious consequences of their acts.

Table 4: The “typical victims, offenders and consequences of the exploitation of children in tourism

	CHILD LABOUR	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN
TYPICAL VICTIMS	No typical victims, but main characteristics: children from poverty periphery of society; low educated – not educated at all; bad family conditions; abused, neglected at home; street children; orphans, AIDS orphans; members of minority groups; depend on seasonal economies	money-oriented children from the middle-class
TYPICAL OFFENDERS	criminal gangs	No typical perpetrators, but

	touristic business organizations mainly small or middle-sized family enterprises	Groups: Situational and preferential child sex tourists, paedophiles – most of them are situational sex tourists Both sexes, but mainly men
WHY CHILDREN ARE EXPLOITED	making profit, children work for lower pays, do not complain, easy to handle, easy to substitute, children are seeking unqualified work	intermediaries: making profit tourists: seek “adventures”, feeling invisible and immune, with money anything can be bought, feeling to be superior, different culture, where they think it is accepted, belief, that children are not affected by HIV/AIDS
SOME POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES	<p>REGARDING CHILDREN <i>Physical:</i> injuries, bone fractures, wounds, fatigueness, impaired growth, transmitted diseases, with special regard to HIV/AIDS; later: cancer; lung, heart, liver diseases, obesity, autoimmune diseases, asthma, allergy, foetal death during pregnancy <i>Moral:</i> exposed to drugs, sex, violence; lack of education; loss of values, exposed to adult behaviours <i>Psychological:</i> anxiety, depressive disorders, guilt, shame, fear, hallucinations, low self esteem, stigmatized, lonely, stress, impaired work performance, memory disturbances, aggressive behaviour, intimate partner violence, suicide attempts</p> <p>REGARDING SOCIETY <i>imitation of foreign tourists,</i> change in behaviour, habits and outer appearance; losing own culture; more interested in luxurious goods; <i>social isolation:</i> do not spend time with their peers and families family disorganization disorganized personalities in adulthood – the victims can not ensure a safe, loving family for their children, either – the problem re-creates itself</p>	

Source: ECPAT, 2008, p 12.; WHO, 2014, p. 5-8; UN GA, 2006, p. 12-16; Sharma et al, 2012

The offenders

The offenders also have a common feature: they are exploiting children on a villainous way for money. In case of child work criminals, criminal groups, business undertakings, hotels, restaurants employ children – because it is easy to exploit them, they are not brave enough to complain and easy to “handle” and to substitute them.

Regarding sex tourism there are more reasons why offenders commit this crime. A lot of travellers become the client of sex tourism abroad much easier, then at home. In fact, even the members of the older generations like to travel into sex tourism destination as a popular tourism motivation (Zsarnoczky, 2016). to researchers this phenomenon can be explained by different factors: several delinquents feel that they are invisible in a foreign country, and their shameful act will never come into light. Besides they have a feeling of immunity abroad. Some of them travelling to a developing country feel that being “the rich” they have power over children, they are worth more and feel superior, who can do anything and buy even power over others: anything and anybody can be bought. They want to enjoy this tense power gained this way, and the exploitation of defenceless, vulnerable, bought children seems to be the easiest way to reach it.

Tourism equals with new adventures, stimuluses as well, where anything can come under this term: even buying the sexual services of children. Finally, leaving the borders of their own country, they leave their morality at home, and are convinced that in a foreign country there are different rules, where it is accepted – thus calming themselves. Misconceptions about children being less infected by HIV/AIDS – because of their age - also make children more attractive victims.

Finally, we have to add, that most offenders do not travel with the intention to exploit children sexually, but far from their home countries they feel that they have got to a totally different world, where much more is acceptable, and only use the arising possibilities thus becoming delinquents. (ECPAT, 2013) So

„this is not just a problem of paedophile travellers but is also a problem of consumerism and the absence of a recognition of children and young people’s rights to physical integrity.” (O’Brian, 2008, p. 52) This fact was strengthened by an Italian research, which revealed, that only 3% of the perpetrators were paedophiles. (Newman, 2011)

3. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TOURISM

Both sexual exploitation of children and child labour can have serious physical, emotional and psychological consequences. They do not only hurt them irremediably, but can also lead to fatal traumas, that can endanger even their survival.

Since these acts go hand in hand nearly in all cases with violence against children, they are exposed to several consequences: “anxiety, depressive disorders, hallucinations, impaired work performance, memory disturbances, aggressive behaviour. Early exposure to violence is associated with later lung, heart and liver disease, sexually transmitted diseases and foetal death during pregnancy, as well as later intimate partner violence and suicide attempts.” (UN GA, 2006, p. 12) The long-term health consequences are wide-ranging: cancer, allergy, asthma, obesity, autoimmune diseases are also among the effects. (WHO, 2014, p 5-8).

Furthermore, inferiority, worthlessness, shame, helplessness, suicide attempts, stigmas accompany the child victims in their further lives; in many cases "drowning" the pains of the soul with the help of drugs. (ECPAT, 2013)

A survey was conducted in Cambodia, Vietnam and in Thailand; during this, 387 children were interviewed, who fell victims of child trafficking and were forced to sexual work, fishing and begging. Crimes committed against them had extremely severe consequences for them: 56% of them suffered from depression, one third of them struggled with anxiety disorder and a quarter had posttraumatic stress disorder. 12% of the victims had suicide attempts and caused physical harm to themselves in the last month before the survey, 16% of them reported about facing suicide thoughts. Every second child was employed as sex workers, 82% of them were girls. It is still true, that victims do not get sufficient psychological help and rehabilitation, which would be essential. (Child Rights International Network, 2015)

However, it would be crucial, since several children – especially the victims of sexual exploitation - are stamped by their own communities after suffering a serious trauma – and have no one to turn to; and stay alone with their tragedy. Besides authorities also treat them as being criminals, which worsen their situation. (UN GA, 2006, p. 19)

4. SOME STEPS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO ADDRESS THE PHENOMENON

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations set up goals as a compass to follow for the whole international community. Among these objectives the promotion of just, peaceful and inclusive societies appear, and their first target is to reduce all forms of violence – with special regard to the ending of “abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”. (UN, 2015)

The specialized agency of the organization, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) issued the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism in 1999 – which functions as a philosophical core document for the tourism sector. The Tourism Ethics Convention was accepted in 2017 as an international agreement, however, it has not entered into force yet. Both the Code of Ethics and the newly accepted convention rejects any forms of exploitation of children in tourism. (Global Code of Ethics for Tourism 2. (3); Tourism Ethics Convention). The Secretariat of the World Tourism Organization coordinates the World Tourism Network on Child Protection. The Network concentrated on the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, but it extended its scope of activity to all kind of exploitation of children in this sector. (<http://ethics.unwto.org/content/world-tourism-network-child-protection>) It is an important arena for the stakeholders of this struggle; for international organizations, the governments of the countries, NGO-s, the business organizations, undertakings of the tourism sector, the civil sector and for the media. The meetings – which are held in every year on the worlds’ foremost Travel and Tourism Fairs, ensure a platform to exchange good practices, documents are compiled to raise awareness towards the problem. In each year a concrete matter is debated on regarding the crime.³

³ Among others the importance of education (2010), the relationship between tourism planning, development and child protection (2011); the protection of young employees of the sector, the effect of the explosive improvement of the IT sector were addressed. (2013). Furthermore, the partnership, the cooperation and the arising problems

As the exploitation of children affects the scope of other organizations as well, the UNWTO cooperates with other UN organs: with UNICEF, ILO, WHO, INTERPOL and UNAIDS. Besides, it also gives a list for all stakeholders (for private individuals, NGO-s, the actors of the tourism sector, the governments, tourism authorities and for the media) on its webpage about their possible actions in the struggles against the sexual exploitation of children. (Protection of Children in Tourism, <http://ethics.unwto.org/content/protection-children-tourism>).

It also issued several leaflets, brochures, (e.g. "Tips for a Responsible Traveller, 2017"); that give guidance to facilitate the understanding of children's protection and reports about the most important good practices of governments, regional organizations, international organizations and NGO-s on this field (15 Years of the UNWTO World Tourism Network on Child Protection: A Compilation of Good Practices, 2014). Besides, it joined child protection projects, launched an international child protection campaign. (Don't let Child Abuse Travel, 2008) In: (<http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/15-yrs-of-unwto-wtn-child-protection.pdf>; <http://ethics.unwto.org/content/protection-children-tourism>)

Guidelines were also issued for national tourism authorities, which determine it exactly, how the crime can be addressed by them (e.g. the cooperating partners, they ways to fight against the crime; some possible recommended steps). (Guidelines for National Tourism Administration (NTA) Focal Points for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism).

5. SOME CONCLUSIONS, POSSIBLE ACTIONS TO TAKE: "IT DEPENDS ON YOU AS WELL..."

General Remarks

The problem is already on the old continent – and is spreading like an infectious disease. Instead of denying concrete actions are needed. Unfortunately, the sexual exploitation of children, the child labour and trafficking have sneaked to Europe as well.

The old misconceptions, clichés have to be forgotten. However, there are certain common characteristics of the crimes, their causes, victims or offender; but for today nothing is typical any more: it is hard to tell, who and where is "the enemy, the offender", who is a potential victim, where the criminals are hiding: this way it is extremely hard to commandeer the battle.

Sexual exploitation, child labour and child trafficking have devastating effects both on children and on societies. Children suffer serious physical and mental health problems socially, meanwhile they feel isolated and abandoned. The consequences on societies are incalculably destructive.

Possible Actions to Take I.: Prevention

As the exploitation of children in tourism is extremely complex - regarding the victims, offenders, means, causes, possible actions to make a change - a holistic approach is required to address these crimes. Referring to Sárosi's (2006) comments: "The phenomenon of human trafficking, sex work cannot be treated purely in the framework of the paradigm of aggravations and reliefs in criminal law; an integrated, balanced approach is needed which places great emphasis on the identification and management of economic and social factors leading to exploitation of children. Regulation of sex work is a cross-border global problem, it cannot be limited to destination countries. Prevention and rehabilitation carried out in source countries is indispensable, what is more, in certain cases it is much more than important than the regulations in the destination countries." So any programs, actions that intend to reduce poverty, hopelessness and can contribute or even alleviate them can be important milestones in this fight. Ensuring the minimum living conditions of individuals also serves as a mean to combat the exploitation of children: Special support mechanisms should be established for vulnerable children, who are at risk. What can we do? Quite a lot- and all of us, all stakeholders have a share in this fight – of course everybody can fight with its own weapons and means. Should we be parents, simple tourists, employees of the tourism sector, experts working in child care institutions, or teachers; the responsibility is common,

with media (2014), the significance of effective execution of the norms were discussed (Report of the 29th meeting of the World Tourism Network on Child Protection, 2014.; Report of the 30th meeting of the World Tourism Network on Child Protection, 2015., p. 2; <http://ethics.unwto.org/en/content/reports-task-force-meetings>)

the burden is on all of us. Not world-class actions have to be made, only small steps – with them fates and lives of children can be changed.

The cooperation on international and domestic level, and of the private and public sector is essential (UNWTO, 2016). The list of stakeholders is extremely wide-ranging: governments, different authorities, civil sector, NGO-s, the business undertakings of the tourism sector, the tourists, and the people who are in touch with children, like teachers, social workers. (Interpol, 2018)

However, states should manage this fight; but without regarding the civil sphere as a driving force; their struggle would be hopeless: „Child protection is the responsibility of all - communities, private sector, academia, but governments⁴ have a leading role to play”. (Carol Bellamy, Chair of the Child Protection Network, UNWTO, 2017)

First of all, preventive actions are needed, which are extremely wide-ranging: from conscious tourism planning a lot of elements have to be taken into consideration.

The importance of raising awareness of all tourism stakeholders to the problem, to the existence of the crime and the possible steps to take cannot be over-emphasized. The means are really colourful: brochures can be issued, online warnings, notices can be made, videos can be broadcast on board of aircrafts.

Besides different campaigns have to be launched on this field constantly – there are plenty of good examples for that. Mega sport events can be the yeast of the application of good practices, as it was proven by the campaign before the FIFA World Cup in 2014 with the title „It’s a penalty”. It encourages people to report suspicious cases: they are called on „to say something if they see something”. In 2018 the same campaign will be or was released at four important international sport events: at the Super Bowl LII in Minneapolis, at the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in South Korea; at the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens and at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia. During these mega events leaflets, articles will be published and wristbands are distributed with hotlines to contact. (Children Win, 2018) Unfortunately it was evidenced, that mega sport events attracted child abusers, or resulted in exploitation of children, with special regard to child labour, sexual exploitation, harassment and trafficking, discrimination, forced eviction and displacement. (Children Win, Changing the Game of Mega Sport Events) An SAFE HOST project with the title „You too can sound an alarm bell” a consciousness campaign was carried out for the stakeholders of the tourism sector – in Mexico a similar online campaign; in Mexico taxi drivers were also involved. (Report of the 30th meeting of the World Tourism Network on Child Protection, 2015., p. 2)

Several other different campaigns were launched to address the problem worldwide: one group of campaigns is when the male demand for child prostitution is addressed; since „if there were no demand, there would be no supply.” In the USA „Real Men Don’t Buy Girls Campaign” was launched by DNA Foundation; the Mayor’s Office of Atlanta City issued „Dear John” campaign⁵.

The strength of arts can also be invoked in the fight of sexual exploitation of children. In India an organization setting very interesting initiatives is working. It uses the power of theatre, folk arts and folk traditions in order to sensitize the society to protect children and raise awareness among others to the abuses against them, to the means of child traffickers. The managers and actors of this special initiation emphasize, that the relief effect of theatre helps to get closer to people and to understand social processes, that lead to defenselessness. Besides the modernized folk arts, traditional manufacturing contributes to the strengthening of the protecting power of local communities; to ensure to make a living in villages as well – thus preventing marginalization. (Bhattacharya, 2017)

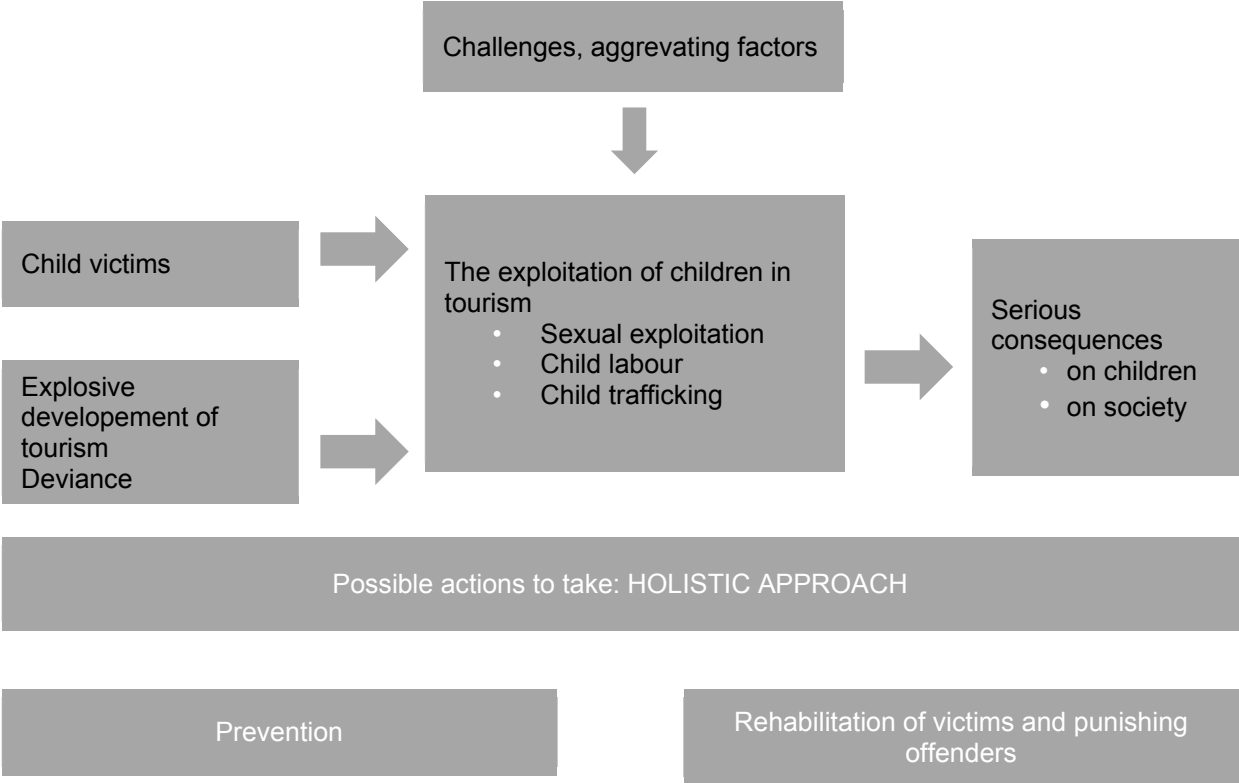
⁴ In 2017 on the meeting of the Child Protection Network Myanmar summarized the steps of the government on this field of protection of children in tourism: trainings were held for officially registered travel guides, for the personnel of hotels and from the members of the Myanmar Tour Guide Association and for the private sphere as well. From 2014 brochures („Children are not touristic attractions!) were issued in order to raise awareness; furthermore, articles were published on board magazines of national airline companies. (Khin Than Win, 2017)

⁵ In this campaign Shirley Franklin, the mayor of the city warns the sexual abuser to stop committing the crime. (Dear John Campaign: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5O9erzIB1W4>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRsbo6g21hU>) Other similar campaigns: In the US „This Man Wants to rent your daughter” campaign also had the same goal. In Cambodia: „Abuse a child in this country, go to jail in yours” campaign was launched by World Vision; in Greece „The Men: the Demand” campaign was running. (Stop Demand Foundation, 2003-2016; Stop Demand)

Education, trainings⁶ should be ensured for children, members of the society, for tourism personnel and for tourists as well.

Educating tourists: the promotion of sustainable, ethical tourism is inevitable. (Brochure: e.g. UNWTO: „Tips how to be a responsible traveller”)

Picture 1: The main formula of the exploitation of children in tourism



Source: own compilation

Trainings are needed for employees in the tourism sector and for personnel working in close contact with children. (p. 186-187) Since in a lot of cases crimes against children are committed on tourism premises, employees have special responsibility in detecting the suspicious cases and report it to the police. On these special trainings the personnel of tourism have to be taught, what are the signs, that raise the suspicion of sexual exploitation of children or child trafficking. Routine standards have to be elaborated with concrete actions to take in different postitons. However, these training are not enough: the support of the managers of the companies is essential – what is more, a special “anti-trafficking” and “anti exploitation” culture should be developed. (Paraskevas-Brookes, 2018)

Teaching children: Online jungle ensures a safe shelter for offenders, so children must be taught, how to use internet safely; and to not to believe everything, that is written them online. Additionally, they have to know, what is acceptable from adults. (See: Council of Europe, Underwear Rule Campaign)

Experts working in child protection system has to be taught to be able to identify sexual crimes, exploitation and what process to follow in ths case. The Commissioner for Fundamental Rights in Hungary – who is also responsible for ensuring children’s rights as well - launched a research to reduce child prostitution. The study revealed, that the members of signal system of child protection either got no signal about the problem; or just got information much later. The reason for that is, that they were afraid of being charged with defamation; besides the competence limits are not clear, either. It was also

⁶ The UNWTO advises concrete actions to take for all stakeholders on its webpage.: <http://ethics.unwto.org/content/what-you-can-do-against-child-exploitation-tourism>)

reported, that they do not have the knowledge, what and how to report in suspicious cases. It would extremely be important not to be silent about the crimes shyly, closing eyes. (Kozich, 2012, 47, 50; Almási et al., 184-190, 2012) Of course the list of persons, who should be informed, is not complete at all: e.g. local people, even organizers of mega sports events should be educated as well. (Brunel University London, Brackenridge et al, 2013) Furthermore, institutions, where personnel are required to work with children should be encouraged to make pre-employment checks, regarding future employee's criminal records. Issuing codes of conduct; creating hotlines to report the cases is also an important part of the battle.

States should join international agreements; domestic legal norms have to be issued – it should be combined with effective enforcement. All existing international, domestic legal norms are only valuable, if they can be executed, enforced effectively. The importance of this can not be emphasized enough.

Possible Actions to Take II.: Rehabilitation of Victims and Punishing Offenders

Offenders of these crimes should get a serious punishment. However, the victims of sexual exploitation, child labour and trafficking should not be considered to be criminals, but sufferers of human greed and wickedness; keeping this in mind all possible help should be given for them. The victims should be reintegrated into society, education plays an important role in that. Ensuring work possibilities for the youth and their parents also helps them to escape from this trap.

Finally, we should never forget, that the prevention of crimes starts with building stable grounds: safe, secure environment in our families, communities and in the whole society as well – like in case of most kinds of crime. Turning to our children, listening them, building a stable relationship with them, giving them our time, and making them sure, that we are always there to support them: this is the simplest recipe of the best prevention.

Finally, we have to agree with the words of Taleb Rifai, (the president of the UNWTO): “There is a bright and black side to tourism; we need to recognize the black side exists and address it with no shame. We need zero tolerance to any form of child exploitation. We cannot allow the tourism infrastructure to be used for this and shouldn't have any issues in exposing such situations”. (Rifai, 2017)

Acknowledgement:



„The research of Ildikó Ernszt was supported by the ÚNKP–17-4 New National Excellence Program Of The Ministry Of Human Capacities”.

REFERENCE LIST

1. Almási, J. – Alpár, V. – Bíró, D. – Bíró, E. – Jásper, A. – Kereki, J. – Lux, Á. – Sebhelyi, V. - Varga Éva, F. - ELTE ÁJK Gyermekjogi Kör - GYERE Gyerekesély Közhasznú Egyesület - Magyar Helsinki Bizottság - Mental Disability Advocacy Center - S.O.S. Gyermekfalu Magyarország - UNICEF Magyar Bizottság, ed. Herczog, M. (2012): Figyeljetez ránk! A gyermekjogok helyzete Magyarországon 2006-2012, Család, Gyermek, Ifjúság Egyesület
2. Bhattacharya, Amitava: Engaging families in building responsible and ethical tourism, 2017, 32nd Meeting of the 30th meeting of the World Tourism Network on Child Protection, Retrieved from http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/j_amitava_bhattacharya.pdf (03. 03. 2018)
3. Brunel University London, Brackenridge, Celia – Palmer, Felgate, Sarah - Rhind, Daniel - Hills, Laura - Kay, Tess – Tiivas, Anne – Faulkner, Lucy – Lindsa, Iain (2013): Child Exploitation and the FIFA World Cup: A review of risks and protective interventions, July, 2013
4. Child Rights International Network (2015): Trafficking: Research points to serious mental health impact on trafficked children, September, 2015, Retrieved from <https://www.crin.org/en/library/news-archive/trafficking-research-points-serious-mental-health-impact-trafficked-children> (31. 03. 2016)

5. Children Win, Changing the Game of Mega Sport Events; Retrieved from <http://www.childrenwin.org/the-issues/> (17. 03. 2018)
6. Children Win, Changing the Game of Mega Sport Events Child exploitation awareness campaign calls for concrete action around Mega Sporting Events; 1 February 2018 Retrieved from <http://www.childrenwin.org/child-exploitation-awareness-campaign-calls-for-concrete-action-around-mega-sporting-events/>; (17. 03. 2018)
7. City of Atlanta: Dear John Campaign; Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5O9erzIB1W4>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRsbo6g21hU> (16. 03. 2018)
8. Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly (2013): Fighting “child sex tourism”, Resolution 1926 (2013)
9. Council of Europe, Underwear Rule Campaign, Retrieved from http://www.underwearrule.org/underwear_en.asp (17. 03. 2018)
10. ECPAT (2008): Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions and Answer
11. ECPAT (2013): A gyermekek idegenforgalomban megjelenő szexuális kizsákmányolása elleni küzdelem, Tájékoztató az idegenforgalomban dolgozók számára, ECPAT, Retrieved from www.safefhostfilcams.org/ (16. 03. 2016)
12. ECPAT (2014a):The commercial sexual exploitation of children in Europe, Development, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society, November 2014, Retrieved from http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_Europe.pdf, (20. 04. 2016)
13. ECPAT (2014b):The commercial sexual exploitation of children in Africa, Development, progress, challenges and recommended strategies, November, 2014, Retrieved from http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_Africa.pdf, letöltés ideje: 2016. 02. 25.)
14. ECPAT (2014c):The commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East Asia, Development, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society, 2014, http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_East%20and%20South%20East%20Asia.pdf, letöltve: 2016. február 25.)
15. ECPAT (2014d):The commercial sexual exploitation of children in South Asia, Development, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society, Retrieved from http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_South%20Asia.pdf2014, letöltve: 2016. február 25.
16. ECPAT (2014e):The commercial sexual exploitation of children in Latin America, Development, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society, 2014, 24-26. o. Retrieved from http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_Latin%20America%20%28English%29.pdf, (25. 02. 2016)
17. ECPAT (2016): Offenders on the Move, ECPAT, 2016, Global Study On Sexual Exploitation Of Children In Travel And Tourism 2016
18. Edralin, Divina (2002): Child Labour in the Tourism Industry, Notes on Business Education, Vol. 5 Number. 2; March – April, 2002
19. Guidelines for National Tourism Administration (NTA) Focal Points for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism, Retrieved from <http://dtxqtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/ntaguidelineschildren.pdf>, (01. 04. 2016)
20. Interpol (2018): Crimes Against Children, <https://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Crimes-against-children/Crimes-against-children> (16. 03. 2018)
21. Khin Than Win (2017): Child Safe Tourism in Myanmar, http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/g._child_safe_tourism_myanmar_for_berlin_conference_x.pdf (15. 03. 2017)
22. Kozich, Á.: A gyermekprostitúcióról szóló vizsgálatról, In: A gyermek testi lelki egészsége, Gyermekjogi projekt, AJB Projektfüzetek, 2012/1., szerk. dr. Lux Ágnes, 2012.
23. Magyarország Ügészsége (2018): Lányokat futtatott külföldön a zalai bűnbanda; <http://ugyeszseg.hu/lanyokat-futtatott-kulfoldon-a-zalai-bunbanda/>; 2018. 02. 20.) (27. (02. 2018)
24. Newman, W. – Holt, B. W. – Rabun, J. S. – Phillips, G. - Scott, C. L. (2011): International Journal of Law and Psychiatry 34 (2011), pp. 116–121
25. O'Brian, Muireann – Grillo, Milena – Barbosa, Helia (2008): Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism, ECPAT International, 2008. http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Thematic_Paper_CST_ENG.pdf (25. 02. 2016)

26. Paraskevas, A. – Brookes, M. (2018): Nodes, Guardians And Signs, Raising Barriers To The Human Trafficking in the Tourism Industry, *Tourism Management* 67 (2018) pp. 147-156
27. Parti, K. – Szabó, J. – Virág, Gy.: A média azt üzenté... Szexuális erőszakkal kapcsolatos ismeretek, vélemények és attitűdök vizsgálata egy médiakampány kapcsán, *Médiakutató*, XVI. évf. 2. szám, p.7-24.
28. Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority – ILO – UNICEF – USAID (2014): Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Labour in Tourism in Petra, 2014
29. Protection of Children in Tourism, <http://ethics.unwto.org/content/protection-children-tourism> (15. 03. 2018)
30. Report of the 29th meeting of the World Tourism Network on Child Protection, Germany, Berlin, 7 March 2014., Retrieved from http://dtxqtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/29_report_world_tourism_network_on_child_protection.pdf, 25. 02. 2016)
31. Report of the 30th meeting of the World Tourism Network on Child Protection, ITB Berlin, Germany, 6 March, 2015., Retrieved from <http://dtxqtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/docpdf/rev30thmeetingreportoftheworldtourismnetworkonchildprotectionrevnm.pdf>, (30. 03. 2016)
32. Rifai, Taleb 2017, Retrieved from <http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2017-03-10/governments-need-lead-protection-children-tourism-unwto-world-tourism-netwo>
33. Sárosi, Péter (2006): Szexmunka; *Beszélő*, 2006. április – május, évfolyam 11; szám 4.
34. Sharma, Anupama - Kukreja, Sumita - Dr. Sharma, Anjana: Child labour – An Ugly Face of Travel and Hospitality Industry, *IOSR Journal of Business and Management (IOSRJBM)*; ISSN: 2278-487X Volume 4, Issue 1 (Sep,-Oct. 2012), PP 08-17
35. Stop Demand Foundation (2003-2016): Stop Demand, Campaigns; <http://www.stopdemand.org/wawcs0154995/idDetails=222.html> (16. 03. 2018)
36. Stop Demand Foundation: Retrieved from <http://www.stopdemand.org/wawcs0154995/sex-trafficking.html> (16. 03. 2018)
37. The Issue: The Code; Retrieved from <http://www.thecode.org/csec/> (10. 03. 2018)
38. Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, June, 2013, Retrieved from http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/CEOP_TACSEA2013_240613%20FINAL.pdf, (20. 04. 217)
39. UNWTO (1999): Global Code of Ethics for Tourism
40. UNWTO (2014): 15 Years of the UNWTO World Tourism Network on Child Protection: A Compilation of Good Practices, Retrieved from <http://dtxqtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/15-yrs-of-unwto-wtn-child-protection.pdf>, (25. 02. 2016)
41. UNWTO (2016): Press Release, Private sector committed to fight child exploitation in tourism, PR No.: 16021, 15 March 2016; <http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2016-03-14/private-sector-committed-fight-child-exploitation-tourism>; (10. 03. 2017)
42. UNWTO (2017): Tourism Ethics Convention
43. UNWTO: Reports of Meetings on Child Protection; Reports of the Meetings of World Tourism Network on Child Protection (formerly the Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism) Retrieved from <http://ethics.unwto.org/content/reports-meetings-child-protection> (30. 03. 2016)
44. UNWTO, (2017): Press Release, Governments need to lead the protection of children in tourism – UNWTO World Tourism Network on Child Protection meets in Berlin <http://ethics.unwto.org/event/32nd-meeting-unwto-world-tourism-network-child-protection>) (17. 03. 2018)
45. UNWTO: What You can do against Child Exploitation in Tourism, Retrieved from <http://ethics.unwto.org/content/what-you-can-do-against-child-exploitation-tourism> (01. 02. 2018)
46. UN (2015): Sustainable Development Goals, <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> (15. 03. 2018)
47. UN General Assembly (2006): Promotion and protection of the rights of children; UN General Assembly Resolution, A/61/299
48. WHO (2014): Adverse Childhood Experiences Survey Among University Students In Turkey Study Report – 2013; ed. Ulukol, Betül – Kahiloğulları, Akfer K. - Sethi, Dinesh, Retrieved from http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/267472/Adverse-childhood-experiences-survey-among-university-students-in-Turkey-Eng.pdf (11. 03. 2018)

49. World Tourism Network on Child Protection: <http://ethics.unwto.org/content/world-tourism-network-child-protection>; (02. 05. 2018)
50. Zsarnoczky, M. (2016): Silver Tourism. In: Elena Horska, Zuzana Kapsdorferová, Marcela Hallová (eds.) *The Agri-Food Value Chain: Challenges for Natural Resources Management and Society: International Scientific Days 2016. Conference proceedings* pp. 556-563.