

REPORT

for the period **1 June 2021 to 31 May 2024**, made by **the Government of Finland**, in accordance with article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, on the measures taken to give effect to the provisions of the **Forced Labour Convention, 1930, No. 29** ratification of which was registered on 13 January 1936.

a) Legislation

Act on Occupational Safety and Health Enforcement and Cooperation on Occupational Safety and Health at Workplaces (44/2006)

Section 50, subsection 1 of the Act on Occupational Safety and Health Enforcement and Cooperation on Occupational Safety and Health at Workplaces (44/2006) was amended to state that the occupational safety and health authority shall notify the police, in addition to the factors listed earlier in the section, also about suspected trafficking in human beings and aggravated trafficking in human beings, as well as violations of the EU chemical safety regulations relating to the health and safety of workers at work. The amendment entered into force on 15 November 2021.

b) - see also the first report on Protocol 29

A copy of this report has been sent to following labour market organizations:

1. The Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK)
2. The Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK)
3. The Finnish Confederation of Salaried Employees (STTK)
4. The Confederation of Unions for Academic Professionals in Finland (Akava)
5. The Commission for Local Authority Employers (KT)
6. The State Employer's Office (VTML)
7. The Federation of Finnish Enterprises (SY)

Statements of the labour market organisations

The Federation of Finnish Enterprises considers that Finland has taken important measures to prevent trafficking in human beings. The Federation of Finnish Enterprises finds it very important that the exploitation of foreign labour can be effectively prevented. The resolution on a strategy against labour exploitation, adopted by the Finnish Government in March 2023, contains a

number of important measures to prevent trafficking in human beings and the exploitation of foreign workers. However, the Federation of Finnish Enterprises emphasises that work against trafficking in human beings and exploitation requires sufficient resources from public authorities. It is therefore important to pay attention to the resourcing of public authorities in the future.

c) Direct Request, 2021

The Committee requests the government to provide information on the activities undertaken for the implementation of the five strategic objectives of the Action Plan as well as on the assessment of its implementation by the working group in charge of its monitoring.

The action plan aimed to promote the detection of trafficking in human beings, improve the position of victims and intensify the enforcement of criminal liability. It also sought to mainstream anti-trafficking work and make it a more integral part of the Government's activities and to enhance cooperation with civil society. The action plan established a strong link between the development of anti-trafficking work and the Government's analysis, assessment and research activities. In addition, it addressed international recommendations given to Finland concerning efforts to step up anti-trafficking action and improve the position of victims.

Almost all the action plan's measures were implemented as planned by the end of 2023. However, the implementation of a few measures will continue in 2024 and 2025 due to delayed funding. Ministries and agencies and bodies within their administrative branch were committed to implementing the action plan, resulting in efficient and effective anti-trafficking action.

In the end, the funding allocated to the implementation of the action plan totalled approximately EUR 1.7 million. In addition, the police, the occupational safety and health authorities and the Assistance system for victims of human trafficking were allocated additional human resources during the implementation period to intensify the fight against human trafficking and labour exploitation and to improve victims' access to assistance.

The Ministry of Justice was assigned the responsibility and the necessary human resources for coordinating anti-trafficking work within the Government. A national team investigating human trafficking crimes was created under the Helsinki Police Department and the National Bureau of Investigation, and situation awareness of trafficking in human beings was systematically developed. A network of prosecutors specialised in human trafficking cases was established during the implementation period.

Many authorities and professionals received training, and the awareness and competence of key authorities and other entities were strengthened as part of the action plan. The considerable amount of training measures and networking opportunities promoted anti-trafficking collaboration and engaged new entities. Work against trafficking in human beings was incorporated into efforts to tackle the grey economy and economic crime, to prevent violence against women and children and to promote gender equality.

In addition, health and social service providers' capabilities to identify victims of human trafficking were improved in collaboration with the third sector, and companies' and public procurers' awareness of trafficking in human beings was raised.

Trafficking in human beings was also tackled through legislative amendments, such as the Act to amend the Criminal Investigation Act, which expanded the possibilities of using prerecorded interviews in court proceedings. In addition, analysis, assessment and research was carried out during the implementation period. These activities reinforced the knowledge base of anti-trafficking measures and promoted practical anti-trafficking work. Finland intensified international cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings and actively promoted the establishment of a coordination group and a police network under the Nordic Council of Ministers.