



Definition of fake marriage

What it is?

- Human trafficking risk?
- Violation of migration law?
- Bigamy?
- Fraud?

Could be any of mentioned and combination of all.

But Latvian law enforcement institutions reckon that most appropriate and sufficient definition for mentioned illegal activities would be “Human trafficking risk”.

There have been done preventative measures in order to avoid bigamy, usage of fake documents and misusing existing migration policy. Nevertheless taking into account organized criminal groups involved, illegal money flow and exploitation of involved EU citizens, this illegal activity should be treated as criminal offence.

And according to Latvian legislation from April 2013, CL Art. 285.2 Malicious (abusive) provision with an opportunity to obtain legal right to reside in Latvian Republic, another EU Member State, Member State of the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation – is the closest one to Human trafficking risk in national penal code.



General trends

- Latvian Republic population (at the beginning of period 2013/2014), thsd- 2011,3/1994.3
- Personal money income 2012/2013 (monthly average; EUR)- 685/716
- Share of unemployed 2012/2013/2014 to the active population of the same age group- 16,3/11,4/10,7

At-risk-of-poverty rate

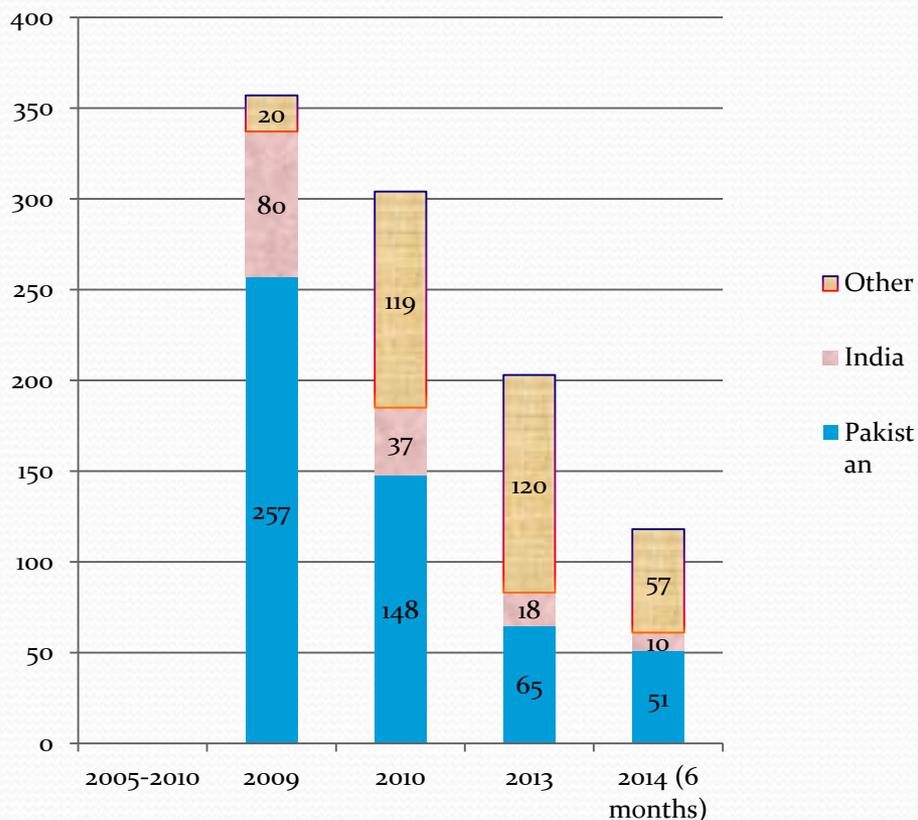
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
Total	26.4	20.9	19.0	19.2	19.4
18-24	19.4	21.0	22.3	20.1	19.8
25-49	19.1	19.9	19.3	18.7	17.4

Trends of THB risk elements



- Latvian consumer-economy led society and features of the country of THB origin.
- State agencies proactive and preventive approach to combat THB risks in the territory of Latvia.
- This approach provides that THB risk cases (fake marriage) do not transform in THB (forced fake marriage, domestic servitude, forced labour) cases with real victims and recruiters do not transform in traffickers.

Latvian citizens marriage in Ireland



	Pakistan	India	Other countries	Total number
2005-2010				834
2009	257	80	20	357
2010	148	37	119	304
2013	65	18	120	203 (122)*
2014 (6 months)	51	10	57	118 (79)*

* In brackets the number of marriage with 3-rd country citizens, whom needed a Visa or for residence permit in Ireland

The typical features of Latvian sham bride

- vulnerable person;
- 18-20 years old;
- with disability;
- low level of education;
- not familiar with the English language;
- from low income or socially unfavorable large families or who were under guardianship or have lived in social care institutions in Latvia until 18 years



In some cases there were women who have underage children or they have lost parental authority or the children are left by the relatives in Latvia.



Combating trafficking in human beings in Latvia

- Reactive phenomenon of THB- the Criminal Law Article 154¹ Human Trafficking
- ✓ **CRIMINALS**
- ✓ **VICTIM (real)**
- ✓ **POLICE**



Combating trafficking in human beings in Latvia

THB phenomenon

Year	Initiated proceedings CL Art. 154. ¹ (forced marriage, sexual exploitation, forced labour)	Suspected persons
2009.	3 (2 FM, 1 – SE)	4 (2 M, 2 F)
2010.	3 (2 – SE, 1 – FM)	4 (2 M, 2 F)
2011.	0	0
2012.	3 (SE)	2 (2 M)
2013.	5 (SE) (7 adult victims, 1 minor victim)	6 (5 M, 1 F)
2014.	1 (FM, SE, FL)	12(8 M,4 F)



Combating trafficking in human beings in Latvia

- Reactive (proactive) phenomenon of THB –risk Art. 285.2 Malicious (abusive) provision with an opportunity to obtain legal right to reside in Latvian Republic, another EU Member State, Member State of the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation

No necessity for real victim

Police

Criminals





Combating trafficking in human beings in Latvia

THB risk elements

Year	Initiated proceedings CL Art. 165. ¹	Suspected Persons (males, females)	Initiated proceedings CL Art. 285. ²	Suspected persons
2009.	31	35 (25 M, 10 F)	X	X
2010.	28	34 (19 M, 15 F)	X	X
2011.	21	34 (20 M, 14 F)	X	X
2012.	13	15 (8 M, 7 F)	X	X
2013.	8	12 (8 M, 4 F)	7	9 (3M, 6F)
2014.	3	3 (2 M, 1 F)	9	10 (2M, 8F)



General peculiarities of the investigation

- Due to the security reasons, only specialized undercover police officers are involved in the proactive police operations for identifying and arresting the recruiters (of prostitutes, sham brides).
- After particular police activities (undercover work, etc.), recruiters are arrested for violation of Art. 285², i.e., police by that does not allow that already recruited persons become victims of THB. It is also a main preventative measure of Human Trafficking as it is stated in CL Art.154¹.

The typical example of recruiting:



«Hi Dear I guess you from Latvia.. Am i right? well you don't know me and also i don't know you.. but i was looking for Latvian girls... I have a friend from Pakistan he is Muslim also he is already married in Pakistan he is belong to noble family... he came in Ireland at 2007 on student visa, but i am sure you probably know about all the stuff i am going to talk to you know. My friend is now illegal in Ireland, many people finds European girls, pay money and get married with them but they don't live with each other, I don't know you are married or not but i have a friend who is looking for a girl to get married just paper marriage not real one and he will pay €8,000 before wedding he will pay €2,000 after wedding he will pay more €2,000 and after that 2 months when he will get his stamp 4 means residency to stay in Ireland so he'll pay €4,000. He will also pay your all expenses including medical, college fee, etc. etc. so you will be lucky if you find any girl or if you are free for him to get married,,, you don't need to worry he is already married you can make boyfriends you can do any thing he will not say any single word to you he wouldn't be not your real husband. He will be your husband in papers... so behalf of yourself he can get residency and he will pay you loads of money... if you are interested please inbox me or if you have any other queries you can speak to me i will speak to you about this. Thanks Hun hope you will reply me as soon as you can.. I will look forward to your reply. Take care bye»

Operation Renda

- Year 2013 April. A Latvian national was seeking persons for marriages in Ireland to provide 3rd country nationals with an opportunity to obtain legal right to reside in EU Member State.
- Year 2013 May recruiter was arrested.
- Year 2013 November was started offender's criminal prosecution.





Operation Tanzanite

- Year 2013. A Latvian national, previously worked on farms in Latvia picking fruit was recruited for work available in England to pick mushrooms and she did not need to speak the English.
- On reaching the UK the offer of employment failed. The victim has stayed at a number of addresses and was regularly moved between these address. Any moves were always made during the night. The victim has been held against her will throughout her entire time in the UK, the offenders responsible for keeping the victim in the UK regularly locked her in addresses before leaving with the keys, the victim would also regularly was chaperoned whilst (moved) in addresses and prevented from leaving.

The victims passport and ID documents was taken from her upon her arrival into the UK. Since arriving she has not been permitted access to any communications devices unless supervised- no more than one call per week allowed to her mother. The phone numbers she called from were hidden so calls could not be made back from the victim's mother- the only person she was permitted to contact.



Operation Tanzanite

- On the 18th July the victim placed a call to her mother in Latvia explaining her plight and giving a location of where she believed she was been held.
- Year 2014. It was stated that the victim had been sold for £3,800 and would be getting married.
- Crossborder cooperation with the UK. 3 persons arrested by Greater Manchester police. They charged with False Imprisonment. It is hoped that they will be also charged with Human Trafficking and Assisting Unlawful Immigration.



Thank you for your attention!

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