



# Identification of and compensation for victims of labour exploitation: experiences and challenges in Belgium

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Not for sale-joining forces against THB

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CENTRE FOR  
**EQUAL**  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AND OPPOSITION  
TO RACISM





# Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism

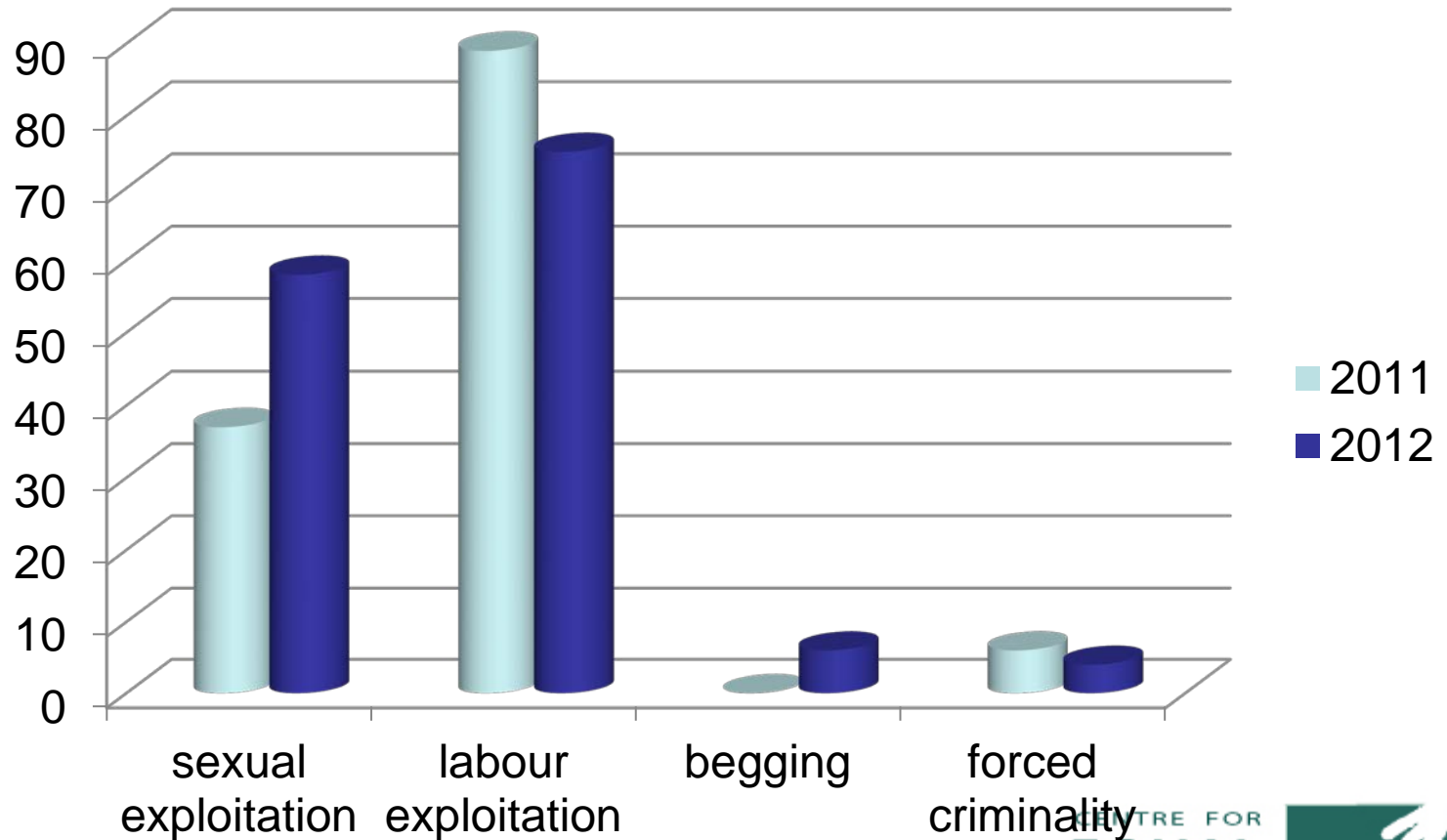
*A public service, independent in the accomplishment of its missions:*

- Established by an Act of Parliament in 1993
- One of the missions: to stimulate the fight against human trafficking (since 1995)
  - i.a. through independent evaluation report
- Government's decision (December 2011): reform of the Centre: 2 different entities
  - Discrimination: Interfederal Centre
  - Migration and THB: remains Federal (2014)





# New victims supported by specialised centres



# Why?

- Broad definition of THB for labour exploitation
  - Act+ purpose: “conditions incompatible with human dignity”
  - Means= aggravating circumstances
  - THB (salary, work, environment, housing, dependance)
- Specialisation:
  - Prosecutors
  - Police services AND labour inspection services (list of indicators)
  - Meetings at district level
  - Shelters for victims of THB
  - Multidisciplinary cooperation
- Efficient National referral mechanism



# Challenges

- Detection of victims
  - Atypical sectors (transport)
  - Constructions (bogus self employed, posting of workers)
  - Housing inspections
  - “Only one chance” during controls
- Awareness and training
  - Front line services: perception/positive attitude and know-how
  - Labour inspectors:
    - Victim vs. illegal worker
    - Detailed reports
  - Detention centres
  - Prosecutors
  - Medical sector





# Challenges

- Support adapted to profile of victim: issue of compensation
  - Lawyer/victims want back home
  - Access to Fund (Financial aid to victims of deliberate acts of violence)
  - Seizures and confiscation





Thank you for your attention!

