



STOP TRAFFICK! Tackling Demand for Sexual Services from Trafficked Women and Girls

With the financial support of the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme
European Commission - Directorate-General Home Affairs

Nusha-Yonkova, Anti-trafficking Coordinator, 19 June 2014



**KLAIPĖDA SOCIAL AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL
SERVICES CENTER**



**MEDITERRANEAN
INSTITUTE OF
GENDER STUDIES**



MONIKA - MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



Research objectives

1. Explore the international legal provisions and the national legal and policy context in the participating countries, taking into account the various obligations that exist in the area of combatting human trafficking, with a focus on discouraging the demand that fosters human trafficking
2. Explore the characteristics of the buyers and their attitudes towards the purchase of sex in general and from victims of trafficking in particular
3. Explore the awareness level of buyers of sex of the circumstances of the people they are buying, as well as their knowledge and considerations on the issue of human trafficking
4. Establish the most efficient measures to deter the purchasing of sex from

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~~identified by the respondents in the study~~

5. Make recommendations on measures to discourage demand for the services of

Methods used

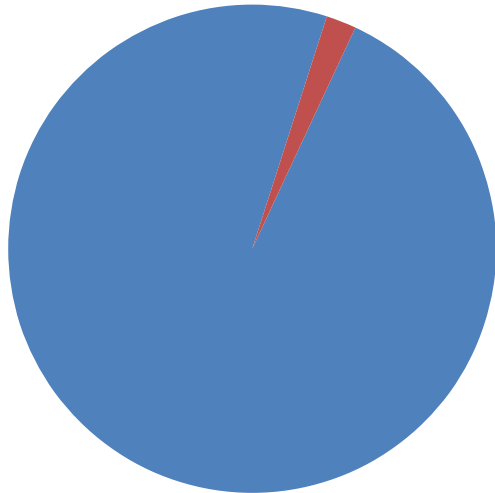
- Review of relevant international research
- Review of the legal and policy context in the partner countries
- Online survey
- Face-to-face interviews with buyers of sex

Research comprised of:

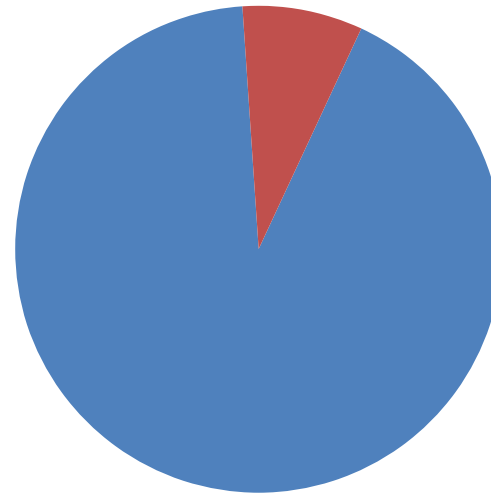
- Seventy-one in-depth interviews with male buyers in Bulgaria and Lithuania (37 in Bulgaria and 34 in Lithuania)
- Some 2,004 responses to an online survey carried out in Cyprus, Finland and Ireland, of which 1,050 were completed in Cyprus, 544 in Finland and 410 in Ireland. Of these, 426 respondents in Cyprus identified themselves as buyers of sex, 208 respondents in Finland identified themselves as buyers of sex and 58 respondents in Ireland identified themselves as buyers of sex
- In total, 763 buyers of sex participated in the in-depth interviews and online survey in the five project countries (692 in the online survey and 71 in the

Gender of the buyers

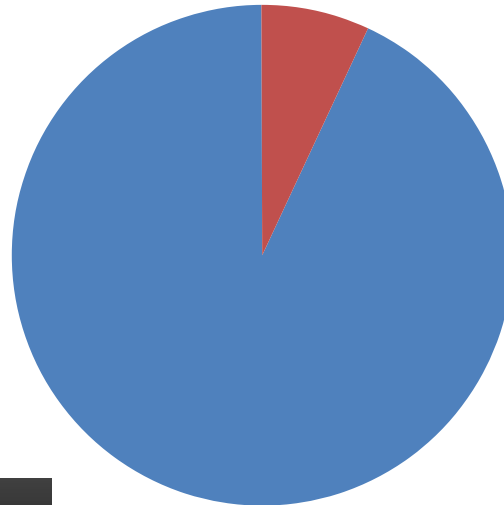
Ireland



Finland



Cyprus

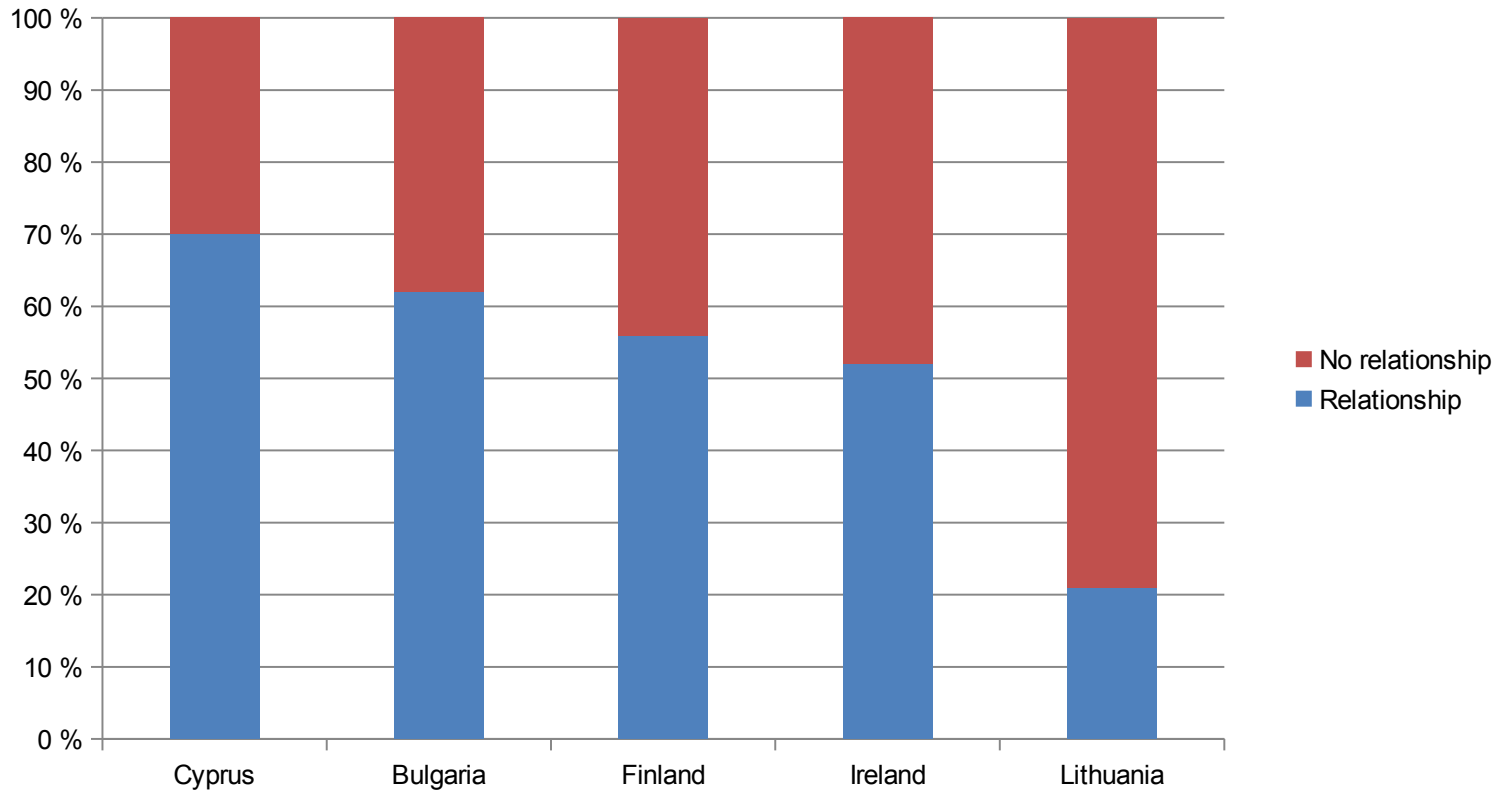


■ Male
■ Female

Age of buyers

Age of buyers (per cent)					
Age of buyers	Cyprus	Finland	Ireland	Bulgaria	Lithuania
Under 25 years	6	20	15	3	68
25-44 years	62	45	40	66	29
Over 45 years	32	35	45	31	3

Relationship status



Income and Employment

- Income of buyers
 - Cyprus: 62% earn over €20,000
 - Ireland: 66% earn over €20,000
 - Finland: 80% earn over €20,000

- Employment
 - Bulgaria: 83% are in employment
 - Lithuania: 65% are in employment

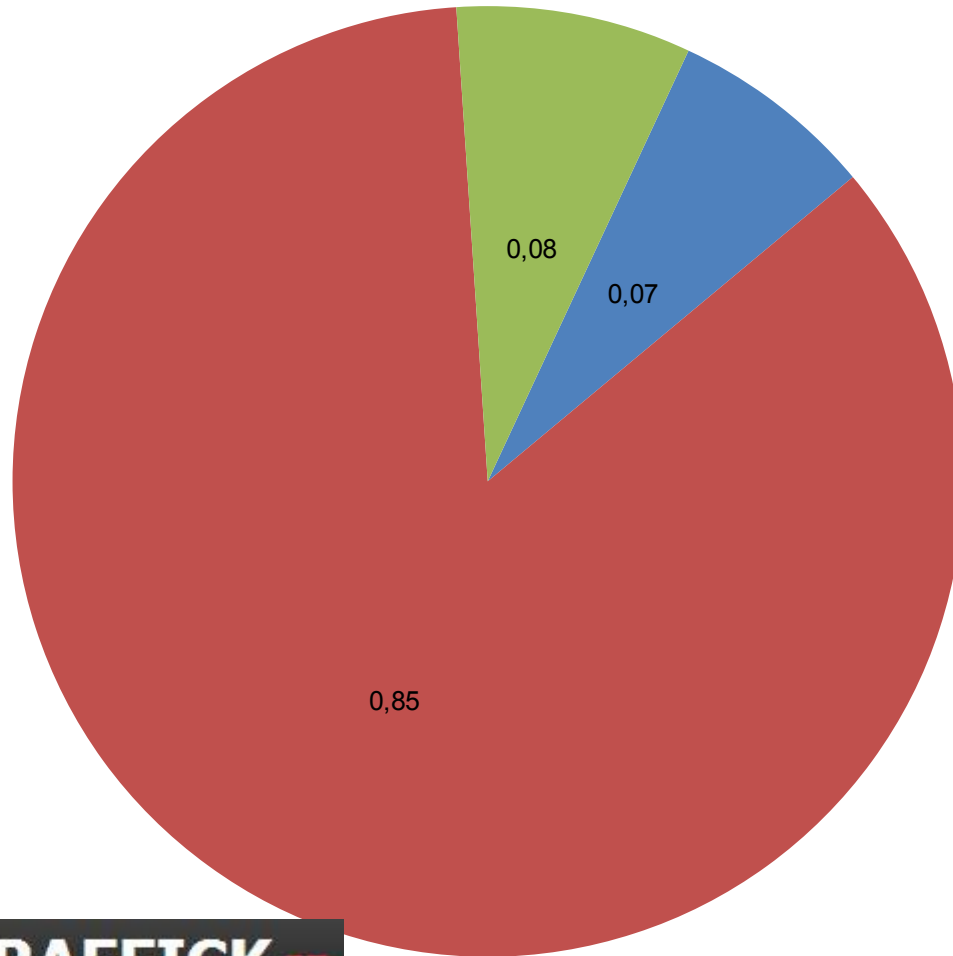
Education level

- Cyprus
 - 77% third-level
 - 21% second-level
- Finland
 - 50% third-level
 - 42% second-level
- Ireland
 - 48% third-level
 - 30% second-level

Characteristics

- Male
- Age 25-40
- In a relationship
- Well-educated
- Employed
- Good level of income
- Residents of cities (towns)

Gender of sellers (Cyprus, Finland and Ireland)



First time experience

- At a young age
- Spontaneous
- Unplanned
- In a group / with friends
- Alcohol /drug influence
- Contacted the seller in person or through a word of mouth

The role of alcohol

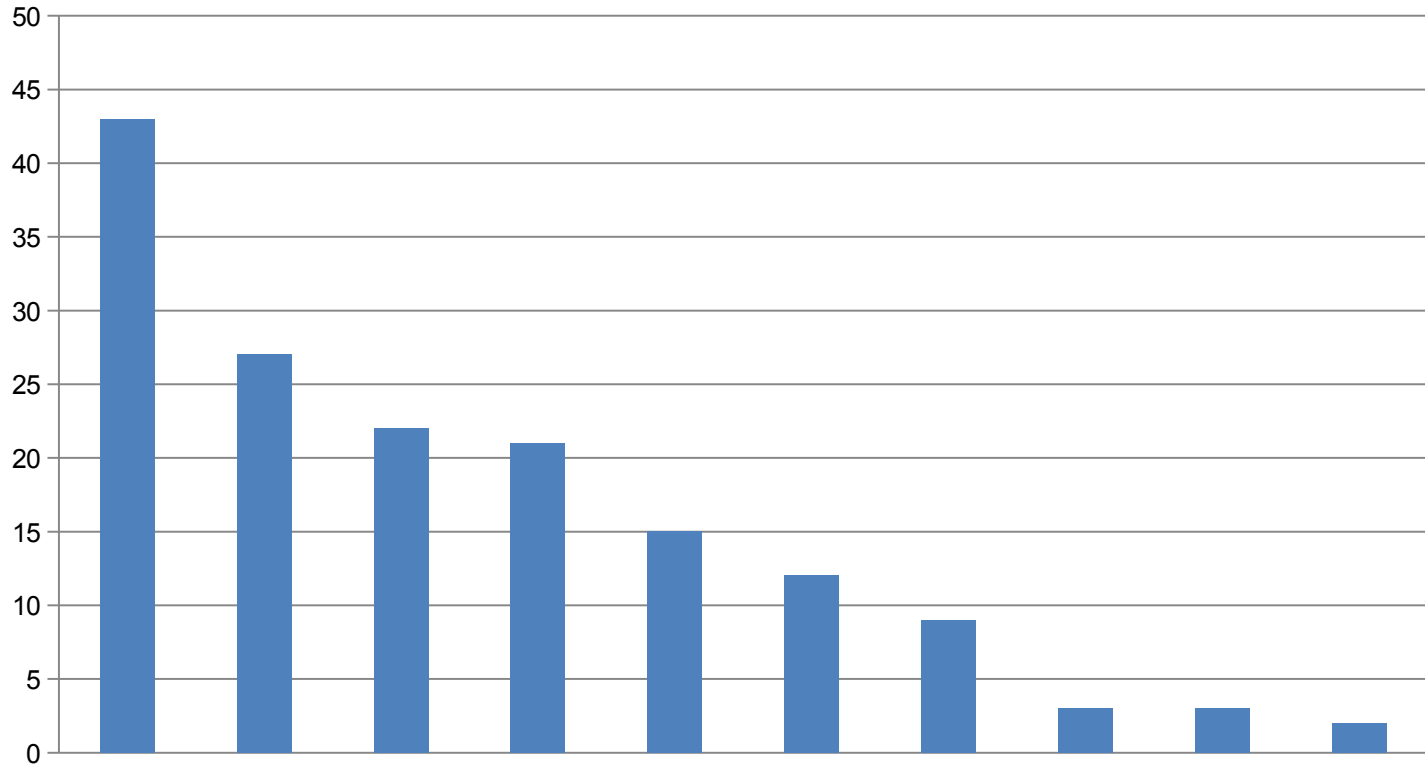
- loss of self control
- more willing to take risks
- increased my courage
- freed me from scruples
- put me in careless mood
- lowered my inhibitions
- provoked my need to assert my identity as member of the 'stronger' gender

Motivation

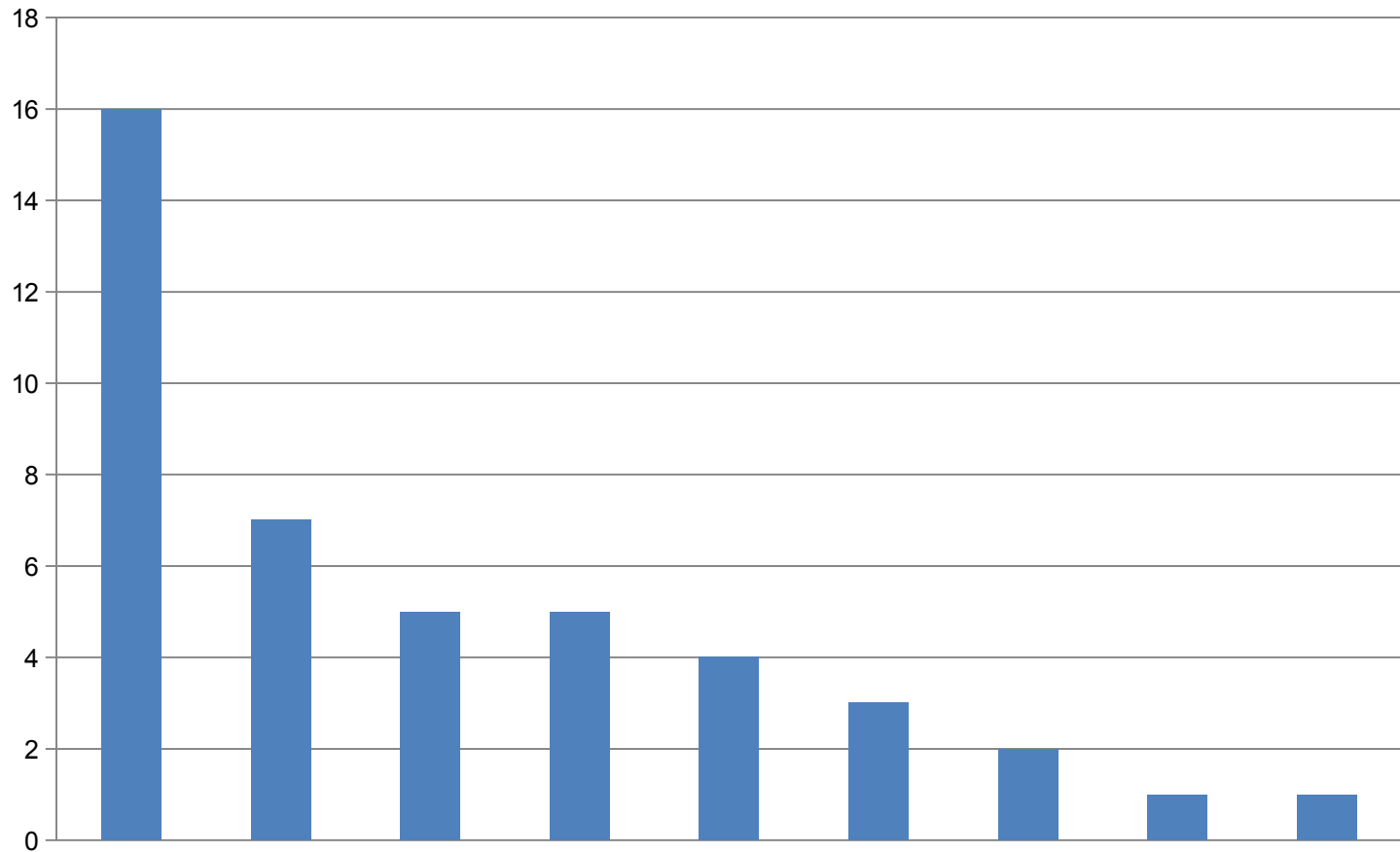
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- Sexual frustration

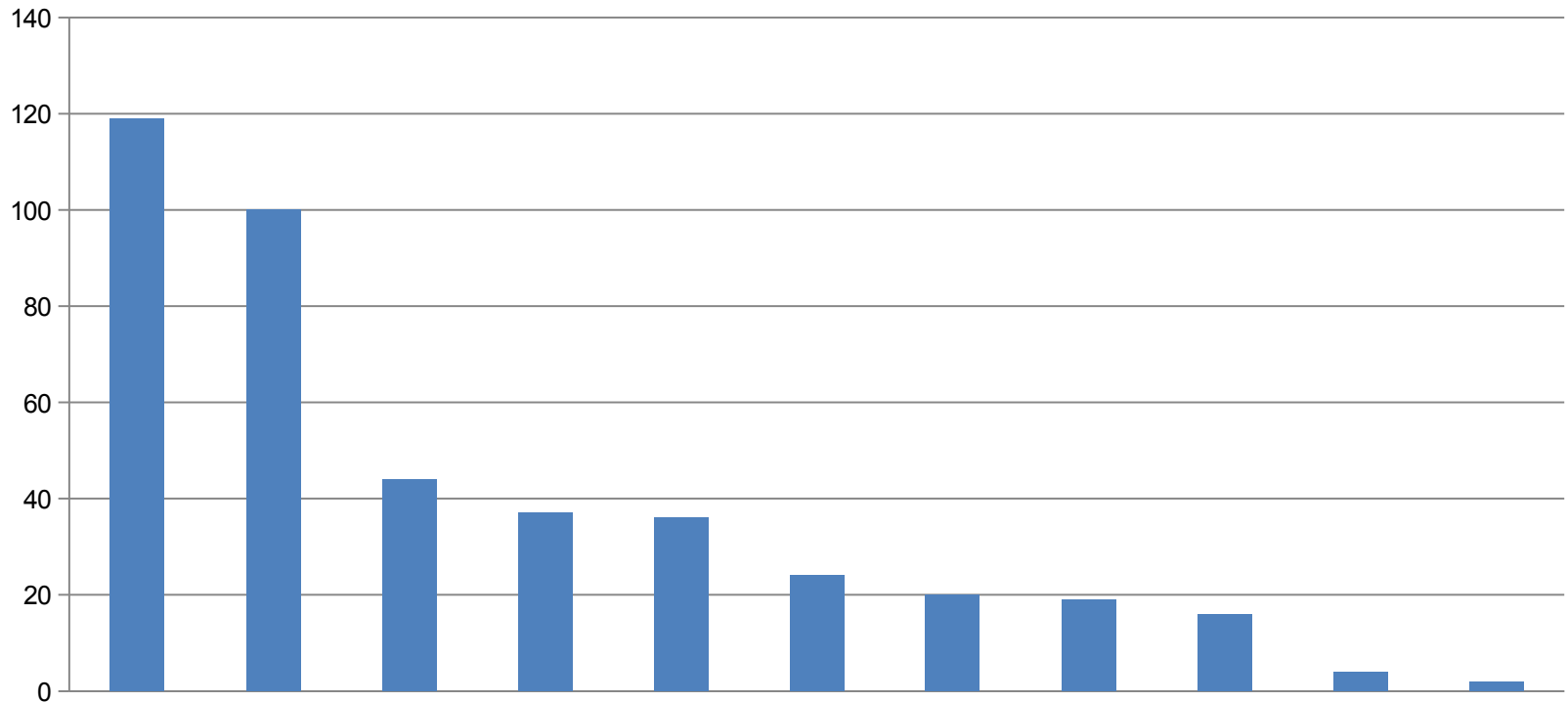
Contacting the seller (Finland)



Contacting the seller (Ireland)



Contacting the seller (Cyprus)



Changing patterns

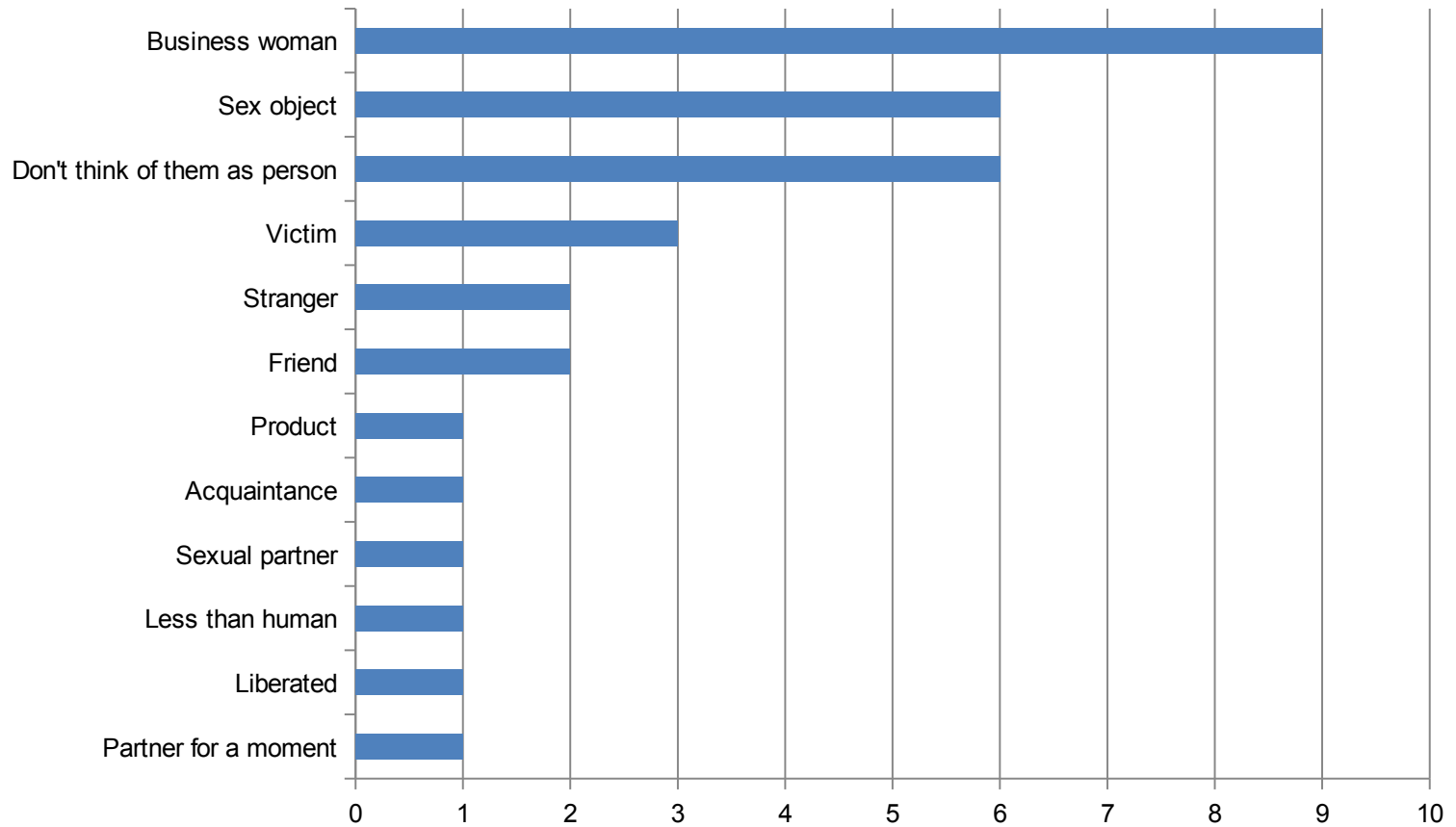
“I am supplying myself, even these days, with different women twice a month. I realise my sexual fantasies – this is possible only with a prostitute. With every woman it is different and ever more exciting.”

Changing patterns

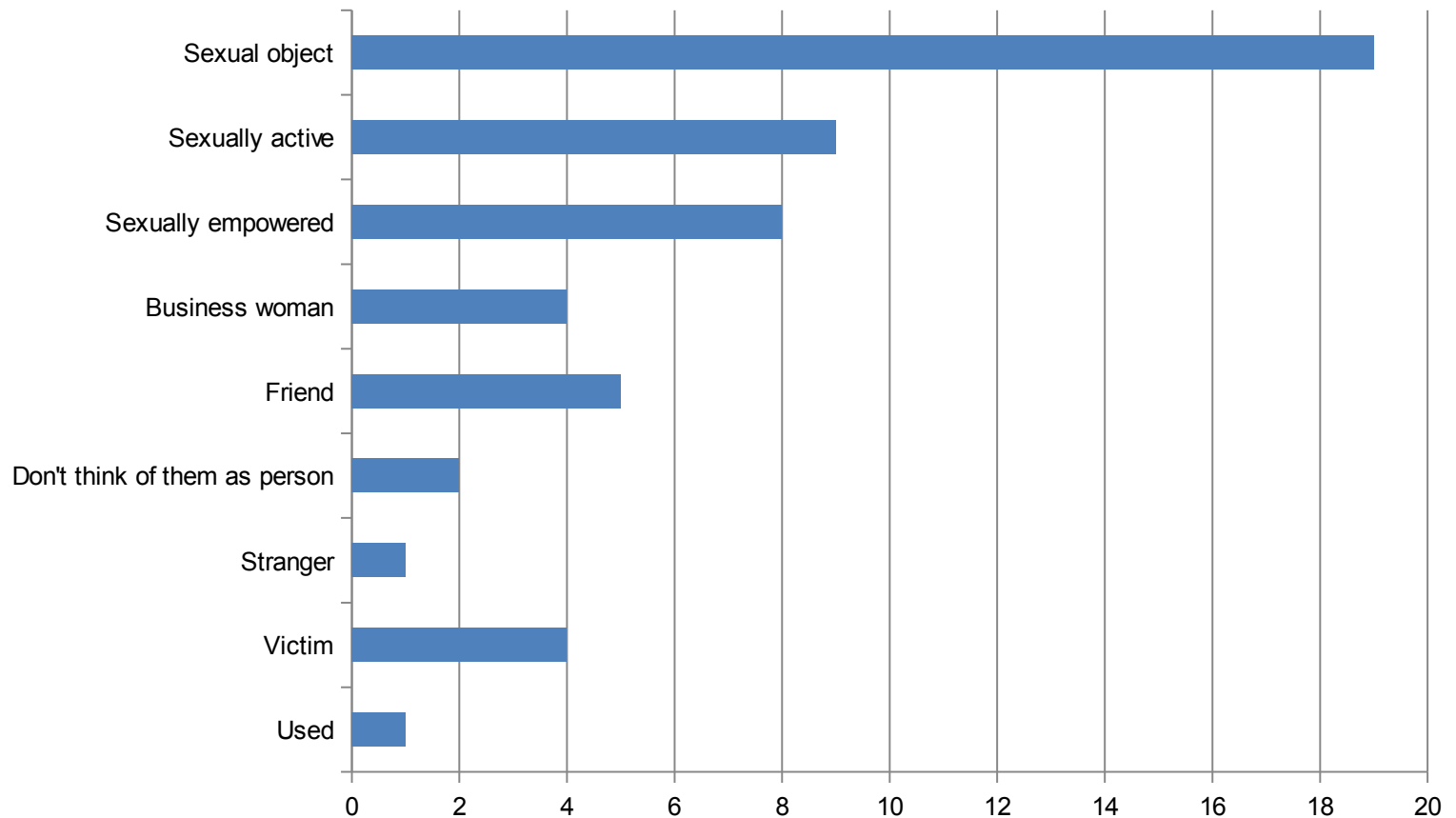
“Definitely, my habits changed and I attribute this to the change in sexual partners. With every new [one], I apply what I have learned from the previous encounter. As of today, I could consider I have tried it all, but I know this is not the case. There is always a surprise. For men this is important, especially for me. The more perverse the better. One cannot describe it. There are incredibly 'dirty' women who almost make you fly. For years already, my wife cannot sexually satisfy me. This is only possible with a 'dirty' woman. Only a dirty woman offers quality felacio (while my wife considers this a perversion and a humiliation for her). I would do with my wife '69' too, but this is also off limit. With a prostitute I would not do 69. I would not lick

STOPTRAFFICK.IE *her.”*

How buyers view the sellers (Lithuania)



How buyers view the sellers (Bulgaria)



motivation behind the purchase of sex

- To have control over the act arising from its purchase
- Variety in terms of the seller and the act
- Curiosity / Pleasure/satisfaction
- Availability
- Lack of commitment
- Efficiency:

'I want it fast, so I pay for it'

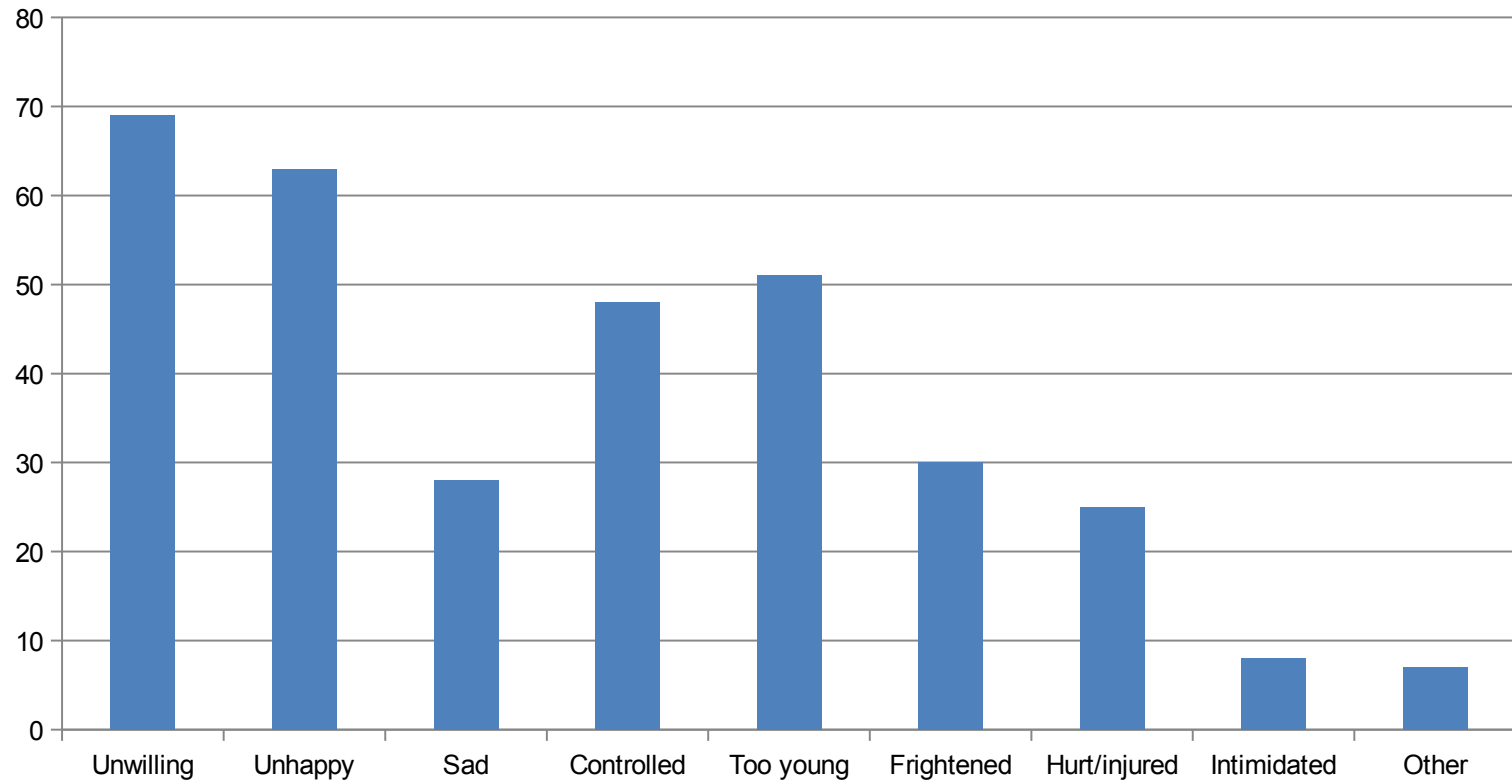
'I pay, instead of asking someone'

- Getting what is denied by one's partner

STOPTRAFFICK.IE *... if you don't pay, they will not do*

anything you want'

Perception and experiences of exploitation (Cyprus, Finland and Ireland)



Witnessing and reacting to exploitation

	Encountered exploitation	Considered reporting to the authority	Never considered reporting	Avoided the question
Ireland	25	21	46	33
Finland	26	22	50	28
Cyprus	34	41	25	34

Purchasing services from a trafficked victim

- **Bulgaria**

28 out of the 37 interviewed were aware of the offence

2 reported considering human trafficking when buying sex

- **Lithuania**

27 of the 34 interviewed were aware of the offence

3 reported considering human trafficking when buying sex

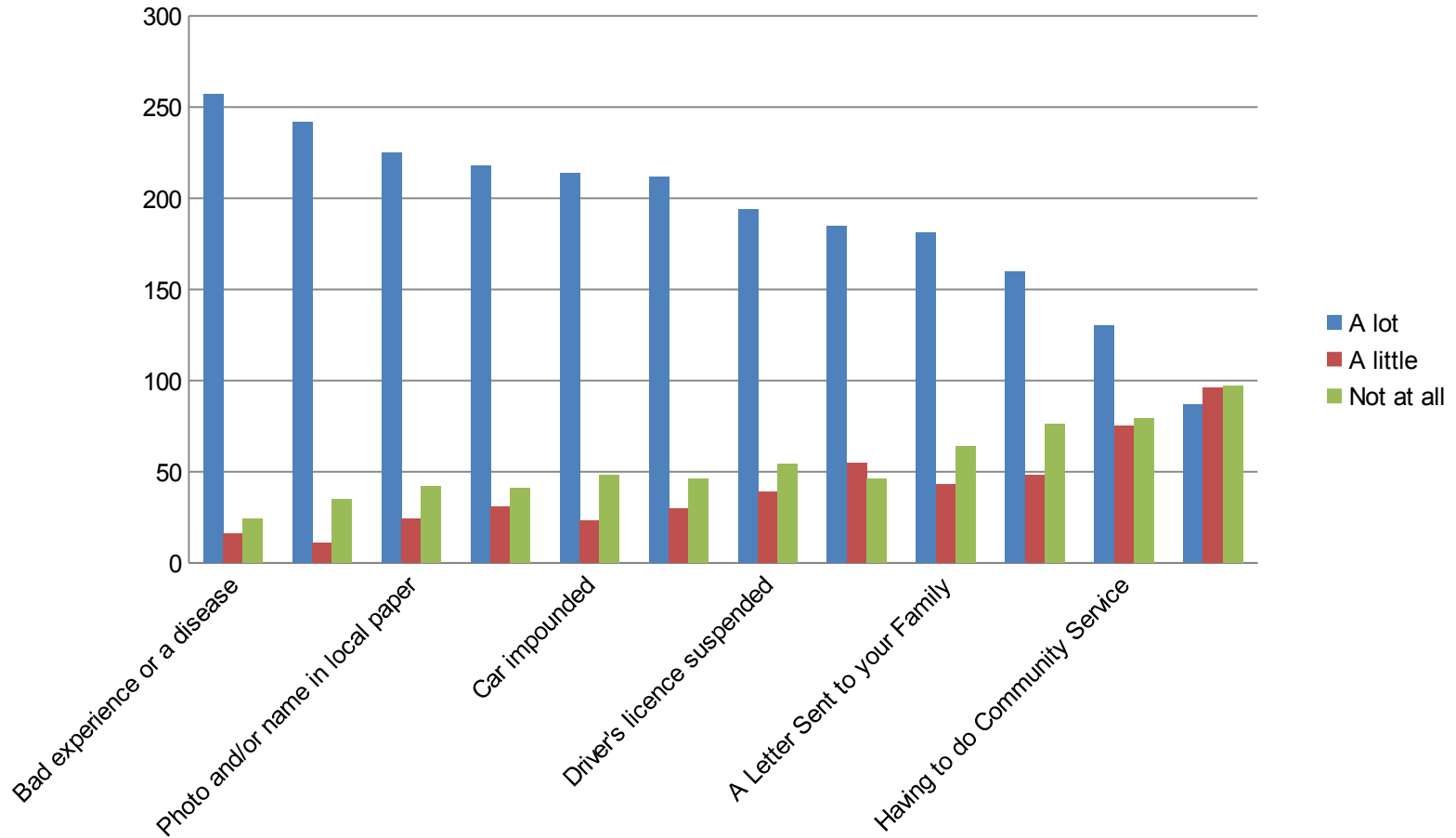
Considering human trafficking when buying

'I think about this, but you cannot know who is who'

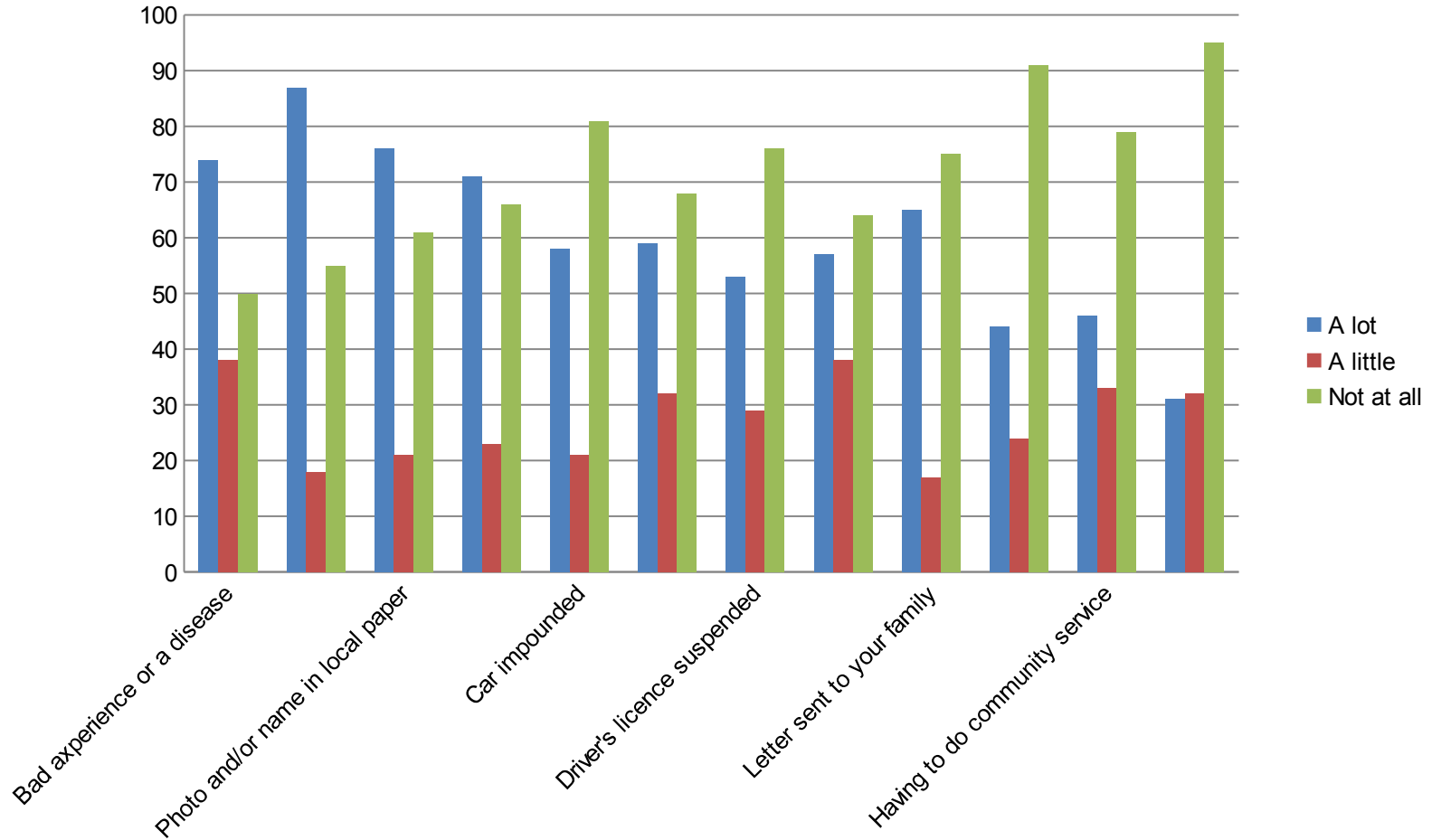
'No, you are just buying a service'

'I will think about whether she is clean. I will not think about whether she has been trafficked. This is not my concern.'

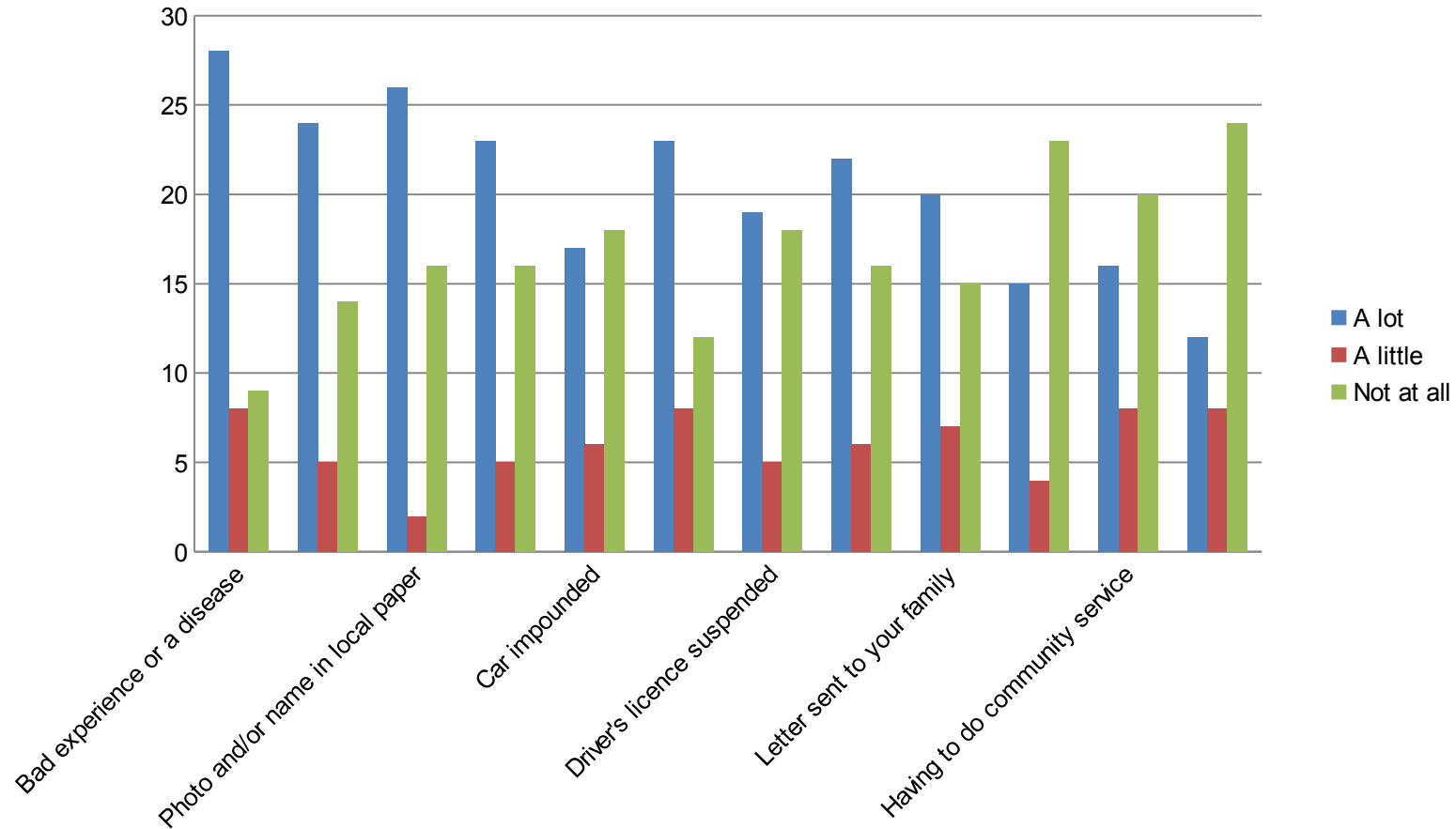
Deterrents to purchasing sex (Cyprus)



Deterrents to purchasing sex (Finland)



Deterrents to purchasing sex (Ireland)



Deterrents to purchasing sex (Bulgaria)

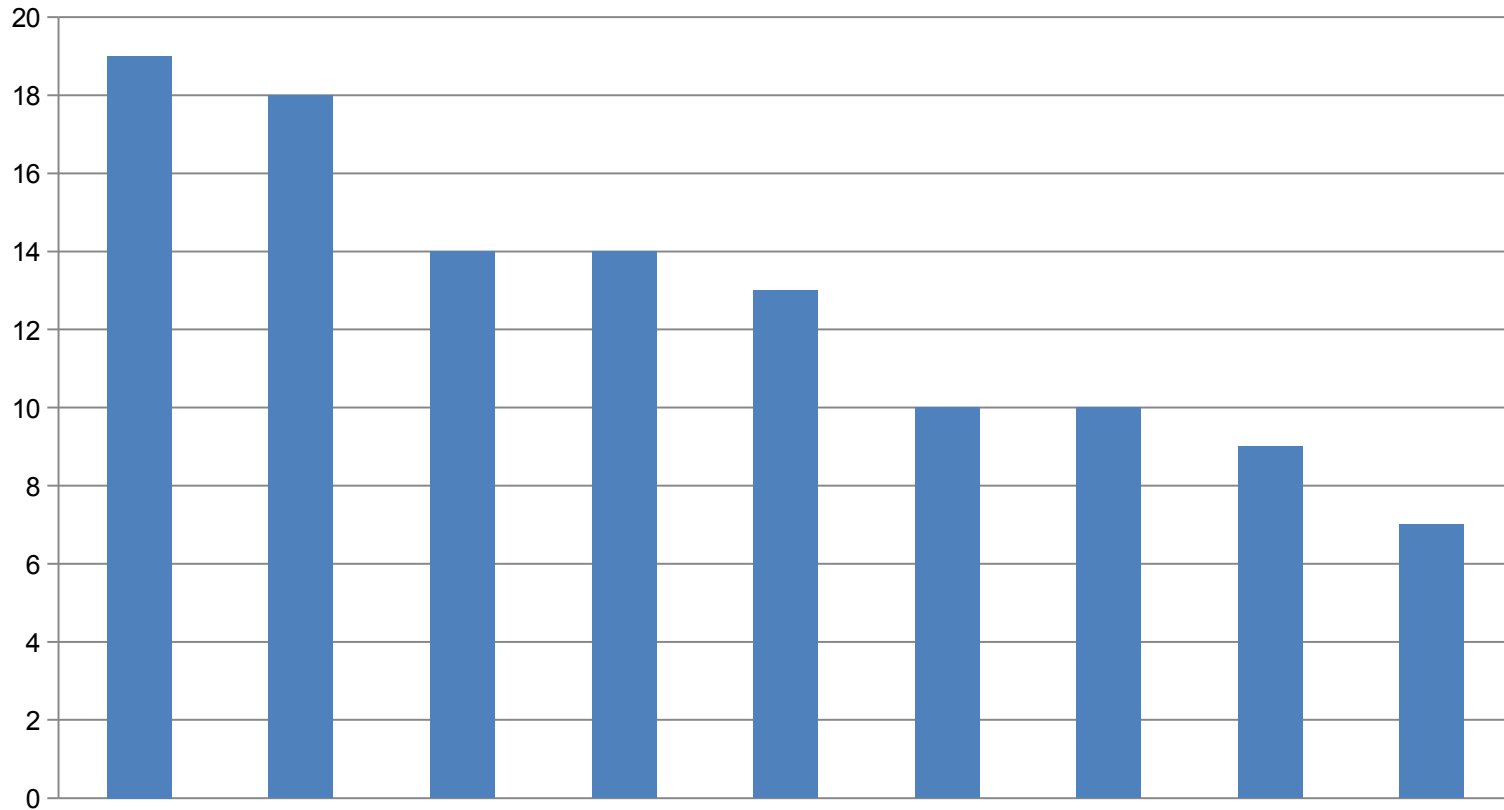
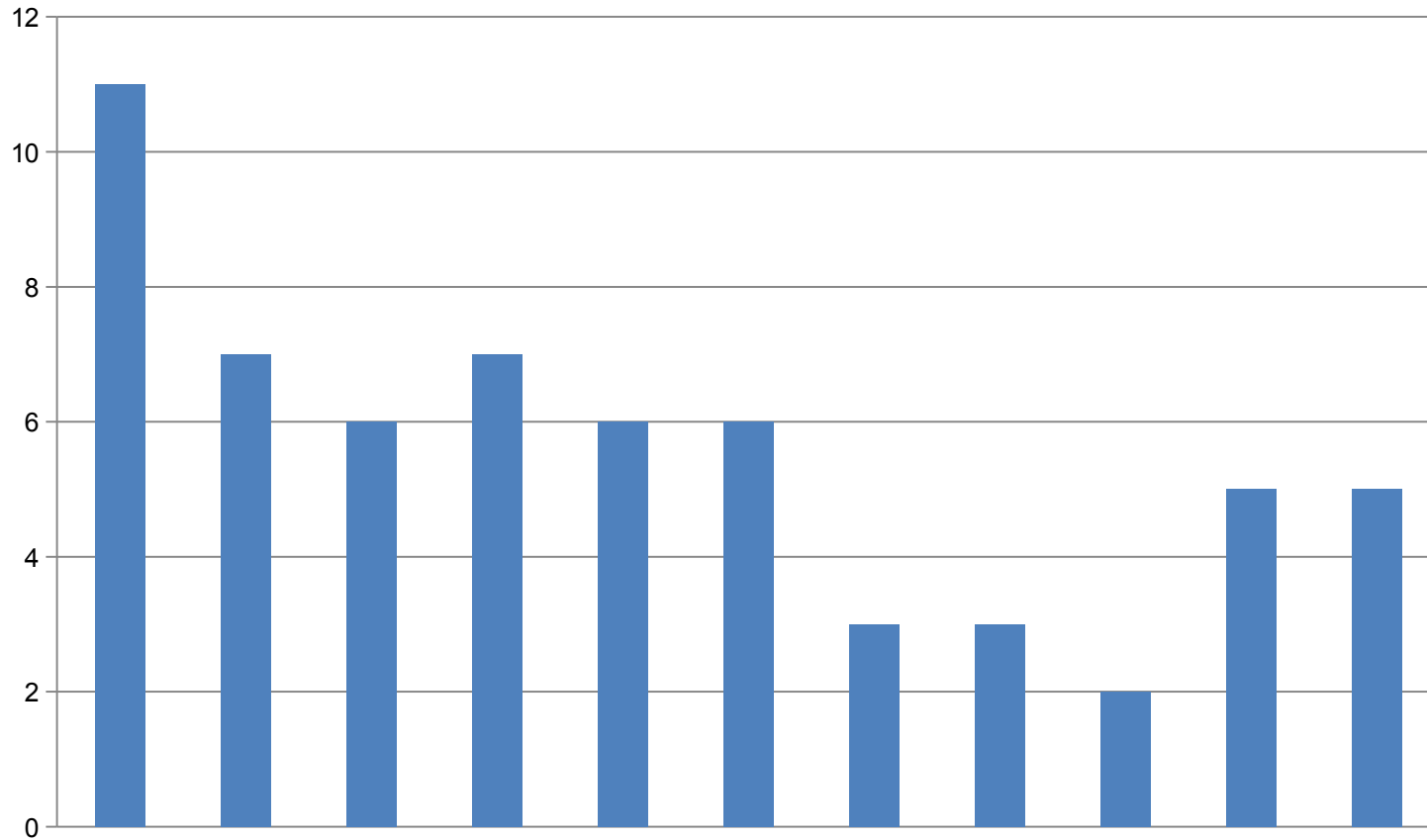


Chart 54: Deterrents to purchasing sex (Lithuania)



Some buyers (a minority) would not be deterred by anything

'Nothing would stop me. I am a free man. There is nothing to hide or be ashamed of'

'There is nothing that would stop me except fear of infection'

Conclusions and recommendations

Targeting demand reduction on men

- Strategies to reduce demand should target the general population of men as the research indicates that buyers of sex are overwhelmingly male, with a diverse range of characteristics.

Conclusions and recommendations

Addressing demand by taking into account buyers' age and other characteristics

- A number of factors that should inform the development of effective campaigns to deter demand, including the age profile, which is primarily among the middle range age group (25-44 years) and the older age group (over 45 years of age).
- It should also take into account the presence and absence of relationships, the relatively high social standing and the middle to high-income levels of buyers, and the high levels of education and employment amongst buyers.
- As part of the wider demand reduction strategies, awareness-raising and education initiatives, which specifically target younger men and potential future buyers, should be urgently developed as the data indicates that purchasing sex becomes more entrenched over time, with more frequent buyers exhibiting an

Conclusions and Recommendations

A focus on male buyers of female sellers

- Male buyers purchasing sex from female sellers should remain the primary focus of any demand reduction strategies, based on the statistics in this and other research in the past. Specific campaigns targeting the buying of male sellers could be developed to address the minority of buyers who purchase sex from males, provided this does not take away from the resources aimed at the reduction within the prevalent scenario (namely where male buyers purchase from female sellers).
- Gender considerations should be applied to the design of any intervention

Conclusions and Recommendations

Addressing demand in relation to the visibility and availability with first-time buyers

- Strategies addressing demand need to recognise that visibility and availability has a strong influence on the decision to purchase sex for the first time.
- Campaigns also need to address peer influence and the motivations of young men in first buying sex, including the demand for sexual variety, tests of bravery (willing to take risks) and curiosity.
- Demand strategies should address the role of alcohol and the group settings in which young men first purchase sex. The role of alcohol was not found to be a

Conclusions and recommendations

The need to focus demand reduction strategies in diverse locations and to take account of the shift into indoor prostitution and the use of the internet

- As the findings indicate a major shift into indoor prostitution and the increasing use of the internet, particularly in Finland and Ireland, demand reduction measures should place significant focus on the role of the internet in accessing paid sex. The prevalence of private apartments as a location suggests the need to target the use of private premises for prostitution.
- Despite the move indoors, the findings indicate the need to continue to address on-street buying and demand reduction strategies, as well as the need to target

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cabarets and clubs, which are primary locations for

accessing paid sex in several countries

Conclusions and Recommendations

The need to address demand reduction as a transnational issue

- The extent to which buyers purchase sex abroad, where it is perceived as more private and anonymous for the buyer, confirms that demand is an international and transnational issue.
- Measures to address demand should involve cross-border cooperation and coordination at European and global levels.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Witnessing exploitation

- The research demonstrates that serious exploitation, including exploitation of minors, is witnessed by buyers within the sex industry. Demand reduction strategies need to highlight all forms of exploitation within the sex industry and how the purchase of sex is a causal factor in that exploitation.
- The perception of buyers that the majority of women are consenting, and by implication not exploited, needs to be addressed.
- The fact that many buyers exhibited reluctance to engage with the question in the survey about exploitation or to report exploitation to the authorities raises

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~~the efficacy of relying on buyers to report to the~~

authorities. The research does suggest that some buyers will *consider* reporting

Conclusions and Recommendations

The role of laws criminalising the purchase of a victim of trafficking

- The research reveals that laws criminalising the purchase of a victim of trafficking are not having a deterrent effect on current buyers. The vast majority of buyers in Lithuania and Bulgaria said they did not consider human trafficking when purchasing sex, despite awareness of the law.
- EU Strategies need to consider and evaluate the effectiveness in reducing demand of laws solely addressing the purchase of sex from victims of trafficking, in particular those that involve knowledge on the part of the buyer.

- The media needs to be better utilised as this appears to be the most important

Conclusions and Recommendations

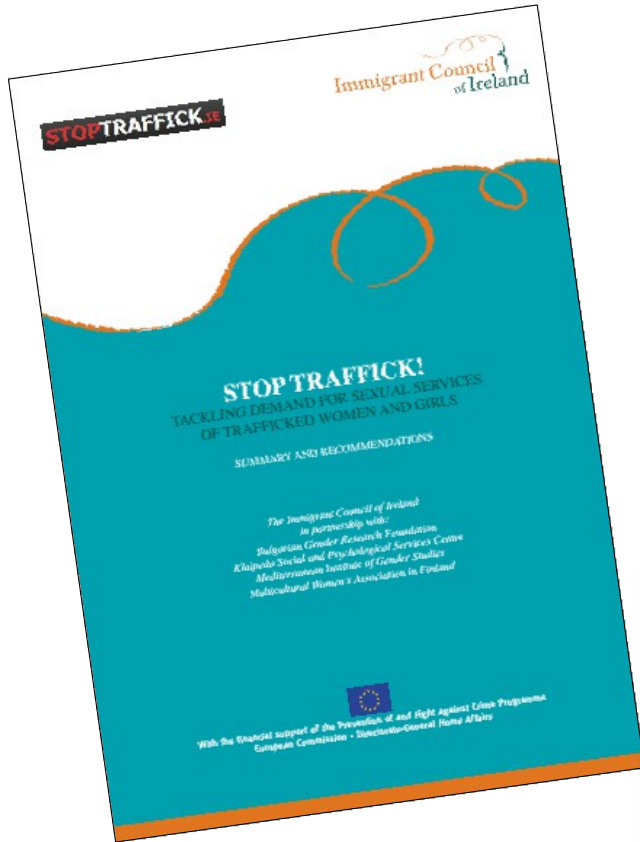
The implementation of effective deterrents

- The findings provide strong evidence of the buyers' assessments of what constitute effective deterrents.
- Public exposure in the local media and/or internet, letters of disclosure sent to a buyer's family and imprisonment are all identified by buyers as having a strong deterrent quality.
- Considering that having educational classes has been found to have no deterrent quality by almost all buyers, it is unlikely that an approach based on such classes will help deter demand.

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also be informed by the specific deterrents identified in

national contexts



THANK YOU!

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