

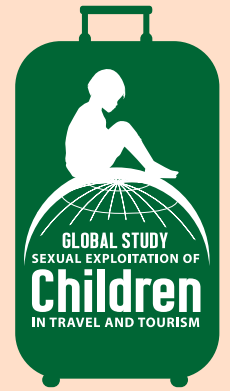
# GLOBAL STUDY ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC REPORT

## RUSSIA

2015

 **STELLIT**



Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia and by Russian citizens abroad: analysis of some cases available and readiness of tourism industry to sign and implement the Code of Conduct/Kolpakova O.I., Shalagaeva E.G., Rusakova M.M., Odinkova V.A. — St. Petersburg, 2015. — 60 p.



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Translator: N.E. Kazak

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St. Petersburg  
2015

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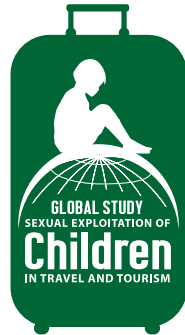
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands





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# ACRONYMS

AC RF	Administrative Code of the Russian Federation
CC RF	Criminal Code of the Russian Federation
CID MDIF	Criminal Investigation Department of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
Code of Conduct	Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
EU	European Union
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SECTT	Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The research “Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia and by Russian citizens abroad: analysis of some cases available and readiness of tourism industry to sign and implement the Code of Conduct” was conducted by Regional NGO “Stellit” in October 2014 – March 2015 as a part of the international project “Reducing violence against children, with special focus on sexual exploitation of children in child sex tourism”, coordinated by ECPAT Netherlands/Defense for Children International and financially supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The study was aimed at forming the basis for further activities aimed at protection of Russian children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism and at prevention of cases of sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens abroad. Specific objectives of the study were the following: 1) to get more information about the current cases of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia: to describe the profile of child victims, organisers and offenders; 2) to get more information about cases of sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens abroad: to describe cases available and profile of offenders in Cambodia and Thailand; 3) to analyse the readiness of the tourism industry representatives to sign the Code of Conduct, perceived obstacles in this field and possible ways to overcome them.

To collect the data, semi structured phone or Skype interviews were conducted with experts, individual cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism were analysed, content analysis of thematic forums and websites for foreigners travelling to Russia and those ones for Russian citizens travelling to Thailand or Cambodia was conducted.

In total representatives of 156 organisations from Russia, Cambodia and Thailand were invited to take part in the study (officials, representatives of governmental organisations and NGOs, international organisations, law enforcement, mass media, Russian hotels as well as international hotel chains represented in Russia, tourist agencies and Russian

airlines). Among 48 representatives of governmental organisations and NGOs from 28 cities of Russia, 2 experts from Cambodia and 12 representatives of the tourism industry in St. Petersburg have answered our questions.

The research has shown that comparing to the beginning of 2000s the number of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia has significantly decreased (apparently, it is currently not widespread in Russia), the geography of cases has become broader while the number of countries of origin of child abusers has been reduced. As it was a decade ago, abusers are male. The new phenomenon of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by citizens of Russia who come to the region of residence of the children from other Russian regions has been revealed. To establish contact with children abusers, among other methods, offenders have started to use a “lover boy” technique which makes it more difficult to reveal such cases and to prosecute the offenders. As at the beginning of 2000s, children are mostly involved into prostitution and receive money, clothes, food and sweets as remuneration. Commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism has become less open: public places are less often used to exploit children as it was at the beginning of 2000s. Both boys and girls may become victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, during the last decade victims became younger. Currently, child victims are provided with assistance they need. The main challenges are the following: in some regions stakeholders lack knowledge and skills on specifics of providing assistance to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation; it is hard to start case in court and to prosecute the offender.

The research has shown that commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian and Thai children by Russian citizens is not a widespread phenomenon. Only 3 cases of commercial sexual exploitation of local children by Russian citizens in Cambodia for the last 12 years and no cases in Thailand were revealed. In all cases abusers were male, aged from

27 to 46 years old, one of them was very rich, two of them were residents of Cambodia and one came as a tourist. They established contact with children directly, via relatives or via other members of the gang. Children were involved into prostitution. Children received money as remuneration; in some cases their parents received remuneration as well (money or expensive presents). Both boys and girls at the age from seven to 16 years old became involved into commercial sexual exploitation. All the child victims got a comprehensive assistance and all offenders were arrested.

Even though at the moment there are some opportunities for promotion of the Code of Conduct in Russia, they are quite limited: representatives of the tourism industry in St. Petersburg in most cases lack reliable information about commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. According to their reports, they have not faced in their work cases of commercial sexual exploitation

of children by customers. On the one hand, this might be related to efforts which are undertaken by hotels administration to prevent such cases. On the other hand, representatives of the tourism industry could conceal the facts of the commercial sexual exploitation of children for fear of spoiling the reputation of their hotel. Almost all representatives of the tourism industry who took part in the research confirmed that at the time of the interview they were not ready to sign the Code of Conduct and had mentioned a number of barriers which prevent them from signature of the Code of Conduct. Among others, they have mentioned lack of understanding of their role in combating commercial sexual exploitation of children and their benefits from signing the Code as well as reluctance to assume additional obligations.

Based on the research results, several directions of further development of work in the field of combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia were suggested.



# INTRODUCTION

## Commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children in travel and tourism

At the moment, information available on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia is very limited. The data come from a vague crime statistics as well as from few researches on the issue and discussions of tendencies in commercial sexual exploitation of children in Russia organised during thematic expert meetings, round tables and conferences. In most cases, information is either quite “old” or not very detailed. All the information available is related to cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism by foreign citizens, while there is no information available on cases when Russian children were sexually exploited by Russian citizens coming to their regions from other Russian regions.

**Statistics available.** The portal of crime statistics of the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Russian Federation provides information about the number of crimes committed on the territory of the Russian Federation by foreign citizens and stateless persons, including citizens of the CIS member states and citizens of the Baltic States.

The number of crimes annually committed by foreign citizens and stateless persons in Russia over the 2010 to 2014 period has slightly changed and ranged from 1.85% to 2.13% of the total number of recorded crimes. For example, there were 48,992 crimes committed by foreign citizens or stateless persons registered in the country in 2010 (which makes 1.87% of the total number of recorded crimes), in 2011 – 44,956 (1.87%), in 2012 – 42,650 (1.85%), in 2013 – 46,984 (2.13%), in 2014 – 44,441 (2.0%) [Kolichestvo prestupleniy, sovershennyh inostrannymy...].

The share of crimes annually committed in Russia by citizens of the CIS member states in the total number of crimes committed by foreign citizens and stateless persons over the 2010 to 2014 period has declined slightly. In 2010 there were 44,596 of such crimes registered (91% of the total number of registered crimes committed in Russia by foreign citizens and stateless persons), in 2011 – 40,499 (90%), in 2012 – 37,391 (87.5%), in 2013 – 40,295 (85.7%), in 2014 – 38,418 (86.4%). In most cases, the CIS citizens committed crimes in Moscow and Moscow region

[Kolichestvo prestupleniy, sovershennyh grahdanami stran...].

The share of crimes annually committed in Russia by citizens of the Baltic States in the total number of crimes committed by foreign citizens and stateless persons over the 2010 to 2014 period remained almost unchanged. In 2010 there were 119 of such crimes registered (0.3% of the total number of recorded crimes committed by foreign citizens and stateless persons), in 2011 – 135 crimes (0.3%), in 2012 – 118 crimes (0.3%), in 2013 – 185 crimes (0.4%), in 2014 – 140 crimes (0.3%). The citizens of the Baltic States committed crimes in St. Petersburg and Moscow; and in Leningrad, Moscow, Kaliningrad, Pskov and Smolensk regions. The greatest number of crimes was committed in the Kaliningrad region [Kolichestvo prestupleniy, sovershennyh grahdanami Baltiyskih...].

On the contrary, the share of crimes annually committed in Russia by citizens of other states (except the Baltic States and the CIS member states) in the total number of crimes committed by foreign citizens and stateless persons over the 2010 to 2014 period has increased. In 2010 there were 4,277 of such crimes registered (8.7% of the total number of registered crimes committed in Russia by foreign citizens and stateless persons), in 2011 – 4,322 crimes (9.6%), in 2012 – 5,213 crimes (12.2%), in 2013 – 6,504 crimes (13.8%), in 2014 – 5,883 crimes (13.2%) [Kolichestvo prestupleniy, sovershennyh inostrannymy...].

According to the estimates of experts, the actual number of such crimes can be much higher. So, in January 2014 the head of the Main Investigation Department of the Investigative Committee of Russia in Moscow, Vadim Yakovenko at the board of the Main Investigation Department of Russia, gave the data of the analysis of theories of undiscovered crimes committed in Moscow in 2013. According to his data, the victims of crimes related to armed assaults on minors, rapes and robberies indicated Caucasian or Asian appearance in the description of the offenders in more than 70% of cases. According to the same data, the number of serious crimes committed by foreigners in Moscow is increasing: in 2012 they committed every third rape, and in 2013 already 43% of rapes were committed by them. First of all, this refers to irregular migrants [V Sledstvennom...].

**Research data on the number of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children in travel and tourism.** Some studies data prompt suggestions that the number of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign citizens over the 2010 to 2014 period was significantly less than in the early and even mid-2000s. According to the 2009 the U.S. State Human Trafficking Department report on men from Western Europe and the United States travelling to Western Russia, specifically to St. Petersburg for the purpose of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, experts continued to credit a decrease in the number of child victims in these cities to aggressive police investigations and Russian cooperation with foreign police authorities [U.S. State..., 2009]. The mapping conducted in 2011 by KRIPPOS seems to suggest that sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism from Norway to St. Petersburg and Murmansk region is no longer an issue of major concern [Global Monitoring Report Norway, 2012]. In 2011 the employees of Regional NGO "Stellit" conducted a large-scale study of the current tendencies in sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children in St. Petersburg. 70 experts including decision-makers, administration and employees of governmental organisations and NGOs working in the field of child protection were interviewed. They were invited to describe the most typical cases of sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children they face in their work. When talking about these cases they described everything they knew about the abuser among other issues. During the research no cases of sexual exploitation of St. Petersburg children by foreign citizens were revealed.

**Areas in Russia where foreigners have sexually exploited children.** Studies show that in the early 2000s the cases of sex tourism took place in St. Petersburg [Child..., 2000; Global Monitoring Report Finland, 2006; Global Monitoring Report Norway, 2012] in the Leningrad region (Vyborg), in the Republic of Karelia (Sortavala and Petrozavodsk) and in the Murmansk region [Global Monitoring Report Finland, 2006]. In 2007, the experts faced the cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by foreign citizens in the Murmansk and Leningrad regions, as well as in the Republic of Karelia [Predvaritelny..., 2007].

**Available information about abusers.** Research reports and expert estimations show that there are cases when Russian children were sexually exploited by citizens of the USA [Global Monitoring Report Russia, 2012; U.S. State ..., 2009; Child...,

2000] Western Europe [Global Monitoring Report Russia, 2012; U.S. State..., 2009] (Sweden [Child..., 2000; Predvaritelny..., 2007; Global Monitoring Report Sweden, 2011], Finland [Child..., 2000; Predvaritelny..., 2007], Norway [Child..., 2000; Predvaritelny..., 2007; Global Monitoring Report Norway, 2012], United Kingdom [Child..., 2000; Human..., 2006], Germany [Child..., 2000]), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Turkey [Data..., 2011; Child..., 2000], Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Georgia [Child..., 2000]), UAE, Japan, Australia, Canada and even African countries [Ibid].

In some cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism the offenders came to Russia with the purpose of sexual exploitation of children [Child..., 2000; Global Monitoring Report Sweden, 2011; Human..., 2006; Global Monitoring Report Russia, 2012], while others came to the country with other purposes (tourism or business trip) [Child..., 2000; Predvaritelny..., 2007].

Data on sex, age, occupation of the rapists are almost never given anywhere. Fragmentary descriptions of individual cases presented in some reports and in the media indicate that the rapists were men [International..., 2007; Global Monitoring Report Finland, 2006]. It is known that in one case the offender was 43 years old and he was a doctor [International..., 2007].

At least in one case the offenders have used the Internet in order to establish contacts with the local pimps and to find the children with their help [Human..., 2006].

**Circumstances of crimes.** The exploitation could take place in hotels, rented apartments, highways, railway stations' WCs, in the entrance halls of the dwelling houses, quays, parks, hostels, private baths, saunas and country houses [Child..., 2000].

As a reward, the children could receive money, clothes, food [Child..., 2000]. If the pimps were parents, a bottle of vodka could serve as a payment [Ibid].

**Available information on child victims.** The victims of commercial sexual exploitation by foreign citizens became Russian girls [Child ..., 2000; Data..., 2011] and boys [Child..., 2000] at the ages from 12 to 17 years [Data ..., 2011; Human..., 2009; International..., 2007; Child..., 2000].

As a rule, these were the children from dysfunctional families [Child..., 2000; Human..., 2009] or orphans

[Child..., 2000]. Thus, in most cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children in travel and tourism revealed by Regional NGO "Stellit" during the study at the beginning of 2000s, only 15% of child victims were orphans while others came from families. In most cases the families where children had been brought up had low income, relations between family members could be described as tense and hostile, in 77% of cases parents or relatives of children had problematic alcohol use or drug addiction, in 17% of cases at least one of the relatives had ever been imprisoned [Ibid].

## **Commercial sexual exploitation of foreign children by Russian citizens abroad**

### **Available information on the number of cases.**

There is even less information about cases when Russian citizens sexually exploit children when travelling to other countries. According to estimations of the international experts, the amount of Russian citizens exploiting children in travel and tourism in other countries could be quite high. Thus, in the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid mentioned that the number of Russian citizens among abusers who sexually exploit children in travel and tourism is significant [Seks-turizm, zatragivayuschiy...]. According to a 2006 survey conducted by the Estonian Open Society Institute, 19% of the sex buyers among adult sex workers and some minor girls exploited in prostitution were Russians [Global Monitoring Report Estonia, 2012]. At the same time, according to the data provided in the report developed by NGO APLE based in Cambodia offenders were Russian citizens only in 0.7% of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian children in travel and tourism over the 2003 to 2013 period (2 cases) [Investigating ..., 2014].

Expert from a Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation mentioned that it was very hard to convict Russian citizens who had committed crimes including those related to commercial sexual exploitation of children abroad. In case of commercial sexual exploitation of children, police authorities' representatives of the country where the crime took place may initiate a criminal proceeding. Then materials on that case go to Russian police authorities' representatives who initiate investigation verification and after that can initiate a criminal proceeding in Russia. Very often investigation verification shows that there is not enough evidence to initiate a criminal proceeding in Russia. Thus, the number of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism by

Russian citizens might be higher.

### **Countries of destination for Russian sex tourists.**

According to the data presented in study reports and publications in the media, Russian sex tourists, in addition to Estonia and Cambodia, may choose Thailand [Businessmen Trofimov...], Monaco [Rossiyskogo...], Nepal [Global Monitoring Report Nepal, 2011], and Moldova [Pedofilyi ...] as their destinations.

**Available information about abusers.** In all known cases, the offenders were men [International..., 2007; Pedofilyi...; Businessmen...; Rossiyskogo...]. In one of the described cases the offender was a Russian oligarch [Rossiyskogo...], in the other case it was the head of the investment company [Businessmen...].

### **Available information about child victims.**

The victims of Russian sex tourists were children from dysfunctional families [Businessmen...; Rossiyskogo...; Pedofilyi...]. The youngest child at the time of exploitation was 8 years old, and the oldest one was 16 years old. Generally, the girls were commercially sexually exploited by Russian citizens [Businessmen...; Rossiyskogo...], the boys were exploited less frequently [Rossiyskogo...].

## **Activities undertaken in Russia in the field of combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism**

During the last twenty years the work in the field of combating violence against children, including commercial sexual exploitation of children, has significantly increased in Russia. International documents were ratified, amendments to the Russian legislation were introduced, studies on assessment of the situation were conducted; measures on informing the general public about the problem, prevention of involvement of children in commercial sexual exploitation, specialists training, improving the efficiency of detection of child victims and providing them a comprehensive assistance were implemented.

Nevertheless, up-to-date very little has been done to combat sexual exploitation of Russian children in travel and tourism by foreign citizens as well as to prevent cases of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism by Russian citizens both within the country and abroad. In 2007, regional NGO "Stellit" as a leading organisation of the Russian Alliance against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (ECPAT affiliate group in Russia) and representative of the Accor network for Eastern Europe and CIS states

signed the Code of Conduct. Over the 2007 to 2014 period it was implemented only in 3 hotels of the Accor network in Russia: Novotel – St. Petersburg – Centre, Novotel – Moscow – Centre and Novotel – Moscow – Sheremetyevo. Since 2015 the Code of Conduct has been spread to all other Accor hotels based in Russia and CIS states. Employees of the Regional NGO “Stellit” have tried to approach representatives of other hotels as well as those of travel agencies and flight companies and to convince them to sign the Code of Conduct but they failed.

## Brief information about the research report

In October 2014 – March 2015 as a part of the international project “Reducing violence against children, with special focus on sexual exploitation of children in child sex tourism”, coordinated by ECPAT Netherlands/Defense for Children International and financially supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional NGO “Stellit” conducted the study aimed at forming the basis for further activities aimed at protection of Russian children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism and at prevention of cases of sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens abroad. Specific objectives of the study were the following: 1) to get more information about the current cases of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia: to describe the profile of child victims, organisers and offenders; 2) to get more information about cases of sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens abroad: to describe cases available and profile of offenders in Cambodia and Thailand; 3) to analyse the readiness of the tourism industry representatives to sign the Code of Conduct, perceived obstacles in this field and possible ways to overcome them.

This report presents the main results of the study.

**Chapter 1** presents the methodology and procedure of the study and lists the terms used.

**Chapter 2** describes the current trends, in the field of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign citizens, as well as by Russian citizens who come to the region of residence of children on a business or tourist trip.

**Chapter 3** contains the available information about the cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens in Cambodia. Forums have a similar structure. It describes the data available to the experts on the incidence of such cases, offenders, circumstances of the crime commission, child victims,

and special aspects of identification of child victims and provision them an assistance, possible areas of work development in the sphere of combating this phenomenon.

**Chapter 4** deals with the development opportunities of work on promotion the Code of Conduct in Russia. The data on the level of awareness of the representatives of tourism industry on the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children, availability in their practice of suspicious cases and cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children are given. Special attention is given to the description of perceived by the representatives of tourism industry barriers associated with the implementation of the Code of Conduct and possible areas of work development on promotion of the Code of Conduct in Russia.

**Chapter 5** presents the main findings of the study and describes its main limitations.

The appendices present guides on interviews with experts, mode of description of cases of commercial sexual exploitation, and a description of cases identified during the study.

The report is prepared by a team of authors of the Regional NGO “Stellit”:

- Odinkova V.A., Head of “Innovative Programs and Fundraising” at the Regional NGO “Stellit”: methodological leader of the research, participation in the writing of Chapter 1, development of Appendix 1;
- Rusakova M.M., PhD in sociology, director of the Regional NGO “Stellit”: scientific adviser of the research;
- Kolpakova O.I., PhD in psychology, Head of “Prevention Programs” at the Regional NGO “Stellit”: coordinator of the research, interviewing the experts from Russia and Cambodia, coding the data, participation in writing of Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report;
- Shalagaeva E.G., project manager of the “Prevention Programs” at the Regional NGO “Stellit”: interviewing the experts from Russia, participation in writing the introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, preparation of Appendix 2;
- Avdeeva V.: transcribing and coding the data;
- Zaharova Y.P.: project manager of “Social Researches” at the Regional NGO “Stellit”: interviewing the experts.

# CHAPTER 1

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY

### 1.1 METHODOLOGIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE STUDY

#### Aim of the study

The aim of the study is to analyse the situation of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign citizens and cases of sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens abroad as well as possibilities to promote the Code of Conduct among representatives of the tourism industry in Russia.

#### Tasks of the study

- To get more information about the current cases of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia: to describe the profile of child victims, of organisers and of the offenders;
- To get more information about cases of sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens abroad: to describe cases available and profile of offenders in Cambodia and Thailand;
- To analyse the readiness of the tourism industry representatives to sign the Code of Conduct, perceived obstacles in this field and possible ways to overcome them.

#### Methods of the study

The following methods were used for the data collection:

- semi-structured interviews;
- analysis of individual cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism;
- content analysis of thematic forums and websites for foreigners travelling to Russia and those ones for Russian citizens travelling to Thailand or Cambodia.

Representatives of governmental organisations and NGOs in Russia working in the field of child protection, representatives of organisations working in the sphere of child protection in Thailand and Cambodia

as well as representatives of the tourism industry were interviewed via phone or Skype. In one case because of very intensive working schedule the expert answered questions in writing and send his answers by e-mail.

To conduct semi-structured interviews three guides were developed: one guide for Russian specialists providing assistance to children in difficult life situations (employees of governmental organisation and NGOs); one guide for representatives of Russian communities and professionals working in the field of children protection in Cambodia and Thailand; one guide for the representatives of the tourism industry in St. Petersburg.

The guide for Russian specialists providing assistance to children in difficult situations contained the following main sets of questions:

- general information about the expert: the post, the scope of the organisation, the position as a specialist;
- the incidence of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign and Russian citizens who come to the region of residence of children in travel and tourism: the number of such cases, the regions where the commercial sexual exploitation of children takes place, trends and changes that have occurred in this area over the past 5–10 years;
- characteristics of the offenders: country/region of permanent residence, purpose of stay in the region of residence of the child (in travel or tourism), duration of stay, age, sex, occupation, other available information;
- circumstances of the crimes commission: the presence/absence of accomplices in the crime commission, ways of establishment of contacts with the children, forms of exploitations, places where commercial sexual exploitation of children takes place, forms of remuneration;
- the reasons that contribute to the involvement of children in commercial sexual exploitation;

- the measures taken by the governmental, commercial, international organisations and NGOs in the field of combating commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign and Russian citizens who came to the region of residence of children in travel or tourism, opportunities of work development perceived by experts;
- contact details of other organisations in Russia working with child victims of abuse and commercial sexual exploitation.
- level of readiness of representatives of the tourism industry to sign the Code of Conduct, perceived barriers;
- opportunities of the development of work on promotion of the Code of Conduct in Russia perceived by representatives of the tourism industry.

The guide for experts in Thailand and Cambodia contained the following main sets of questions:

- general information about the expert: the post, the scope of the organisation in which he/she works, source of information on child victims of commercial sexual exploitation;
- the incidence of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of local children by Russian citizens: the number of cases, trends and changes that have occurred in this area over the last 5-10 years;
- characteristics of the offenders: the purpose of stay in the region of residence of the child (in travel or tourism), duration of stay, sex, age, occupation, other available information;
- circumstances of the crimes commission: the presence/absence of accomplices in the crime commission, ways of establishment of contacts with the children, forms and places of children exploitation, forms of remuneration;
- the reasons that contribute to the involvement of children in commercial sexual exploitation;
- the measures taken in the field of combating commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens and opportunities of work development in this direction perceived by experts;
- contact details of other organisations that may have information on cases of commercial sexual exploitation of local children by Russian citizens.

The guide for representatives of the tourism industry in St. Petersburg contained the following main sets of questions:

- level of awareness of representatives of the tourism industry on the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children and assessment of its present-day relevance;
- incidence of suspicious cases and cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in hotels;

If the expert knew the details of individual cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by persons coming to the region of residence of the child in travel or tourism, the interviewer asked to describe each case individually. Form of analysis of individual cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel or tourism included the following pieces of information:

- characteristics of the offender: the country/region of permanent residence, purpose of the visit to the region of residence of the child, duration of stay of the offender in the region of residence of the child, sex, age, occupation of the offender, any other available information;
- characteristics of the child victim: sex, age, psychological characteristics of the child, social skills, health status, the presence of family, alcohol or drug dependence of the child or members of his/her family, the factors that contributed to the child's involvement in the commercial sexual exploitation, any other available information;
- circumstances of the crime commission: the presence/absence of accomplices in the crime commission, ways of establishment of the contact with the child by the offender, the forms of commercial sexual exploitation of a child which he/she was involved into, place where the exploitation took place, form of remuneration of a child, who else made a profit from the commercial sexual exploitation of a child;
- the identification of the child victim and provision him/her an assistance: under what circumstances a child has been identified, what psychological and social assistance was provided to the child, whether the criminal proceeding was initiated, whether the offender was arrested and prosecuted, what could have been done better when providing assistance to child victims.

Analysis of sites and forums on the Internet was carried out in the following main areas:

- level of availability and characteristics of information about how to obtain sex services from children in Russia, presented on the forum for foreigners, who are going to visit Russia;

- level of availability and characteristics of information about how to obtain the sex services from children in Cambodia and Thailand, presented on the forums for Russians, who are going to visit these countries. (Research questions and methodology of qualitative study could be found in Appendix 1).

## Subject of the study

- Trends in the field of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children in travel or tourism by foreign citizens and Russian citizens who come to the region of residence of children perceived by experts: the level of incidence of cases, characteristics of offenders, circumstances of the crimes commission, characteristics of the child victims, specific aspects of identification of child victims and providing them an assistance, possible areas of work development in the field of combating sex tourism.
- Trends in the commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens in Cambodia and Thailand perceived by experts: the level of incidence of cases, characteristics of offenders, circumstances of the crimes commission, characteristics of the child victims, specific aspects of identification of child victims and providing them an assistance, possible areas of work development in the field of combating sex tourism.
- Opportunities for development work on promotion the Code of Conduct in Russia: level of incidence of suspicious cases and cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in hotels, level of readiness of representatives of the tourism industry to sign a Code of Conduct, perceived barriers, opportunities of the development of work on promotion the Code of Conduct in Russia perceived by representatives of the tourism industry.

## Object and sample of the study

1. Representatives of the governmental organisations and NGOs in Russia working in the field of child protection.

The experts were selected in two stages. At the first stage the experts were interviewed who had conducted a lot of trainings on prevention and provision of assistance to children involved in commercial sexual exploitation in various regions of Russia. Also at this stage, the experts from regions of Russia where there had previously been documented cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children involving foreigners were

interviewed: Murmansk region, Vyborg, Republic of Karelia, Vladivostok. Since these experts had virtually no information about such cases, it was decided to expand the geography of the study. The list of experts was extended by representatives of governmental organisations and NGOs from different regions of Russia, which earlier had been involved in projects and activities taken by employees or with the participation of employees of the Regional NGO “Stellit”.

At the second stage the sample was formed using the method of “snowball”. Persons included in the sample at the first stage recommended the experts that might have faced in their work the cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign citizens or Russian citizens who had come to the region of residence of children from other Russian regions.

In general, the representatives from 60 organisations and 33 cities of Russia were invited to participate in the study. We failed to get on the phone the representatives of 12 organisations, whereupon they were sent official letters of invitation to participate in the study, for which no reply was received.

48 experts from 28 cities of Russia took part in the study. Cities are located in eight out of nine federal districts of the Russian Federation:

- Central Federal District (Belgorod, Moscow, Tver),
- Southern Federal District (Volgograd, Rostov-on-Donu),
- North-West Federal District (Arkhangelsk, Velikiy Novgorod, Vologda, Vyborg, Kaliningrad, Petrozavodsk, Sortavala, Murmansk, Apatity, Novorzhev, Pskov),
- Far Eastern Federal District (Blagoveshchensk, Vladivostok),
- Siberian Federal District (Irkutsk, Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk),
- Ural Federal District (Ekaterinburg, Ishim),
- Privolzhsky Federal District (Izhevsk, Perm, Saratov),
- North Caucasian Federal District (Stavropol).

The experts represent 48 organisations: 29 governmental ones and 19 NGOs. The study involved: 37 managers; four deputy directors; one specialist of the prevention department; one program coordinator; five educational psychologists.

2. Representatives of organisations working in the sphere of child protection in Thailand and Cambodia.

Cambodia was selected as a destination country for the study because in Russian mass media the case of commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian children by Russian citizen Aleksandr Trofimov (anonym Stanislav Molodyakov) was covered [Businessman...; Businessmena...; Eks-rukovoditelya...]. We wanted to get as much information as possible about this case and assumed that there might be more cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian children by Russians.

We also assumed that other countries of Southeast Asian region might be destination countries for Russian sex tourists as well and have chosen Thailand as one of the most popular destination countries for Russian citizens going abroad with any purposes including tourism. Thus, according to the statistics provided by the Russian Federal Agency on Tourism, Thailand is one of the most popular countries which Russian citizens have visited in 2012, 2013 and 2014 (10th or 11th place in the list of top 50 countries which Russian citizens visited during the year with any purpose and fourth or fifth place in the list of top 50 countries which Russian citizens visited during the year with the purpose of tourism) [Naibolle populyarnie napravianiya po vyezdy rossian za rubezg v 2012...; Naibolle populyarnie napravianiya po vyezdy rossian za rubezg v 2013...; Naibolle populyarnie napravianiya po vyezdy rossian za rubezg v 2014...].

The experts in Thailand and Cambodia were also selected in two stages. At the first stage we contacted the experts recommended by the representatives of the ECPAT International Secretariat, including Director of the Global Study of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, as well as leaders of ECPAT groups in Cambodia and Thailand.

At the second stage the sample was formed using the method of "snowball". Persons included in the sample at the first stage recommended the experts that might have faced in their work the cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens in Cambodia and Thailand.

Invitations to participate in the study received six experts from Cambodia and four experts in Thailand. In total, two experts from Cambodia

(one representative of the NGO and one journalist) took part in the study. The other experts refused to participate in the study, explaining this due to the lack of information on cases of commercial sexual exploitation of local children by Russian citizens and a busy schedule.

3. Representatives of the tourism industry in St. Petersburg.

The sampling was planned to include 12 representatives of the tourism industry: five-star hotels; hotels and inns of the middle class; hostels; apartments for hourly or daily rental; airlines; travel agencies.

In the course of the study, having consulted the known representatives of the tourism industry it was decided not to deal with the representatives of apartments for hourly or daily rental, as they were unlikely to agree to provide true information.

Representatives of all the five-star, four-star and three-star hotels of St. Petersburg, as well as all Russian airlines were invited to participate in the study. Hostels and travel agencies of St. Petersburg were selected randomly (when selecting travel agencies the main criterion was the presence of tours to Thailand and/or Cambodia).

In total, 66 hotels of St. Petersburg, 15 travel agencies, five airlines were invited to participate in the study. Those who agreed to participate in the study were phone interviewed. Representatives of 11 hotels of St. Petersburg (eight three-star hotels, one four-star hotel, one five-star hotel, one hotel chain) and representatives of two travel agencies were involved in the study. Positions of the hotel representatives: three chief executives, five reception secretaries, one project manager, one sales manager, one general manager assistant. Both representatives of travel agencies were directors. Among the experts surveyed one of them represents organisation that has signed the Code of Conduct and 12 of them represent the organisations that have not signed the Code of Conduct. All the experts who took part in the study worked in Russia.

4. Internet forums and sites.

Search of sites for travellers going to Russia and for Russian citizens going to Thailand and Cambodia was carried out through the search engines "google" and "yandex" by keywords: "sex", "teen", "child", "prostitutes", "Russia" and



“секс” (“sex”), “дети” (“children”), “подростки” (“teens”), “проституция” (“prostitution”), “Таиланд” (“Thailand”), “Камбоджа” (“Cambodia”).

For analysis we selected the sites that appeared when searching by different keywords and occupied one of the first places in the list of search results. 10 Internet resources were analysed. Three of them discussed the possibility of obtaining sexual services in Russia, seven of them discussed the possibility of obtaining sexual services in Thailand. We were unable to find sites discussing the possibility of obtaining sexual services in Cambodia.

## Ethical aspects

The problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is one of the most difficult to discuss. For experts to talk openly about the difficulties in this area the study was anonymous. All experts were warned beforehand that the interview would be recorded.

Before start of the interview all the experts were warned that any identifying information would be removed during data processing, all the information would be used only by project staff in strictly scientific purposes. Also, the experts were warned that they might refuse to answer any question and stop participating in the study at any time.

Oral informed consent was taken from all study participants.

## Limitations and challenges

The main limitation of the study is that the data provided in the study are lacking representativity. The study involved representatives of state and NGOs from virtually all federal districts of Russia, but we do not exclude the possibility that cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russian and foreign citizens in travel and tourism, could take place in the cities of Russia, not covered by the survey.

Some experts from Cambodia and Thailand whom we invited to participate in the study could have had more information about cases of the commercial sexual exploitation of local children by Russian citizens, but they refused to participate in the study due to a tight schedule. Therefore, the information on the situation in Cambodia and Thailand may be incomplete.

Due to financial and time constraints of the study, we were able to analyse only the websites where Russian and foreign tourists can potentially obtain information

on the commercial sexual exploitation of children, in the Russian and English languages. At the same time, we analysed only the information provided on the most popular websites. We do not exclude that there may be websites in other languages, and also websites in the Russian and English languages, not included in our sample, where the possibilities of sexual contact with children in Russia, Thailand and Cambodia are more openly discussed.

The study involved 13 representatives of hotels and travel agencies in St. Petersburg. None of the representatives of two-star and one-star hotels, of the Russian airlines invited to participate in the study, expressed desire to participate in it. Due to financial and time constraints, we did not communicate with representatives of the tourism industry in other regions of Russia. Therefore, the data presented in the report do not necessarily reflect the position of all representatives of the tourism industry in the Russian Federation.

During the study, we were able to identify only six cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign and Russian citizens in travel or business who came to the region of residence of children, and only three cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian children by Russian citizens. Many of such cases occurred in the period from the late 1990s till the mid-2000s. In many cases experts who took part in the study had very limited information on exact cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and were not able to answer some questions about child victims, offenders and circumstances of crime. It does not allow identifying the trends typical of the situation in Russia and Cambodia.

We have tried to discuss cases of the commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign or Russian citizens in travel and tourism who came to the region of residence of children with Russian experts. This caused great difficulties, since the target group the specialists are working with is much broader. Therefore, in some cases, while answering questions, Russian experts primarily remembered only cases of violence or cases of child prostitution without emphasis on participation of foreigners or Russian citizens who came to the region of residence of the child from other regions of Russia.

Taken into account the lack of data on children who became victims of commercial sexual exploitation by people in travel and tourism, we believe that it is important and necessary to reflect the whole body of the information available in the report.

We do not claim that this report provides comprehensive information on the latest trends in the field of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign and Russian citizens who come to the region of residence of children being in travel and tourism, as well as comprehensive information on of the commercial sexual exploitation of foreign children by Russian citizens travelling abroad. Also, this report does not contain detailed information about the readiness of the tourism industry representatives in Russia to sign and implement the Code of Conduct.

Given all of the above limitations, we encourage readers to be wary regarding the conclusions presented in the report. We hope that this study will advance the understanding of the problem and will help to improve assistance provided for child victims of the commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

## 1.2 MAIN DEFINITIONS

The Code of Conduct in the sphere of children protection from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism is an initiative that is part of the policy of a responsible to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation. The adoption of the Code of Conduct in the field of protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism travel means that the company will take the actions necessary to successfully achieve the following six criteria which will be included in the daily work of the organisation:

- to develop an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children;
- to train the employees in countries of origin and countries of destination;
- to introduce into contracts with suppliers the clause on the inadmissibility of the commercial sexual exploitation of children;
- to provide information to customers (travellers) in catalogs, brochures, films exhibited during the flight, on the tickets, home pages, etc.;
- to inform “key people” in the countries of destination;
- to provide annual report [The Code].

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is the commercial sexual exploitation of children by people who travel from one place to another in travel or tourism and are engaged in sexual relations with children there [Questions..., 2001]. In the study, we considered this definition to be broader. We were interested in cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children not just by those people who had arrived

to the region they lived in travel or tourism, but also by immigrants, expatriates, truckers, persons who had moved from one region of Russia to another, Russians continuously residing in Thailand or Cambodia.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a serious violation of rights of the child, in which the child is treated as an object of sex and object of trafficking; and it includes sexual abuse or exploitation by the adult and remuneration in cash or in kind to the child or to third parties and, as a form of coercion and abuse against the children, it is made equivalent to forced labor and a contemporary form of slavery [Declaration..., 1996].

A child is any person under the age of 18, except for those cases when under the law applicable to the child the majority is attained earlier [United...].

Children in difficult life situations – under the Federal Law of the Russian Federation dated July 24, 1998 No. 124-FZ, this concept includes the following categories of children:

- children left without parental care;
- disabled children;
- children with health disabilities, that is having limitations in physical and (or) mental development;
- child victims of armed and ethnic conflicts, environmental and technological disasters, natural disasters;
- children from families of refugees and forcibly displaced persons;
- children who find themselves under extreme conditions;
- child victims of abuse;
- children enduring the punishment of imprisonment in juvenile correctional facilities;
- children in educational institutions for students with deviant (socially dangerous) behaviour, in need of special educational and training conditions, and requiring special pedagogical approach (open-type and closed-type special educational institutions);
- children living in low-income families;
- children with behavioural problems;
- children whose life-sustaining activity is demonstrably disrupted as a result of the circumstances concerned and which cannot overcome these circumstances alone or with the help of the family [The Federal...].

# CHAPTER 2

## SECTT OF RUSSIAN CHILDREN BY FOREIGN AND RUSSIAN CITIZENS

### 2.1 INCIDENCE OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF RUSSIAN CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM BY FOREIGN AND RUSSIAN CITIZENS

Among the 48 representatives of governmental organisations and NGOs who have participated in the study only 6 experts faced in their work the cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by people, who came to their region from another region of Russia or other countries. Most of them took place in 2007 – 2008. The earliest of the cases mentioned occurred in 1999, and only two experts were familiar with the cases that occurred in 2013 – 2014.

*“In the territory of our (krai) we have not registered such cases in the last five – seven years” (Expert O2).*

The cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by those who come to their region on business or tourist trips have been detected in Vladivostok, Smolensk, Khabarovsk, Moscow, Novgorod and Perm. Expert from the Republic of Karelia noted that in the border towns there were cases of child prostitution, but did not provide information on whether among the rapists there had been foreigners or Russians who had come to this town from other parts of the country.

All experts mentioned isolated cases of sex tourism (they were able to provide more or less detailed information only about six cases in total). Experts who have participated in the study identified the following possible reasons for the low incidence of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children in travel and tourism:

1. The high latency of such crimes due to the following factors, in particular:

- 1.1 a group of street children who were previously highly exposed to risk of being engaged in various forms of commercial sexual exploitation has practically disappeared in connection with the strengthening of the state system of social protection. Now a group of “risk” includes mostly children from socially disadvantaged families, and it is more difficult to identify violence incidents in families:

*“Since 2004 we have worked with the homeless children in the street. Now there is actually no children in the street. They are “pressed” by various preventive measures to the family. Now all the cases that could be identified by experts in the street went to the latent sphere, because the violence in the family is often hidden, for sure” (Expert O3).*

- 1.2 employees of governmental organisations are not inclined to talk about such cases, because they are afraid to spoil the rating of their organisation:

*“But I know from past years that no one ever makes such inquiries, as a rule. If children get into such a situation, and then get into governmental institutions, employees of these institutions even try to hide this information. They do not even provide statistics” (Expert O7).*

- 1.3 child victims do not want to tell professionals about what happened to them:

*“It is very difficult with the boys especially, because not everyone wants to talk about it, no one talks about it” (Expert O6).*

2. Insufficient attention of employees of the helping organisations to information about rapists in cases where it appears that the child with whom they work has been involved in commercial sexual exploitation:

*“On the other hand, there are those who are trying to get it going more or less professionally – these are the pimps. Who were they really selling children to – here I was not present and can not qualify, as it were”* (Expert O3).

*“When we hold an interview with a child, we do not focus on the “customers” any more. We can find out the total number of “customers”, some other circumstances of the story. That is, I am sure that if we focused on this, then we would know much more of these cases”* (Expert O6).

Another possible explanation for the low incidence of this problem in Russia in recent years may be an increase in population welfare over the past decade, strengthening the system of social protection of children. In this case, we can expect that the number of such cases will increase again along with the deterioration in the business environment in the country. This view is confirmed by one of the experts who have participated in the study:

*“The incidence of prostitution would be higher because of the coming crisis”* (Expert O8).

## 2.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OFFENDERS

**Foreign citizens.** Among the experts who have participated in the study, only three of them are familiar with cases where sexual exploitation of children involved foreign citizens. In total the experts mentioned three such cases (one expert described two cases and two experts described one more case (they were talking about the same case)).

In the case of commercial sexual exploitation of children described by experts the rapists were the citizens of the countries of Asia including China and Korea – in Khabarovsk, an American with Irish roots in the case in Moscow and a citizen of Estonia in Perm.

In two cases, in the organisation of the commercial sexual exploitation of children were involved the residents of the same region, where the child victims lived. In one case Russians were involved in the organisation of brothels: it was maintained by the boyfriend of the sister of a victim girl. In another case, a Russian citizen together with the foreigner were involved in the production of child pornography.

Experts could not mention the cases in which the foreign citizens who had come to the region of residence of children on a tourist trip were involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of the Russian children. Only one expert mentioned the cases when citizens of Sweden arrive by ferry to St. Petersburg for a few days for the purpose of tourism, and their entertainment program includes the purchase of sexual services. At that time the expert had no information about the age of Russian women who Swedes purchased sexual services from:

*“We talked to the organisation in Stockholm – they deliver trainings for men. They say that many people travel to Russia to use the [sexual] services... Usually Swedes take a ferry, which comes to Peter. They spend a few days here... I think it's part of some program: alcohol, women...”* (Expert O6).

In one of the cases described by experts, foreign citizens who come to Russia on a business trip were involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. In two another cases foreign citizens residing for a long time in Russia were involved:

*“They have some kind of business in the Far East. I got the impression that it was quick trips”* (Expert O6).

*“He had lived here for several years. He went to her all the time...”* (Expert O6).

In any case, the experts could not name the occupation of foreign citizens involved in commercial sexual exploitation of children. This was largely due to the fact that the child victims themselves did not have such information:

*“She did not say what he was doing. She said that he looked decent and wore a suit... But it could be anyone”* (Expert O6).

In all three cases experts could indicate the sex of offenders – it was male. Only in one of the cases described expert named the approximate age of a foreign citizen who involved the Russian girl in exploitation – it was from 30 to 33 years.

At least in one case, a foreign citizen involved in the sexual exploitation of a minor girl knew Russian language.

According to expert's estimates, in one case the girl was sure that a foreign citizen exploiting her was not married.

**Russian citizens.** Three experts who have participated in the study mentioned the cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by Russians living in other regions of the country. In total, experts described three such cases (in Smolensk, Velikiy Novgorod and Vladivostok).

Only two experts named the regions of origin of offenders: apparently, the residents of St. Petersburg and Moscow were involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of a local girl in Smolensk; a resident of St. Petersburg did the same in Velikiy Novgorod. Identification of the region of origin of offenders is accentuated by the fact that the child victims could not always identify it correctly. This is what one of the experts said on this issue:

*“She confused testimony. She named Moscow, St. Petersburg, but I’m not sure it can be proved, because it was very subjective...”*  
(Expert O6).

As well as in some cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign citizens, in one case of organisation of exploitation of a local girl by the residents of other regions of Russia participated a resident of the region where she lived. It was her boyfriend.

The purpose for which the Russian citizens who have participated in the exploitation of children came to the region of residence of children were different in all three cases. In one case it was a business trip, in another case it was moving to the region in order to reside there, in the third case it was, apparently, sexual exploitation of a child. Here are the statements of two experts:

*“It was either a business trip or educational practice”* (Expert O6).

*“He was a resident of the Russian Federation, but from the other territory. That is, he had no place of residence here [in our region], he had a temporary registration”* (Expert O2).

According to the estimates of experts, men were involved in all cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children. In one case, a man exploiting a group of boys was older than 50 years. In another case, the girl was exploited by men under the age of 40 years, and her boyfriend, who had involved her in sexual exploitation, was about 27 years old. In the third case, data on the age of the offender who exploited a boy are not available.

In one case the expert was able to name the profession of rapist involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of children: a teacher. Two experts, without giving description of any particular case, mentioned that children might be exploited by the longhaul truckers, whose route passed through the region of residence of these children.

In one case it was known to the expert that a pimp which involved the girl in the commercial sexual exploitation had been brought up in a dysfunctional family and had had problems in building relationships with women:

*“Most likely, he was not from a good family too. He has problems with relationships. That is, psychological problems with building a relationship because initially he had relationships with her...”* (Expert O6).

At least in one case the offender had already been convicted for crimes against sexual immunity of minors prior to the crime commission and recidivated after being released from prison:

*“Upon examination we found that he had previously been convicted for the similar crime acts, but, unfortunately, we did not have such information prior to the actual crime commission”* (Expert O2).

## 2.3 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE OFFENCE

**Ways of establishment of contact with the child by the offender, forms of exploitation, place of exploitation and forms of remuneration which are perceived by experts.** In three cases described by experts the offenders acted independently. According to the estimates of experts, the following methods were used for establishment of contact with children:

were used for establishment of contact with children:

1. Establishment of contact with a child via Internet:

*“The schoolchild [schoolboy] confessed that he had got acquainted with a man from St. Petersburg over the Internet, and he had known him intimately”* (Expert O7).

2. Access to children through their parents or other relatives:

*“He offered to organise children’s [boys] activities during the summer or after school for free. And under this pretext, as it*

turned out, for a long time he entered into sexual relationships with the children. On a mandatory basis, he met with the parents, there was nothing secret at all, he explained that he wanted, that he would stay with the children [boys], where they would be – that is, everything was absolutely open, well, except for the opposite side of things” (Expert O2).

3. Search for the children through their peers:

“As I see it, several children [boys] were just friends. That is, at first he became acquainted with someone, and then the information was distributed in a chain order. Well, as usual – ‘Bring your friend’” (Expert O2).

“There are cases when even children of the orphanage themselves (children living in orphanages) sold orphanage girls” (Expert O12).

4. Search for the children through specialised magazines that advertise sexual services:

“Usually in Khabarovsk there are also magazines such as our “Flirt”. That is, usually they somehow find in the magazines” (Expert O6).

5. Access to children through the hotel staff (reception staff and housekeeping services staff):

“People who work in the hotels know where these girls are – they offer them to the interested persons... Reception staff or those who do housekeeping in hotels – they do not necessarily hold any high post...” (Expert O6).

6. Search for the children in bars:

“I think she had a job in a bar. And she met with this foreigner in this bar” (Expert O6).

In one case described by expert there were agents present in the form of pimps. In this case it was the pimp who found people who came to their region and were interested in sex with minors. For this purpose, in particular, the Internet and magazines advertising sexual services were used:

“He advertised it on the Internet and in local magazines” (Expert O6).

The pimps used two ways of involving children in commercial sexual exploitation:

1. Establishment of contact with children living in institutions for orphans and children left without parental care, and in institutions for children in a hardship:

“She just felt not very good in the orphanage, and she went after him...” (Expert O6).

2. Involvement of children through the relatives (we have described a case above where a girl was involved in exploitation by a sister who lived with the pimp).

“I would have considered her sister as a recruiter. Sister moved her, so to say, emotionally... In my opinion, the sister was engaged in prostitution too, and she had her pimp, whom she went out with, I guess” (Expert O6).

In three cases of sex tourism of the six ones described by the experts, the children were involved in commercial sexual exploitation by loverboy technique. They did not perceive the situation of exploitation as a violation of their rights. This is what one of the experts says about:

“She does not realize that something is going on wrong with it... She just lives like so: “I have so many adventures, and there still was that American – he has a crush on me”... He gave her some money. But, of course, she did not think that this money were for sex. She thought he was just helping her... She said, “He tells me that we can have some kind of joint plans for the future”. But it does not mean anything, basically, when you come right down to it” (Expert O6).

In five cases, mentioned by the experts, the main form of exploitation of children was prostitution. Only in one case the children were involved in pornography. Nevertheless, two experts said that porn shooting may have occurred, but the children could not talk about it. Here is the statement of one of the experts:

*"I have the impression that if they are somehow more or less willing to admit the prostitution, the porn-shooting still remains a much hidden component... I think it could be some pictures, porn-shooting in other cases, which I told about, but the kids just prefer not to talk about it"* (Expert O6).

Experts know the following types of places in which the commercial sexual exploitation of children involving foreign citizens or Russians who came to the region of residence of children from other regions took place:

1. A brothel (usually a flat; the girls lived in some of them, including with their boyfriend pimps):

"They just came to the apartment, that's all" (Expert O6).

"There was some kind of brothel – they lived there with several girls... And this girl told us that Chinese and Korean people came to them..." (Expert O6).

2. Apartment which a foreign citizen lived in or rented specially for this purpose:

"He invited her into some kind of apartment. She said: "We have met at him". But it is not clear, if he lived there, or was it some other apartment...." (Expert O6).

3. Routes:

"Many of these cases are en-route, where there is a permanent transit" (Expert O12).

4. Rough part of town (without any further details on where the exploitation took place):

"The porno-shooting took place on the outskirts of the town in a depressed unemployed working district" (Expert O11).

Experts named the following forms of remuneration that get the kids involved in commercial sexual exploitation:

1. Money (usually very little money, including pocket money):

"The pimp gave her some money – that is, she had an impression that she earned some money" (Expert O6).

"He gave them [boys] pocket money" (Expert O2).

2. Clothes:

"As we are a border area, he bought them [boys] very good things in China" (Expert O2).

"He bought her some things" (Expert O6).

3. Food and sweets, including restaurant trips:

"The children [boys] were provided with sweets" (Expert O2).

"He took her into some kind of restaurants – rather it was a cheap cafe, but she took it as a restaurant" (Expert O6).

"The girl told me that she was fed for being exposed en-route" (Expert O3).

4. Opportunity not to live in the orphanage:

*"For her it was just an opportunity not to live in the orphanage"* (Expert O6).

In several cases, the child got several forms of remuneration simultaneously.

At least in two cases a substantial portion of the money received by the children for provision of sexual services was taken by the pimps.

**Usage of the specialised sites and forums by the offenders for search of information on persons providing sexual services in Russia.** As mentioned above, in some cases the offenders have used the Internet in order to establish contact with the child. In the course of this study, we found no open specialised websites or forums for foreigners, where one could find information about children providing sex services in Russia. At that, we found several thematic forums for adults (persons over 18 years old), on which foreigners share information about where and how to get acquainted with girls in Russia for sexual services.

At these forums the users share information on the city they got acquainted with the girls, how they managed to do this; the cost of provision of sexual services is discussed along with their quality, compliance of the photos presented on the site with how the girls look in reality. Sometimes foreigners write about how many times they visited Russia and how much time they spent there. In some cases the age of girls is mentioned. Despite the fact that in all cases which are known to us the sex with adults is discussed on the site, it can be assumed that in some cases the foreigners have exaggerated the age of girls with whom they had sex, or the girls themselves did so.

Let us summarise the results of the analysis of reports and discussions of sexual contacts in Russia, given on the most popular site InternationalSexGuide.info.

During the period of 2012 – 2014, the users of the site mentioned in their reports the following cities in Russia: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Volgograd, Samara, Khabarovsk, Ivanovo, Vladimir, Voronezh, and Rostov-na-Donu.

Among the forum, participants there are those who come to Russia from time to time or live here for a long time.

*"I will be back to Moscow in about two weeks from now. If anyone (Russian or expats doesn't matter) is up for fun with ladies, let's hunt together/explore some nightclubs for the sake of the holly sex".*

*"I've been in Russia for three years but still relatively new to the mongering world. Hope to experience more fun like all the other senior members before I leave this beautiful country".*

*"I'm only in town for three nights! I decided to make a quick stop before I hit the slopes in Verbier. My main concern, due to lack of time, is how to maximise the sessions! I've pulled a lot of Salon info off the sites posted, but without speaking the language don't really know the best way to approach it here. I'm not really interested in hitting the strip clubs and paying outrageous rates, so I'm hopeful the Salons will pay off, otherwise maybe grab a driver and grab some girls from a Tochka?".*

Participants of the forum discuss the best way to reach certain cities in Russia, their impressions of communicating with the girls in certain regions and cities.

*"Well, if you are travelling by train, think about the logistics: Nizhniy Novgorod, Yekaterinburg, Kazan, Samara and even Ufa are not that far from each other. Remember that you have to come to Moscow to take your flight back to your country. But if you put remote cities like Irkutsk or Yakutsk, the things will become more complicated. By plane that would be relatively more comfortable. In Samara I saw many European looking women, very open people. I definitely will come back to Samara this year. First I did want to go to Kazan (I heard about many muslim women living there etc. Which would make the game more complicated), but anyway I decided to make a stop on my way to East. Well, I was quite surprised with the Tartar women, they are more Asian style, but also pretty imo, and not as closed as I thought before".*

The foreigners use different methods to get acquainted with the girls: they visit the clubs, look for information on the websites of massage parlors, escort agencies, agencies providing sexual services. Dating sites and social networks are also often used.

*"I picked the most educated, upper-class and intelligent girl for Saturday as tour guide. Still not completely sure of her looks, one photo on Mamba looks very cute, another one is questionable".*

*"Until then, I think the main options are: VKontakte, www.vk.com, Classmates, www.odnoklassniki.com»".*

*"Having read some good reviews about Angels strip club, I thought I would check it out, the place is smaller than 911 Aurora, and however the quality of the girls was much better".*

*"Also anyone know about the Rasputin club and how it works / prices? Everyone speaks of the NF but was hoping for something closer to my target area".*

*"I tend to prefer brothels or strip clubs so you can pick but anything will do as long as I can actually ask the girl what I want".*



The cost of sexual services and their quality are often discussed.

*"Both times I've got BBBJ and CIM for a small extra with 2 different girls, so this seems to be on the menu of all girls. But they don't seem to provide full service. The massage itself was OK, though not professional (and I wouldn't expect that in such a place)".*

*"I can summarise you the cheapest prices for saloons in Saint Petersburg and Moscow. Compare it. Sankt Petersburg: 2000R.3000 R. (Saloon Mercedes, Nevsky 92, Salon ChaCha, Caramel etc.). Moscow: 4000R.4500 R. (Charmel and Fantasys). There's no difference of quality of girls in these two cities".*

*"Last time I was there it was about \$10 for a table dance, \$40 for a private dance, and if you wanted the back room for sex it was between \$300 and \$400 depending on the girl".*

The forum participants often describe the appearance of girls, with whom they have spent time, and sometimes indicate age.

*"I asked her how old she was, she told me 24 and she has been with that agency a few months".*

*"Turned out to be her first day there, just arrived from Minsk, needing money for tuition, a 19 year old stunner, 1,66 m, 44 kg".*

The correspondence of the real appearance of girls with the photographs presented on the sites of escort agencies, agencies providing sexual services are discussed on the forum.

*"Are the two websites sure and have real photos? Rusdosug says the pictures are verified".*

*"One more site with original photos".*

*"You can find many fakes from Rusdosug but also real pics. Business as usual around the world".*

*"As pretty much expected she did not look like the pictures of 'Sarah'".*

## 2.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD VICTIMS

Experts who have participated in the study have extremely little information about the characteristics of child victims. Only one expert has provided the most complete information on the subject.

The study confirmed the well-known fact that the victims of commercial sexual exploitation are not only girls but also boys. In three cases of child exploitation in travel and tourism, described by experts, victims were girls, in two cases those were boys, and in one case expert didn't have information about the gender of child victims. Even though both boys and girls became victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism in Russia experts who took part in the study provided much more information about female victims than about male victims.

Only in four cases experts could specify the age of child victims: the youngest child at the time of exploitation was nine years old, the oldest one was 17 years old. At the same time, in some cases the children overstated their age in conversation with offenders:

*"The girl was 17 years old, but she did not say she was 17. She said she was 23, and she looked older, of course" (Expert O6).*

Only one expert told about personality traits of a girl that could contribute to her involvement in commercial sexual exploitation. The girl wanted to stand out from the group of peers, to show others how successfully shaped her life was despite the difficult life circumstances:

*"She was a "would-be" person, she wanted something else [different from life in an orphanage for children with disabilities], she thought that she deserved better" (Expert O6).*

Only in three cases the experts told about the state of health of children involved in commercial sexual exploitation. In all these cases they were talking about girls. In two of them the girls were healthy, and in the third case the girl had hearing disabilities. At that, according to expert, her disability was not a major factor contributing to involvement in commercial sexual exploitation:

*"In this same orphanage there are children with hearing disabilities, in the other one there are children with sight disabilities, but they are not in such a "risk" group as she is. It is rather the personality traits [that facilitated the involvement of a girl in sexual exploitation]" (Expert O6).*

At least in one case the girl victim drank alcohol and took drugs:

*"She says that she drank beer... It seems to me that she even took drugs periodically..." (Expert O6).*

In another case, the girl had a lot of random sexual contacts:

*"By her 17 years she was with a very large quantity of men" (Expert O6).*

There is no information available about the state of health, specific personality traits, level of risky behaviour of boys who became victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism in Russia. In four cases described by experts the child victims went to school, but in two cases they did not attend school regularly and had problems with academic performance:

*"She went to school for some time, they kicked her..., she had not been attending the school for a long time, but then, it seems, she still managed to come back..." (Expert O6).*

*"She went to school, but she missed a lot of it; she was even switched to evening classes" (Expert O6).*

One of the experts noted that a separate risk group was the girls who went to border towns to enroll at secondary and higher educational institutions and failed to be admitted:

*"Prostitution among the girls is of a seasonal nature, when the girls did not enroll at educational institutions. This occurs in border towns more often" (Expert O8).*

The study confirmed that children living in a family as well as children without families could be involved in commercial sexual exploitation. In one case described by expert, the child victims were brought

up in institutions for orphans and children deprived of parental care: in an orphanage for children with hearing disabilities and in children's homes. According to the estimates of experts, children who ran away from these institutions were particularly vulnerable:

*"She lived in an orphanage for disabled persons... Then she went away from there... Then, when she came back, it turned out that she was a victim of sexual exploitation" (Expert O6).*

In four cases presented by experts children were brought up in the family. It is known that in two cases the families were single-parent, in one case some of the children were from two-parent families, and some of them were from single-parent families. The child-rearing of some children were significantly influenced not by parents but by the other relatives, in particular, by a grandmother and a sister. That is what one of the experts says on this issue:

*"There were single mothers and grandmothers, who raised the children [boys], and there were two-parent families as well" (Expert O2).*

In one case, the girl was from a family with a fairly high level of income, in three other cases the children were from families with low income (in one case – due to unemployment of parents, but this case occurred in the late 1990s – early 2000s):

*"Some kids look terrible, very poorly dressed; they have one-horse speech and culture. And here did not arise a sensation that a girl was from a poor family: she was dressed normally, and she had a ready tongue" (Expert O6).*

*"Many families were simply not able to organise the leisure time of their children [sons] properly. Free services provided [on the organisation of boys' leisure time after school or during the summer] made parents very happy" (Expert O2).*

*"There was the area where the plants which were then closed were housed at, and the area where the workers lived became an absolutely rough part of town" (Expert O10).*

At least in one of the cases described the unfavourable financial situation was one of the factors that led the girl into prostitution:

*“She just decided to make some money – that is, roughly speaking; she decided to go into prostitution...” (Expert O6).*

Experts mentioned four cases in which parents did not pay enough attention to the child-rearing. In two cases this was due to alcoholism of the mother, in another one this was due to the desire of the mother to arrange her private life, in the fourth case the more detailed information about the family situation is not available. At least in one of these cases the lack of attention from parents was one of the factors that contributed to the involvement of girls in commercial sexual exploitation – for her it was a way to attract the attention of the mother:

*“There was a very young mother (she was not even 40), who early gave her birth and apparently was engaged in her private life. If you understand some psychological moments, it seems to me, initially everything was intended to draw attention of the mother, because the mother “woke up” at some moments, when it became very bad (for example, when a girl was kicked from the school, the mother put her best foot forward – she sent her to a night school..), – well, at least there was some attention paid” (Expert O6).*

In one case the sister of the girl victim took drugs. In other cases, there is no information on the siblings of the child victims available.

## **2.5 SPECIAL ASPECTS OF IDENTIFICATION OF CHILD VICTIMS AND PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE THERETO**

The experts described special aspects of discovery of child victims in six cases – in all of them the child victims were discovered by employees of governmental organisations or NGOs working with children in a difficult life situation. In one of these cases the children themselves told the expert that they got into a situation of exploitation.

In two cases the facts of exploitation were identified by experts while working with children: experts were aware of the problem of commercial sexual exploitation; due to separate statements of the child or its behaviour they realised that the child could

become a victim of sexual exploitation, and began to collect more detailed information about the child. Here is an example of the expert’s comment on this subject:

*“The employees of our partner organisation conducted trainings for children with sight and hearing disabilities in orphanages. We conducted trainings on human trafficking for these professionals, and they realized that the girl was saying things that were very similar to what we had talked about. They started asking her questions, she started answering them...” (Expert O6).*

In one case the relationships of rapist with the children seemed suspicious to the teacher:

*“The teacher drew attention to a certain dependence of children [boys], to their special attachment [to the rapist]. That is, something got her attention. She contacted the internal affairs authorities sharing her worries” (Expert O2).*

In another case, the representatives of social movements found out a brothel in which the children were exploited.

Only in three cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children of the six ones described by experts they reported these facts to the police. At that, in one case the employees of NGOs in fact substituted the actions of the police officers. It was rather due to a lack of professionalism of the participants of social movement, which found out a brothel where minors were exploited. That is what the experts say on this issue:

*“It was a great social movement – they were not registered. They just got to know where that brothel was, and decided to release everyone there and to save everyone...” (Expert O6).*

At least in two cases the criminal proceedings were initiated upon the facts of sexual exploitation of children – in one case they were initiated upon the facts of exploitation of children by Russian citizens, and one case it was initiated upon the fact of exploitation of children by a Russian citizen and a citizen of Estonia. In the first case the offenders were convicted, in the second one there was no information on the outcome of the criminal proceeding available.

In two cases the specialists providing assistance to the victim girls did not go to the police because the girls were not ready to testify against the offenders (they were still in love with them):

*“She knew she felt bad in this relationship, and she left him, but for her he still was some kind of a native man whom she did not want to ‘rat him out’. Most likely, even if she had started to cooperate with police authorities, the case would have been very hard to finish, because at some point she would have not gone against him” (Expert O6).*

*“She did not want [to initiate a criminal proceeding], she would not [testify against him]” (Expert O6).*

In five cases described by experts the child victims received a psychological assistance:

*“In the course of a criminal investigation psychologists worked with children [boys], and then some of the children [boys] were sent to rehabilitation centers” (Expert O2).*

In some cases employees of organisations working with victims leaned on more experienced colleagues from NGOs for help:

*“I consulted the social teacher, how to behave in this situation and how to help the child [boy]” (Expert O7).*

However, according to the estimates of experts who have participated in the study, the psychologists assisting the child victims did not always have the required level of training:

*“There was some man with a psychological background, who was trying to help this girl. He communicated with her...” (Expert O6).*

## 2.6 MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF RUSSIAN CHILDREN BY FOREIGN CITIZENS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF WORK DEVELOPMENT PERCEIVED BY EXPERTS

Experts who have participated in the study suggested the following possible areas of work development in the field of combating sexual exploitation of Russian children in travel and tourism:

1. To run an information campaign for the population, informing that the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a crime;
2. To improve the efficiency of detection of child victims and to provide them a comprehensive assistance:
  - further training of employees of public and governmental and non-governmental organisations working in the field of child protection in various regions of Russia;
  - strengthening the protection of child victims during criminal investigations;
  - initiation of criminal proceedings upon all the facts of commercial sexual exploitation of children;
  - giving the children an opportunity to pass psychological rehabilitation for a long time, especially in cases where offenders involve them into commercial sexual exploitation through lovesickness.

# CHAPTER 3

## EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN CHILDREN BY RUSSIAN CITIZENS TRAVELLING TO CAMBODIA AND THAILAND

### 3.1 INCIDENCE OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN CHILDREN BY RUSSIAN CITIZENS TRAVELLING TO CAMBODIA AND THAILAND

During the study we were not able to find information on any case of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens travelling to Thailand. All the cases we identified took place in Cambodia.

One of the experts who participated in the study during the period from 2003 to February 2015 in his practice encountered three cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian children by Russian citizens. In all cases, the expert named the dates of arrest of Russian citizens: October 7, 2007, January 8, 2008 and December 24, 2014.

The second expert described a case of commercial sexual exploitation of children in Cambodia by a Russian citizen. This is the same case that the first expert described as number one.

In two of the cases described by experts, Russian citizens exploited Cambodian children in Sihanoukville, and in one case – in Siem Reap.

In addition to these places, among the most popular with foreign sex tourists regions of Cambodia one expert named Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Ratanakiri or Mondulakiri provinces:

*“I’m afraid that it is happening almost everywhere in Cambodia. Phnom Penh, in the capital, a lot of cases in Sihanoukville, in Siem Reap... Also that is happening in more rural*

*provinces even up in the north like Ratanakiri or Mondulakiri provinces, which are quite near – several hours drive from Phnom Penh” (Expert 2).*

Since experts are familiar with isolated cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian children by Russian citizens, they were unable to answer the question of how things have changed over the last 5 – 10 years:

*“Since the total number of arrests is three, it is hard to see specific trends for Russian nationals. We see many trends for foreigners in general, but in order to identify specific trends for Russian suspects, we would need a higher number of cases” (Expert F1).*

However, one expert noted that the number of cases of exploitation of Cambodian children by foreigners (regardless of country of origin) in recent years, is not likely to have changed, but these cases have become more hidden:

*“It’s perhaps happening just as much as it was five years ago, ten years ago, but it’s not out there as much” (Expert F2).*

### 3.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFENDERS

In all cases, the offenders were men. One of them at the time of arrest was 27 years old, the other – 41 years, a third one – 46 years.

In two cases, the perpetrators acted on their own, in one case the first offender acted on his own, but latter he was joined by associates – employees of the local government agencies:

*"Later, also intermediaries became involved in the case. In total, seven conspirators were arrested. This offender worked closely with civil servants in order to sexually exploit children" (Expert F1).*

One of the criminals was the manager of an investment company in Cambodia, the second one was a software developer, and the third one was a musician. It is known from the Russian media that one of the criminals described by Cambodian experts before coming to Cambodia, was engaged in the sales of building materials, he was one of the founders of the "Miss Russia" Competition and the founder of "Evroshow design" Holding, which organised recreational activities.

Only in one case the offender came to Cambodia as a tourist. In two other cases, the offenders were residents of Cambodia, one of whom has been living in the country for many years.

One expert added that in most cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children he knew that the foreigners (regardless of country of origin) had been residing in the country for at least a few weeks before committing the crime:

*"I think most of the people...have been either expats, or English teachers or they've run a hotel, the guest houses, something like this. Like they've been someone established in Cambodia... Like, for example, there was a Swiss hotel owner that has just been in prison three or four times for abusing boys. He's been here for 20 years. Other people have been hired as English teachers, they worked for a few months and then they had an opportunity to abuse child... In my experience, it's been mostly that people have been in a country for at least a few weeks or months" (Expert F2).*

When describing one and the same of the offenders, the experts pointed out that he was very rich, influential and well known in the place where he lived:

*"It is important to mention that this offender was very rich and thus had enough money to pay many individuals" (Expert F1).*

*"They told us: "Everybody knows this guy, everybody is afraid of him". In this very small town in Cambodia he was one of the obvious*

*most powerful people there. And he was very well-known. And he was like a nightmare figure..." (Expert F2).*

It is known from the Russian media that one of the criminals described by Cambodian experts had committed crimes related to violence against children in Russia before coming to Cambodia. He was expelled from the jury of the "Miss Russia" Contest for "equivocal attitude to the girls who participated in the competition", then he began looking for girls of state-of-the-art appearance through his "Evroshow design" holding and started involving them in commercial sexual exploitation promising career of a fashion-model and lucrative contracts. He approached some of the girls in the street driving a limousine and introduced himself as head of a modeling agency, he invited them to a "casting" to his country house, where he committed raping.

### 3.3 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE OFFENSE

**Ways the offenders establish contacts with children, formats and places of exploitation of children, forms of remuneration the experts are familiar with.** In certain cases, the experts are familiar with, the Russian offenders used the following methods to establish contacts with Cambodian children:

1. Establishing a direct contact with a child including in the street and in public places:

*"I think mostly they meet them at, you know, like street children, or they meet them at the park or public pool or something like this. And then befriend with the children, maybe give them some money. I've heard of a lot of cases like this" (Expert 2).*

2. Involving children through relatives – at least in one case the offender first used to establish contact with members of the child's family, paid them a lot of money, and then get access to the child:

*"He mostly found his victims by approaching their families first and offering them money. When he was rearrested in Cambodia before being deported to Russia, he was found at the home of a family with a young daughter and he adhered this family to build them a new home*

*in a pretty poor part of Cambodia outside of Phnom Penh...From what I understand he regularly did this. He paid the parents of the child that he wanted to abuse. Bought them a car or a new house or something like this. Because he was very wealthy" (Expert F2).*

3. Involving children through other members of the criminal group (trafficking):

*"Later, traffickers were used to provide the offender with children" (Expert F1).*

In at least one case, the offender appeared to have used all three described above methods for involving children in commercial sexual exploitation.

Regarding the places where the commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian children by Russian citizens took place the experts named the place where the rapists used to dwell: a rental room, a rental house, a house. In one case, the offender used for this purpose both his own house, and a rental house on an island.

One of the experts mentioned as a general trend that previously the commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian children by foreigners (regardless of country of origin) could happen right in public places (restaurants, public beaches and swimming pools), but in recent years, he said, the phenomenon has become more hidden – the criminals move to hotels and rental apartments. The expert had no information on the status of the hotels where exploitation of children happens most often (five-star hotels or hostels).

In all known cases the experts are familiar with Russian citizens involved Cambodian children in prostitution. Apart from prostitution, one offender involved children in pornography, and the other – in trafficking.

In all cases children got money as a reward. One expert spoke about all known cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by foreigners (regardless of country of origin), also named accommodation, food, gifts, toys as other possible forms of remuneration:

*"I've heard of people, giving children place to sleep, food, gifts, things like that, toys" (Expert 2).*

As was mentioned above, at least in one case, in addition to children, the reward went to parents (it could be very expensive gifts, such as a house, a car). According to one expert, the same criminal could pay associates and other interested parties:

*"This offender worked closely with civil servants in order to sexually exploit children. It is important to mention that this offender was very rich and thus had enough money to pay many individuals" (Expert 1).*

**Specialised sites and forums used by criminals for searching information on people providing sexual services in Thailand and Cambodia.** In this study, we failed to find any open specialised websites or forums intended for the Russians, which could provide information about children providing sex services in Thailand and Cambodia. At the same time, we found a variety of sites and thematic forums for adults on which Russian citizens share their impressions from visiting Thailand and information about where and how to meet girls for sexual services. The sources of such information are the websites of travel agencies, travel forums and sites dealing with travelling to Thailand.

The sites and forums contain the following type of information:

1. Advertising Thailand as a place where you can get a variety of sex services, sex tourism is presented as an option for recreational tourism:

*"Big fame Pattaya got because of its night life, here you can find any kind of sex entertainments" [Pattayya...].*

*"Sex tourism in Thailand - it's exponentially growing industry of recreation, which might be starting displacing the traditional beach recreation or cultural and educational aspects of this country attractions" [Seks v Taylande: Pravila...].*

2. Discussions of chances to get sexual services from children in Thailand:

2.1 hints that in Thailand you can get sex from children:

*"And those who have repeatedly reread the Nabokov's "Lolita" could expect a number of very sophisticated surprises" [Seks-turizm v Tailande// Tursfera].*

2.2 Stories that in some cases a tourist had an impression that minors were involved in prostitution:

*"She looks as if she is 18 (in real life, probably she is 14) [Discussion of impressions from visiting Walking street in Pattaya" [Shokiruyuschiy...].*

2.3 Cautionary warning that sex with children is a crime:

*"And it must be remembered – a prostitute seeming to be quite mature can be a minor: in Thailand they start going out to trade their bodies starting when they are 10 - 12 years old" [Seks v Tailande// Ivan...].*

*"And something else: in order to avoid trouble before you bring "a slut" into your hotel room it is advisable to look at her ID-card. All adult Thai nationals, including "slut", are required to carry an identity card. This card is the size of a credit card. This laminated crap has the photo of the girl, her name, date and place of birth. If the "slut" does not have ID card, then she might be a minor (and this means to go to slammer), or she could be a citizen of Laos or Cambodia, and most likely she is illegally in Thailand" [Seks v Taylande: Pravila...].*

*"Experts estimate that about 10% of all prostitutes in Thailand are girls under the age of 14 years old, which accounts for about 100,000 people. Which is absolutely prohibited, the law establishes that prostitution is allowed when one is at least 18 years old. Therefore, it is necessary to check the documents of your prostitute, if she is a minor, you may face imprisonment. Pedophiles from all over the world come to Thailand for sex with children. Minors are especially appreciated by tourists from China, who believe that sex with a virgin rewards them with a fountain of youthful sensations. Unlike conventional sex tourists coming to Thailand for entertainment, pedophiles are extremely unpopular. Any message arriving to the police that a foreign tourist is looking for sex with a child will be promptly investigated. Thai newspapers constantly publish articles and photos showing foreigners having fun*

*with Thai children in their hotels. Usually at the heart of it all are men of middle age" [Seks-turizm v Tailande// Po-miru.rf].*

3. Description of locations where it is possible to get sexual services, and the prices for the services.

*"The undisputed leader of sex tourism is of course Pattaya. Only one street called Walking Street and the Beach Road attracts thousands of prostitutes at night" [Osobennosti...].*

*"There are five major destinations for sex tourism in Thailand: Pattaya, Bangkok, Phuket island, Chiang Mai and Samui island, probably exactly in that order regarding their popularity" [Seks-turizm v Tailande// Po-miru.rf].*

*"The price for the girlies depends on your bargaining skills and on how much she likes you (this is also an important factor). In the widely promoted go-go bars the price usually starts from 3,000 baht per night (about 3,000 rubles). However, if bargaining profoundly you can bring the price down. In the off-season you can bargain for 1,500 baht. A slut from a beer-pub will be much cheaper" [Seks v Taylande: Pravila...].*

*"The price for girls depends on different factors. The most important ones are the following three factors: the place where you hire a slut, the bargaining skills, and the girl's attitude to you (how much she likes your appearance and behaviour). Much depends on the season, but an average price for a girl in the popular go-go bars varies between 1,500-3,000 baht. On the coast and in the street the prices are several folds lower – 300-500 baht, while in the beer-pubs they agree for about 1000-1500 baht" [Seks-turizm v Tailande// OmniWorkd].*

4. The tourists who have already visited Thailand tell about their impressions after visiting places where sex services are provided, including Walking street in Pattaya:



*“The famous “WALKING STREET” was not neglected by our attention. An ordinary public city street for driving at night turns into a pedestrian entertainment center “thai-style”=)). This is a pedestrian street with lots of shops, bars, restaurants, discos, A-GO-GO bars (with shocking shows), and with the unreal amount of woman and man - representatives of the most ancient profession. At first I even liked it” [Shokiruyuschiy...].*

### 3.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHILD VICTIMS

In cases the experts are familiar with the Cambodian children who fell victims of commercial sexual exploitation by Russian citizens were seven to 16 years old. In one case the victims were children of 11 to 17 years old, in the second case they were from seven to 14 years old, in the third one they were 16-year-old children.

21 girls and three boys fell victims of Russian sex tourists.

The experts were able to provide information on the psychological profile of only two abused children – in both cases they were talking about girls. Both girls manifested signs of posttraumatic stress disorder even after several years after being abused:

*“And the girl that we spoke to was really still, you know; even many years later she was very shaken up, very scared and timid, she spoke extremely softly... She looked like someone who something terrible just had happened to” (Expert F2).*

*“She spoke very quietly, cried a lot, you know, seemed to be mentally disturbed by what had happened...” (Expert F2).*

Both experts reported that in one case the victim was a deaf-mute girl. The other victims, according to experts, had no serious health problems:

*“Not that I have noticed... I don't remember her having any disabilities or any other visible problems” (Expert F2).*

According to the information experts have, the child victims of commercial sexual exploitation by Russians did not have alcohol or drug dependence.

According to experts, all the child victims were brought up in families with low income:

*“Children all came from poor backgrounds” (Expert F1).*

According to experts, in some cases violence and other problems took place in families where children had been brought up:

*“Some families were characterized by multiple problems (e.g. money problems, violence, etc.)” (Expert F1).*

Only one expert could indicate profession of the mother of one of the abused girl – at the time of when the expert communicated with the girl (in several years after the situation of abuse took place) her mother worked as a street urchin:

*“Mother worked as some kind of vendor on the side of the street... I don't know if she had any other job before...” (Expert F2).*

In two cases the expert had information regarding where the abused girls were working after a few years after the situation of abuse: one of them was working as a saleswoman, and the other one was working in a restaurant:

*“At the time that we spoke to her she was working at a beer garden, which was like an outdoor restaurant” (Expert F2).*

*“She worked as some kind of vendor” Expert F2)*

Experts didn't have any information on the type of occupation of abused boys and their parents.

Both experts have identified poverty among the other factors mostly contributing to the involvement of Cambodian children into commercial sexual exploitation. One expert mentioned a number of several factors increasing the vulnerability of children:

*“I think the main factor is poverty, because the perpetrators are, by Cambodian standards, very wealthy and the victims are often very poor” (Expert F2).*

*“There is a number of reasons why children in Cambodia are vulnerable to exploitation; however, none of these reasons make children vulnerable only to Russian offenders. They make children vulnerable to exploitation in general. Some of the reasons are: poverty, lack of knowledge, low education, lack of parental supervision, cultural beliefs” (Expert F1).*

### **3.5 SPECIAL ASPECTS RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION OF CHILD VICTIMS AND PROVIDING THEM ASSISTANCE**

In all the cases described by experts the child victims were identified by employees of a local NGOs. The organisation provided all the children, who wanted it, with social, psychological and legal assistance. In case of necessity the children were sent to orphanages supervised by partners. The experts did not give any information regarding what kind of assistance was provided for every child victim.

One of the experts reported that in all three cases the offenders were arrested.

In one case a criminal proceeding was initiated against the offender both in Cambodia and in Russia. In 2007 he and seven of his accomplices were arrested in Cambodia. Since the offender was very rich he tried to influence the course of investigation and the court’s decision:

*“The offender was extremely rich and therefore the offender could influence the criminal proceedings against him. This, of course, had a detrimental effect on the well-being of the victims” (Expert F1).*

*“Various NGOs were trying to convince his victims and families of his victims to testify against him in court, but from what I heard he would pay these families... So there was sort of battle between his lawyers and lawyers of the victims” (Expert F2).*

The court convicted the offender and his five accomplices, two accomplices were released. At the same time, the offender spent only four years in prison of 17 years he was sentenced to and was released by the decision of the King of Cambodia:

*“I think he originally got 17 years in prison for abusing 15 girls. But later that prison sentence’ was reduced a couple of times and then eventually he was released earlier on the Royal pardon... I think his sentence was reduced: eight years at one point and then he was released after only four years” (Expert F2).*

The publications in Russian and Cambodian media made it clear that in 2012 the offender was arrested again and deported from Cambodia to Moscow. In 2014 he was sentenced to 11 years in prison for sexually abusing several schoolgirls aged nine to 13 years old, which he had committed in Russia before leaving for Cambodia.

In the second case, according to data provided by Cambodia experts, the offender was convicted. As of the third case, at the time the study was being conducted the criminal case has not yet been considered in court.

### **3.6 MEASURES TAKEN IN COUNTERACTING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN BY RUSSIAN CITIZENS**

Measures taken in counteracting commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens and potential for further continuation of effort as it is in view of the experts

According to experts, nowadays no particular measures are taken in Cambodia to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of local children by Russian citizens. Since these crimes do not differ from the crimes committed against children by citizens of other countries, experts suggest considering combating Russian sex tourism as a part of a wider

range of activities aimed at combating sex tourism as a whole:

*"I don't see Russians committing these crimes more often than other foreigners. So I think it should be broader, approaching not specific to Russians" (Expert F2).*

Experts have named the following basic measures which are already being taken in Cambodia regarding combating sex tourism:

1. Cooperation of Cambodian police authorities with police authorities from other countries:

*"Cambodian police cooperate with foreign police and they try to prevent perpetrators from a given country. Like I know there is an agreement like this between the UK and Cambodia" (Expert F1).*

2. Promotion of the initiative on signing the "Code of Conduct" by representatives of the tourism industry in Cambodia:

*"There is a NGO initiative, sort of, to get hotels and guest houses to sign on to the commitment to preventing abuses in the hotels" (Expert F2).*

3. Child Safe Hotline which the locals and tourists, who have found a child in Cambodia who is in a dangerous situation and needs help, can call:

*"There is a hot line that you can call. I think that one is called the "Child Safe Hotline" (Expert F2).*

4. The activities of local NGOs in the sphere of providing psychological, social and legal assistance to child victims, collection of evidence, conducting investigations. The biggest are the APLE Cambodia and International Justice Mission:

*"There is no organisation that specifically combats Russian child sex offenders. However, APLE Cambodia has dealt with foreign child sex offenders from 27 different nationalities. In addition, International Justice Mission has been involved in cases of foreigners who sexually exploit children" (Expert F1).*

As the most pressing problems in the sphere of combating sex tourism in Cambodia one of the experts named the following:

1. Poor efficiency of police authorities in Cambodia. According to the expert, this work is partially done by employees of NGOs, which, in particular, conduct criminal investigations:

*"Police is often very incoherent. They either not presume cases until they are given a bruit, or they are just not very good at their jobs – they won't catch the correct perpetrator. That's a big problem and instead that sort of things they rely on NGOs, like the NGO APLE... They are perhaps foremost experts on these things in Cambodia. A lot of the investigative work falls to NGOs, when the police should be doing that kind of stuff" (Expert F2).*

2. A simplified visa issuing system, the absence of strict control of individuals entering the country, including checking if they had committed crimes against children in other countries:

*"In the case of Cambodia the main problem is that it's very easy to get a visa to come here: it's very easy to get through, to fly into the country and get a visa upon the arrival. If you have convicted child sex offense in the other country, it's really easy just to come to Cambodia and nobody will ever know your criminal background. So the main problem, I think, is just very relaxed requirements for entering the country. There should be some sort of international database where the immigration police, immigration officials can check those entering the country" (Expert F2).*

Apparently, improving the efficiency of police authorities and strengthening the control of citizens entering the country might contribute to the development of work in the field of combating sex tourism in Cambodia.

# CHAPTER 4

## POTENTIAL FOR THE CODE OF CONDUCT PROMOTION IN RUSSIA

### 4.1 THE LEVEL OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ASSESSMENT OF ITS PRESENT-DAY TOPICALITY

Among the 12 representatives of the tourism industry, which have not signed the Code of Conduct, only two of them said that they had never heard of the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children. Another expert admitted that he had heard about this phenomenon, but did not know that this term is used for its definition:

*“Commercial sexual exploitation of children – I hear it from you for the first time. The fact that such things happen, yes, unfortunately, I’ve heard about it.” (Expert T1).*

One expert learned about the problem from fiction. The rest of the experts mentioned the mass media as sources of information about the problem. TV and Internet are mentioned most often among them.

*“Well, this is on TV” (Expert T7).*

*“It’s Internet, probably, but I’ve heard about it once – that’s all” (Expert T4).*

Three experts expressed their views on the present-day relevance of the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. The representatives of two hotels believe that this problem is not relevant for Russia, but is more typical of other countries:

*“In my opinion, it’s not a problem for St. Petersburg. Frankly speaking, I somehow*

*think that this is not quite true regarding our country... I can imagine it exists in Thailand, but not in Europe, not in Russian cities” (Expert T6).*

*“I think it’s such a rare problem...” (Expert T4).*

A representative of a travel company, on the contrary, mentions that the problem is relevant but rather in terms of sexual services consumed in other countries by Russian tourists:

*“Young men, when buying package tours, almost always make jokes about prostitutes in Thailand. This just proves the normative nature of this discourse... Sex tourism, unfortunately, has become so matter of course matter, that they even do not make jokes about it, but they write about it in the marketing guidebooks for tourism. For example, the author of the book titled “Guerrilla Tourism Marketing” advises the heads of travel agencies to employ necessarily at least one man, so that clients may ask him questions about the capabilities and features of sex tours without embarrassment. It’s disgusting” (Expert T12).*

### 4.2. INCIDENCE OF SUSPICIOUS ACCIDENTS IN HOTELS AND CASES OF SECTT

Experts were asked to describe if they had faced any cases of suspicious behaviour of guests in their practice, when the travel company guest/client could likely be involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of children (for example, arrival to the hotel with a minor, attempts to find out any information related to this issue). Experts were also asked to indicate whether they had come in their practice across the cases when the fact of commercial sexual exploitation of a child by f hotel guest/client of a travel company was obvious.

None of the experts surveyed faced in their practice the cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and only one expert faced a suspicious case. Here are some typical responses by representatives of the tourism industry:

*"I've never heard that in our hotels arose similar issues or cases of this sort" (Expert T6).*

*"No, usually there are none of such cases. As long as I work here such cases have never happened" (Expert T4).*

*"I don't know of such cases happened with us" (Expert T8).*

*"I haven't faced such a problem directly" (Expert T12).*

*"I want to assure you that to date there were no such cases. I hope very much that there won't be even the prerequisites for it" (Expert T9).*

Experts themselves identified the following possible reasons for the absence of suspicious cases records in hotels and travel companies and absence of records of cases in connection with which the fact that any commercial sexual exploitation of children would have been obvious:

1. Tough-line hotel policy for prostitution – the suppression of any attempts of the representatives of the sex industry to provide such services as well as any attempts of the hotel staff to provide clients with assistance in obtaining these services, the desire to minimize reputational risks:

*"Hotels face a problem of prostitution. We try as much as possible to protect the hotel guests from such practices as there are risks involved, which are not desirable for us as a hotel. The staff of the front office and security service does their best to prevent this... Everything related to the issues of prostitution is suppressed as much as possible in the territory of the hotel. The staff of the hotel and external companies, who may have witnessed this and did not comply with the internal rules related to night work, are unequivocally dismissed. This is not something what is welcomed, but that is prohibited and absolutely impossible..." (Expert T6).*

2. Strict control by the hotel staff of the guest and child documents at the time of Check-in:

*"We accommodate only if the documents are available. We register minor children only by Birth certificate and obligatory in the presence of their parents, that is, a minor child cannot check-in with some unknown man or woman. If this is indeed its uncle or aunt – they must have a notarized permission from parents. Just a man of the street with a strange boy or girl will not manage to check-in without having any specific documents" (Expert T3).*

3. Strict control by the hotel staff of the persons who pass into the room:

*"They do not bring anyone here. And to bring anybody just like that is not possible" (Expert T7).*

4. Fine-grain hotel (five stars):

*"Perhaps, in some other hotels of a lower category they face such a problem..." (Expert T6).*

5. Availability of staff training programs:

*"With us every employee upon entry into employment goes through a specific training, that is, each employee knows whom we can accommodate, and whom we cannot" (Expert T13).*

6. Commitment of the hotel to a specific group of people, in particular, families with young children:

*"As my customers as a rule tend to be family people with young children, I have not directly faced such a problem" (Expert T12).*

7. The reluctance of the hotel staff to disclose information about such cases for fear of destroying the hotel reputation:

*"It's restricted information, which is not available. Still, everyone is afraid to talk about it – they are afraid that it will affect the reputation..." (Expert T13).*

In addition, the fact that the representatives of the tourism industry do not talk about such cases can be explained by the fact that cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and suspicious behaviour of guests with the risk of children engagement in sexual exploitation may be poorly identified by the hotel staff or not brought to the notice of the managers.

Let's describe in detail the case of a suspicious behaviour of a hotel guest, presented by one of the experts. We have too little information about the event, the guest and the child involved. It is known that the incident took place in Moscow. A man tried to check-in in the hotel with a child, but refused to produce any documents confirming the status of the child. The hotel staff explained him that it was a mandatory requirement and gave the child their contacts, the man left:

*"There was one case when some employees in Moscow suspected a man who arrived together with a child, because he did not want to show the child's documents and behaved in a very aggressive manner... I do not know when it happened exactly. There is no information about the guest. And we know nothing about the child either... The staff of the hotel, I think, even gave its contacts to the child for it to contact them if necessary. But no further actions were taken ..."* (Expert T13).

### 4.3 LEVEL OF READINESS TO SIGN THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND PERCEIVED BARRIERS

Among the representatives of 12 organisations of the tourism industry, who have participated in the study and have not signed the Code of Conduct, only two experts said that they were ready to sign it. Wherein, one of them held a key position in the organisation and could take such decisions and the second one was a secretary at the reception. Three experts said that they would be ready to sign the Code, but with some reservations.

Another three respondents could not at the time of the interview decide whether they would sign the Code because they wanted to get more information about it. Here are two statements by the experts:

*"I do not know what we are talking about, so I cannot tell you whether I'm ready or not. Well, perhaps the idea itself is not so bad, but unfortunately, as I have not read the document,*

*it is difficult for me to tell you, without justification, just over the phone that I'm ready to sign it"* (Expert T2).

*"I would like, before making a decision, to get acquainted therewith"* (Expert T9).

Two respondents said they did not have the authorities sufficient to make such decisions:

*"I cannot answer you this question at once, because I do not make such decisions. I guess so"* (Expert T5).

*"Of course, I cannot answer this question. I have no [powers] thereto"* (Expert T6).

Another two representatives of the tourism industry said that most likely they were not ready to sign the Code of Conduct. Here is the statement of one of them:

*"We do not sign documents which we are not acquainted with. Rather, no. We would like to get acquainted herewith, but, rather, would not [sign]. Should it turn out to be necessary, we will get acquainted herewith and we will make a decision on the basis of what is written in this document"* (Expert T8).

For some representatives of the tourism industry individual clauses of the Code of Conduct are barriers to get it signed. The greatest difficulty is the need to inform customers about the problem and about the organisation's policy in this area (this was mentioned by four experts). The second problem is the need to provide reports on the application of the Code and training of employees (two experts), the third challenge is the need to develop ethical policies of the organisation and to introduce the clause about the inadmissibility of the commercial sexual exploitation of children into the contracts with suppliers (one expert). None of the experts named any difficulties associated with the need to "support, collaborate and engage stakeholders in the prevention of sexual exploitation of children" or the necessity to stop cooperation with partners in case of their involvement in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Perhaps this is due to the fact that not all participants of the study realized the meaning of this clause of the Code of Conduct.

Let's consider in more detail the fears of the tourism industry representatives associated with the need to use individual clauses of the Code of Conduct.

1. To establish the policy and procedures against sexual exploitation of children. Here are the main difficulties related to the lack of financial, time and human resources required for the application of this clause of the Code of Conduct:

*"Unfortunately, I do not have a potential to develop some documentation about it..." (Expert T2).*

2. Train employees in children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation and how to report suspected cases. The need of such a training is not obvious for all the members of the tourism industry:

*"What do you want to train our staff for? I think that any employee anyway understands that if something suddenly happens, you need to call some relevant public authorities to address this issue" (Expert T3).*

*"Probably the hotel staff is usually instructed thereof anyway. And every pretty large international companies state this in their contracts" (Expert T2).*

3. Include a clause in contracts throughout the value chain stating a common repudiation and zero tolerance policy of sexual exploitation of children. One of the experts fears that they will not have enough time, human and financial resources necessary for the application of this clause:

*"Unfortunately, I do not have a potential to develop any documentation about it..." (Expert T2).*

4. Provision of information to travellers on children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and how to report suspected cases. In this area, the barriers for the tourism industry representatives are:

- 4.1 lack of finance, time, human resources needed to develop informational support for the customers:

*"If to lay on us the additional costs for the production of brochures..." (Expert T1).*

*"Unfortunately, I do not have a potential to develop any documents about it..." (Expert T2).*

- 4.2 reluctance to trigger negative emotions in customers:

*"I think our guests pretty well know what is criminally liable. Reminding them of this again when they come to our city for a vacation... – I think that the hotel management will not agree to this..." (Expert T3).*

*"Why do we need once again to scare people by this? This is negative information..." (Expert T4).*

5. Submission of the annual report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct. In this area the experts name the following difficulties:

- 5.1 lack of time, financial and human resources required for the implementation of this clause:

*"Unfortunately, I do not have a potential to develop some documentation about it..." (Expert T2).*

- 5.2 lack of understanding of the need to prepare the report, the reluctance to report to NGOs:

*"A report to whom? I have no idea why the hotel should be accountable to any NGO..." (Expert T9).*

In addition to the individual clauses of the Code of Conduct, during the study the following barriers preventing signing the Code of Conduct by the representatives of the tourism industry in Russia were identified:

1. Lack of understanding by the representatives of the tourism industry of their role in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children, the belief that this problem does not concern them and must be addressed by the representatives of the public authorities and NGOs:

*"I think this should be done by your organisation or government ..." (Expert T1).*

*"I do not understand why the hotel which is a commercial organisation shall be engaged in any public issues... If 20-30 organisations address us with the similar proposals, shall we cease our business activity and solve all these problems? I have certain obligations*

to contractors and partners that the hotel is obliged to fulfill. I will first deal with this. Because the problem which you are now getting your salary for has no effect on the operation of the hotel..." (Expert T9).

"What's the point [of informing the customers about the problem]? I think someone will hardly deal with it in the hotel..." (Expert T4).

"Certainly, there is the problem of child sexual abuse, and in our city as well, but I do not really associate this with the hotel business. I think this is hardly the place where such risk does exist" (Expert T6).

## 2. Distrust of the NGOs:

"Someone apparently has received a grant, has developed some sort of useless, in my opinion, piece of paper. And, accordingly, now it shall be implemented somehow. Do we need it? Will it result in anything good? Maybe, though but I doubt it. This is just some additional piece of paper, additional work carried out by the people and, well, apparently, paid by someone – probably by some particular organisations..." (Expert T2).

"And who is funding your activities? And are you registered as a foreign agent?" (Expert T9).

## 3. The reluctance to be associated with the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children:

"I would not want to be associated with it" (Expert T2).

## 4. Failure to understand the business benefits from signing the Code of Conduct:

"To be honest, we assume the obligations only if it is economically beneficial to us" (Expert T8).

## 5. Lack of understanding of the need to sign the Code of Conduct. According to one of the respondents, everything depends on the position of the management of the hotel on the issue of the commercial sexual exploitation of children: if management believes such cases are not

possible, they will be prevented even without signing the Code of Conduct; and if such cases are acceptable for the management even signing the Code of Conduct will not help to solve this problem:

"The hotel business implies that a client, who comes, gets a so-called guest card. And that guest card is a specific format of the document that allows a person to enter the hotel. And if someone comes from outside, the question arises: "Who and where are you going to?". In addition, almost all hotels have internal regulations that clearly prescribe the procedure of visiting the customers accommodating in hotels by the guests: the time of visit is limited; the customer must enroll with the presentation of an identification document. At least, it is the policy of hotels, of normal hotels, anyway... And to which extent it is observed is on the conscience of hotel management. Here the personal control takes place directly: either we work in compliance with certain ethical rules and regulations, or we work exclusively "for any money in the world", and we do not see how and where this money goes from. But this is the position of the hotel, you know? If the hotel follows the first option, it doesn't matter whether it signs the Code or not. And in the second case – the same thing – whether the hotel has signed the Code or not, they will still turn a blind eye thereto" (Expert T9).

## 6. The reluctance to take on additional responsibilities:

"The word "responsibilities" scares" (Expert T8).

## 4.4 OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WORK ON PROMOTION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RUSSIA PERCEIVED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

Representatives of the tourism industry, who participated in the study, suggested the following possible areas of development of work on promotion of the Code of Conduct in Russia:



1. Raising public awareness about the problem, development of particular values stipulating that sexual abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation of children, is not acceptable:

*“There should be more information on radio and TV” (Expert T10).*

*“We need to raise the level of sexual competence of teenagers and tell them that only the relations between two equally conscious people by mutual consent are considered to be sex. Everything else is the rape and unacceptable in a civilized society. This could increase the level of intolerance of sexual exploitation” (Expert T12).*

2. Raising awareness among the representatives of the tourism industry on the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children, establishing a view that it is not acceptable:

*“Unfortunately, nowadays the staff and the owners of travel agencies in Russia do not differ from the majority of Russian citizens in terms of sexual competence, so, I guess, they do not see a great problem in that what their tourists do abroad” (Expert T12).*

*“It is necessary to inform the companies more about this problem, to provide statistics all around Russia and voice out the real facts” (Expert T13).*

3. Distribution of information on the Code of Conduct among the representatives of the tourism industry. For this purpose, according to the study participants, the following methods may be used:

#### 3.1 Phone calls and direct e-mail:

*“I think the only possible option is to provide information on the phone or send it by mail. Further it will be a human-factor aspect – how the topmanager will react to this” (Expert T3).*

#### 3.2 Presentation of the Code of Conduct during major professional events designed for the representatives of the tourism industry (e.g., at exhibitions):

*“Every year in Moscow – I do not know, how it is in St. Petersburg, but I think that there too – in Moscow very big touristic*

*exhibitions are held, where it can possibly be done. You need to book a stand, a place where you will position yourself and will be informing people about the problem” (Expert T13).*

#### 3.3 Holding activities involving companies that have signed the Code of Conduct, and companies that have not signed the Code of Conduct (which can be not only hotels, but also other stakeholders, such as restaurants):

*“To hold joint activities with the participation of companies which have already signed the Code of Conduct. To involve other companies and tell them about this problem. To engage herein hotels and organisations providing participation of other services, for example, of restaurants. I think it will be interesting. If you hold such public activities, then I think there will be more companies who will be engaged in this issue” (Expert T13).*

#### 3.4 Translation and distribution of thematic brochures:

*“The brochures may be distributed in the various institutions. I believe that the translation of all documentation is very important. Of any documentation, even such as brochure” (Expert T13).*

#### 3.5 Promotion of the Code of Conduct on the Internet (thematic sites, advertising in social networks):

*“It is important to distribute information through websites, social networks” (Expert T13).*

4. Promotion of the Code of Conduct in cooperation with the relevant public authorities (in St. Petersburg – the Committee for Tourism):

*“We are trying to meet the requirements of the legislation and as well, if possible, as the requirements that are of non-regulatory nature. If it would be, for example, recommended by the Committee for Tourism, I think, the head of the organisation and director of the hotel would have no objections to signing such a document” (Expert T5).*

During the interview two experts presented three arguments that NGOs could use to convince the representatives of the Russian tourism industry regarding the need to sign the Code of Conduct:

1. Increasing consumer loyalty and, consequently, emergence of additional competitive advantages and better profit-making:

*“The next argument is the company’s reputation. Introducing six clauses of the Code of Conduct, the company reaches a certain level in the market that sets it apart from other companies... Today, due to the crisis, the pricing policy of five and four star hotels is almost identical. Guests begin to choose hotels that are more environmentally friendly, have stronger policy of corporate social responsibility and so on” (Expert T13).*

*“If you want a legal entity to put its name to obligations, to voluntarily assume the additional time and other costs, it is necessary to make some suggestions that a legal entity will consider as significant or commercially interesting...” (...) Commercial component is not always the money. Commercial component includes, among others, the reputation” (Expert T9).*

2. Improving the confidence of the company's employees that they will be able to operate effectively in situations where there is a high risk of a child involvement in commercial sexual exploitation or when a commercial sexual exploitation of a child had taken place:

*“The staff feels more efficient and confident in this issue, which is rather important” (Expert T13).*

3. Ability to contribute to solve the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children:

*“Thanks to implementation of certain actions the number of such cases is becoming less and less” (Expert T13).*

Opinions of experts on possibilities of cooperation of representatives of the tourism industry with NGOs in the sphere of application of the Code of Conduct are different. As mentioned above, at least two experts expressed distrust of NGOs. Three experts suggested that the role of the NGO regarding support for the representatives of the tourism industry in the sphere of the Code of Conduct application could be the following:

1. Developments of information materials for the guests:

*“If to lay on us the additional costs for the production of brochures... I think it must be done by your organisation or Government...” (Expert T1).*

2. Development of leaflets with the rules of conduct for employees in suspicious cases and in cases when the commercial sexual exploitation of children is obvious:

*“Rules of Conduct for Employees – it would be interesting to have something like this in writing” (Expert T4).*

3. Advising the tourism industry employees on the Code of Conduct application issues including development of Ethical Policy of the organisation:

*“You can advise how it is better to prescribe policies and procedures and how it is better to implement them in practice” (Expert T13).*

# CHAPTER 5

## CONCLUSIONS AND POSSIBLE DIRECTIONS

Conclusions of the study and possible directions of further strengthening the work on combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia.

**Conclusions.** The main conclusions of the study are as follows:

1. Commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign and Russian citizens in travel and tourism, who come to the region of residence of children:

- Interviews conducted with 48 representatives of governmental organisations and NGOs from 28 cities in Russia covering eight out of nine federal areas of the country have confirmed that the number of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign and Russian citizens in travel and tourism has significantly decreased comparing to the beginning of 2000s. Apparently, SECTT is currently not widespread in Russia. During the research only six cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism were identified. Among them only four cases took place in 2013 and 2014. Possible reasons for low occurrence of such cases on the one hand may be associated with difficulties in identification of child victims, and lack of attention on the part of assisting organisations' employees to the information about rapists when working with child victims. On the other hand, the situation might have been improved because of welfare gains among the Russian population that became obvious over the past decade.
- The geography of cases has become broader. Most cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism identified in Russia at the beginning of 2000s took place in different cities of North-West Russia. Cases

identified within the current study took place not only in North-West Federal District but in Central Federal District, Far Eastern Federal District and Privolzhsky Federal District. At least for some regions it might be related to the fact that a lot of trainings have been conducted by different NGOs for stakeholders working in child protection field in different Russian regions which has raised the effectiveness of identification of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

- The number of countries of origin of child abusers exploiting Russian children in travel and tourism has been reduced. While at the beginning of 2000s abusers came to Russia from a broad variety of countries including USA, Western and Eastern European countries, Central Asia, UAE, Japan, Australia, Canada and some African countries, in cases identified during the current study abusers came from China, Korea, Estonia and the United States. This might be an indicator of the effectiveness of efforts in the field of combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism undertaken in a number of Western European and other countries during the last decade.
- The new phenomenon is commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by citizens of Russia, who came to the region of residence of the children from other regions. During the research two cases of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Smolensk and Velikiy Novgorod by residents of St. Petersburg and Moscow were described by experts, cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by long-haul truckers were mentioned without a detailed description. At the moment very little is known about abusers in these cases. According to the information available, purposes of the Russian citizens staying in

the region of the children residence were as follows: business trip, moving to the region for permanent residence, just to have sex with a child. Besides long-haul trucker, abuser's occupation/line of business (if known) was educator. One of the abusers had been brought up in a dysfunctional family, had difficulties in building relationships with women; in another case the offender had been previously convicted of crimes against sexual immunity of minors. The phenomenon of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by Russian citizens who come to the region of residence of the children from other regions should be further investigated.

- The research has provided quite detailed information on different methods the offenders used in order to establish contact with children. Experts mentioned the following methods: establishing contact with a child over the Internet, accessing children through their parents or other relatives, searching children through peers, searching children through specialised magazines that advertise sexual services, accessing children through hotel staff (receptionists or housekeepers), searching children in bars. In some cases, pimps helped establish contacts with children. In three of the six cases described by the experts, children were involved in the commercial sexual exploitation because they fell in love. The main pattern of commercial sexual exploitation of children seems to be the same as at the beginning of 2000s: prostitution and in some cases pornography. Among the places where commercial sexual exploitation took place in the current research as well as at researches conducted for about a decade ago brothels, rented apartments and highway were mentioned. Nevertheless, such public places as railway stations' WCs, entrance halls of the dwelling houses, parks, quays are not mentioned any more. It looks like the commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism has become less open. Forms of remuneration that children receive seem to be the same as at the beginning of 2000s and include money, clothes, food and sweets, visiting a restaurant, chance not to live in a shelter.
- Even though Internet might be used by potential abusers to obtain more information about sexual services in Russia, we failed to find any open specialised websites or forums

for foreigners, where they can find information directly about children providing sexual services. The study has identified thematic forums where foreigners share information about where and how to meet girls in Russia for sexual services, discuss the cost of sexual services, their quality, and to which extent the photos on the site match the reality. It can be assumed that such sites can be used to obtain additional information by those who in the future may be involved in sexual contact with children (in some cases in the discussions they specially indicated that the girls who provide sexual services were young).

- In cases identified within the current study as well as at the beginning of 2000s, both girls and boys became victims of the commercial sexual exploitation by the persons who came to the region of residence of children from another country or region. Child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism during the last decade became younger: the youngest known victim of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism in Russia at the beginning of 2000s was 12 years old while the youngest victims identified within the current study was nine years old. In the current study more detailed information about child victims was obtained. The research has shown that both healthy children and children with special needs (hearing disorders) became victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. In some cases, child victims took alcohol and drugs, had random sex, attended school irregularly and had problems with school performance, failed to enter a college or university, they wanted to get themselves distinguished from the peer groups. In some cases, children lived in the family, in other cases they were brought up in orphan asylums. In some cases, families in which the child victims were brought up had low income; parents or other relatives abused alcohol and drugs, did not pay enough to education of their children. According to the experts, the main factors that contributed to the involvement of children in the commercial sexual exploitation were unfavorable financial situation of the family, the lack of attention on the part of their parents, striving at all costs to get themselves distinguished from a peer group. These factors are very similar to the factors which contributed to the involvement of Russian children into commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism for about a decade ago.

- In all cases, the affected children were identified by employees of state or non-governmental child protection organisations. In most cases, affected children received psychological support, but, according to experts, psychologists assisting the abused children did not always have the required level of qualifications. In some cases, employees of organisations working with child victims sought assistance from more experienced colleagues from non-governmental organisations. The difficulties in providing assistance to the abused children were mostly associated with initiation of criminal proceedings and criminal prosecution of the offenders. This was caused both due to the lack of necessary skills on the part of assisting organisations employees and the abused girls being in love with offenders (they were not willing to give evidence against the offenders). However, in three of the six cases the criminal proceedings were initiated, in two of them offenders were convicted.

2. The commercial sexual exploitation of foreign children by Russian citizens in Cambodia and Thailand:

- The research covering six representatives of child protection NGOs, international organisations and mass media in Cambodia and four representatives of child protection NGOs, law enforcement and international organisations in Thailand has shown that the problem of the commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian and Thai children by Russian citizens, apparently, is not very relevant for Cambodia and Thailand. In Cambodia in the period from 2003 to February 2015, according to experts, only three such cases were registered. The commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian children by Russian citizens took place in the Sihanoukville and Siem Reap regions. The study has not detected cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens in Thailand.
- The research confirmed some characteristics of Russian offenders exploiting children abroad provided in relevant reports and mass media publications and allowed collecting more data about them. In all cases identified within the current study, offenders were male and in one case an offender was very rich – these characteristics of Russian child sex offenders are similar to those provided in other research reports and mass media. Besides that the research has shown that Russian abusers exploiting Cambodian children were aged from 27 to 46 years old, in two cases they acted alone; in one case, the offender at some point had associates – employees of local governmental organisations. One of the offenders was a manager of an investment company in Cambodia, the second one was a software developer, and the third one was a musician. In two cases, the offenders were residents of Cambodia; in one case, the offender came to Cambodia as a tourist. It is known that before visiting Cambodia one of the offenders committed crimes against sexual inviolability of minors in Russia.
- The research provided very valuable information about circumstances of crimes which was not available (or not so detailed) in other research reports and mass media publications. In the cases known to the experts offender used the following methods to establish contact with children: 1) establishing contact directly with children, including establishing contact in the street and in public places; 2) involving children through relatives; 3) involving children through other members of the gang (trafficking). Regarding locations in which commercial sexual exploitation of children took place, experts specified the places of the sexual offenders residency: a rented room, rented house, house. Russian citizens involved Cambodian children in prostitution; besides the prostitution one offender involved a child in pornography, and the other involved the child in trafficking. In all cases, the children received money as remuneration. In one case, the abused children's parents received remuneration (it could be money, a house, a car).
- This study has found no open specialised websites or forums intended for the Russians, where they could find information about children providing sexual services in Thailand and Cambodia. At the same time, the experts found web-sites of travel agencies, travel forums and web-sites dealing with travelling to Thailand, where people discuss chances of getting sexual services in Thailand. On these sites, Thailand is advertised as the country where one could get a variety of sexual services, the sites discuss the possibility of getting sexual services from children, places where sexual services are provided by adults and prices for such services; the tourists who have already visited Thailand share

their impressions from visiting places where sexual services are offered. It seems that such websites can be used to gather additional information by those users who are going to visit Thailand and do not exclude the possibility of getting sexual services from minors.

- According to the data received in the current study, boys and girls from Cambodia aged seven to 16 years old became victims of commercial sexual exploitation on the part of Russian citizens. That confirmed the data provided about children exploited by Russian citizens in travel and tourism in other research reports and mass media publications. Moreover, the current research provided additional details about child victims. Basically, they were children who did not have serious health problems, drug and alcohol addiction. All of them were brought up in families with low income. According to experts, the main factors that contributed to the involvement of children in the commercial sexual exploitation were poverty, lack of education, lack of parental control, cultural norms.
- The research findings show that Cambodian children who have been sexually exploited by Russian citizens were able to get a comprehensive assistance they needed. In all cases identified in the current study, the abused children were identified by the local non-governmental organisations that provided all of them with necessary psychological, social and legal assistance (in some cases, in partnership with shelters). All three offenders were arrested.

3. The research conducted among representatives of 66 hotels and 15 travel agencies in St. Petersburg as well as among five Russian airlines has shown that even though at the moment there are some opportunities for promotion of the Code of Conduct in Russia, they are quite limited:

- Representatives of the tourism industry in St. Petersburg in most cases lack reliable information about commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. They are generally aware of the problem of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, but the main sources of information on the problem are television and the Internet. Only one expert believes that the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism may be relevant for Russia, but rather in terms

of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russian citizens travelling abroad.

- The representatives of the tourism industry, who participated in the study, did not face in their work cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by customers. Only one participant of the study described a suspicious incident that took place at a hotel, but he had very little information on that case. According to representatives of the tourism industry, the absence of such cases in the practice of hotels and travel agencies can be explained by several factors. The factors include the suppression of any attempt to provide sexual services at the hotel, strict control of a guest's and child's documents (and of those visiting the room) carried out by the hotel staff at the time of checking in, high reputation of the hotel, availability of special training programs for employees, commitment of the hotel to particular groups (e.g., families with young children). However, according to one expert, representatives of the tourism industry could conceal the facts of the commercial sexual exploitation of children for fear of spoiling the reputation of their hotel. Moreover, the fact that the representatives of the tourism industry do not talk about such cases can be explained by the fact that cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children and guests' suspicious behaviour with the risk of involvement of children in the sexual exploitation may be poorly identified by the hotel staff or not brought to the attention of managers.
- Almost all representatives of the tourism industry who took part in the research confirmed that at the moment they were interviewed they were not ready to sign the Code of Conduct. They have mentioned the following barriers which prevent them from signature of the Code of Conduct: 1) lack of understanding by the representatives of the tourism industry of their role in the counteracting commercial sexual exploitation of children and of the need to sign the Code of Conduct; 2) lack of understanding of the business benefits of signing the Code of Conduct; 3) unwillingness to be associated with the problem of the commercial sexual exploitation of children; 4) lack of information on the Code of Conduct; 5) the need to inform customers on the problem; 6) the need to develop the policy of the organisation on the

issue; 7) reluctance to assume additional obligations and 8) lack of trust to NGO.

**Possible directions of further strengthening the work on combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia.**

Based on the research data, on recommendations provided by experts who took part in the study and on our own experience of work in the field of combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in Russia we would like to suggest the following possible directions of further development of work in the field of combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia:

1. Combating commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign and Russian citizens in travel and tourism, who come to the region of residence of children:
  - The current tendencies in the field of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children in travel and tourism should be monitored on the regular basis in different Russian regions with special attention to economically depressed regions and cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by Russian citizens coming to the region of residence of the children from other regions.
  - Identification of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism in Russia should be further strengthened. Relevant stakeholders working in child protection field should be further trained. In case the child victim of commercial sexual exploitation is identified, more attention should be paid to getting information about the offender including the country/ region of origin.
  - Activities in the field of prevention of involvement of children and young people into commercial sexual exploitation including sexual exploitation in travel and tourism should be implemented, children and young people should be involved into development and implementation of such activities;
  - Awareness of the general population in Russia and of foreigners coming to Russia on the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children should be raised. One of the important messages should be that commercial sexual exploitation of children is a crime.
  - The effectiveness of assistance to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation including child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism should be further strengthened.

Stakeholders working in child protection field in different Russian regions should be further trained and provided with methodological assistance. Special attention should be paid to starting criminal cases in court and bringing the perpetrators to criminal prosecution. The protection of child victims during criminal investigations should be further strengthened. Opportunities for abused children to undergo a long-term psychological rehabilitation, especially in cases when they were involved in the commercial sexual exploitation through being in love with the offenders, should be provided.

2. Combating commercial sexual exploitation of foreign children by Russian citizens in Cambodia and other countries:

- The awareness of the Russian citizens going abroad that sexual abuse, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children, is a crime in any country and it will not be tolerated, should be raised.
- Cooperation between law enforcement representatives in Russia and other countries in the field of investigation of crimes related to commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism should be further developed.

3. Promotion of signature and implementation of the Code of Conduct by tourism industry in Russia:

- The awareness of the tourism industry representatives about the problem of the commercial sexual exploitation of children should be raised, they should be provided with reliable information on the issue, on their role in the counteracting commercial sexual exploitation of children and on the Code of Conduct as one of effective instruments for them to protect children.
- The signature and implementation of the Code of Conduct should be promoted by local NGOs in cooperation with local authorities.
- The role of the Local Code Representative in Russia in supporting the tourism industry in implementation of the Code of Conduct could be the following: support in developing information materials for guests, support in developing leaflets with the rules of conduct for employees in suspicious cases and in cases when commercial sexual exploitation of children is obvious; advising employees of tourism industry on the application of the Code of Conduct, including developing corporate ethical policies.

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# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1

### Research questions and methodology of qualitative study

GENERAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS	RESEARCH TOOLS	RESEARCH QUESTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which children are victims of CST and what factors render them particularly vulnerable?</li> <li>• Who is organising and exploiting the victims of CST?</li> <li>• What is the profile of sex offenders who exploit children in Russia?</li> </ul>	<p>Semi structured interview guide for representatives of governmental organisations and NGOs from Vyborg, Murmansk region, Republic of Karelia and Vladivostok who mentioned cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism during previous studies conducted by Regional NGO “Stellit” and relevant expert meetings.</p>	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> The brief introduction into the problem of CSEC in travel and tourism.</p> <p><b>Information about expert:</b> field of activity, position, experience in the related field, sources of information about child victims of commercial sexual exploitation (personal/professional activities VS other). If expert is aware about other organisations, which works with child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, ask for contacts.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you ever faced in your professional work any cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism?</li> <li>• Is that a single case or are there a number of them?</li> <li>• Could you please provide us with dates (years) of first and last cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism you are aware of?</li> <li>• Do any changes occur in the situation with commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism during last (5-10 years) in you region?</li> <li>• How can you describe the abusers: were they foreigners or Russians who live in another region but came to your region for tourism or for business purposes? Name the countries/ regions of origin of travellers involved into commercial sexual exploitation of children. Please provide all the other available information about abusers: age, gender, occupation, purpose of visit of your region etc.</li> <li>• Are you aware of any illegal structures which activities include providing child sex services to travellers and tourists? Is commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in your region linked to an organised crime or governmental structures (orphanages, state care institutions for children)?</li> <li>• Could you please describe methods, means and channels through which the information reaches travellers and tourists who sexually exploit children?</li> <li>• What are the forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children by travellers/tourists in your region (porno filming, sex acts, involvement into trafficking)?</li> </ul>

GENERAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS	RESEARCH TOOLS	RESEARCH QUESTIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the form of remuneration children get from travellers/tourists after being abused (money, drugs, cloths, cell phone etc.)?</li> <li>• Could you please name places where travellers and tourists receive such services (apartment complexes, hotels, saunas, restaurants)?</li> <li>• Are you aware of any illegal structures which activities include providing child sex services to travellers and tourists? Is commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in your region linked to an organised crime or governmental structures (orphanages, state care institutions for children)?</li> <li>• Could you please describe methods, means and channels through which the information reaches travellers and tourists who sexually exploit children?</li> <li>• What are the forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children by travellers/tourists in your region (porno filming, sex acts, involvement into trafficking)?</li> <li>• What is the form of remuneration children get from travellers/tourists after being abused (money, drugs, cloths, cell phone etc.)?</li> <li>• Could you please name places where travellers and tourists receive such services (apartment complexes, hotels, saunas, restaurants)?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which children are victims of CST and what factors render them particularly vulnerable?</li> <li>• Who is organising and exploiting the victims of CST?</li> <li>• What is the profile of sex offenders who exploit children in Russia?</li> </ul>	<p>Case study guide for the description of particular cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism</p>	<p>Ask an expert to describe a particular case of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (or three last cases if there is a number of them) using the following structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Characteristics of a child-victim: age, gender, psychological characteristics, social skills, health condition, addictions (if any) at the moment of involvement into commercial sexual exploitation, presence or absence of the family, family structure, level of income of the family, alcohol or drug dependence of any family member, living conditions. Other factors which made child vulnerable towards commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.</li> <li>• Circumstances of crime: characteristics of the offender (age, gender, was it a single person or an organised group, country of origin/ region of origin within Russia, occupation, reason of visit of your region etc.), in which way the offender took in touch with the child, where the exploitation took place, which form of commercial sexual exploitation child has been involved in by foreigner/ person from other Russian region, which remuneration child got, who else gained a profit from the child's exploitation?</li> </ul>

GENERAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS	RESEARCH TOOLS	RESEARCH QUESTIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and providing a child with a comprehensive assistance: When a child was identified? Under which circumstances? Was the child provided with any psychological assistance (what was done, which organisation has provided that assistance)? Was the child provided with any assistance (what was done, which organisation has provided that assistance)? Was a criminal case open? Was the offender identified? Was the offender punished? What could have been done better in providing a child victim with a comprehensive assistance?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are tourism industry representatives' ready for implementation of the Code of Conduct, what are the perceived obstacles and ways to overcome them?</li> </ul>	Semistructured interview guide for representatives of the tourism industry	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> The brief introduction into problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Brief overview on the role tourism industry could play in combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism with a special accent on the Code of Conduct.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you ever heard about this problem?</li> <li>• Have you ever had guests with suspicious behaviour which made you think that this person might be commercially sexually exploiting children (e.g. guest asked you suspicious questions or shown in the hotel together with local child (a person under 18 years old)?</li> <li>• Have you ever had facts of commercial sexual exploitation of children by guests in your hotel?</li> <li>• Would you agree to sign the Code of Conduct? If you do not agree what conditions of the Code are barriers for you? Are there any other barriers? (i.e. you do not believe that commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism is a real problem, do not want your hotel to be associated with commercial sexual exploitation of children etc.)</li> </ul> <p>In case the person knows about suspicious cases/ facts of commercial sexual exploitation of children and has time to talk ask him/her to describe such cases in details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspicious cases. How many cases? Are there any changes in the tendencies during last 5-10 years? Last case you faced: When did it happen? What happened? Available information about the child (age, gender, any other available information). Available information about the guest (age, gender, country/ region of origin, aim of the visit of the city etc.). Which actions have been undertaken by the hotel staff to prevent possible exploitation of child?</li> </ul>

GENERAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS	RESEARCH TOOLS	RESEARCH QUESTIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facts of commercial sexual exploitation of children by guest of the hotel. How many cases? Are there any changes in the tendencies during last 5-10 years? Last case you faced: When did it happen? What happened? Available information about the child (age, gender, any other available information). Available information about the guest (age, gender, country/ region of origin, aim of the visit of the city etc.). Which actions have been undertaken by the hotel staff to prevent possible exploitation of child?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Which children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism and which factors make them particularly vulnerable?</li> <li>Who is organising it and who is exploiting children?</li> <li>What is the profile of Russian sex offenders who exploit children in Thailand and Cambodia?</li> </ul>	<p>Semistructured interview guide for representatives of Russian communities and NGOs working in child protection fields in Thailand and Cambodia</p>	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> The brief introduction into problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Information about expert: field of activity, position, experience in the related field, sources of information about child-victims of commercial sexual exploitation (personal/professional activities VS other). If expert is aware about other organisation which works with child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, ask for contacts.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have you ever encountered in your professional work with cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians?</li> <li>Is that a single case or are there a number of them?</li> <li>Could you please provide us with dates (years) of first and last cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians you are aware of?</li> <li>Do any changes occur in the situation with commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians during last (5-10 years) in you region?</li> </ul> <p><b>Interviewer:</b> The brief introduction into problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Information about expert: field of activity, position, experience in the related field, sources of information about child-victims of commercial sexual exploitation (personal/professional activities VS other). If expert is aware about other organisation which works with child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, ask for contacts.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have you ever encountered in your professional work with cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians?</li> <li>Is that a single case or are there a number of them?</li> <li>Could you please provide us with dates (years) of first and last cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians you are aware of?</li> </ul>

GENERAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS	RESEARCH TOOLS	RESEARCH QUESTIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do any changes occur in the situation with commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians during last (5-10 years) in you region?</li> <li>• How can you describe the abusers: were they Russians who came to your region for a short time or representatives of the Russian community who moved to you region from Russia and live there? Do you know which place in Russia they came from? Please provide all the other available information about abusers: age, gender, occupation, purpose of visit of your region etc.</li> <li>• Are you aware of any illegal structures which activities include providing child sex services to Russian travellers and tourists? Is commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians in your region linked to an organised crime or governmental structures (orphanages, state care institutions for children)?</li> <li>• Could you please describe methods, means and channels through which the information about children reaches Russians who sexually exploit children?</li> <li>• What are the forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians in your region (porno filming, sex acts, involvement into trafficking)?</li> <li>• What is the form of remuneration children get from Russians after being abused (money, drugs, cloths, cell phone etc.)?</li> <li>• Could you please name places where travellers and tourists receive such services (apartment complexes, hotels, saunas, restaurants)?</li> <li>• Could you please name geographical areas where the exploitation takes place?</li> <li>• What do you think about reasons, which facilitate child involvement into commercial sexual exploitation by Russians in you region?</li> <li>• Are there any governmental, NGOs, private companies (tourism industry and others) or international initiatives in your region aimed at combating commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians? If so provide more information about that (implementing organisation, implementation period, description of the initiative). Is that effective? What could be done to develop this work further?</li> <li>• If an expert is aware of a particular case(s) of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians, go to Case study guide.</li> </ul>

GENERAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS	RESEARCH TOOLS	RESEARCH QUESTIONS
	<p>Case study guide for the description of particular cases of sexual exploitation</p>	<p>Ask an expert to describe a particular case of commercial sexual exploitation of children by Russians (or three last cases if there is a number of them) using the following structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Characteristics of a child-victim: age, gender, psychological characteristics, social skills, health condition, addictions (if any) at the moment of involvement into commercial sexual exploitation, presence or absence of the family, family structure, level of income of the family, alcohol or drug dependence of any family member, living conditions. Other factors which made child vulnerable towards commercial sexual exploitation by Russians.</li> <li>• Circumstances of crime: characteristics of the offender (age, gender, was it a single person or an organised group, region of origin within Russia, occupation, reason of visit of your region, was it a traveller or a representative of a Russian community who has been moved to your region from Russia etc.), in which way the offender took in touch with the child, where the exploitation took place, which form of commercial sexual exploitation child has been involved in by Russians, which remuneration child got, who else gained a profit from the child's exploitation?</li> <li>• Identification and providing a child with a comprehensive assistance: When a child was identified? Under which circumstances? Was the child provided with any psychological assistance (what was done, which organisation has provided that assistance)? Was the child provided with any social assistance (what was done, which organisation has provided that assistance)? Was a criminal case open? Was the offender identified? Was the offender punished? What could have been done better in providing a child victim with a comprehensive assistance?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do Russian sex offenders/ travellers and tourists who come to Russia use Internet to get information which will help them to access local children in Cambodia &amp; Thailand? And if so which kind of information is available at the thematic Internet forums?</li> </ul>	<p>Form for content analysis of Internet forums for tourists who are going to come to Russia and for Russians who are going to visit Thailand and Cambodia</p>	<p>Qualitative analysis of internet resources based on search terms:  “Sex”, “teen”, “child”, “prostitutes”, “Cambodia”, “Thailand”.  “Sex”, “teen”, “child”, “prostitutes”, “Russia”.</p>



# APPENDIX 2

## Description of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, identified during the study.

Most of the cases presented below, have been described by experts who have participated in the study “Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia and by Russian citizens abroad: analysis of some cases available and readiness of tourism industry to sign and implement the Code of Conduct”. In addition, we present the cases described in other research reports or publications in the media (there is a reference to the source in the end of each such case). All cases

1. Cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreign citizens and Russian citizens who come to the region of residence of children from other regions of Russia
  - 1.1. Cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreigners who came to Russia on travel or tourism

**Case 1.** The incident occurred in 2014 with a girl of 16 years from a dysfunctional family: her parents misused alcohol, and her sister was too much on drugs. The girl was kicked out from school, but after a while she was able to return there. There were suspicions that she could take drugs herself too. The girl was involved into prostitution by her sister who went out with the pimp and was engaged in prostitution too. The exploitation took place in a brothel. As remuneration a girl got a little money from the pimp. Among the visitors of the brothel there were the Chinese and the Koreans who came to the Far East of Russia on travel or tourism. The clients received information on local brothel from magazines or from the hotel staff. The girl was identified by representatives of a local volunteer movement during a raid to the brothel. For some period she got assistance of a psychologist. A criminal proceeding upon commercial sexual exploitation was not initiated. The older sister of the girl, most likely, was arrested for drugs possession.

**Case 2.** In 2004, the Interpol’s national Central Bureau of the United Kingdom received information about two British citizens who arranged with the Moscow pimps for provision of sexual services by minors on the Internet. In the course of special investigation activities the staff of the CID MDIF of Moscow identified and detained two citizens of Russia. They used to involve into prostitution the boys aged 14 years and younger living the vagabond life. They chose these boys following the desires of the customers, recruited them, and sold to men for sexual exploitation for remuneration. It was found that the sex services from boys were bought by more than 20 people, including foreign nationals. Thereupon the prosecutor’s office of Moscow initiated criminal proceedings for the offenses under the following articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation: “trafficking in minors”, “involvement of a minor into prostitution”, “organisation of prostitution using definitely known minor”, “sexual intercourse and other sexual activities with a person under the age of sixteen years”, “sexual abuse” [Human..., 2009].

**Case 3.** In April 2004, Gregory Kapordelis, age 43 at time of arrest, the Chief of Anesthesiology for a medical provider in Georgia and a physician at summer camps in the area, was arrested by ICE agents after allegations had arose that he had had sex with minors, some as young as 12 years, on numerous occasions while travelling to Russia. The investigation into Kapordelis began in March 2004, when the Criminal Investigations Division of the St. Petersburg Police Department in Russia received information that he had molested minor males in a St. Petersburg hotel in 2003. St. Petersburg police and the ICE Attaché in Moscow worked together on the investigation. They interviewed youth at the hotel, including one 12-year-old boy, who was allegedly fed pills

by Kapordelis prior to engaging in sexual acts with him. Another 13-year-old boy alleged that he too received pills from Kapordelis that “made him feel weak” before the boy performed oral sex on Kapordelis. A third boy alleged that he was also fed pills before being sodomized. The complaint against Kapordelis also alleged that he brought children from Russia, Africa and the Czech Republic to live with him in the United States for some periods of time. At the time of his arrest, Kapordelis attempted to adopt one of the children from Russia who he had previously used to arrange to meet with other minor males in St. Petersburg. Kapordelis was placed on house arrest in June 2004 after he had violated his bond agreement. Kapordelis was charged with 13 counts [International..., 2007].

## 1.2. Cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children expatriates or foreigners residing on the territory of Russia for a long period of time

**Case 1.** The incident occurred in 2014. The girl was 17 years old, but she looked older. She was well dressed, was able to express her thoughts, and was sociable. She grew up in a single-parent family and lived with her mother. The contact with her mother was weak, because the mother was very young and more engaged in carving out her private life, and paid attention to the daughter only in critical situations. According to experts, it is the desire to attract the attention of the mother that was the most important factor contributing to the involvement of the girl into commercial sexual exploitation. The girl often missed the classes, eventually she was kicked out from school, and then she went to a night school. Most of the time she was on her own, and sometimes she left home to live with friends. Some of her friends offered her a job in a bar, where she was engaged in prostitution. One day she met an American with Irish roots (he was about 30-33 years old) in a bar. She did not disclose her age; she said she was 23 years old. He lived in her town for a few years and knew Russian. They met in his apartment. As remuneration she got the money, they spent some time together. The girl saw it as a relationship, thinking that they had a future and that he just helped her with money. She received psychological and social assistance. A criminal proceeding was not initiated.

**Case 2.** The citizens from Estonia and Russia used children for production of pornography in one of the rough parts of a small Russian town in the late 90s – early 2000s. A criminal proceeding was initiated.

**Case 3.** In 2006 in Nizhny Novgorod a citizen of Kazakhstan Dmitry Petrakovskii was detained. He lived in Nizhny Novgorod since August 2004. Before that, he worked for six years in the modeling business in Bashkiria, Tatarstan, and Chuvashia. In Nizhny Novgorod he founded a modeling agency “Elite-mode” where the girls were invited to. Secretly from their parents the girls were proposed to be shot in the nude, they were seduced to participate in porno scenes, while everything was filmed and videotaped, some girls were involved into prostitution. 15 minor girls fell the victims of exploitation. The offender was arrested when he offered two 9-years-old girls to a “big city businessman”, who turned out to be a police investigator. The court sentenced Petrakovskiy to five and a half years of prison, his accomplices got a little less [Dobryiy ...; Pobeditelnitsa...; Vozvraschenie...].

**Case 4.** Andrey Mogilyanskiy, a USA businessman, was arrested in December 2008 at his house in the region of Philadelphia, the USA. He was convicted in organisation of brothel and child molestation. In 2002 – 2004 he got in touch with Andrey Tarasov and other people to organise in Russia a number of brothels where they involved into prostitution children including orphans. In some cases they took children from residential institutions and brought them to reach “clients” and after the children had been abused returned them back to residential institutions. In 2007 Tarasov and other members of criminal group were arrested. During the investigation they told that Mogilyanskiy gave 10 000 USD as a credit to found a brothel and a car to transport children. In April 2009 Mogilyanskiy made a deal with a justice system and acknowledged that he was guilty only in sex tourism. He told that he had sexually exploited 13 years old and 14 years old orphaned girls. They got food, money and presents as remuneration. He got 8 years and 1 month of prison (maximum sentence for sex tourism), had to pay each girl 5000 USD, to pay 12,5 thousands USD as a fine and to be under the supervision within 15 years after he is released [Mogilyanskiy...].

1.3. Cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by Russian citizens who have come to the region of residence of the child from other cities

**Case 1.** In 2013 a pupil of one of the schools in a small town in North-West Russia met a man from St. Petersburg via Internet. They met and had a sexual relationship. The case was revealed by a school social teacher.

**Case 2.** In 1999, a man older than 50 years, with a temporary registration, gathered a group of boys aged from 9 to 15 years for the purpose of organizing a summer recreation. All the boys were brought up in families: some in two-parent ones, and others in one-parent ones. The offender established a contact with the boys through their parents: he offered them to organise children's leisure time after school and their camp rest during the summer for free. In the camp the teachers gave the boys classes in the afternoon. As it turned out later, he had sexual relations with the boys for a long time. As a remuneration, a man bought the boys good things, provided with the sweets, gave pocket money. In the daytime the boys were officially encouraged for really successful stuffs in the life of the camp: for the work done, for successful physical education classes, for good behaviour. One of the teachers who gave children the classes during the day was put on the alert by communication between children and organiser of a summer camp. She called the police and upon examination it was revealed that the man had previously been convicted for such crimes. In the course of a criminal investigation a psychological assistance was given to children, several boys were sent to rehabilitation centers. The man was sentenced to 10 years.

**Case 3.** This case was identified at the beginning of 2014 by the volunteers who delivered training lessons in the orphanage. A 13-years-old girl with hearing disabilities lived in an orphanage for people with disabilities. She had no communication with the parents: the father left the family, the mother had problems with alcohol, and the family had a low level of income. The girl stood out from her peers by her desire to live a better life, a feeling that she deserved something better. The girl met a 27-year-old young man who asked her to live with him. She left orphanage to liv. The young man began to advertise this girl on Internet and on local magazines, invited to the apartment where he lived with this girl some men under the age of 40 years from other regions of Russia, who came to this town on travel. The girl provided them sex services. As a remuneration a boyfriend bought her everything she needed, and sometimes took her to a restaurant, he actually maintained her. The girl was in love with him. Employees of the orphanage tried to get her back to the orphanage for several times, and finally, they managed to do it. After some time, the employees learned that the girl was a victim of sexual exploitation. Breakup with a young man passed off hard for a girl: in spite of the fact that she left him, for her he still was some kind of a native man, for some time she wanted to come back. The girl received a psychological assistance; they did not apply to the police authorities.

2. Cases of exploitation of foreign children by Russian citizens travelling abroad

2.1. Cases of commercial sexual exploitation of foreign children by Russian citizens who have arrived to another country on travel or tourism

**Case 1.** The case was detected in 2008 in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. IT-engineer, aged 27, got acquainted with the children and took them to his room in the guest house. As a remuneration for sex services the boys received money. Three boys aged from 7 to 14 years fell victims of exploitation. The man was convicted and sentenced to prison.

**Case 2.** In 2012 members of criminal group who were involved into organisation of sex trips in Moldova were sentenced to 21 years of prison. Among them there was a Russian citizen with dual citizenship (Norway was the second country). The criminal group involved children from families in difficult situation into commercial

sexual exploitation. They developed a web site with pornographic images and offers to organise a sex trip to Moldova. Citizens of Germany, Sweden, USA, Denmark, Thailand and Australia ordered such trips [Pedofilyi...].

2.2. Cases of commercial sexual exploitation of foreign children by Russian citizens, residing in the territory of another state for a long period of time

**Case 1.** Aleksandr Trofimov (anonym Stanislav Molodyakov) was selling building materials. For some time he was a vice-president of the Beauty Contest “Miss Russia” but in 2001 he was removed from this position because of his “attitudes towards girls”. Then he founded a holding “Euro-show design” for organisation of entertainment events. In fact, Molodyakov used that holding to look for young model-looking girls. He promised them good contracts and popularity. In April 2004 3 children told their parents that Molodyakov had been forcing them to have sex with him for the period of 1 year. A criminal proceeding was initiated and he was wanted by Russian police. Besides that investigators revealed that he sexually abused school girls (came to them on the street in a limousine, introduced himself as a leader of the model agency, invited them for casting to his country house and abused them there. In 2005 Molodyakov came to Cambodia and founded an investing company. According to the expert, Stanislav Molodyakov was very rich, famous and influential in Cambodia, in the city where he lived. The victims of the offender were girls aged from 11 to 17 years, from very poor families, in some of which there was violence. Molodyakov directly established contacts with children on the street, promising to pay money for services provided to him. Later he found associates, the employees of local government agencies, for about 7 people – all of them were arrested, five of them were convicted of trafficking in children, and two of them were released. Sometimes Molodyakov established contacts with the parents of girls, offering them very expensive gifts: a house, a car. A few years after the violence, some of the girls showed evidences of post-traumatic stress disorder: they were timid, frightened, and tearful and spoke in low voices. It is known that later one of the girl victims worked as a seller on the street, as well as her mother, and the other one was a waitress. On the October 17, 2007, a Russian citizen was detained in the resort town of Sihanoukville. He was charged over 17 episodes of sexual contacts with minors. As a result, in March 2008 the court convicted him of molesting of only a one 14-year-old girl. It is believed that the child was brought by a pimp who requested \$1,000. The pimp was also convicted. In late 2011, the Russian was pardoned by the king of the country. After that, 14 human rights organisations in Cambodia, including Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE), petitioned the Government of the State with the request to deport Trofimov to Russia. In May 2009 Cambodia received from Russia a request for the extradition of a businessman who was then in prison. The Cambodian court refused to extradite Russian businessman. In 2012, the police again arrested the Russian businessman in the southern province of Kandal (Cambodia), where he lived with a girl of 11-12 years old in the house of her parents; local authorities deported him to Russia. In Moscow he was accused of abuse of a number of girls at the age from 8 to 13 years old (article 131 of the Criminal Code of Russian Federation) and convicted for 11 years [Biznesmena...; Eks-rukovoditelya...].

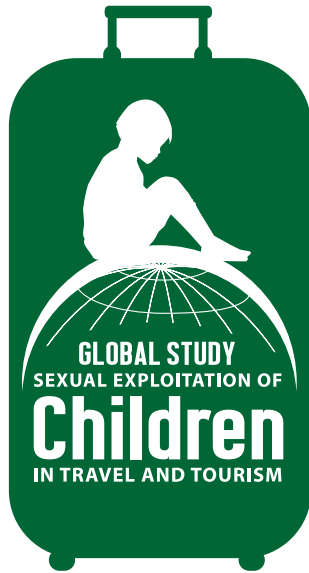
**Case 2.** The case was revealed in December 2014. A man, aged 46, a musician, a resident of Cambodia, took advantage of the sexual services of two minor girls (prostitution and pornography) of the age of 16 years from poor families. As remuneration, the girls received money. A criminal proceeding was initiated.

**Case 3.** In August 2014 in France Russian oligarch Vladimir Lukyanenko (co-head of the Russian Group of Companies “Hydromashservice”) was arrested at his villa in South France together with another Russian citizen and a citizen of Monaco for sexual harassment of 3 girls and 2 boys at the age from 13 to 16 years old. A citizen of Monaco was the head of Monaco Model Agency and it was supposed that he had found these children for Russians. A criminal proceeding was initiated [Rossiyskogo...].









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