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Working with victims of human trafficking - Challenges of Social Work research and practice - Results of Empirical Study in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Considered as modern slavery, phenomenon of human trafficking is a historical category and fairly known phenomenon in modern and developed societies. The complexity of this phenomenon requires specific society responses that need to be placed in the context of presence. This paper presents the research results concerning the assessment of mechanisms and processes that should provide the society's response via different actors involved in fight against human trafficking, during the process of identification, rehabilitation and re/integration of victims of trafficking. Social work in different phases offers professional support and help to victims of human trafficking, including protection. However, what is perceived as a problem, is the fact that there is no unique or universal internationally applicative social work model that could offer answers to issues of re/integration of victims of trafficking. Therefore, it is essential to have more researches, as well as comparative studies with the aim to promote international and multicultural dimensions of cooperation between the institutions of social welfare and other actors involved in combat of human trafficking. This paper presents the results of empirical study carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina, specially emphasizing challenges of social work both in research and practice.

Key words: human trafficking, social work, victims of human trafficking, re/integration process.