

Migrant labour exploitation

Examples from the Swedish restaurant and berry sectors

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About the study

ADSTRINGO – transnational project focusing on trafficking for forced labour and labour exploitation in 9 countries in the Baltic Sea region.

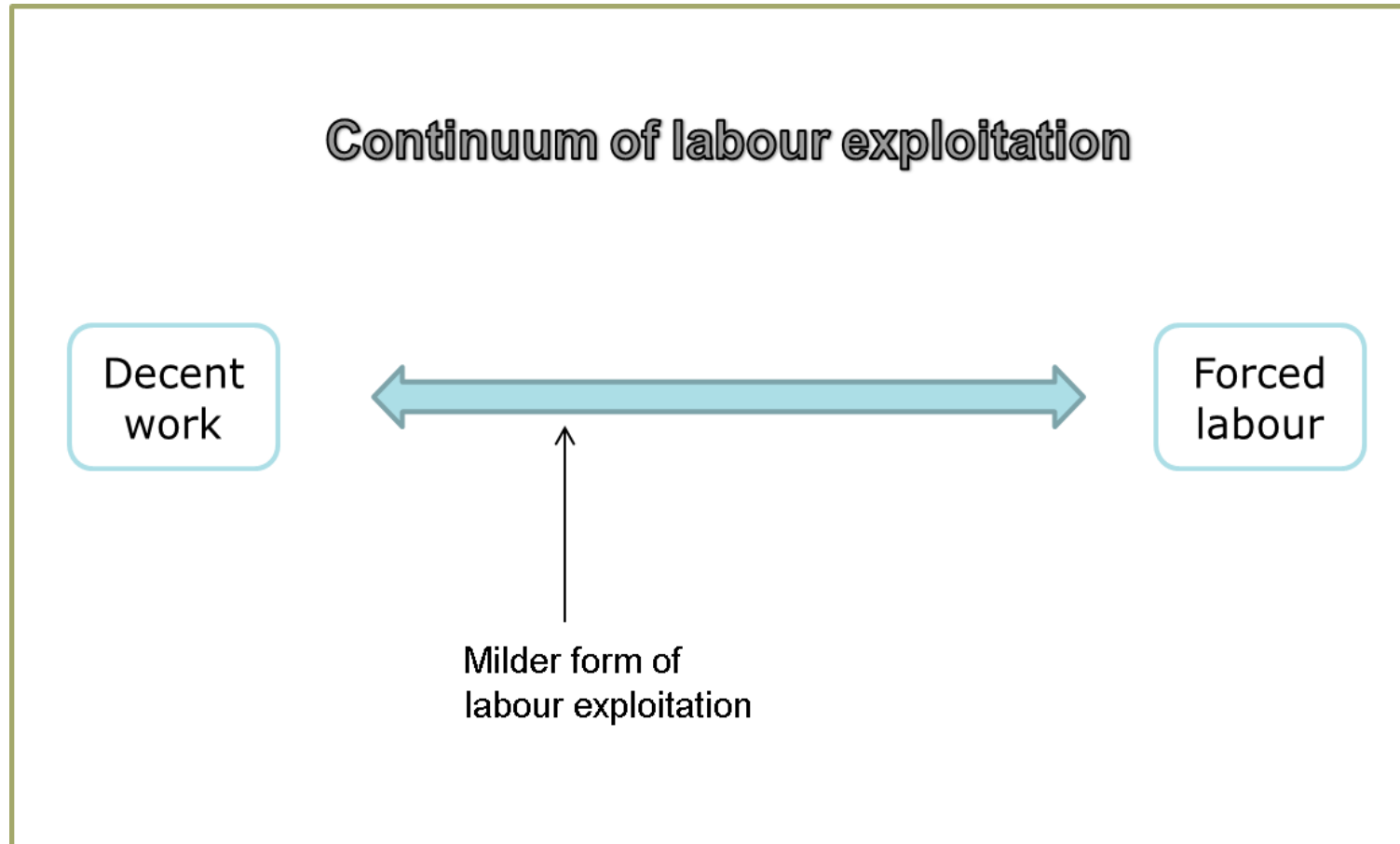
Focus:

- Migrant labour exploitation in the restaurant and berry sectors

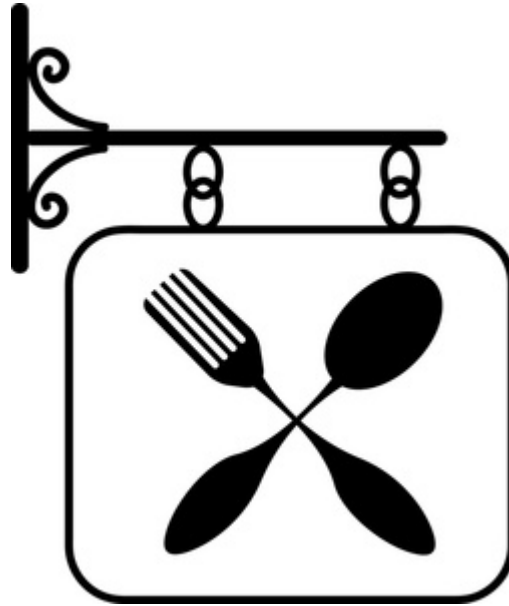
Data:

- Interviews
- Fieldwork in Sweden & Thailand
- Medial material & court judgements

Approach



Restaurant sector



Restaurant sector

- **High recruitment fees** charged by recruitment agencies, middlemen or employers

Between 20 000 and 250 000 SEK

Repayment of fees through lower wages

=> **indebtedness**

Examples: McDonalds, immigration lawyer

- **Deceptive recruitment:**

Migrants do not get the job they were recruited for.

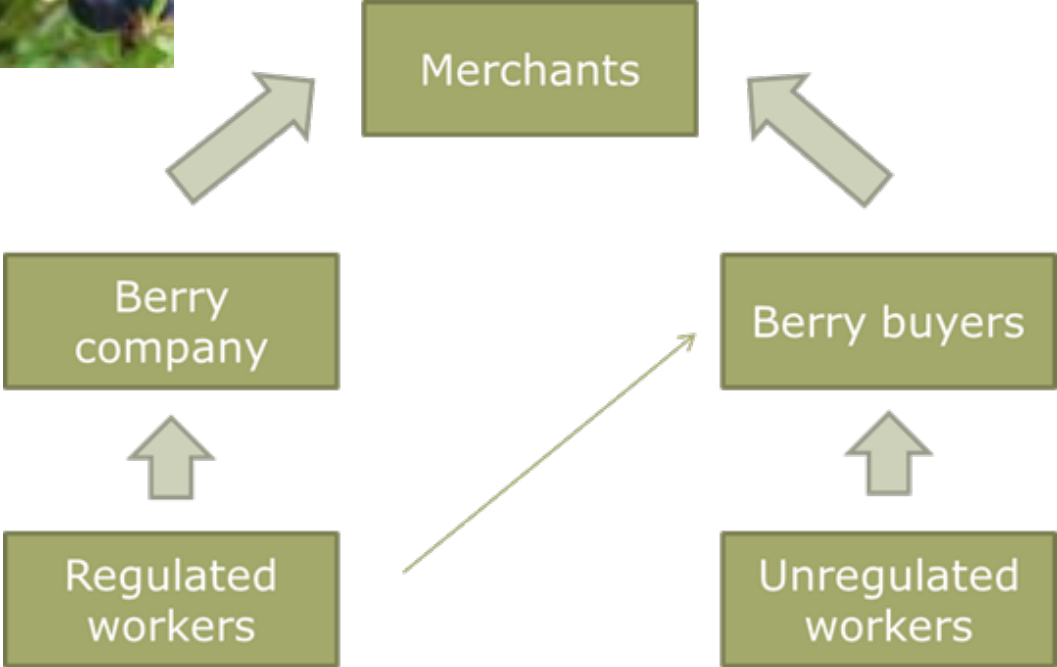
=> risk losing residence permit

Restaurant sector



- **Subtle mechanisms of coercion**
 - confiscation of passport
 - constant surveillance (living in employer's accommodation)
 - threats
- **Low wages**
 - Lower salary than stated in the offer of employment
- **Excessive working hours**
 - Very long or short

Berry industry



Berry industry

Regulated pickers from outside the EU

- Thailand-based recruitment agencies charge high fees
- Non-payment: the case of Lomsjö bär in 2010
- 2011: stricter requirements to hire non-EU pickers

Minimum wage according to collective agreement
(about 18,500 SEK)

But...

- Double contracts
- Surveillance with helicopter
- Long working hours

Berry industry



Unregulated ('free') pickers from the EU

- Only conviction for human trafficking for forced labour
Bulgarian couple brought pickers in 2009 & 2010
- Summer of 2012

Challenges



- Migrants' 'acceptance' of exploitative situations
- Fear to complain:dependence on employer, indebtedness
- Unequal distribution of risks
- ...



Thank you very much for your attention!

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