

# Correlation Between Human Trafficking, Income, and Prostitution

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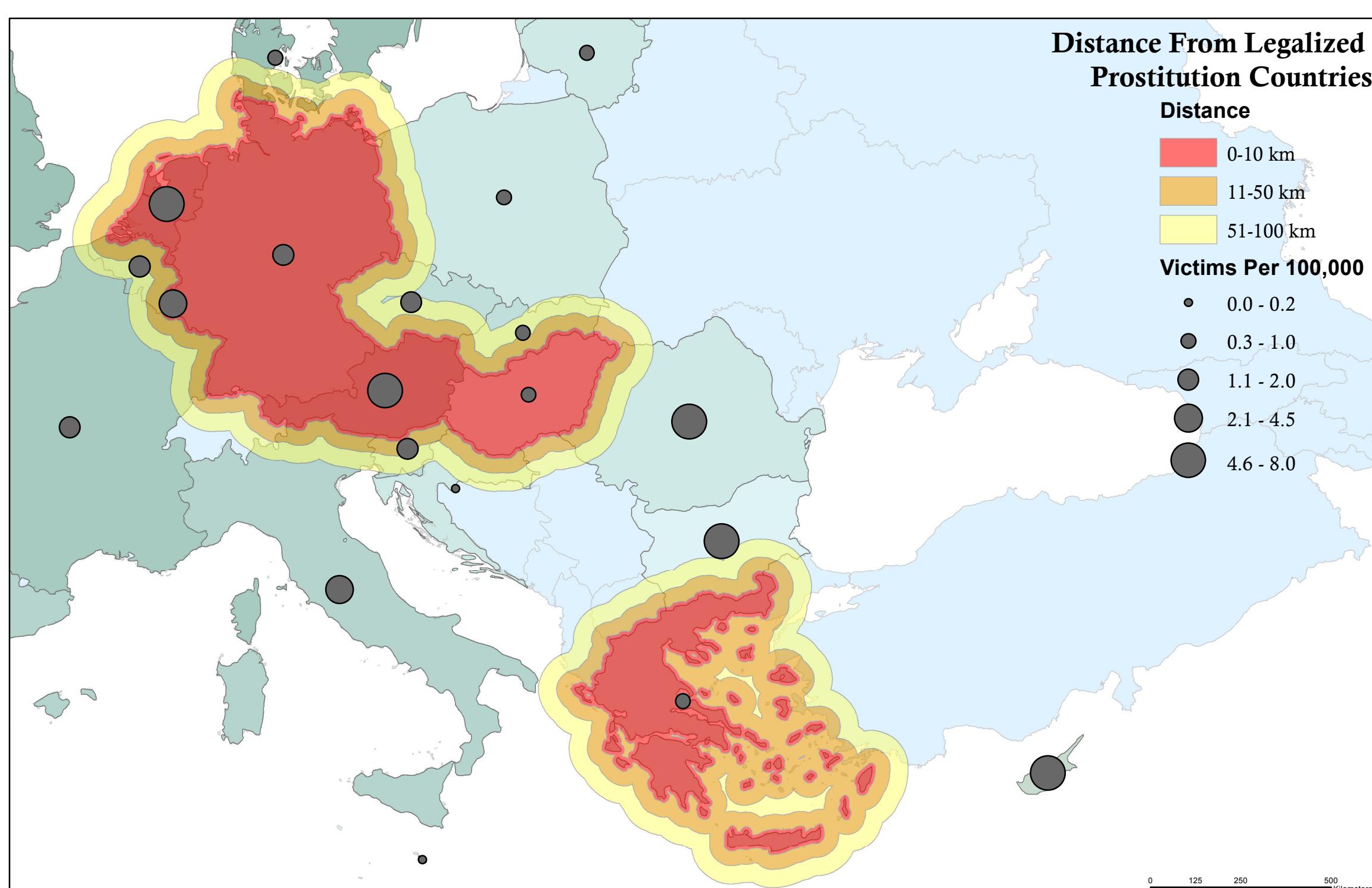
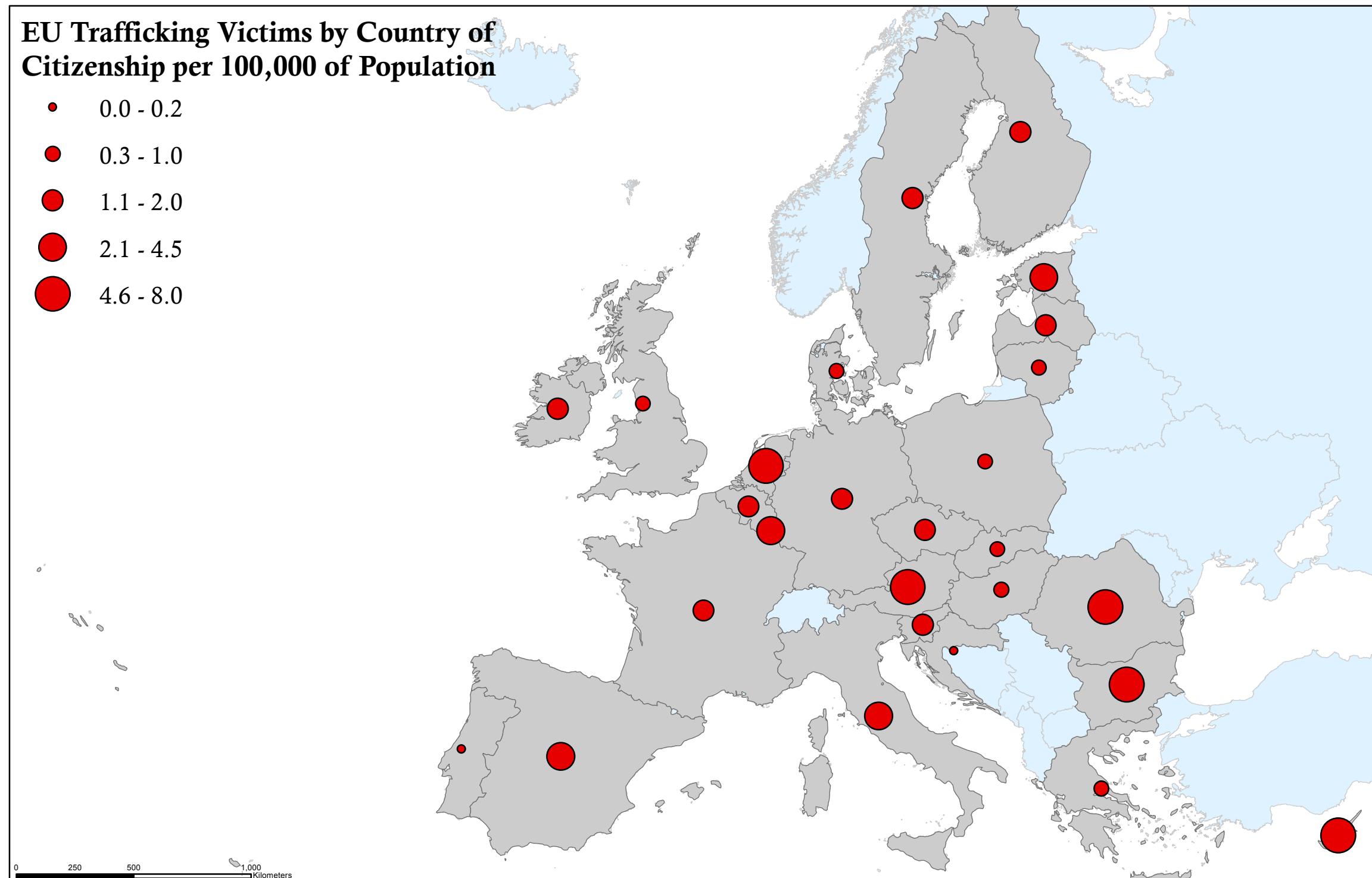
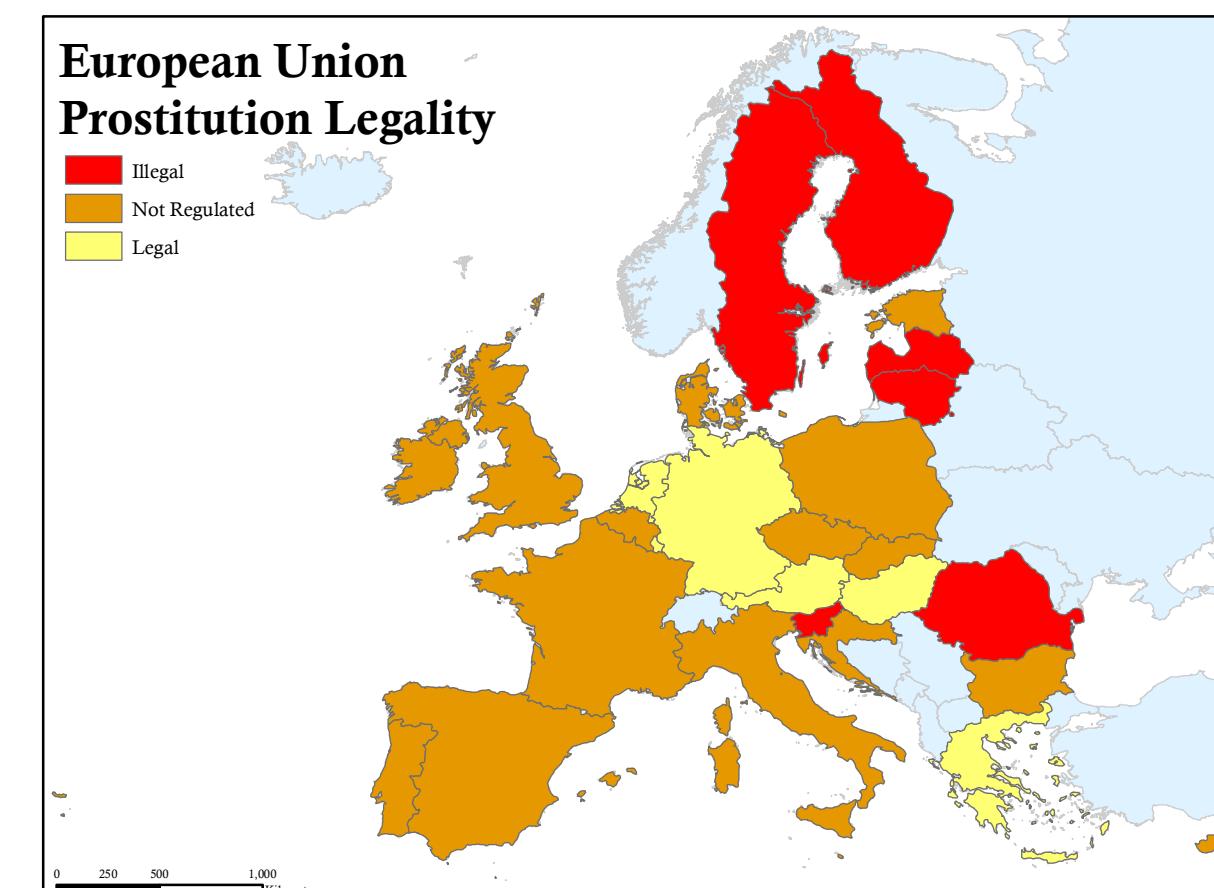
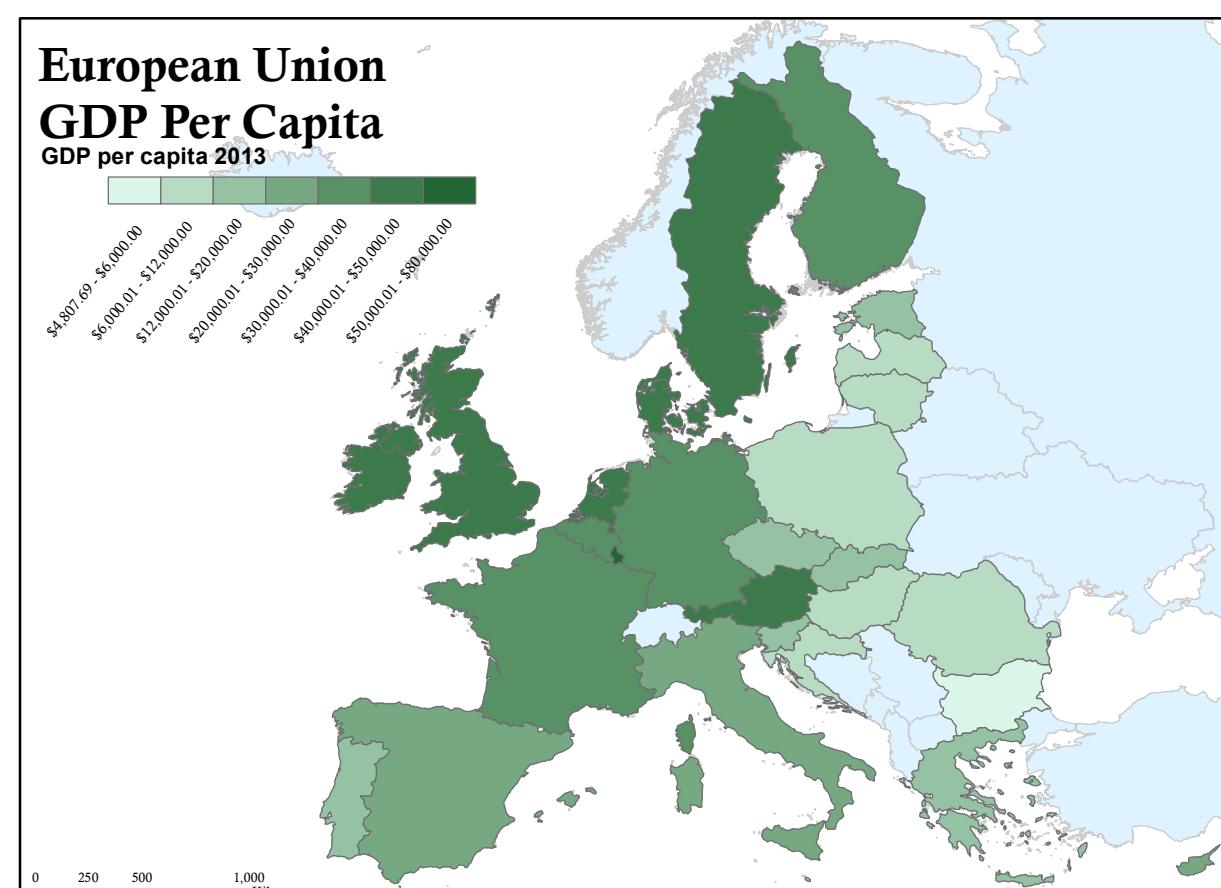
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## Introduction

Human Trafficking can be attributed to many factors, but is more prominent in countries that have lower economic standings. Eastern Europe has been a primary area for human trafficking throughout the past few centuries, following from the practice of slavery. While all forms of trafficking exist in Europe, human trafficking generally claims the most victims, and the highest percentages are women and children.

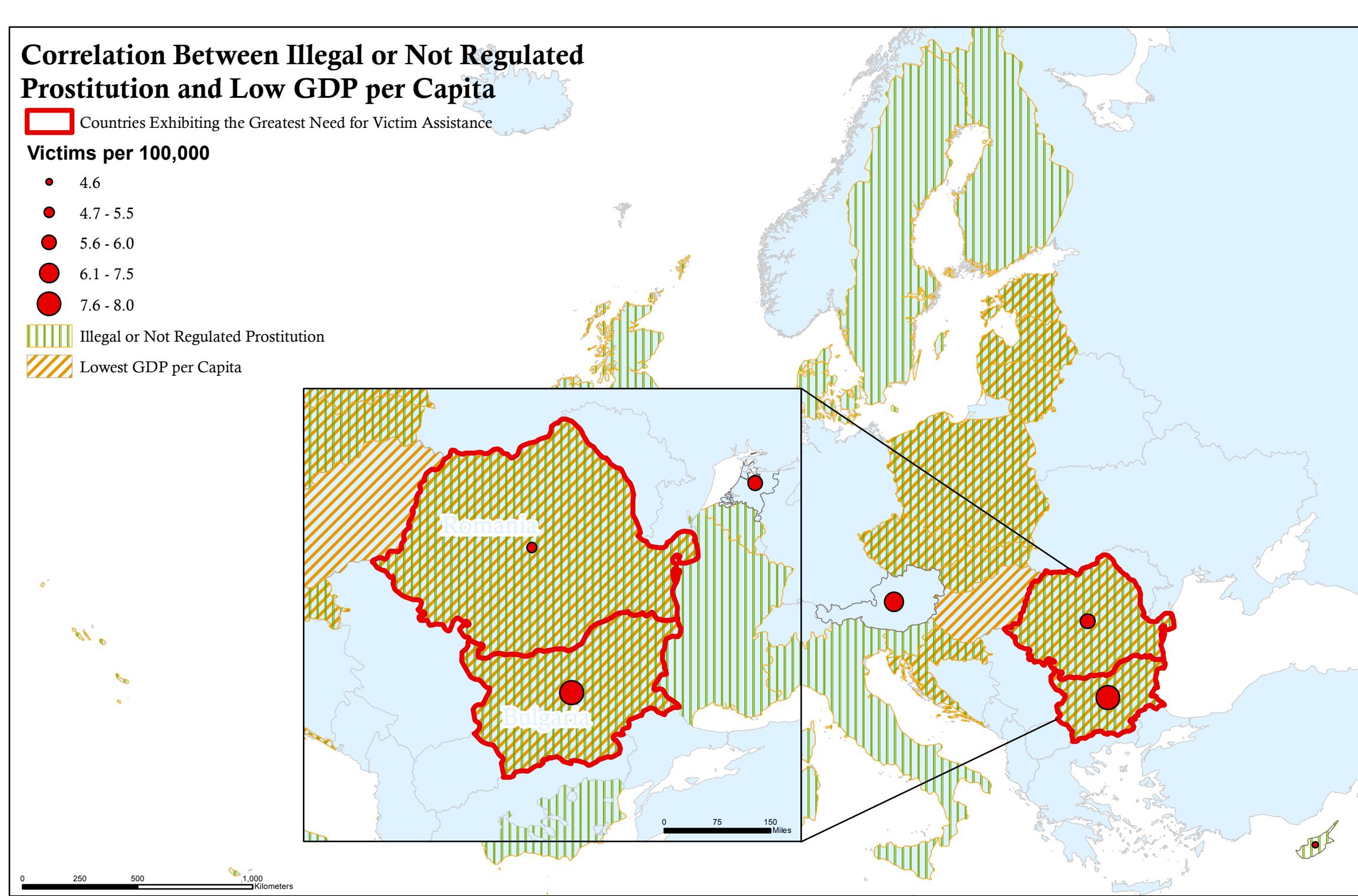
Human Trafficking has become increasingly widespread as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991 and militarization and war in the Balkans. The collapse of the Soviet Union made way for porous borders and close proximity of wealthy countries, making it easier and cheaper to transport victims across the country. This ease of transporting victims to more wealthy countries expanded the human trafficking network throughout Europe, as opposed to keeping it centralized in the eastern part of the country. War in the Balkans also led way for trafficking women out for commercial sex to foreign men that were overseas for military duty. There is still a prominent surge of trafficking that occurs throughout the Baltic area due to the acceptance of brothels and prostitution on military bases.

Legalized prostitution has also been widely accepted in most eastern and western countries in Europe. Germany, Greece, Austria, Hungary, Luxembourg, and The Netherlands have all legalized prostitution, brothels, and pimping throughout their countries. The legalization of prostitution in these countries causes a significant rise in human trafficking since most of their legal prostitutes are trafficked into these countries from Eastern Europe.



## Methods

Data was collected through Eurostat Statistical Working Papers: Trafficking in Human Beings for specific information pertaining to trafficking statistics in the European Union. GDP per capita for the European Union countries was also collected from [databank.worldbank.org](#). Data for prostitution legality was obtained through the Prostitution in Europe page on Wikipedia. The first two maps, displayed within the introduction were used to determine high versus low GDP per capita as well as prostitution zones ranked as legal, illegal, or not regulated. A map of European countries was used as the background for all maps; the European Union countries were selected, created as a new layer, and copied to all five data frames. The GDP per capita table, containing the country name and GDP per capita values for 2013, was joined to the European Union layer using an attribute join by country name; the same type of attribute join was used for the European Union map and the prostitution legality table. A graduated colors symbology was used to show the range of GDP per capita and a unique values symbology was used to show the three categories of legality prominent throughout the European Union.



## Methods (cont.)

The EU trafficking victims by country of citizenship per 100,000 of population map is used to show the distribution of victims by their country of citizenship. This map was created by using an attribute join from a table containing victims by country of citizenship to the European Union map. In order to make the values more logical, an extra field was added to the table, and the field calculator was used to times the number of victims by 100,000 and divide by the total population, to get the victims per 100,000. The distance from legalized prostitution countries map is used to show proximity of victim citizenship in relation to countries where prostitution is legal. This map was created by using a multiple ring buffer for distances of 10, 50, and 100 km away from countries where prostitution is legal.

The correlation between illegal or not regulated prostitution and low GDP per capita was performed using several tools. The ten lowest GDP per capita countries were selected from the GDP per capita layer and created into a new layer. Then, the five countries with the highest victim counts were selected from the victims per 100,000 layer and created into a new layer. All of the countries with either illegal prostitution regulations or countries that do not regulate prostitution were selected from the legalized prostitution layer and created into a new layer. After all new layers were created, the intersect tool was used to determine which countries exhibited the greatest need for victim assistance.

## Discussion

Initial results showed that victim citizenship was almost evenly distributed through countries of legal, illegal, and not regulated prostitution; however, intersecting this data with the GDP per capita displayed different results. The data shows a strong correlation to countries with higher victim numbers being concentrated to low GDP per capita areas as well as areas where prostitution is not legalized. Due to the data of victims referring to countries of citizenship, it can be assumed that citizens of countries with higher poverty rates are being trafficked to higher income countries where prostitution is legal. The two countries showing the best correlation between these factors were determined to be Romania, where prostitution is illegal, and Bulgaria, where prostitution is not regulated; these two countries, along with many other Eastern European countries are in danger of being trafficked to countries of close proximity and have the greatest need for trafficking victim assistance. In order to make stronger correlations between trafficking victims and location, more information would need to be obtained, including country of trafficking for each incident. This map serves as a base correlation to determine the most prominent areas needing assistance due to the high number of victims that are citizens of these countries. The European Union adopted a strategy towards human trafficking in 2012 to prevent, protect, and support victims, as well as prosecute traffickers. Using data to correlate different factors of trafficking would help them to focus on areas of high trafficking in order to address the most imminent concerns that are present.

## References

Eurostats, Statistical Working Papers (2014). Trafficking in Human Beings. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Prostitution in Europe (2015). Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Prostitution\\_in\\_Europe&oldid=656145398](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Prostitution_in_Europe&oldid=656145398)

World Databank (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/home.aspx>