



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR
ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

**EVALUATION REPORT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
2005-2007**

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SUMMARY

Government of Albania has recognized combating and prevention of trafficking in human beings as one of the primary and fundamental challenges in the area of human rights and law enforcement. The fight against trafficking in human beings is a significant priority in the program of the Government of Albania. Considering the negative impact on the Albanian society, considerable efforts were made to combat and prevent this phenomenon during 2006 - 2007. Thus, recently in particular, there were undertaken important legal and institutional steps that brought about tangible results.

In order to make possible the coordination of the counter-trafficking action in the country the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005-2007 was drafted and adopted. This Strategy served as an important instrument for the work of the Government and of all the structures involved in combating trafficking in human beings.

Following the elections of July 2005, the new Government intensified efforts for fighting organized crime in general and trafficking in human beings in particular. To this end, concrete measures were taken for improving the legal and institutional framework, based upon achievements as well as on problems identified by the national and international institutions.

Aiming at institutionalising such efforts, pursuant to Order No. 203 "On the functioning of the Antitrafficking Unit", dated 19.12.2005, issued by the Prime Minister, the **Antitrafficking Unit** was established in the Ministry of Interior. This office functions under the authority of the **National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings/ Deputy Minister of Interior**. The Antitrafficking Unit monitored and coordinated the activities of all public, governmental and non - governmental structures and stakeholders (national and international partner agencies) for the implementation of the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Action Plan 2005 - 2007. Furthermore, the Antitrafficking Unit drafted periodic reports for the trafficking situation in Albania and acted as Technical Secretariat to the State Committee (Inter-ministerial) for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings.

At the conclusion of the timeframe for the implementation of the National Strategy 2005 - 2007, the Office of the National Coordinator drafts the Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005 - 2007.¹ This present report is an official document that will serve to the office of the National Coordinator and all other national and international stakeholders involved to assess the results and achievements as well as to identify the problems encountered during the implementation of the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005 - 2007 and its Action Plan 2005 - 2007. Besides the information value, it is a basis for the drafting of the new Strategy 2008 - 2010. The report is divided into three chapters (*Criminal*

¹ Present document.

Prosecution, Support and protection to victims and witnesses, and Prevention of Trafficking) that correspond to the main directions established in the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005 – 2007. Attached to the report you will find statistical data obtained from the relevant institutions concerning the trafficking in human beings during 2005 – 2007.

Throughout the implementation of the Strategy, the Office of the National Coordinator observed the willingness to implement the strategy of the managing structures of the institutions involved in the counter-trafficking activities. This made possible the achievement of concrete results, one of which is the establishment and the functioning of a whole network of governmental and non-governmental agencies that deal with different aspects of the trafficking in human beings. In the context of the implementation of the Strategy, the whole legal and regulatory framework was amended and adopted in line with the standards required even by the international bodies. The relevant responsible institutions and partners organized and achieved in due time many projects and activities intended to achieve objectives envisaged in the strategy. As a result of such coordinated efforts, the number of trafficked persons in Albania has witnessed a continual reduction. This is a fact shown also by national and regional statistical data. According to our assessments as well as those of the international organization, Albania is no longer considered as a transit or destination country, but only as an origin country for the trafficking of human beings.

During its functioning, the Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings cooperated closely and found constant support in all stakeholders involved in combating trafficking in human beings; it is worth mentioning all the law enforcement structures such as the police, prosecutor's office, social service, diplomatic and consular service, etc. A special contribution in combating trafficking in human beings and especially in the prevention of this phenomenon was given by the local and international NGO-s that offer support for the rehabilitation of the victims or prevention of the trafficking in Albania.

Main achievements 2005-2007

Legal framework

In the context of the amendments of the legislation in order to improve the legal framework concerning criminal prosecution, amendments of article 298 of the Criminal Code "*Assistance in the illicit border crossing*", were adopted by the law no. 9686, dated 26.02.2007, including elements of the criminal offence of the smuggling of human beings according to the concept of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, supplementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, enabling the investigation of smuggling cases even in those states that do not have land borders with Albania.

Prevention and combating exploitation of children

The Office of the National Coordinator dedicated special importance to the measures for the child protection against exploitation for labour. In this respect, important efforts were the **proposals made in March 2007 for the amendment of the Criminal Code**. These proposals for some supplements and amendments to the Criminal Code were passed by the Parliament by the Law no. 9859, dated 21.01.2008 and decreed by the President of the Republic on 06.02.2008, by decree no. 5606. Namely, the articles that were added were article 124/b "Ill-treatment of children" that among others punishes the exploitation of children for forced labour, begging and other forced services, the paragraph added to article 117 "Pornography" related to pornography involving juveniles, as well as an addition made to the paragraph 128/b "Trafficking in Minors" that criminalizes not only the recruitment, harbouring or receipt of minors, but the selling of children as well.

Furthermore, another important legal instrument with regard to child protection is the approval of the **Agreement with Greece** "On the protection and assistance to the children victims of trafficking" signed in Tirana, in February 2006. This agreement was passed by the Albanian Parliament but not yet ratified by the Greek party. The ratification of the agreement by the Greek authorities will enable entry into force of the Agreement and undertaking responsibilities by the Albanian and Greek authorities for the identification, protection, rehabilitation and safe return of Albanian children exploited in Greece. The Agreement is a very important instrument on combating trafficking in human beings, especially for the protection of these victims and in this case, for the protection of the children victims of trafficking in Greece, because it determines concrete obligations for the signatory parties to act and treat concrete cases. The agreement is the first regional document of this kind.

During 2005 - 2007, **14 agreements and conventions of international and regional cooperation** in the areas of justice, police cooperation, legal assistance against trafficking and organized crime, protection of child victims of trafficking, readmission of persons, illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, parental responsibility and civil aspects of the international child abduction were signed and ratified. In the framework of drafting and signing regional bilateral agreements, the Office of the National Coordinator has held cross - border meetings with the neighbouring countries (Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Greece), that will result in the signing of agreements and protocols for police and cross - border cooperation for the exchange of information in the framework of combating trafficking in human beings.

Statistics

A paramount challenge for the work of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, since the very first day, was the improvement of the statistics reporting. The Office of the National Coordinator made efforts to provide all possible facilitations and necessary conditions through constant guidance and instructions to the counter-trafficking actors that pursue and deal with trafficking cases in order to establish a harmonized and unified official information networking. The networking must produce accurate and verifiable figures on trafficking in human beings from one institution to the other. In such circumstances, the Office of the National Coordinator considered indispensable the establishment of a **database for the victims of trafficking** including data from the police,

Albanian diplomatic and consular service, social service as well as direct assistance agencies. The database will allow the analysis of the information in order to have a clear picture of the situation regarding the trafficking in the country and in order to identify in due time the trends of the phenomenon so that the response of the responsible structures may be immediate and efficient. The General Directorate of the State Police issued the Duty - Order of the General Director, no. 865, dated 26.12.2007 "On the data entry in the victims of trafficking Database". This Duty - Order defines the procedures for entering the data, assigning respective persons/operators, timelines, reporting, etc. Such database will start functioning within January - February 2008.

At the same time, we are trying to have a more accurate identification of the victims of trafficking by the police in the borders and in the counter- trafficking sections in the regional police directorates. Clear obligations regarding the way police officers must conduct the interviewing process; the presence of the counter-trafficking specialists during the interview, the participation of a social worker etc., are defined in the Duty - Order no. 871 of the General Director, dated 27.12.2007, "On the procedures of interviewing foreign and Albanian citizens returned from other countries" quoted below.

National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking

One of the main directions the work of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings is focused on is the implementation of the **Cooperation Agreement to Establish a National Referral Mechanism for the Enhanced Identification of and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings** (NRM) signed on July 18, 2005. The agreement establishes a clear framework of cooperation between the key stakeholders in the fight against trafficking in human beings; determines the responsibilities that concerned parties have in the identification, referral, accommodation, assistance to and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking. The core of the agreement is the establishment of a functional network among governmental and non-governmental agencies; namely the police, social service, diplomatic and consular service, as well as the reception and rehabilitation centres for victims of trafficking, in order to enable the identification, safety, referral, protection and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking in the country. The Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has made continual efforts for orienting the work of the stakeholders involved in the NRM by sending continuous instructions and by urging communication among its members.

The responsible structure that coordinates, processes and reports the necessary actions of all structures involved in the agreement (NRM) that carry out tasks and offer services for the victims/potential victims of trafficking is the "**Responsible Authority**" that was established by the joint order of the MoI, MOLSAEO and MFA dated 19.05.2006. The Responsible Authority is a nucleus of persons from the three involved agencies having a direct function in the identification, investigation, referral, protection and assistance to trafficking victims.

The State Police has made efforts to respect the Agreement. To this end served the Order of the General Director of the State Police, no. 714, dated 03.11.2006 "On the procedures

conducted for Albanian and foreign citizens returned from other countries” that was amended and improved by **Duty - Order of the General Director no. 871, dated 27.12.2007 “On the procedures for interviewing foreign and Albanian citizens returned from other countries”**. As quoted above, including female police officers in the interviewing of the returnees that are suspected to have been exploited, as well as including specialists for giving assistance to victims of trafficking are among the most important examples of the improvements to the Duty - Order.

In the context of awareness raising of persons who work more closely with victims of trafficking, **training** were and are being organized, in close cooperation with the international organizations, **for police officers** that have specific tasks in the field of trafficking of human beings, in providing legal and psychological assistance to the juvenile victims, to the witnesses or to those that face the potential threat of being trafficked, to victims of trafficking as well as in the area of human rights. The Antitrafficking Unit has acted as a coordinator, co-organizer and trainer in all the training organized by IOM, UNICEF, etc. Lastly, a document containing guidelines for the interviewing methodology and simplified explanations on the Albanian legislation regarding the trafficking, illicit state border crossing and exploitation of prostitution is being prepared by the Office of the National Coordinator in cooperation with the General Directorate of State Police and the State Social Service.

Furthermore, in the framework of **combating corruption** and institutional coordination, in cooperation with the relevant structures, the state police enabled the legal documentation and the arrest en flagrant of some of its staff for charges of facilitation of smuggling in human beings and for other criminal offences related to trafficking. In addition, measures were taken for continuing efforts to increase effectiveness of the work in combating corruption, its identification and prevention in the ranks of State Police.

The Reception Centres gave an important contribution for the reception, accommodation and rehabilitation of the trafficking victims. These centres are: National Reception Centre for the Victims of Trafficking (NRCVT) established in July 2003 and all the other centres licensed by MOLSAEO (“**Vatra**”, “**Tjeter Vizion**”, “**Qendra Komunitare**”, “**Te ndryshem dhe te barabarte**”), that are located in three districts of the country and that are controlled for the services they offer by MOLSAEO, General Directorate of the State Social Service. More information on their activity is found in the subsequent chapters.

Transnational Referral Mechanism

In the regional aspect of the functioning of an efficient system for the identification, referral, protection of and assistance to the trafficking victims, the Antitrafficking Unit coordinates with the National Implementation Team (NIT) for the drafting and implementation of the document on the **Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM)**. This is a tool for the identification, referral and protection of the victims of trafficking through the state borders, a transnational network of mechanisms in the service and support of the victims of trafficking , enabling and standardizing trans - border cooperation and dialogue of the police bodies and those for the support of the victims, for speedy exchange of information with regard to the

identification, investigation, and return of the victims of trafficking among the countries, in the framework of the “Program on supporting the establishment of Transnational Referral Mechanisms (TRM) for the Trafficked Persons in the South-Eastern Europe”.

In the light of regional cooperation and the growing need for cross-border police cooperation with the neighbouring countries for the identification, referral and protection of potential victims of trafficking, as well as in order to intensify the speedy and accurate mutual exchange of intelligence, the Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of Albania is organizing **bilateral cross - border meetings** with the neighbouring countries in the region. The first meeting was held with Macedonia and resulted in signing of the additional protocol of the “Agreement between the Government of Republic of Macedonia and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania for cooperation in combating terrorism, organized crime, illicit trafficking of narcotic, psychotropic substances and their precursor, illicit migration and other illicit activities” as a way of defining standard procedures to follow in such cases. The second meeting was organized with the authorities of Kosovo, and a similar cooperation protocol is expected to be signed with them. Within the current year, similar meetings will be held with Montenegro and Greece.

Prevention

With regard to the **prevention of trafficking**, a number of projects were accomplished and are still ongoing by the governmental institutions with the expertise of non - profit and international organizations.

Awareness campaigns were organized mainly for the vulnerable groups (youth, women and girls, families with social problems and poor education, Roma children, etc.) in the form of meetings with groups of interest. In order to prevent trafficking of **categories at risk**, measures were taken for their involvement and integration in the society through implementation of the law on compulsory education and the registration in the civil registry offices and through offering education/vocational compensatory training for the school drop-outs, through the local state structures involved in the anti - trafficking networks - the Regional Committees on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

A certain step for the prevention of trafficking is **awareness rising since at school**. To this end, the MoES took measures to introduce in all the levels of pre - university schooling different topics on trafficking in the existing subjects of the curricula dealing with gender awareness and social education.

In the same light of prevention, another important instrument accessible by the public 24/7 is the **national toll free help line (0800 12 12)** as well as the extended use of this “*help line*” for denouncing trafficking cases for the mobile communications as well. This line is at the availability of all the society on preventing trafficking in human beings. It became functional for the public since November 2006. Periodic reports have been produced for the cases denounced by the public. The realization of the line initially was supported financially by the

UNODC (Office of the United Nations for Drugs and Crime) and IOM. From November 2007 to date, the Ministry of Interior provides the total financial support for the line.

Another important achievement was the establishment and making functional at a regional level of the **Regional Committees on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**, by order of the Prime Minister, no. 139, dated 19.06.2006. The committees also have technical-level working groups a “Technical Counter-trafficking table” including representatives of all the structures included in the Committee (*regional directorates of the state social service, regional labour directorates, offices of social care in municipalities / communes; counter- trafficking chief for the regional police, regional directorates of SIS; regional education directorates; the inspector of reproductive health (mother and child), representative of the prosecution office, representatives of non - profit organizations*). The committees play an important role in the prevention of the phenomenon through the determination of vulnerable categories, the establishment of protection networks for them, especially for children, and for the protection and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking through the local institutions at a regional level. Chapter III will provide more detailed information on the work of some of the successful Committees.

Work is underway for the **modernization of the Civil Registry Service**, the establishment of the National Register of the Civil Registry, setting an Identity Number for each citizen, the computerization of the service at all levels for establishing a system that is updated at every moment as well as for the establishment of an Address System, thus making it possible to have a link between individuals and the terrain².

Albania, like other European countries launched the **European Week against Trafficking in Persons** under the slogan “*Trafficking in Human Beings is Slavery! We Cannot Accept It! We Fight for a Free and Secure Society*”. The goal of this week was to increase awareness with regard to this phenomenon and the promotion of improved results in the recurrent fight against trafficking in human beings. Numerous media outlets provided coverage of the activities and also broadcast special TV documentaries on the issues of trafficking in human beings. The Counter-trafficking week 15-18.10.2007 comprised a number of activities organized by the Antitrafficking Unit in cooperation with other structures of the Ministry of Interior as well as with international organizations that are active in the anti - trafficking area. Worth mentioning are:

- On October 15, 2007, the Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings organized the National Workshop in the framework of the ICMPD project on the Transnational Referral Mechanism;
- On October 17, 2007, the Minister of Interior and the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings participated in the periodical meeting

² This will help in accurately determining the precise number of new arrivals as a consequence of the demographic movements, of the dropouts or those who are inclined to drop out of school and as a result, the drafting of comprehensive policies for them.

convened in Elbasan. Members of the Local Counter-trafficking Committees of Durres and Tirana attended the meeting.

- On October 18, 2007, on the occasion of the European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings, the Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings organized “*Open Forum against Trafficking in Human Beings*” with the participation of students from the Law Faculty of the University of Tirana. The forum was attended by the Minister of Interior, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, representatives of the US Embassy, European Commission, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and representatives of other organizations active in the anti - trafficking area.
- On the European Day against Trafficking, AMC sent text messages to over 1.000.000 subscribers for promoting the above - mentioned anti - trafficking slogan. Banners promoting the slogan were placed in the main streets of Tirana.

Looking forward to the National Strategy 2008-2010

Considering that we are in the drafting stage of the new Strategy 2008 - 2010, the Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is working to prepare a comprehensive and realist document that will contain all the priorities and main directions of the fight against trafficking in human beings in the current state of affairs. Even the Report is drafted in a way so as to appreciate the achievements and to identify the problems encountered during the implementation of the 2005-2007 Strategy. To this end, the Office of the National Coordinator held meetings and requested suggestions and feedback from all the agencies involved in the Strategy as well as from others with which we cooperate and that are active in the area of preventing and fighting trafficking in human beings. According to the monitoring and the Evaluation conducted, it was observed that in the future it is necessary **consolidating** a national level network of the investigative, protective and preventing structures, and that cooperation with the counterpart structures of the countries in the wider region is an important effort for achieving success and for minimising trafficking in human beings.

One of the main directions of focus for the work of the Office of the National Coordinator is to make functional the Agreement of Cooperation for the Establishment of a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for Enhanced Identification of Assistance to the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and its supporting structures. We may mention the “Responsible Authority” as the responsible nucleus for the processing and reporting with regard to the activities of police, social service and the diplomatic and consular service included in the agreement (NRM). This structure that is very important for the protection and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking has functioned partially. The Responsible Authority has followed some cases of trafficking in human beings. In the future efforts should be made that the members of the Responsible Authority coordinate better their work

as well as consider this function not as an additional work for them but as part of their daily activities that require their complete attention, will, and joint action.

More commitment, guidance, and coordination is expected from the Local Committees of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings in order to establish effective mechanisms and local capacities for identifying the vulnerable social categories in the regions and to prepare protective and comprehensive policies for them. The structures are functional but improvements are needed in the cooperation among the parties involved, exchange of information, separation of roles and responsibilities for everyone and more concrete approaches to problems.

Another important objective for the future will be to extend the partnership with all stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental agencies and international partners) involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings, taking into account the need for a more complete involvement with regard to initiatives, or even assistance in the framework of the identification, referral, protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking, by every agency that may give its contribution. The establishment of a close cooperation aims to coordinate and concert the initiatives of the different stakeholders so that the joint efforts be channelled where they are needed and overlapping is avoided.

Trafficking is a serious social and legal problem that needs to be overcome by the coordinated and determined effort of the police, prosecutor's office, courts, social services, education system, etc. to the lowest implementing level in order to make a real difference in the situation of the victims of trafficking and of the crime of trafficking in Albania. In such a framework, there has been clear political support for undertaking concrete steps in the fight against trafficking in human beings, but the implementing capacities in the field still need to be enhanced.

At the conclusion, we ascertained that important efforts were made but a better work is still possible if there will be more serious commitment by the relevant institutions for fulfilling in due time and rigorously all responsibilities that will be undertaken in the framework of the new strategy, including even those objectives that have not been achieved in the previous strategy.

CHAPTER 1 - CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

Throughout the timeline covered by this evaluation report on the implementation of the Counter-trafficking Action Plan 2005 -2007, one of the main objectives in the fight against trafficking in human beings was to increase the number of criminal prosecutions and sentences towards the traffickers in relation to the detentions and the cases investigated in this area. This objective was realized among other things due to the improved cooperation between the police and the prosecution and other law enforcement agencies as well as due to the fruitful international and regional cooperation in the law enforcement area, legislative area, and justice area against the trafficking in human beings and traffickers.

All the cases followed by the police that were sent to the prosecution office, the cases that are under investigation by the prosecution and that were submitted to the court for trial as well as the sentences given to the traffickers were included in the prepared statistics that you will find in the Annex of Statistics.

With regard to the investigation of the trafficking crimes as well as to the criminal prosecution of their perpetrators, for the period covered by this report, there were envisaged a series of measures that although are not connected directly to the trafficking however are of a special importance for the investigation of the cases of trafficking.

This chapter will inform you on the efforts made regarding the:

1. Implementing and improving the legal framework applicable related to trafficking and other related offences, further consolidating the work of the relevant structures for cracking down on traffickers and their accomplices;
2. Fighting corruption and the measures against police officers and other public officials involved in illicit activities;
3. Enhancing capacities and professional know-how in relation to the phenomenon of the trafficking in human beings for the structures in general and specialized structures of the police, prosecution and courts;
4. Developing the international and regional cooperation in the areas of law enforcement, legislation and justice against trafficking in human beings and traffickers.

1. Implementing and improving the legal framework applicable related to trafficking and other related offences, further consolidation of the work of the relevant structures for cracking down on traffickers and their accomplices

1.1 Legal Framework

The improvement and completion of the legal framework concerning trafficking and other related criminal offences was the fundamental objective of the institutions responsible in combating trafficking in human beings. In this aspect, aiming at approximation of the Albanian legislation with the European and international standards, following the amendment of the Criminal Code in 2004, namely the amendment to article 110/a "Trafficking in persons" in full compliance with the Protocol of Palermo, some important changes were approved such as the one for the prevention and cracking down on smuggling of persons as well as the articles on child protection.

In February 2006 the amendments to the article 298 of the Criminal Code "Assisting the illicit borders crossing" were approved by Law no. 9686, dated 26.2.2007. This article includes elements of the criminal offence of smuggling in human beings and enables the investigation of the smuggling cases even in those states that do not have land borders with Albania. Upon approval of this article of the Criminal Code, among other things distinction could be drawn between trafficking in human beings and smuggling in human beings.

As concerns child protection, in the framework of protective and preventing measures towards their exploitation, in March 2007 there were proposed some amendments to the Criminal Code that were approved by Law No. 9859 dated 21.01.2008. Namely, the articles added are Article 124/b, "Ill-treatment of minors" that among others criminalizes the phenomenon of child exploitation for forced labour, begging, and other forced services; the paragraph that was added in article 117 "Pornography" regarding the pornography of minors as well as adding in article 128/b "Trafficking in minors" that criminalizes by law not only the recruitment, hiding, reception of children but also their selling. The packages containing these changes will be accompanied by a new social and educational package for the assistance towards these children and their families in the form of employment, education and other forms of assistance.

Another positive development was the approval of Law No. 9509, dated 3.4.2006 "On the moratorium for motor vessels of the Republic of Albania" that suspended all movements of Albanian motor vessels in the territorial and internal waters of Republic of Albania as well as the transportation of such vessels via land routes, for a period of three years in order to prevent and tackle illicit trafficking, including trafficking in persons, mainly towards Italy. As a result of the approval of such a law, from its entry into force, the number of trafficking cases via sea routes saw a significant reduction.

Another important step in the direction of completing the legal framework related to trafficking is the approval of the Council of Europe Convention "On Action against

Trafficking in Human Beings” that was ratified by the Assembly through law No. 9642, dated 20.11.2006.

Transparent procedures were put in place with the General Prosecutor’s Office and the Prosecutor’s Office for Serious Crimes as well as with the international partners regarding criminal prosecutions conducted by the State Police. In the framework of the strengthening of the judiciary, an important step is the supply of the Serious Crimes Court with the required technical elements for the necessary protection and security for the trafficking victims that testify during court hearings through “video – conferencing”. In the continuum of this process, steps will be taken for improving the legal and physical protection, the protection of the personal identities for all the victims/ witnesses in court cases and for the review of the legal compensation scheme of these victims from the forfeited assets.

1.2 Database

The establishment of the database was considered indispensable in the framework of the establishment of a harmonized and unified official information networking, that generates accurate and verifiable figures regarding trafficking in human beings, thus accessing the analysis of this information in order to have a clear picture of the situation of the trafficking in the country and in order to enable the identification in due time of the trends of this phenomenon so that the response of the relevant structures is prompt and effective.

To this end, it was deemed necessary setting up a working group for the preparation and the establishment of an inter – institutional database in order to agree on a joint statistical matrix, the methodology for collecting the data as well as for the reporting procedures.

The results of work of this group would infer the establishment of the database, computerized and integrated in the Total Information Management System (TIMS) as well as the utilization of the database from all the cooperating institutions, on a daily or need-analysis basis. This database will be integrated into the TIMS system and the statistics presented will be kept in full compliance with the laws for the protection of personal data of the trafficking victims and there will be full access only for the Responsible Authority for the National Referral Mechanism, the Deputy Minister of Interior and the Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

In order to achieve this important objective, the Deputy Minister of Interior and at the same time National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, made persistent efforts in order to have a functioning official database for the accurate number of the Albanian trafficking victims even in Albania, containing information from the police, social service as well as the Albanian consular service. These efforts that continued for approximately one year were made with the financial support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Presence in Albania. (OSCE)

The goal of the database is to determine a credible number of victims of trafficking that were identified and assisted at a national level. Data are to be entered by all the services that deal with the trafficking such as the state police, state social service, Albanian consular service in the world, as well as the centres that offer services for the trafficking victims.

Currently, the software for entering the data based also on the model of TIMS has been prepared and it comprises 4 areas: 1. *detailed personal data* 2. *Identification approach* 3. *History of exploitation*, 4. *treatments in the centre*. This software was prepared based on suggestions of the Border and Migration Police, Anti-trafficking police, Social Service, Centres for assistance to the victims of trafficking, Consular Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as on the review and approval by the Office of the National Coordinator.

The Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Persons is ready, in cooperation with the Section for Information Management and with the assistance of the TIMS office to start the installation of the software in the Directorate General of the State Police – Border and Migration Police and in the Section against Illicit Trafficking, in the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in the Directorate of the State Social Service, in the Consular Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as in the office of the Deputy Minister of Interior/National Coordinator on Counter-trafficking.

Currently, the Directorate General of the State Police has prepared a Duty-Order on the functioning of the database. In such order there are defined clearly the procedures for entering the data and the obligations of the persons responsible for entering such data.

1.3 Total Information Management System (TIMS)

In these years of the implementation of the National Strategy 2005– 2007, it was deemed necessary to establish transparent inter - institutional procedures, putting into full efficiency the potential of Total Information Management System (TIMS), funded by USA/EU, for case management, in order to track specific trafficking cases from the moment of arrest of perpetrators to the moment of their sentencing.

- With regard to TIMS system, that was foreseen to be completed by 2007, it must be highlighted that it has been put into efficiency in the Ministry of Interior, Regional Police Directorates in Tiranë, Durrës, Vlorë, in the border crossing points of Rinas, Kapshticë, Kakavijë, Port of Durrës, Qafë Thanë, Han i Hotit, Morinë, Port of Vlorë, Murriqan, Tushemisht, Bllatë, Gorricë, Tre Urat, Qafë Botë and Port of Sarandë. Under the same framework, based even on the investments made by IOM in some buildings in Rinas, Kapshticë, Kakavijë, aiming at improving the conditions of stay of eventual victims of trafficking, the Border and Migration Directorate is working to activate such reception centres. Thus, the cabling of the offices in these buildings was done aiming to install TIMS so that the interviewing is conducted in these premises and four working posts are ready in each building. The border police of these points was provided with the required vehicles to guarantee the transportation of all persons deported to the border crossing points. The

abovementioned infrastructure is complete now in Rinas and work is underway for the training of police personnel that will conduct the interviewing so that the interviewing group will function according to the National Referral Mechanism, guaranteeing the presence of specialists from the section of illicit trafficking. TIMS system is considered an important source of information for the police in the fight against criminal activities. The use of the system made possible the detection of information that had a positive impact in the investigation of various cases.

Female police officers have already been deployed in the Vlorë and Rinas cross-border points. The constant presence of at least one female officer in every border crossing point was a permanent request not only of the Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, but also of the international collaborators.

So far, in cases of identification of victims of trafficking, females or children, a female police officer was selected through a rotation system, especially in the border crossing points that have the highest flow of returnees.

Presently, in all border-crossing points where citizens are deported, the border police interview them in order to identify possible trafficking victims. Furthermore, in the places where TIMS is installed, (Rinas, Durrës, Vlorë, Kakavijë, Kapshticë, Hani i Hotit, Murriqan, Morinë, Qafë Thanë, Tushemisht, etc.) the data of the interviewed are entered into the system. Intensive work is underway to increase cooperation during the process of identification, referral and assistance for the victims of trafficking between the border and migration police and other specialized structures such as the regional anti - trafficking offices.

In order to further institutionalise this cooperation, in addition to the Joint Order on the establishment of the Responsible Authority for the National Referral Mechanism and to the Agreement of Cooperation on the establishment of the National Referral Mechanism for Enhanced Identification of and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Duty - Order No. 714, dated 03.11.2006 of the Director General of the State Police *"On the Procedures to be conducted with Albanian and foreign citizens returned from other countries"* envisages the tasks of Border and Migration Police officers and Illicit Trafficking Section for the treatment of the returnees identified as victims of trafficking as well as measures to be taken in such cases. In this order there are foreseen measures for the reception, interviewing, verification, transportation and accommodation of the victims of trafficking in special premises in cooperation with the State Social Service and different Non for Profit Organizations that provide services for the victims. For their reception, there are used vehicles with private license plates and when possible, the interviewing is conducted by Border and Migration Police officers wearing civilian clothes. In December 2007, upon proposal of the Directorate General of State Police the above mentioned Order was modified by Order of the Director General of the State Police No. 871, dated 27.12.2007 that specified further the way of cooperation between the border and migration structures with the counter-trafficking structures, and improved the procedures conducted in the border for the interviewing of foreign and Albanian citizens returned from other countries. Based upon the

above mentioned orders there were defined the contact points at regional level between the Border and Migration Police, the State Social Service and non for profit organizations aiming at their timely notification and their presence when there are identified or suspected victims of trafficking in human beings.

1.4 Police – Prosecutor’s Office Cooperation

There was a constant good cooperation between the prosecution and the police on combating trafficking in human beings and the related phenomena and part of this cooperation was the exchange of statistical data.

Considering the present practice, there have often been cases when the statistical data from the prosecution do not correspond with the data from the police. One of the causes for this mismatch is that the prosecution sometimes launches investigations ex officio (investigations that are conducted by the structures of the prosecution office without the involvement of the police) and according to the police, such data cannot be included in their statistics. Despite such differences, the cooperation was stable and continuous although it is worth mentioning that there is still room to improve the cooperation among these structures in order to effectively crack down on the perpetrators of the crime of trafficking.

2. Fighting corruption and the measures towards police officers and other public officials involved in illicit activities;

Under the framework of the inter-institutional coordination, in cooperation with the relevant structures, the state police have made possible the legal documentation and the arrest en flagrant of some of its members for trafficking in human beings and other related offences. During 2006, such violations have mainly consisted in abuse of office or counterfeiting made in the sector of passports, issuing travel passports to persons wanted for serious crimes etc; whereas in 2007, the violations have mainly consisted in the complicity of police officers in smuggling of persons.

During 2007, there were referred to the prosecutor’s office 175 criminal complaints for **244 police officers** of which **15** high-rank officers, **87** middle-rank officers and **142** basic-rank officers – **71** out of them were arrested. During 2006 the Internal Control Directorate (ICD) recorded 5 cases of giving assistance for illicit borders crossing by police officers – **4 of them were arrested en flagrant** and were expelled from the state police, whereas with regard to the **other 11 the case files were submitted to the prosecution office** for further investigation.

For 2007, based on the statistics included in the annex attached, a decrease is observed in the number of police officers of various ranks involved in the trafficking in human beings. During this year, the IC Directorate submitted to the prosecution office **157 criminal complaints for 219 police officers** including **5** high-rank officers, **74** middle-rank officers and

140 basic-rank officers – Out of them **44 were arrested**, 12 belonging to the middle rank and 31 to the basic rank.

During 2007, IC Directorate submitted to the prosecution office **4 criminal complaints for giving assistance in illicit borders crossing for 12 police officers**, 4 middle-rank officers, 8 basic-rank officers, **10 of whom were arrested en flagrant**.

In cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office for Serious Crimes, during 2007 it was made possible the verification and the documentation of the illicit activity of 2 structured and organized criminal groups, consisting among others, of police officers. Thus, in June 2007 there were **arrested 9 members of a structured criminal group of which 4 were police officers** that in complicity with the traffickers were involving in favouring the illicit trafficking in human beings to Greece. So far, according to the investigations there are involved **35 persons 15 of who are police officers**. In July 2007 there were arrested **11 members of another criminal group of whom 6 were police officers** that trafficked persons to Greece via the Qafë Botë border crossing point and the border area of Konispol.

In the same context of statistics, the Ministry of Justice has prepared statistics for the period of implementation of the Counter-trafficking Action Plan 2005 – 2007, for the criminal cases as well as for the sentenced persons. Such statistics you will find attached in the statistics annex.

It must be reiterated that during these years there have not been any dismissals, disciplinary /administrative measures or criminal prosecution / sentences against court employees or employees of the Ministry of Justice, for involvement in the trafficking in human beings.

2.1 Cooperation with local and international partners

It is worth mentioning the fact that an important element in investigations and the criminal prosecution was cooperation with the international partners with regard to the extradition of persons accused of trafficking in human beings.

In the framework of the cooperation with all the state structures for efficient treatment of the trafficking cases, it is worth mentioning the cooperation of the National Centre for Reception of Trafficking Victims (NCRTV) with the Ministry of Interior and the State Police (Section against Illicit Trafficking and Border and Migration Police), as well as with the prosecution with regard to the referral of the cases, opening of criminal proceedings and protection of witnesses.

2.2 Preventing and thwarting corruption in the state structures

In order to prevent corruption and arbitrariness in the work of the police, from 2002, based on an Order of the Minister of the Public Order No. 1616, dated 11.01.2002, all employees of the Ministry of Public Order shall report to the ICD for criminal activities that have occurred

while on duty and off-duty. Nevertheless, following the drafting of the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in 2005, regarding the objective determined by this strategy for writing a new internal regulation to this end, such a regulation has not been drafted yet.

In such a framework, it is worth mentioning that the issuing of the Order of Minister of Interior, No. 282, dated 13.02.2006 *“On the establishment of the toll free numbers for denouncing corruption, as well as the procedures of conducting such an activity in the structures of the Ministry of Interior”*, for the IC Directorate, gave way to the maximal functioning of the Centre for Legal Information and to increase effectiveness of work in the fight against corruption, for its identification and prevention in the structures of the State Police.

Furthermore, in order to enable the most successful criminal prosecution possible of corrupt police officers as well as to improve working relations between ICO/MoI and the General Prosecutor’s Office, the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings envisaged the assignment of a prosecutor at the Internal Control Directorate in the Ministry of Interior for providing legal advice on the procedures to be followed in the cases of criminal prosecution of corrupt police officers. There is still no prosecutor assigned to the ICD for this purpose.

This fact makes us realize that there is still room for improvement in the aspect of the intensification of cooperation between the police and the prosecution.

With regard to making public and successful the utilization of the public telephone lines, be it of the ICD or of the Ministry of Interior, aiming to denounce corruptive affairs in the police and strengthening the trust of the society on the transparency of law enforcement agencies (increased number of telephone calls registered by the police increased number of trafficking cases that were filed based on confidential information provided by the public), at the Centre for Legal Information of the IC Directorate, there is a telephone line 271 375 , so that in addition to written complaints that they submit to this office, the citizens may call to denounce cases of corruption of police officers as well as other illicit activities. In addition, for the same purpose, in the official website of the Ministry of Interior all telephone numbers of the IC offices in the regions as well as the email address shkb@moi.gov.al are made public that all citizens may use to contact for every identified case of corruption involving police officers.

In order to concretely demonstrate the results of making this number public, we may say that only during 2007, 101 complaints were lodged at the CLI by citizens with regard to 101 police officers including 34 medium and high rank officers and 67 basic rank officers. These complaints mainly concerned arbitrary acts and maltreatment of citizens by the police in various regions, property issues, delays in the following of criminal reports, unfair issuing of tickets, etc. Following verification of the complaints by the ICD employees in the regions, responses were given to the interested persons and the cases were submitted to the relevant structures for taking administrative measures towards the persons involved as applicable by law.

3. Capacities building and enhancing professional knowledge in relation to the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings for the structures in general and specialized structures of the police, prosecution and courts;

In this respect, during the implementation of the National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005-2007, there were organized training courses for acquiring knowledge on the trafficking victims for the police officers, employees of the prosecution and courts for making them aware on their special profile and the specialized assistance needed by the victims of trafficking.

During November 2006, with the initiative of the Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings there was organized in Shkodër, Fier, Tirana the workshop: "Increased awareness and cooperation among the police, prosecutor's offices, courts, social services for giving a fair and due legal process and protection to victims of trafficking". The workshop was attended by the prefects, prosecutors, judges, police officers in the regional directorates as well as representatives of non for profit organizations involved in concrete projects in this area, from every region in the country. The workshops attained the established goal: launching a discussion among the different agencies on the ways how the legal process and the protection of trafficking victims are achieved as well as on the commitments to be undertaken for improving the process.

The Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the School of Magistrates and other international missions and organizations such as EURALIUS, OSCE, PAMECA, etc. organized seminars, trainings, study visits, and cooperation programs, for the judicial police officers, prosecutors, judges, the inspectorate of this Ministry, etc. where among others it was treated carefully the problematic and dynamics of the criminal offences that are object of this strategy.

In the framework of the activities of the Ongoing Training Program for 2006, the School of Magistrates, in cooperation with national and international partners trained judges and prosecutors during February - June 2006 via training sessions concerning the Operational Impact of the Current Reform of the Criminal Justice, complicity of persons in criminal offences, Financial Investigations, Criminal Offences against Persons, Crimes against life, Criminal Offences against the State as well as the Protection of Witnesses and Collaborators of Justice.

The ongoing training program for 2006 - 2009, dealt with topics about transnational and organized crime; two of the days of the training are dedicated to the trafficking in human beings.

For the abovementioned period, a big number of trainings were provided for the State Police by various institutions in the country and abroad. These trainings improved significantly the professional level of the employees of the structures responsible on combating trafficking in human beings. In the future joint trainings in these institutions should be organized.

During 2006, there were conducted trainings for police officers in the area of legal and psychological assistance to the juvenile victims, witnesses or those that are at risk of trafficking. Furthermore, there were organized joint meetings with representatives from the police, the prosecution, and the courts, on the trafficking victims in order to raise their awareness for the special profile and the specialized assistance needed by the trafficking victims.

It is important to underline that the curricula of the Police Academy includes particular courses related to the trafficking in human beings. In the framework of the trainings it is worth mentioning that training courses were organized in the country and abroad as well as meetings with participants from the police, prosecution, and courts from countries of the wider region on anti - trafficking issues.

4. Developing international and regional cooperation in the areas of law enforcement, legislation and justice against trafficking in human beings and traffickers.

4.1 Improving cooperation with border police of the neighbouring countries

The National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has held meetings with border authorities in and out the country for endorsing the implementation of the procedures for the identification, referral and protection of trafficking victims.

In order to materialize cross - border cooperation:

1. In September the Additional Protocol was signed with the Macedonian Ministry of Interior *“On intensifying cooperation on combating trafficking in human beings across state borders and on enhanced identification, notification, referral and assisted return of victims and suspected victims of trafficking in human beings”*;
2. In October a meeting was held with the Kosovo authorities of the border police, section of illicit trafficking where discussions were held on the draft - protocol with Kosovo *“On intensifying cooperation on combating trafficking in human beings across state borders and on enhanced identification, notification, referral and assisted return of victims and suspected victims of trafficking in human beings”*.

Cooperation among the police authorities in the wider region has continuously been strengthened. Part of such cooperation is the agreements signed with Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo, in the function of exchange of information about criminal activities that take place across our state borders. Albanian State Police has liaison officers in almost every country in the region and they represent a good tool for exchanging information in order to crack down on activities such as the trafficking in human beings. It is worth reiterating that Albania was awarded the Medal of Honour by SECI Centre for the results achieved in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

In order to achieve good results in this direction, further consolidation of the inter – institutional cooperation is needed in the regional and international level in the legal, law enforcement and justice areas against the trafficking and against traffickers of human beings. In the framework of expanding the regional partnership and the efficient functioning of the system of identification, referral, protection of and assistance to the trafficking victims, the Counter-trafficking Unit coordinates the National Implementation Team (NIT) for the preparation and implementation of the **Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM)** as a mechanism for the identification, referral, and protection of the trafficking victims beyond the state borders, a network of transnational mechanisms in the service and support of the victims of trafficking, by enhancing the interstate cooperation and dialogue for a prompt exchange of information in an uncompromising war against the crime, in the light of the “*The Program to Support the Development of Trans-national Referral Mechanisms (TRM) for Trafficked Persons in South – Eastern Europe.*”

In the **light of cooperation** among local stakeholders and institutions, aiming to enhance cooperation and exchange of information, the Office of the National Coordinator and the Counter- trafficking Unit organized a series of meetings among the key players – police and the reception centres for the victims of trafficking. The meetings, such as the meeting organized in Korçë, in the Kapshtica border crossing point, were organized in the field, in order to see closely the situation and the problems encountered in the implementation of the legal and institutional framework.

Taking into consideration the need for the best possible coordination and concerting of the undertaken initiatives or the assistance provided in the framework of the identification, protection and assistance to the trafficking victims, aiming **to review, expand and enhance partnerships** with all stakeholders (governmental and non - governmental agencies) involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings, for determining the responsibilities of such partnerships and especially for the separation of the results of information or the reporting, a number of meetings were organized, the last one being held in December 2007. The goal of these meetings was the coordination of the initiatives of the various actors so that the joint efforts be targeted where they are needed and that overlapping be avoided. The information required from all the involved stakeholders in the fight against trafficking in human beings will make it possible to learn the priorities that each of these institutions have, and these priorities shall be in line with the identified priorities for the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings. Recognizing such priorities will contribute to a better division of responsibilities and will clearly determine the roles of everyone.

4.2 Expanding the networking of international and regional cooperation in the justice area

During 2005-2007, 14 Agreements and Conventions were signed on international and regional cooperation in the area of justice, police cooperation, legal assistance against trafficking and organized crime, for protection of children as victims of trafficking, on the

readmission of persons, illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, parental responsibilities and civil aspects of the international abduction of children.

Problems encountered: *Greek party has not yet completed the procedures for the Agreement for the protection of and assistance to children as victims of trafficking signed in Tirana, on 27.02.2006 and passed by the Parliament in 29.5.2005.*

4.3 Cooperation between domestic and regional sea border units

As concerns the role of the Ministry of Defence and its cooperation with other state structures and mainly the border police structures in the area of information exchange on preventing trafficking in human beings and related phenomena, the results of operation "PUNA" conducted in 2002 are still being kept, alongside the cooperation of the state structures of the Ministry of Interior with their counterparts of the neighbouring countries.

In the fight against trafficking in human beings, the Armed Forces are mainly involved through the Coast Guard that is a structure of the Maritime Brigade. The Coast Guard's mission is to control the territorial waters, and part of this mission is their contribution in preventing illicit trafficking as well as upholding the law in the sea areas.

During 2006 the following bilateral and multilateral trainings were conducted:

- In September 2006 in D1D, Durrës, the sea search and rescue training "Shqiponja e Egërsuar" (Enraged Eagle) were conducted with the participation of 4 ships of the armed forces, Border Police and the Harbourmaster of the Port of Durrës.
- In October 2006, in D1D, Durrës "EAGLE SAR-06" was conducted with the participation of Albania, Italy, Croatia and Greece. In addition, representatives of other state structures that have an interest in the sea. The goal of this drill was the organization of the sea search and rescue by a number of vessels of different countries. Part of this scenario was prevention of the illicit trafficking.

During 2007 the following bilateral and multilateral trainings were conducted

- In June 2007, in Corfu, Greece, drill "Adrion Livex 07" was conducted. One ship of the Sea Brigade R-180 participated in this drill conducted in the framework of counter-terrorism operation MIO-SAR-NIO.
- In October 2007 in Durrës, "Shqiponja e Artë" (the Golden Eagle) drill was conducted with the participation of Marine Forces, Border Police, Anti - smuggling authority, Harbourmaster of Ports and Fishing Directorate. The goal of the drill was upholding the law in the sea. Furthermore, the drill "Noble Midos" was conducted in Croatia. The goal of this drill was to assess the responding force of the NATO (NRF) in the Adriatic. Forces of the naval structures from Croatia, Albania, Montenegro and other countries.

In all the drills that were conducted in the Albanian coast, the structures of the Border Police were present and part of the scenarios of these drills is the interdiction and prevention of the illicit trafficking in general, including the trafficking in human beings.

CHAPTER 2 – SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

The Albanian institutions now recognize their responsibility in giving protection and support to the victims of trafficking and to the victims of crimes related to trafficking, irrelevant of their will to testify in court or not. “Support to the victims”, is all the services provided to enable the rehabilitation and complete re- integration of the victim. The victims need a number of supporting services, medical services, accommodation and legal assistance. Furthermore, so that the victim is integrated and starts a new life, vocational training programs are needed.

The state institutions *have the obligation* to inform the victims on the available medical, social and legal services. Provision of such services should not depend on the willingness of the victims to cooperate with the authorities.

During 2005 – 2007, support for the victims of trafficking was provided by the governmental agencies, the national receptive centre of victims of trafficking-government funded centre and international organizations that through their funding enabled the establishment of new centres for victims and ensured a good continuity of work for the existing centres.

Another important element of assistance providing to the victims is the fact that the victim should be provided adequate protection and the necessary legal assistance.

This chapter will inform you on the efforts made on:

1. Implementation of the Law “On Witness Protection”
2. National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking
3. Actions on the Fight against Trafficking in Children and the Protection of Children as Victims of Trafficking
4. Official counselling for all current or potential Albanian victims of trafficking that are outside Albania.

1. Implementation of the Law “On the protection of witnesses and collaborators of Justice” and the increase of number of victims that testify

Law no. 9205, dated 15.03.2004 “On witness protection and collaborators of justice”, stipulates the special measures, methods and procedures for the protection of witnesses and collaborators of justice, as well as the organization, functioning, competences and the relations between the bodies that are in charge for making proposals, assessing, approving, and implementing the special measures of protection.

Bodies responsible for preparing, assessing, approving and implementing the special protection measures for the protection of witnesses and collaborators of justice are (a) the Directorate on Witness Protection and Special Persons; (b) the Committee for Assessing the Special Measures of Witness Protection and Collaborators of Justice.

In 2007, upon approval of the new structure of the General Directorate of the State Police, it was established the Directorate on Witness Protection and Special Persons. The directorate is organized in two sectors and two offices: the Sector on the implementation of measures for protection and the Sector on data processing, as well as the Office for finance, archive and protocol and the Office on special persons. The personnel were trained by PAMECA, OSCE, etc.

This directorate provides security for a wide range of persons such as witnesses, collaborators of justice, relatives or persons close to them. The measures of protection are implemented for serious crimes cases and only when the persons are in actual and real danger for their life.

The Directorate on Witness Protection and Special Persons; has started the protection programs from April 3, 2005. During April 2005 – 2007, the directorate has implemented the special measures of protection for only 1 case of “trafficking in women”, based on a proposal by the Prosecutor General, “For implementing the special measures of protection for witness of justice” In this process, the witness was the main witness and victim of trafficking. Based on the proposal of the Prosecutor General, the Committee for Assessing the Special Measures of Protection for Witnesses and Collaborators of Justice decided on the implementation of the special measures of protection for the witness.

So far, the sector on witness protection and collaborators of justice in the Directorate on the Fight against Organized Crime performed functions that now will be performed by the Directorate on Witness Protection and Special Persons. The new sectors of this Directorate will enable a more frequent and periodical reporting from this Directorate with regard to the number of cases and witnesses that benefit from the Witness Protection Program.

The state institutions and the reception centres in particular have worked well on sensitizing victims of trafficking on the importance of cooperation that they must establish with the

authorities. The centres provide the victims with the required information on how to protect themselves if their life is endangered. Throughout the whole process it is ensured the right of the victim in being informed on the legal rights and services that are available to them.

The centres enable cooperation between the police or the prosecution and the victims sheltered and protected in the Centre. The work is coordinated through the mutual cooperation with the bodies of the judicial (serious crimes prosecution and court) and other actors of the civil society as well such as the Directorate on Witness Protection, IOM, and NGO-s such as the Legal Clinic for Minors, which offer legal assistance for the court proceedings and for the protection of victims of trafficking. For those cases when the victims files criminal complaints against their exploiters, the judicial proceedings are followed step by step by the relevant regional prosecution office or court.

During 2005 – 2007, importance was given to the legal assistance and physical protection of the victims/witnesses and to the centres authorized for the support of victims, including the provision of technical conditions for their protection and safety. The Serious Crimes Court was provided the necessary technical elements to ensure protection and safety. The centres report that they cooperated closely with the Ministry of Interior for maintaining the safety of the victims of trafficking and staff. The security forces demonstrated understanding and support for the accompaniment of girls during court proceedings, for the possibility to meet family members in conflict situations and conditions, and for the organization of such meetings in the premises of police commissariats.

Furthermore, it must be highlighted the importance of the seminars or trainings that are organized in the framework of promoting the cooperation and raising the awareness of the relevant responsible authorities for the protection of victims of trafficking or for ensuring a fair legal process.

On this regard, in November 2006 in Shkoder, Fier and Tirana, with the initiative of the Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings it was organized the workshop: “Increased awareness and cooperation among the police, prosecution, courts, social services for giving a fair and due legal process and protection to the victims of trafficking”. These meetings were attended by the prefects, prosecutors, judges, police officers, and representatives of non – profit organizations involved in concrete projects in this area in all regions of the country. The seminars attained their goal: open discussions among the various agencies with regard to the ways how the legal process is conducted, the protection for the victims of trafficking and on the commitments that need to be undertaken in order to improve the process.

2. National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking

On July 18, 2005 it was signed, the Cooperation Agreement on the Establishment of a National Referral Mechanism for Enhanced Identification and Assistance to the Victims of Trafficking. The agreement was signed by authorities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities / Directorate General for the State Social Service, National

Centre for Reception of Victims of Trafficking, Ministry of Interior / Directorate General of the State Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Directorate for Consular Service, Non – profit organizations “Vatra”, “Tjeter Vizion”, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In the future the agreement will be open for signature by other parties as well, including centres and non - profit organizations. The signatories will be required to fulfil the participation criteria established in this Agreement.

The agreement gives a clear framework of cooperation between the key actors in the fight against trafficking in human beings; it determines the responsibilities that the parties involved have in the identification, referral, accommodation, assistance and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking. All the signatory parties offer services that if well – coordinated give very positive results to the best interest of the victims. The implementation of the agreement highly depends on the recognition by the involved institutions of the importance of the Agreement as well as on the will of the parties to implement the agreement.

The relevant structure that coordinates, manages data and reports the necessary actions towards the victims, was established in May 2006 through a joint order of the Minister of Interior, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the Minister of Foreign Affairs “On the establishment of the Responsible Authority for the Protection of and Assistance to the Victims of Trafficking and on defining the tasks of institutions involved in this process”. The Responsible Authority consists of two representatives from each of the three Ministries involved. In addition, in June 2006 Regional Committees for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings were established in the 12 regions of the countries. (*See Chapter on Prevention*).

The database for the victims of trafficking that will be established soon will make possible the following of cases throughout the whole process, from the identification stage up to the last stage of rehabilitation, which will make possible the assessment of the case. It has been established a joint reporting matrix including four areas: *1 detailed persona; data, 2 the identification approach, 3. history of exploitation, 4. treatment at the centre*. Based on these requirements the NCRVT and centre “Vatra” report monthly on the victims of trafficking that are assisted in the centres.

2.1 The Responsible Authority

The Responsible Authority is the structure that coordinates the identification, return, reception, referral for assistance and the re – integration of the victims and of potential victims of trafficking. The task of the Responsible Authority is to cooperate with all the structures in Albania and abroad, on the identification of the victims and to ensure that all the services provided to the victim keep in focus the respect towards the rights of the victim taking into account the best interest of the victims. The Responsible Authority has the obligation to record, and periodically report data for the trafficking cases that were referred. During 2006 – 2007 the Responsible Authority treated a number of cases.

This Authority functioned only partially and in the future efforts should be made so that its members better coordinate their work and consider this function not simply as a routine part of their jobs but as a special responsibility that requires more attention, willingness, and joint action. In order to make it possible that the cases followed by the Responsible Authority get a multi - dimensional solution, it is composed of representatives of police structures, representatives of the social service, representatives of the Consular Directorate. For this reason, it is important that the work of the members of this Authority be coordinated within the group so as to enable complete assessment analyses of the needs and of the situation the victims is in.

Furthermore, it is very important that the Responsible Authority informs and cooperates closely with the Regional Anti - trafficking Committees for the cases it follows.

The continuity of the National Referral Mechanism

The Office of the National Coordinator on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings made continuous efforts to guide the work of the actors involved in the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking. The National Coordinator has continually sent guidelines and promoted communication between the members of the Authority in order to ensure the implementation of the Agreement for the National Referral Mechanism, by the Regional Police Directorates, by Social Services and by the shelters. Furthermore, the Office of the National Coordinator made efforts to increase the effectiveness of the work carried out by the Regional Anti - trafficking Committees as well as to establish a bridge of cooperation between the National Referral Mechanism and the Regional Committees. The Regional Committees were urged to work for the preparation and implementation of projects the local institutions for the vulnerable groups and especially for the victims of trafficking in human beings.

2.2 Police

In order to ensure a more efficient identification and initial documentation of the victims in the main points of return, in the Duty - Order No. 714, dated 03.11. 2006 signed by Director General of the State police, *"On the procedures to be conducted with Albanian and foreign citizens returned from other countries"*, the General Directorate of State Police determined directives regarding the procedures to be conducted with Albanian citizens and foreigners returned by other countries. This order laid down clearly the tasks that various police structures must carry out with Albanian citizens or foreign returnees so that the actions regarding their reception, registration, verification, accompaniment, accommodation, and initial identification be unified and well - concerted. Subject of this order are Albanian and foreign citizens that are classified according to the following categories: INAD, deportees, and holders of laissez passes issued by the authorized Albanian authorities.

Pursuant to this Order, the State Police structures made possible that the reception, initial identification and referral be conducted by border and migration police as well as by police officers of the sector against illicit trafficking. In addition, this order encourages the

assignment of female police officers during the interviewing of the victims as well as the presence of the State Social Service during the processing of returned persons in the state borders.

The National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking (NRCVT) considers that in the framework of performing the tasks assigned by the National Referral Mechanism with regard to the pre-screening process of victims of trafficking in cases of females or children returned, a good working practice has been developed during 2006 - 2007 with regard to the interviewing and psycho -emotional support provided by the social workers in the NRCVT Tirana for every case communicated from the police commissariat representatives. This process was also accompanied with additional information for matters related to regular migration and the required procedures for application by every Albania citizen, at the institutions and organizations that work in this area.

The cases referred to the Centre during 2006 - 2007 show that at all times, the State Police was an important partner and primary supporter. The Centres cooperated closely with the Anti - trafficking offices in the regions of Tirana, Elbasan, Durrës, Kukës, Korçë, Berat, Lezhë with the assistance of which was made possible the identification of the victims or potential victims of trafficking.

***Note:** It must be reiterated that the State Police classifies as Victim of Trafficking a person that fulfills the criteria envisaged in article 110/a “Trafficking in persons” in the Criminal Code that is in compliance with Article 3 of the Protocol of Palermo. Nevertheless, the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings gave instructions for the keeping of separate records for the cases of potential victims of trafficking referred by the Police to the rehabilitation centers. It is important to mention that the data provided by the shelters do not include only cases of victims / potential victims of trafficking, but also of other vulnerable categories. Furthermore, the victims of trafficking based on their needs for mid – term and long – term assistance and rehabilitation are transferred from one center to another thus artificially increasing the real number of victims of trafficking.*

2.3 National Centre for Reception of Victims of Trafficking

The National Centre for Reception of Victims of Trafficking (NCRVT) was established in 2003 for the reception, accommodation and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking and it is an important institution under the authority of the State Social Service in the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MOLSAEO). During 2005 - 2007 the NCRVT accommodated and provided overall assistance for women, girls and children that were trafficked or were in danger of trafficking. The accommodation capacity of the centre is for approximately 100 persons. The NCRVT assists in the reception, rehabilitation, referral for integration and re-patriation (when the beneficiaries are foreign citizens), of three main target groups:

- Trafficked women and girls or women and girls that face the threat of being trafficked;
- Trafficked children or children that face the threat of trafficking
- Irregular migrants

Namely, the Centre offered assistance for the basic needs of the victim by providing: clothing, food, temporary accommodation. The Centre also offered *psycho – social assistance* (individual counselling, groups discussion, group therapy, etc.), *medical assistance* (diagnosis, treatment, prophylaxis provided by IOM, the Public Health Institute, University Hospital Centre “Mother Theresa”, UNICEF, etc.) *legal assistance* (qualified staff on the legal area enabled through the cooperation with the “ Legal Clinic for Minors”, etc.) *professional qualifications and trainings, high security level and protection of witnesses (with the support of the State Police), vocational, rehabilitating and re-integrating activities, referral for integration, return and family reunion, monitoring and assessment of the cases after departure from the Centre.* During 2005 – 2007 the centre made efforts to contribute in raising awareness to the public, families, relatives of the victims of trafficking on their acceptance and support in the rehabilitation and re-integration process. The Centre offers services in compliance with the “*Standards of Social Care Services for Trafficked Persons or Persons at Risk of Trafficking in the Residential Centres*” approved by Decision of Council of Ministers No. 195, dated 11.04.2007 “On the approval of the Standards of Services of Social Care, in the Residential Centres for Trafficked Persons or Persons that Face the Threat of Being Trafficked”. These standards will serve to improve the social services for the groups in need aiming to respect the principles of equality, non – discrimination, self - determination, rehabilitation, prevention, social integration, etc.

In the framework of obligations deriving from the National Referral Mechanism the centre gave and continues to give a considerable contribution and continued to perform the tasks determined for this process through the support and psycho – social assistance provided by the presence of social workers during the process of assessment and interviewing of the victims of trafficking at the border checking points, police commissariats etc., for accommodating the victims. In all cases, there are conducted the procedures of interviewing, assessment of needs, etc. The victims after being interviewed in the referral premises (mainly in the commissariats and regional police directorates, if they accept, are offered by the centre accommodation and its assistance program) are provided the abovementioned services.

One form of support that the Centre gives to the victims, are the re- integration programs that among the above – mentioned services include programs where the victims are enabled professionally through vocational courses and trainings such as courses for tailors, hairdressers, English language, computer skills, course against illiteracy, cooking. During 2005 – 2007 were trained and qualified 72 women and girls as hairdressers, 20 women and girls as cooks, 10 girls received computer training, 15 women and girls attended the literacy course, 11 women and girls as tailors. A great contribution was given even by the social workers that offered their specific skills in these areas.

The Centre has a staff of 23 employees such as social worker having the relevant education, general practitioner, cook, maintenance, orderly, driver, etc. In order to enable the best

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possible services to the victims it is required that the professional level of the staff be build up through trainings and activities that improve the level of quality treatment of the victims of trafficking in the NCRVT. The best examples in this direction are:

- The staff of the Centre participated in awareness trainings and activities for matters related to the strengthening of the components for knowing and protecting the rights of children, for conflict management, for communication with children and the youth, for the reduction of stress and pressure of the collective life, games and therapy for the children, legislation for the protection of rights of children, monitoring and assessing the needs of victims of trafficking, re-integration procedures, providing and generating funds, etc.
- During 2006 – 2007, in the framework of a UNICEF project there were conducted visits of the staff in the re-integration centres “Tjetër Vizion”, “Të ndryshëm dhe të barabartë”, “Vatra”. These visits served to see in place the services offered by the centres and how they function in assisting victims of trafficking.
- The psychological service for the social workers through periodical treatment by the secondary trauma psychologist is enabled by IOM for the period October 2007 – 2008. This new service offered to the staff had a positive impact in their psychological relief and at the same time in the quality of services provided to the vulnerable groups that are treated in the Centre.

2.4 The “Vatra” Centre

During the period of 2005-2007, this Centre accommodated 503 women and girls: 380 of who were victims of trafficking, 69 at risk of being trafficked, and 54 who were clandestine immigrants (*data reported from the “Vatra” Centre*).

The Psycho-Social Centre “Vatra” in the city of Vlora, as part of its project “Shelter for Women and Girls Victims of Trafficking, at Risk of Trafficking, Irregular Migrants and Violated Women” offers assistance in the identification and interviewing process through its well-trained and experienced trainers. Medical services at this centre are delivered by its medic and nurse. During their stay at the “Shelter”, victims are kept under continuous medical supervision (by the centre’s medic and nurse) and referred to specialized to doctors such as psychiatrists, haematologists, neurologist, gynaecologists, dentist, etc., working in health institutions in the area. In cooperation with the QUO VADIS Centre in Vlora, every accommodated victim was given the opportunity to voluntarily be tested for: STDs such as HIV, HEPATITIS B virus, etc.

VoTs are offered legal assistance by the lawyer of the Centre. Sheltered women and girls were given legal advice on various legislative issues, such as the law on witness protection, the legal framework on trafficking of human beings, the law on domestic violence, etc. Furthermore, 64 women and girls were assisted through legal advice and representation on property related issues, divorce, children custody, childbirth registration, etc. On the same token, the Lawyer of this Centre offered his legal assistance to 19 victims accommodated in

the Centre after reporting their exploiters to the police. This lawyer followed up on the investigation, prosecution and sentencing of the defendants.

This Centre offers group or individual psychosocial assistance to the victims. Its psychologist and social group offer individual counselling at the shelter. 202 victims accommodated at this Centre have received individual psychological therapies. This Centre also offers family counselling. These are regular services delivered through frequent meetings with family members, aimed at creating a mutual understanding and preparing the family for their contact with the VoT and her reacceptance.

This Centre also places beneficiaries in rented apartments as a temporary accommodation arrangement. During the period of 2005-2007, 14 trafficked women and girls were accommodated in such rented apartments, one of who had also a child of 5 years old. This Centre offers vocational courses (hairdressing, tailoring, computer literacy and embroidery) and mediates for the employment of these women and girls.

The personnel of this Centre works to make girls in the Shelter, and especially minor VoTs, aware of the need to continue their formal education and take the opportunity to educate them and build a different future. For the period of 2005-2007, in the framework of an agreement signed between the Centre and the Regional Education Directorate, 12 young girls of high school age and 1 girl at a compulsory education age were able to attend respective distance education program.

This Centre offers vocational courses based on agreements signed with and in cooperation with the Vocational Education School (state-owned Institution under Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Chances). 102 women and girls were trained in these vocational courses for the period of 2005-2007. 52 of these women attended tailoring training, 41 hairdressing training and 9 computer literacy training.

After their vocational training, girls entered the reintegration stage of their program, meaning their employment based on their recently acquired skills. Thus, for the period of 2005-2007, in cooperation with the Vocational Education Centre and Regional Labour Office in Vlora, 73 beneficiaries accommodated at the Shelter were employed by *private entities*; 5 of them were employed at a Beauty Centre (where they are also receiving their hairdressing training), 1 is working as at the Prevention Centre, and 4 are working as social operations at the World Vision Organization in the framework of the cooperation between this organization and the "Vatra" Centre. A total number of 83 trafficked women and girls were employed during the period of 2005-2007 thanks to the efforts made by the "Vatra" Centre.

2.5 Different & Equal (D&E)

During the period of 2005-2007, "Different & Equal" organization assisted 100 beneficiaries and 27 children of beneficiaries. (*Data reported by "Different & Equal"*)

During this period, the organization “Different & Equal” offered its own assistance in the reintegration of Albanian victims of trafficking, through a full package of reintegration services, tailor-made to the individual needs of each victim. This centre offers shelter, security and a reintegration plan, medical assistance, psychological counselling, negotiation and mediation with family members, legal assistance and support, social activities, assistance with registering to attend school and regular attendance, achieved through vocational training and employment, monitoring and supervision of program beneficiaries, social reintegration support, alternative accommodation/care, and financial aid to support them with their accommodation expenses.

The reintegration assistance for victims of trafficking has three stages: accommodation at the reintegration centre, middle and long-term accommodation for beneficiaries, and independent life. Accommodation/sheltering services and initial/preliminary services for beneficiaries are offered as part of the first stage of assistance, given at the Reintegration Centre. In this first stage of assistance, VoT needs are identified and addressed, medical or psychological, and preparatory work is done to go through the rest of stages for their reintegration process.

Interviewing and counselling sessions are held to develop the profile of the victim as well as their individual plan of assistance. Every plan is implemented by working with each case individually, through counselling sessions with a predefined structure and objectives, medical examinations if necessary, vocational trainings and preparatory work to enable the victim continue his/her education/or take literacy classes or attend school, through negotiation/mediation with the family members for those victims who want to re-establish sound relations with their families, etc. The reintegration plan includes group activities, considering them as very important for the individual in terms of information, development of social skills, etc.

D&E has offered accommodation for those beneficiaries who have made the important transition to a “normal” life. Those beneficiaries, who have gone through vocational training and were able to keep their job for a certain period of time, are given the possibility to move into collective apartments, rented by the D&E. Their progress while living in these rented apartments and with custodian families is monitored by the D&E social workers offering continuous psycho-social assistance.

In relation to the vocational training and employment of the beneficiaries, the Centre begins by identifying the capacities and desires of each individual before assigning them to vocational courses and informs them on possible trainings and employment opportunities that exist, as well as monitors and supervises their job performance in order to assist them with job retention and solve issues with their employer and colleagues. The most common vocational training and courses attended by the beneficiaries have been: hairdressing, *au pair*, English language courses, Italian language courses, and culinary courses. During the period of 2005-2007, 50 beneficiaries attended vocational and life-skill developing courses and 40 beneficiaries were employed.

In relation to formal education, 20 beneficiaries were registered to attend schools and are currently continuing their high school education as part of the part time and full time program in the education system. Very good cooperation relations between the Centre and the Tirana Education Directorate facilitated the registration of program beneficiaries to attend school as well as their reintegration into the education system.

This centre offers individual or group psychological counselling. Individual counselling sessions take into account the individual needs of our beneficiaries and meet the objectives identified in their reintegration plan, developed by the respective social worker and the beneficiary herself. Such counselling sessions are focused on: rebounding after the traumatic event - emotional rebounding - improvement of their psychological well-being - affective relations -family relations- self-esteem - vocational training - employment - plans for the future - independent life, etc.

2.6 Another Vision - Tjeter Vizion

During the period of January 2005 - December 2007, this Centre received 207 referrals to our residential services, 90 of which were referrals to the Child's Shelter, 85 referrals to the Women and Girls' shelter and 32 for the Safe House/High Autonomy Apartments (*Data reported from the "Another Vision"*)

- These referrals were received from:
- The Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings Section at the Elbasan Police Directorate,
- The National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking (NRCVT),
- "Terre des Hommes",
- "Regional Round-table on Counter-Trafficking in Children" from the Prefecture of Elbasan,
- Religious bodies,
- Auto Referrals from family members or relatives.

An interview and an evaluation of the family situation were held for each one of these cases.

Some of the main activities held as part of the combat against trafficking in human beings are developing anti-trafficking operators, offering accommodation services (shelters) for children and women-girls and sensitising campaigns.

Throughout this period, "Tjeter Vizion" has paid special attention to building the professional capacities and social skills of its beneficiaries. This was done through a multi-phase process:

1. General training on the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and information on the strategy and the legal framework on anti-trafficking,
2. Case treatment and management with experiences lived in the shelter, as well as
3. Reintegration programs.

Operator trainings were organized by specialists of the ISS (International Social Service) IOM, the Centre for Legal Initiatives, CAAHT, CIES (Centre of Information and Social Education). Training methodology included short lectures, group discussions and teamwork, practical exercises, etc. 36 social operators attended such trainings.

Activities of the Children Accommodation Services

Academic performance This activity offers victims support throughout their education process;

Personal hygiene and sanitation activities: The purpose of this activity is to make minors aware of the importance of their personal hygiene, of a clean living environment and inform them on dangerous illnesses and how to take preventive measures against them;

The book of life: the main purpose of this activity is to make them appreciate and understand what has passed, and encourage a greater level of self-esteem and develop their character through a positive outlook for the future;

Sports activities: These are individual or group activities. These are activities of a developing, integrating and social nature.

Creative Laboratories and Manuals: The purpose of this activity is to encourage creativity and DIY skills, as well as the use of social expressions and skills.

Autonomy in everyday life: This activity is carried out inside the safe houses and involves various tasks minors assign to themselves and how they fulfil and follow up on them.

Vocational development and employment: This activity is suggested to be used with juveniles unable to attend school who visit the safe houses.

Reintegration into the family of origin and community: Throughout their stay, beneficiaries of accommodation services are assisted (from the educational staff) with their personal issues and family problems (from the social assistant)

Activities offered by the shelters for women and girls

Individual Work Plan: Our work practice with victims treated in the shelter involves the development of an individual plan of work for each one of the beneficiaries. This individual plan of work covers three main areas of intervention: *the individual area, the relationship with the children, and contacts with the outside world.*

Health Care: Cases accommodated in the shelter have benefited from this service provided by the public health system and whenever necessary, by the private health system as well.

Psychosocial counselling: All beneficiaries in the shelter were given emotional and psychological support through weekly colloquia (structured conversation). Some of the women assisted in this shelter, were offered legal counselling and assistance. The social assistant of this Centre, with the support of the lawyer of the counselling centre, have accompanied women to courthouses. Women have also been assisted with necessary paperwork such as birth certificates or other required documentation.

Supporting mother and child relations: One of the problems of VoT and/or women at risk accommodated at the shelter is that they had been neglectful toward their children and have paid no attention to their personal hygiene, nutrition, health, emotional well-being, academic performance, etc of their children. Therefore, salvaging the relationship between the mother and her child is now one of our primary objectives. Employees together with the mothers and their children have managed to tackle different problems and improve their relations through game work. Special attention was given to registering children to attend school and kindergartens located in the vicinity of the shelter.

Empowering women and girls: One of the main work objectives of this shelter is the personal and financial empowerment of women so that they could reintegrate into their families and community. The centre has made a lot of efforts to achieve this objective by developing women professionally, directing them in the field and through. As part of these efforts, non-professional women accommodated at the centre were given the opportunity to attend a vocational course.

Such vocational training were hairdressing, tailoring and culinary courses. Upon the completion of their training, these women were assisted and directed by our centre personnel in contacting various enterprises and applying for jobs. The majority of women have already found a job and only few of them are still looking for one.

Strengthening family relations: During their stay at the shelter, women and girls were supported in their attempts to maintain and re-establish contact with their family and relatives. In order to achieve this, the centre allows family visits at the centre and sends one of its social assistants to visit families of victims, in order to see the situation firsthand and look at the possibilities of improving family ties. On many occasions, efforts have resulted in improved ties between the women and their family members.

Socio-economic reintegration. 21 out of 52 cases of women treated at the shelter during the reporting period were unable to benefit from the complete package of services (they interrupted their reintegration process), while 14 women and girls continue to receive assistance. This centre keeps in touch with the women and girls even after they leave the shelter. It is the social assistant of this centre who keeps in touch and monitors the situation with their family members and gives them the necessary help whenever needed.

2.7 Supporting the activities of reintegration centres and of NGOs

Shelters are one of the most important contributors in the support of victims of trafficking. They play an important role in identifying the type of services these victims need. These centres go to great lengths to ensure that the basic needs of victims are met. Continuous and effective protection and assistance for these victims requires significant resources and capacities. Until now, the Albanian Government has given direct financial support to the National Reception Centre for the Victims of Trafficking. As part the efforts on the decentralization of services, each local unit will receive funding in support of existing NGOs willing to delivering new services.

Likewise:

- In cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the *Guideline no. 1*, was drafted on 2.2.2007 pursuant to the *Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 563 date 08.12.2005 on "District Responsibilities in Social Care Delivery"*. This Guideline helps out all districts structures identify their needs, introduce and deliver new social services and coordinate action with the local government units.
- As part of the World Bank's funded project "Delivery of Social Services in the Community" new community services are being now delivered. These services guarantee social inclusion for groups in need such as: the Roma, Egyptians, violated women, etc. This project will support such services until the end of year 2007. Afterwards the local government will fund these services. In this context, associations delivering services for victims of trafficking will also receive financial support. Daily community-based services for children, the young, disabled persons, girls and women in need, and the elderly have already began to operate as part of this project in eight districts of the country such as Tirana, Durrës, Shkodër, Vlorë, Elbasan, Fier, Lezhë, Gjirokastër. This way, the daily service approach covers 2/3 of the territory of our country.
- Based on the DCM no. 564 "On the Licenses for Social Service Providers", issued on 08.12.2005 and the DCM no. 349, issued on 6.6.2007 "On some Additions and Amendments to the DCM no. 564, issued on 12.8.2005 "On the process of licensing for NGOs providing services for groups in need" is ongoing. About 80 NGOs service providers were licensed to date. Among MoLSAEO (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) licensed organizations delivering services to victims of trafficking are the centres: "Vatra", "Another Vision", Të ndryshëm dhe Të barabartë (Different & Equal), Gjirokastra Community Centre, etc.

2.8 About vocational education:

The state supports capacity building efforts made for quantitative and qualitative vocational education, through the development of a system of public centres for vocational training, and through encouragement, support and cooperation with non-governmental stakeholders as

well as employers and ultimately through subsidizing employment, which is a scheme of state support for those employers who create jobs and keep them vacant for unemployed job-seekers coming from the Labour Offices. *Order nr. 394, issued on 2.23.2004, MOLSAEO, "On the Fees of Vocational Education System"* states that registration fees for vocational training courses offered by the Public Centre for Vocational Education will be reduced or free for the following group of unemployed job-seekers registered at the Labour offices: the Roma community, trafficked girls and women, former convicts and orphans.

3. The latest Developments in Combating Trafficking in Children and the Protection of Children Victims of Trafficking

3.1 National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Children and the Protection of Children Victims of Trafficking

The Albanian Government has drafted a specific Strategy against children trafficking. This Strategy does not repeat the objectives set in the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period of 2005-2007. The Action Plan in the framework of this Strategy is composed of five main pillars, which are: prevention, victim protection, investigation and traffickers' prosecution, the assisted voluntary return, and coordination between anti-trafficking partners. The purpose of strategy is to adjust such objectives to the needs and characteristics of each child. The strategy aims at strengthening work coordination between state institutions and non-governmental bodies.

3.2 Albania and Greece sign the Agreement "On Protection and Assistance of Children Victims of Trafficking", in the framework of the implementation of the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

In the framework of the implementation of this Strategy, the National Coordinator on Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings, the Deputy Minister of Interior, Ms. Iva ZAJMI and the Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Evripidis STYLIANIDIS, signed on 27th of February 2006 the Agreement "*On the Protection and Assistance of Children as Victims of Trafficking*". This Agreement was ratified by the Albanian Parliament on May 2006, by Law no. 9544, dated 29.05.2006. The Greek Parliament has yet to ratify this Agreement. The Albanian Government is in constant contact with the Greek Government to ensure the eventual ratification of this Agreement.

This Agreement is a complete and practical document, which specifies the establishment of relevant structures to provide protection and assistance for children victims of trafficking as one of the main responsibilities of both countries. This agreement will ensure that the entire process of protection, assistance, return and reintegration of children victims of trafficking will work to the best interests of the child.

The children of Roma community make up the majority of children living unaccompanied in Greece. These children are very vulnerable to trafficking and are in special need for protection and care. Roma children are trafficked in Greece for forced labour and beggary. This Agreement establishes the necessary legal framework for the implementation of joint and specific actions in the protection and assistance of children victims of trafficking.

One of the most important clauses of this Agreement states that both countries must adopt effective procedures ensuring immediate identification and assistance for children being trafficked inside their territories.

The ratification of this Agreement from the Greek authorities paved the way for the institutionalisation of efforts and introduction of procedures in the protection and provision of assistance for unaccompanied children in Greece. Protecting the best interests and welfare of trafficked children or potential victims of trafficking is in the interests of both countries.

3.3 Memorandum of Understanding for the promotion and implementation of the Code of Conduct on Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the promotion and implementation of the Code of Conduct in the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism, between the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and the OSCE Presence in Albania, aimed at curbing child trafficking within the country, was a very positive development. Several steps were taken as part of this MoU to promote the Code of Conduct such as the organization of introductory and informative meetings with tourism operators and travel agencies; distribution of posters in the main border-crossing points aiming at encouraging the observation of the Code of Conduct in Albania as well as informing the public at large on the serious sentences provided for in the law on cases of child exploitation for tourism.

3.4 The National Strategy for Children

These are monitoring structures established as part of the National Strategy for Children:

Inter-Ministerial Committee for Children Rights:

The National Strategy for Children emphasizes and identifies the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Children Rights as the highest authority supervising the implementation of this strategy. The Inter-Ministerial Committee for Children Rights was established upon the Order of the Prime Minister of Albania, no. 24, issued on 03. 21.200. This Committee is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and its membership is composed of the Line- Ministers and 2 representatives of NGOs active in the field of children rights. Representatives of UNICEF and the Children Alliance – Albania were also chosen as members of this Committee.

Technical Secretariat for Children

Upon the Order of the Prime Minister nr. 162, dated 07. 24.2006, a two personnel-member Technical Secretariat for Children was established as part of the Directorate of Policies on Equal Opportunities, at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. This Secretariat became operational in October 2006 and it was fully staffed by the end of November 2006. Its scope of work is to supervise and coordinate the implementation of policies for children, as defined in the National Strategy for Children. Initially, the Secretariat focused its efforts in the establishment of a contact network with the Ministries of Line and representatives of the civil society operating in the field of children rights as well as establishing cooperation relations with all these actors.

Central level structures in the protection of children rights

With the support of UNICEF, were established 4 Units for Children Rights at a district level in Elbasan, Vlora, Kukës and Korça.

MoLSAEO in cooperation with USAID and UNICEF, is implementing a pilot project for the establishment of Child Protection Units, as part of the Section of Economic Assistance and Disability Allowance in the municipality structures. This section has one social worker responsible for the range of problems faced by children living within the territory of this municipality.

The main tasks of this Child Protection Unit are:

- Evaluate and monitor the situation of children and families at risk;
- Coordinate protection and referral activities at a local level;
- Identify and manage cases in a multi-faceted way.

Such units have already been established as part of the municipalities of Elbasan, Pogradec, Korçë, Fier and Gjirokastër.

The purpose of these structures is to build the capacity of local structures in identifying, evaluating, referring and supporting children in need. Child Protection Units form a multi-discipline team dealing with case management and serve as a *drop - in centre*, where children and families may receive information or be referred to other supporting services accordingly. The main goal is to expand such units nationwide upon the completion of the assessment stage of this pilot project.

4. Official counselling to all current or potential Albanian victims of trafficking living outside Albania

The Albanian Government continues to strengthen its relations with neighbouring countries in creating functional mechanisms for the protection, repatriation and reintegration of victims of trafficking. Special importance was given to intensifying cross-border cooperation.

During 2007, two cross-border meetings were held with the Macedonian and Kosovar authorities. An Additional Protocol was signed with the Macedonian Ministry of Interior *“On intensifying cooperation on combating trafficking in human beings across state borders and on enhanced identification, notification, referral and assisted return of victims and suspected victims of trafficking in human beings”*. The Additional Protocol to be signed with Kosovo *“On intensifying cooperation on combating trafficking in human beings across state borders and on enhanced identification, notification, referral and assisted return of victims and suspected victims of trafficking in human beings”*.

In 2008, we are planning on holding similar cross-border meetings with Greece, Montenegro and Serbia, which we hope will conclude with the signing of other agreements.

In the framework of extending our regional partnership and increasing the efficiency of the identification, referral, protection and assistance system for the victims of trafficking, the Anti-Traffic Unit is coordinating the National Implementation Team (NIT) for the development and implementation of the **Transnational Referral Mechanism (MTR)** as a mechanism of identification, referral and protection for victims of trafficking outside our state borders, a transnational network of mechanisms in the service and support of victims of trafficking, through greater cooperation and inter-state and cross-border dialogue for a speedy exchange of information in an open and uncompromising combat against crime in the framework of the *“Program in Support of the Establishment of Transnational Referral Mechanisms (MTR) for Trafficked Persons in the South-eastern Europe”*.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues regular guidelines about services to be delivered, ways of counselling victims and persons at risk. But the number of persons referred to our representing offices on these issues is very low. It seems that leaflets found in our representing offices providing information on specialized centres, are a more effective and easier way to be informed more discretely by the interested parties. At the same time, the Consular Directorate has done everything within its powers to issue clear guidelines to its consuls or persons in charge of consular affairs appointed during the reporting period 2005-2007.

CHAPTER 3 - PREVENTION

This chapter outlines measures and outcomes of preventive actions taken against trafficking and re-trafficking in human beings. As foreseen in the 2005-2007 National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and its Action Plan, prevention of trafficking is one of the main areas of focus for the Government and its partners.

Measures taken and efforts made for the prevention of trafficking and re-trafficking have aimed at targeting these main areas:

- Public awareness;
- Public education and information on the dangers and causes of trafficking (incorporation into education system as a **mainstream**) especially for women, children and groups at risk;
- Encouragement and promotion of other alternatives against trafficking and re-trafficking for groups at risk;
- Initiatives for socio-economic development and poverty reduction, etc.

In this chapter we will introduce efforts made in the area of:

1. Government funded programs on education, media coverage and use of other means of communication to inform and educate the population more efficiently, especially women, children and groups at risk on the dangers and causes of trafficking;
2. Increasing the quality and quantity of official and reliable information given to the media on arrests, criminal proceedings and sentencing of trafficking cases as a prevention tool against Trafficking in Human Beings;
3. Public and NGO initiatives and funding to hold vocational courses and other alternatives in the Combat Against trafficking and re-trafficking of groups at risk;
4. Increasing the chances for greater social inclusion of groups at risk through the implementation of the law on mandatory education and registration in the public registration offices, as well as by offering remedial vocational education/training for school dropouts;
5. Activities of the Regional Committees for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings;
6. Completion of the necessary documentation for childbirth, citizenship and marriage as an instrument for social inclusion and possibility to benefit from the education system and other social services, especially in the case of women and children.

1- Government funded programs on education, media coverage and use of other means of communication to inform and educate the population more efficiently, especially women, children and groups at risk on the dangers and causes of trafficking

Various awareness raising activities especially those meant for the youth are at the focus of efforts made to prevent the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings. In this framework, a number of projects were developed and are being implemented, among which we might mention:

- The project on *“Prevention activities and support for victims of trafficking”*, which is expanded in 100 schools, involving about 50.000 students of 9-year obligatory education schools and high schools in the district of Tirana and suburbs, implemented by IOM in collaboration with the MES and the Anti-Trafficking Unit.
- MES in collaboration with the UNICEF is implementing the project *“COMBI”*, which is focused in the fight against violence in schools.
- MES and the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with IOM have published and distributed manuals, leaflets, brochures, informative materials about regular immigration and prevention of trafficking in human beings in several high schools of 6 districts in the country, as well in the universities of Shkodra and Vlora. 460 students – 280 girls and 180 boys – participated in this phase of the project.

As part of the same public awareness raising campaign related to the phenomenon of trafficking and dangers of trafficking, information on regular immigration aiming at preventing trafficking, several television programs on antitrafficking were broadcasted in the national and local TV stations. Furthermore, in cooperation with the IOM, several TV spots and documentaries were broadcasted addressing regular immigration and prevention of trafficking.

IOM conducted a research on focus group members with the aim of identifying the level of knowledge on trafficking issues upon the completion of awareness campaigns, in order to compare it with former researches.

MES and MoLSAEO in collaboration with the NPOs have made efforts to qualify teachers working with children and groups at risk of trafficking, especially in areas of many socio-economic problems.

All state institutions and NPO-s working with vulnerable groups organize workshops; distribute informing materials for families facing social issues and with a low level of education, Roma community, etc.

In these last 2 years MoLSAEO has organized a number of activities with the main aim of identifying problems and determining measures and actual steps to be taken for their

elimination. MoLSAEO has organized National Conferences, meetings and roundtables on various subjects addressing mainly issues affecting vulnerable groups (children, Roma, disabled persons, women, etc). These activities have also identified progress made in the area of education, health, social protection, and the order of local structures. A special contribution was given in this direction by NPO-s and donors operating in this area.

1.1 Incorporating awareness raising subjects addressing trafficking in human beings in the school curricula

Making children aware of the dangers of trafficking in human beings during their schooling is a firm step towards prevention of trafficking. For this purpose, MES has taken measures to incorporate trafficking subjects into the syllabi of gender and social education classes taught throughout the entire pre-university education system, with the aim of showing how trafficking in human beings and causes that lead to this phenomenon are linked to other social issues. Therefore, following the MES guidelines, new subjects are already incorporated into the syllabus of civic education classes (I, II, III, IV grades), Civic Education 7, Biology, Knowledge about the Society (I, II grade) etc, according to the guidelines of MES.

In its special publications for teachers, MES has issued internal guidelines instructing teachers throughout the entire education system to give priority to gender issues, trafficking and domestic violence in class and at their meetings between parents, students and teachers. In this year's guideline, MES emphasizes that annual school work and lesson plans for individual classes must address gender, trafficking and domestic violence related issues. According to these guidelines, trafficking issues are to be addressed as part of extracurricular and cross curricular activities.

Apart from guidelines and the incorporation of subjects on trafficking issues, there exist other important materials prepared and trainings held for this purpose. It would be worthwhile mentioning here:

- The manual on "Trafficking in human beings and School Prevention Role" published in collaboration with IOM targeting 9-year compulsory education and high schools as well as the an accompanying training module for teachers and trainers.
- A leaflet drafted and distributed by MES titled "Stop Violence against Children".
- Trainings held at schools in the district of Tirana during the period of 13 November - 13 December 2007. Ten IOM trained trainers conducted training sessions in 50 different schools in the district of Tirana. Students were introduced to and informed about different subjects relating to trafficking and were focused especially on the causes and consequences of trafficking, smuggling, gender issues and domestic violence.

2. Increasing the quality and quantity of official and reliable information given to the media on arrests, prosecution and sentencing in trafficking cases as a prevention tool against Trafficking in Human Beings.

2.1 Database

Bearing in mind the importance of statistics as a vital component in forming a clear picture of the current situation in the country and finding a solution and immediate response to identified problems and after witnessing the incoherence in the data reported by various bodies involved in the combat against human trafficking, the need for a database to serve as tool in our joint efforts to combat this phenomenon became obvious. This database will enable the generation of accurate and verifiable and will allow for follow-up case avoiding thus lack of coordination and incoherence and possible abuses such as artificial increase of numbers of potential/victims of trafficking.

For more information about this database, please refer to Chapter 1 "*Criminal Procedures*", (point 1.2).

2.2 National toll-free telephone lines (0800 12 12)

The **national toll-free telephone line "Help line" (0800 12 12)**, is now functional and working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and it has expanded even for mobile operators which now have similar help lines for reporting cases of trafficking in human beings. The entire society benefits through this help line for prevention of trafficking of human beings. This help line became fully operational in the beginning of November 2006, and it is at the disposal of the public at large. Cases of trafficking in human beings reported by the public are being reported on a regular basis. This help line is funded by the UNODC (United Nation Office against Drugs and Crimes) and IOM. Starting from November 2007 this help line is being funded by the Ministry of Interior.

Every telephone conversation held in this help line is registered. Furthermore, a special register is kept with the most important details of ever conversation held. These data include whenever possible, the identity of the caller (first and last name), his/her correct residence address and phone number, if available, and also a summary of the purpose of this phone call. A report is prepared on every phone call and submitted to be analyzed by the Crime Investigation Directorate of the State Police.

From November 2006 and until the end of year 2007, 148 persons have called this help line. The purpose of these calls varies:

- 30 phone calls asking for information on migration paperwork;
- 27 unanswered phone calls;
- 79 phone calls forwarded to IOM for processing;
- 8 wrong phone calls;
- 4 phone calls about various complains;

- 1 phone call reporting one case of sexual exploitation for prostitution;
- 1 phone call complaining about a police officer.

3. Public and NGO initiatives and funding for vocational courses and other alternatives in the combat against trafficking and re-trafficking of groups at risk

During the reporting period, measures were taken to draft and approve a package of government initiatives encouraging professional alternatives versus illegal immigration, trafficking and re-trafficking of young women, girls and children. Small and middle level enterprises were supported through soft credits, lower taxes and programs focused on children abandoning school, groups and regions at high risk of trafficking. Various activities were subsidized with the goal of creating new jobs openings and reintegration of possible victims of trafficking. These initiatives were implemented alongside the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction, the Strategy for Social and Economic Development and the Distribution of Social Service in cooperation with international loaning institutions.

MoLSAEO implements programs encouraging hiring of unemployed women job-seekers, with a priority to trafficked women. This Ministry has worked simultaneously with several programs to encourage employment:

- Program for the encouragement of employment of unemployed job-seekers (DCM No. 69);
- Program for the encouragement of employment of unemployed job-seekers through education at work (DCM No. 73) ;
- Program for the encouragement of employment of unemployed job-seekers through vocational education (DCM No. 74) ;
- Program for the encouragement of employment of unemployed female job-seekers (DCM No. 632). This program employs females with the priority given to trafficked female job-seekers, such as girls/women over 35 years old, Roma girls/women with disabilities, young mothers, and divorced females with social problems. This program aims at ensuring long-term employment and inclusion of job-seekers from special groups experiencing difficulties in being included in the job market. Thanks to this program unemployed female job-seekers were provided with a 1,2, and 3 year employment. Insurance costs are covered at a certain percentage for all female job-seekers included in the program as a form of financial support which also foresees salaries for special groups.

As part of the steps undertaken by MoLSAEO, we might mention the approval and implementation of the following normative acts:

- Order no. 394, dated 23.02.2004 of the MoLSAEO, *“On the fees of vocational training”* provides for training courses free of charge offered by the public vocational training centres to trafficked girls and women.
- Order no. 645, dated 20.3.2006: *“On the priorities of the 2006 employment the promotion program”* identifies the domains of cloth-weaving, tailoring, shoemaking,

food manufacturing, agriculture, green houses and vineyards, as the primary ones for the implementation of employment promotion programs. In these sectors works the majority of the women workforce as well.

- The same order states that 50% of the funds allocated to these programs are to be used for the implementation of the employment of unemployed female job-seekers program, as foreseen in the DCM No. 632 *“On the employment of unemployed female job-seekers”*. According to this program employers who hire and sign a one-year job contract with unemployed female job-seekers from the lists of Labour office, shall receive a monthly government funding equal to 70% of the payment of the insurances amount paid for employers (the employer’s contribution) for the entire period of the one-year job contract. If the job contract is signed for a 2 or 3 year-period, this monthly funding will increase to respectively 85% and 100% of the total expenses made by employer for employee’s insurances respectively. In cases of employment of special groups, such as female victims of trafficking, the abovementioned funding for 1,2 and 3-year job contract amounts respectively to 4,6 and 8 minimum wages at a national level.
- Order no. 782, dated 04.04.2006 *“On the fees for vocational education”* states that registration fees to courses for unemployed job-seekers registered in the Offices of Labour and for those who desire to attend vocational courses offered by Public Centres of Vocational Training shall be free of charge for special groups, which include trafficked women and girls. From the 1st of January 2006 until now, 13 unemployed female job-seekers have benefited from vocational courses free of charge.

Another important step was the approval of the Law no. 9668, dated 18.12.2006 *“On the immigration of Albanian citizens for employment motives”*. This law contains several laws, contributing to the prevention of trafficking in human beings and facilitation of their reintegration with respect to employment, such as Article no. 1, point 2, letter d; Article 2, point 21; Article 4, letter d; Article 16; letter 19 and Article 40.

Among the most important projects in this respect is the joint project between ILO-MIGRANT *“Employment Opportunities, Vocational Education and Migration Policy Measures for the Prevention and Reduction of Trafficking of Females in Albania, Moldavia and Ukraine”*, implemented by the International Labour Office/International Migration Program (ILO-MIGRANT) and funded by the Irish Government. Efforts are being made to ensure micro-crediting as part of this project. Some of the achievements worth mentioning are:

- In March 2007 this project together with the Besa Fund signed a Service Contract for the implementation of micro-credits for trafficking victims (ultimate objective: micro-crediting for 6-10 girls victims of trafficking).
- In April 2007, the Besa Fund held a training session on the foundation and management of a small business with the participation of 15 victims of trafficking referred from *“Different and Equal”*, and the centres *“Vatra”* and *“Another Vision”*. The training course was held for three days in each city. This training was also attended by personnel from the referral centres. Curriculum used in this training was developed in coordination with a similar OSCE program held in Tiranë (the number of beneficiaries from this program is added to the abovementioned number).

- Towards the end of June and the beginning of July 2007, the Crediting Committee composed of representatives of the Besa Fund, referral centres and ILO and OSCE Program, considered the draft-business plans developed by the applicants. 3 credits were approved to be credited by ILO were approved, one for a fast food, hairdressing shop and new or used clothing shop. Three other business plans were approved as part of the OSCE project.

As part of the efforts made to encourage safe and non-exploitative employment outside the country, meetings for various employment schemes for migrants were held with main destination countries in Europe and further.

- The Migration Directorate at the MoLSAEO has requested from the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies to open negotiation for the development of a new framework agreement on employment.
- Pursuant to the National Strategy on Migration, a pilot project was drafted to be implemented in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, aimed at enhancing channels of legal immigration and prevention of illegal immigration.
- The second phase of Regional Project ILO-MIGRANT: “Employment Opportunities, vocational education and migratory policy measures for the prevention and reduction of female trafficking in Albania, Moldavia and Ukraine”, has begun. Among others, the purpose of this project is to issue micro-credits for the foundation of private enterprises by the contingent of former trafficked women and girls, aiming at the their reintegration and opening of new jobs for victims of trafficking but also the prevention of trafficking of possible victims.
- In the framework of the project HLEG 2003, funded by the EC and the Greek Ministry of Interior, aimed at assisting Albanian government structures to implement the Readmission Agreement, a “Policy Paper” is being developed. This document will institutionalise assistance given to emigrants returned in the country (voluntarily or by force) in compliance with the needs of the labour market in Albania. A “workshop” meeting was held to discuss the draft-paper for the reintegration of migrants returned in the framework of the Readmission Agreement. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the needs of state institutions with respect to migrant reintegration and accomplishment of the recommendations given by the foreign researcher contracted by IOM.
- Thanks to the CARD-s project funded by the UNHCR, all procedures in equipping illegal immigrants with documentation and deporting them to their country of origin were followed and covered by this project. Upon the conclusion of this project, tasks and procedures in the preparation and provision of persons with the required documentation were transferred to the authority of the Albanian State and are now part of the responsibilities of the Ministry of Interior - Border and Migration Police.
- Public information on safe ways of migration has increased to serve the purpose of trafficking risk reduction. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior were officially contacted about the uploading of their website www.migrantinfo.gov.al which contains special information.

- The new draft law on immigration contains special clauses on information and risks of illegal immigration aimed at the prevention of trafficking.
- In cooperation with the IOM a pilot Project (Proposal-Call) was drafted on: “Maximizing the potential of migration movement for the purposes of employment between Greece, Italy and Albania and assisting at the same time return to Albania”, submitted for approval to the EC, as part of the AENEAS 2005 Program, aiming at strengthening and building the implementation capacities of Albania in enforcing of the Readmission Agreement EU-Albania.

3.1 Private Agencies of Employment (PAoE)

Current regimes of licensing and monitoring are used to regulate the activities of private employment/travel agencies offering employment outside the country ensuring that only licensed, legal and professional agencies are allowed to exercise their activities and advertise them in the printed and electronic media.

Starting from 1999, the Albanian legislation allows the foundation and functioning of Private Agencies of Employment (PAoE). These agencies provide:

- Services that evaluate job application and request processing for employment within and without the country;
- Job-seeking related services;
- Worker employment services, making them available to third parties, such as natural or juridical persona and assigning them tasks and supervising task fulfilment. The National Strategy for Employment emphasizes the need for a closer cooperation between the PAoEs and the counterpart state structures and for a greater and stricter control on the licensing activities, ensuring thus that only those agencies with the capability and ability to offer services shall obtain their licensing.

In support of the DCM No. 708 dated 16.3.2003 “On PAoE licensing and functioning”, MoLSAEO as the highest authority has issued the relevant guidelines on the ways such PAoEs must function, obtain licensing and be monitored.

With the purpose of improving employment facilitation services offered to jobseekers desiring to be employed outside the country offered by private operators in the market, and also strengthening the cooperation with Private Agencies of Employment (PAoE), MoLSAEO representatives held meetings with the PAoEs and the National Employment Service (NES). The purpose of these meetings was to organize such bodies into PAoE Unions and draft a code of ethics, assisting them to improve the employment standards related to job opportunities within the country and abroad.

Currently, there are 11 Private Agencies of Employment licensed by the MOLSAEO. Licensed Private Agencies of Employment have founded their Association of Private Employment Agencies. This Association is registered with the courthouse in order to coordinate their activities. The establishment of the Association of Private Agencies of Employment aims at

coordinating PAoE actions so that these agencies could better cooperate, for employment and other legal employment opportunities outside the country, and also speak in one voice when coordinating actions with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The PAoE Association has its own webpage where it has published all current MoLSAEO licensed agencies and services they provide.

Pursuant to the Law no. 9634, dated 30.10.2006 *"On Labour Inspection and State Labour Inspectorate"*, the State Labour Inspectorate (SLI) is the only executive institution with the right to control and enforce the implementation of the Legislation on Labour and related legal clauses. MoLSAEO collaborates with the State Labour Inspectorate to improve its work in relation to the inspection of Private Agencies of Employment, because based on the DCM No. 708 dated 16.3.2003 *"On the ways of licensing and functioning of Private Agencies of Employment"*, the State Labour Inspectorate conducts periodical inspection to determine whether the activities of these agencies comply with the requirements of relevant legislation. In case of violations, the Inspectorate is to notify the licensing commission for Private Agencies of Employment at the MoLSAEO.

3.2 Treatment of groups at risk and their social inclusion

With the aim of preventing trafficking among categories at risk, several measures were taken for their social inclusion and integration pursuant to the law on mandatory education and registration at the civil registry offices, and through remedial vocational education/training for school dropouts.

During the months of September-October 2006, several training workshops were organized together with the international organizations (IOM, UNICEF, TERRE DES HOMMES), media representatives covering cases of trafficking in human beings, as well as a roundtable about the situation of children in the streets in order to prevent further deterioration of their situation.

In this context, the Ministry of Education and Science issued several orders and guidelines and conducted a research on *"The Identification of the situation and measures to be taken in the fight against illiteracy"*:

- The order of the Minister No. 410, dated 08.11.2006 *"On the establishment of a working group for the identification of the situation and measures to be taken in the Combat Against illiteracy"*.
- The guideline no. 09, dated 11.04.2007, *"On education of students isolated due to blood feuds"*.
- The implementation of the guideline no. 34, dated 08.12.04 *"On the implementation of the project "A second chance""*, and the MoES guideline on the education of school dropouts and isolated due to blood feuds. Currently, 496 students assigned to 61 classrooms attend school.
- Measures taken have reduced dropout rates from mandatory education to 0.89%.

- MoES conducted a research after the issuing of the Guideline no. 6, dated 29.03.2006, “About registering to school Roma students unequipped with birth certificates”. This research was completed within 2006. Based on the data provided by this study, measures were taken and due attention was given to the need for the construction of new school facilities and kindergartens. 84 new schools are to be constructed in the areas with the greatest need, out of which 8 will be kindergartens, 14 high school buildings and 62 will be 9-year compulsory education buildings.
- MoES has distributed free of charge textbooks to orphan children, paraplegic and tetraplegic people.
- Children of families who live on social assistance pay only 10% of the textbook price while others pay: 30% of the price of basic education textbooks and 50% of the price of the high education textbooks.
- Compared to 2006, there was an increase in the number of scholarships awarded to pre-university education level and that of the higher education, respectively from 900 to 1600.
- MoES in cooperation with the NPF as part of the CEFA project “For alternative education and vocational training”, is focusing in the socio-economic support for children suffering from acute problems and their integration. Beneficiaries of these efforts are about 900 children of 16 years of age.

3.3 Reception Centres and the NGOs

Reception Centres and NGOs have given a major contribution in the prevention of trafficking and reintegration of possible/victims of trafficking. For more information on these centres please read below or refer to *Chapter II “Witness and Victim Support and Protection” (point 2.3-2.8)*.

The National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking (NRCVT) offers a variety of services such as accommodation, psycho-social, psychological, and legal services, health care, educational assistance, qualification and training, safety, rehabilitation, recreation and family and community reintegration as explained below:

- Vocational qualification courses and trainings;
- Occupational, rehabilitation and reintegration activities;
- Referral for integration;
- Return and reunion with the family;
- Case monitoring and assessment after leaving the Centre (whenever possible). Upon the completion of processes and after the decision from relevant authorities, as well as after closing the rehabilitation program at the Centre, victims of trafficking were referred to various families or organizations working in the field of VoTs reintegration such as “D&E”, “Another Vision”, “Vatra” etc.

In order to ensure support and assistance for victims/possible victims of trafficking, in order to avoid re-trafficking and include them in reintegration programs, involving counselling services, health care, education, vocational qualifications and trainings developing life

improving skills, the NRCVT has held training and qualification courses in tailoring, hairdressing, English language, computer literacy, literacy and cooking.

Such qualification courses were made possible and funded by various donors (SOROS, ILO-MIGRANT, USAID, IOM) supporting activities for victims of trafficking. Another important contribution in this respect was given by social workers offering their special skills in these fields.

An atelier crochet, knitting, embroidery, cloth manufacturing, beauty and hairdressing products, etc, is opened now near the Centre, which is also used to hold continuous professional development courses. Girls living in the shelter have produced various hand made products, which were displayed in artistic trade events and have served to introduce NRCVT to the community, donors, state institution, NGO-s as well as generate income which were distributed to the Victims of Trafficking who made these items.

During the period of 2005-2007 efforts to prevent trafficking through public awareness and sensitising activities focused in the introduction of the NRCVT and the distribution of information about the services it offers. Among awareness raising activities we might mention:

- Meetings held with actors active in the field of anti-trafficking in the districts;
- Leaflets in Albanian and English language developed for and distributed among people interested in the assistance offered;
- The development of an informative brochure containing results of researches conducted by the Centre throughout its 3 year of experience, etc.

One of the objective of work of **the Psycho-Social Centre “Vatra”** for the period of 2005-2007, was to inform state institutions, the community and the population at large about the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, its risks, the great range of social problems it generates and the need to fight against trafficking and prevent this phenomenon.

In the framework of this perspective, the “Vatra” Centre in its activities in the field of trafficking prevention, held an intensive awareness campaign with the youth, women and the community in general on the risks that this phenomenon, the social problems it generates and its consequences. During this campaign it also offered various ways and alternatives in the prevention of this phenomenon.

Researches conducted by this Centre have found that the level of information and awareness on the phenomenon of trafficking is an essential element in the fight and prevention against it. The main purpose of informative activities held by this Centre, and especially those on trafficking in human beings, was to sensitise the youth, girls, women and the overall community on the risks that exist on becoming a victim of this phenomenon as well as to show them how to defend themselves against it.

Some of the activities held in the framework of the awareness campaigns have been:

- Educational sessions held with young girls and boys in high and 9-year compulsory education schools;
- Educational sessions with girls and women;
- Workshops and roundtables held with the community;
- TV and radio shows, etc.

Furthermore, part of the work done by the Vatra staff included the preparation, publishing and distribution of informative materials among the community such as: leaflets, brochures, posters, quarterly bulletins, annual analyses reports on issues of trafficking in human beings.

During the period of 2005 – 2007 the following activities were held:

- 213 educational sessions with the participation of 473 women and girls and 59 men.
- 404 educational sessions with young girls and boys in high and 9-year compulsory education schools with the participation of 3059 students.
- 12 workshops with the participation of 874 members of the local government, social society and the community at large.
- 7 radio and 5 TV shows, with the participation of “Vatra” specialists and other guests working in this field who informed a great number of radio listeners and TV watchers on trafficking in human beings, its consequences, the Albanian legislation on the trafficking in human beings, the violation of victims of trafficking rights, their reintegration in the society, etc.

Similar activities were also held in the district of Vlora as well as in Fier and Berat due to the great amount of information collected by Vatra, through interviews with women accommodated at the shelter, about the occurrence of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings in these districts as well.

Part of the awareness raising efforts made by the “Vatra” Centre for the prevention of trafficking in human beings, in January 2007 it published the “*The Cycle of Topics on Trafficking in human beings*”, with 12 topics addressing the main elements of trafficking in human beings. This book was distributed in every high school in the district of Vlora, Fier, Berat, etc., and it is being incorporated into the sociology syllable of these schools. Feedback given by teachers of sociology in these schools shows an increasing interest among the youth on actively addressing such topics in these classes.

As part of the awareness activities, in April 2007, “Vatra” Centre, with the financial support of OSCE/ODIHR, and in the framework of the project “*Strengthening the protection and assistance for victims of trafficking*”, opened its first Information Office in the District of Vlora, which serves as such for the rest of the southern districts of Albania. The main reason of the establishment and operation of such an office is to inform the community on the risks of trafficking in human beings and of other negative phenomena such drug abuse, crime, violence, etc., and measures to be taken to protect themselves against them.

The Different and Equal Organization (D&E), aside from other activities, it focused its efforts also in the prevention of trafficking and re-trafficking, and in the reintegration assistance for victims/potential victims of trafficking by offering a full package of reintegration services.

In the field of trafficking prevention, D&E in cooperation and with the support of the World Bank, contributed in raising the awareness of the youth in the district of Shkoder on the phenomenon of trafficking by building the capacities of a small group of venerable young people in taking charge of the design, development, and conduct of an awareness campaign against trafficking. Empowering them as the agents of change and therefore increasing the knowledge among the community in relation to the issues of trafficking and making such a change sustainable.

This goal was achieved through the implementation of the project *“Empowering youth at risk in conducting an awareness campaign led by the youth against trafficking in Albania”*. Main activities held as part of this project include a number of “workshop” sessions and trainings held throughout a period of 6-8 weeks: basic computer skills; training on issues of trafficking; training on public speaking and the introduction on awareness raising campaigns, etc. In four weeks, the chosen group with the support of trainers designed and developed an awareness raising anti-trafficking campaign, which targeted high school students in the rural areas of Shkodra as well as some schools inside the city.

Apart from the chosen target group (of 16 persons), other project beneficiaries were 112 VIII grade students in the district of Shkodra targeted by the campaign. The approximate number of beneficiaries of this project was 4360.

4. Activities of the Regional Committees for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings

Upon the order of the Prime Minister No. 139, dated 19.06.2006 *“On the Establishment of Regional Committees for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings”*, **Regional Committees** were established in every district of the country in the framework of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings. These committees are headed by the Prefect of the District and are composed of: the Mayor; Director of the Regional Directorate for Social Services; the Director of Regional Labour Directorate; the Director of Police Directorate; the Regional Director for SIS; the Regional Director for Education; the Director of Public Health. Guest participants in these Committees are the District Attorney, as well as representatives from the civil society. These committees have a technical working group with representatives from all of the abovementioned structures. These structures are responsible for problem identification, policy determination and measures to be taken as part of the FaTiHB at a local level in compliance with the National Anti-Trafficking Strategy. This Committee is also a local partner and serves as a point of contact for the authority supervising the implementation of the NRM. These committees are designed to assist law enforcement agencies in the identification of victims/potential victims of trafficking, and providing them with immediate protection and support. These Committees play a crucial role in preventing this phenomenon

through policy determination and researches, coordination of institutional activities and other measures taken at district level.

The Office of the National Coordinator/Anti-trafficking Unit, with the aim of assisting and facilitating the operation of such structures, issued guidelines explaining the role and responsibilities of these structures. Furthermore, frequent consultative meetings were held in this context. Although these structures are operational, improvements need to be made with respect to cooperation between parties, in the division of roles and responsibilities, as well as standardizing practices and managing information.

Some successful Committees

4.1 Regional Committee Shkoder

In these last two years, the Shkodra Regional Committee has held several activities and taken actual steps in the fight against trafficking in human beings. This Committee has held several meetings and has a continuous cooperation with the Directorate of Public Health; Directorate of Orphanage; the Civil Registry of the Shkodra Municipality; the State Intelligence Services; psychologists of the pre-university education system as well as NGOs in the region.

It is worth mentioning that throughout this time, the Committee has closely cooperated with the NGOs operating in the district of Shkodra (“Women under Development - Shkodër”, “The Foundation of Dispute Resolution”, “Intellectual Women”, “Centre for the Protection of Children’s Rights in Albania”, The Institute for Democracy and Mediation) which have given a precious contribution in the Combat Against Trafficking in Human Beings.

This Committee has oriented its work in several areas, but its foremost attention was focused on the prevention of trafficking. The Education Directorate in the district of Shkodra has done a very good job in this respect, through activities held in schools and communities throughout the region. Many local and international NGOs have given their assistance to achieve this purpose.

The regional Education Directorate is taking into consideration the possibilities of identifying child labour exploitation cases and evaluating their families’ financial situation and providing them with special treatment through the cooperation of state institutions and various NGOs, to avoid this way child labour and enable their return to school. Apart from this, the Shkodra District Education Directorate was active in several other areas such as: education; health care; recreation and joint activities with family members that have brought several problems to the surface:

- The education of Roma children who do not possess identification documentation;
- Domestic violence;
- Carelessness and differentiated treatment for women/girls and children;

- School dropout by children (during the Academic Year 2005-2006 there were 486 dropouts, 219 were female students, while at the beginning of the academic year 2006-2007 there were 205 dropouts in the district of Shkodra and 60 in the district of Malësi e Madhe).
- The widespread phenomenon of school non-attendance due to the blood feuds in the District of Shkodra.
 - There are 13 students in the city of Shkodra and 45 students from the rural areas who do not attend schools due to blood feuds. These children are tutored at home by teachers as scheduled by the Regional Education Directorate.
 - In the district of Malesia e Madhe there are 16 students who do not attend school due to the blood feuds. Even in this case, the Regional Education Directorate of Malesia e Madhe has appointed 2 permanent teachers and 3 temporary ones to tutor them at home.
 - The Education Directorate from the district of Puka reports that all students attend class regularly.

The Regional Labour Office has focused its efforts on the employment opportunities in various professions. In its report of 23.03.2007, this office reports that 7 Roma females, 1 orphan child and 5 divorced women were employed as part of the employment promotion program. 35 Roma girls and women have attended qualification courses.

There exist coordination with the Women Centre “Light Steps” and an agreement of cooperation was signed between the Police - the Courthouse - the Municipality - the Directorate of Public Health and this Centre, aiming at coordinating work and exchanging information on the activities held by all signatory parties of this agreement.

The intervention of the Municipality was requested on two occasions. This Centre has a good cooperation relationship with the Orphanage. In these recent years, with the assistance of an US association this Centre has opened a family house which is inhabited by about 6 young people who due to their older age cannot live anymore at the institution. At the same time the Centre has strengthened its cooperation with a Spanish association for the improvement of this structure and increasing opportunities for vocational training to develop their skills for their future job.

This centre has also signed an agreement with the “Regione Emilia Romagna” creating the possibility of return for minors unaccompanied in Italy. This centre has followed up on the case of two minors who are currently accommodated in the convent of “Forlì”.

In relation to trafficking of girls or children, this Centre has not received yet any information from the police structures or from the various associations in the area.

In its 2007 annual report, the Shkodra District Police does not relate any case of child and female trafficking. But it reported:

- The deportation of a total of 172 citizens: 17 returned through the border crossing point of Hani i Hotit; 12 from that of Murriqan; 132 from that of Morina and the rest from

Bllatë of Dibra and Qaf Prush -Tropoja. According to the information given by the District Police, these were mainly immigrants. Information received shows that these individuals pay up to 3000 euros each to enter illegally into their countries of destination. The organizers of this human smuggling are citizens from Kosova and Montenegro.

- 4 females were deported this year: 1 from the border crossing point of Morina and 3 from that of Kakavija.
- This year has seen the initiation of one criminal proceeding on the case of a female trafficked in the year of 2001.
- The IOM rehabilitation centre in Tirana has accommodated 3 females refused by their families.

Recommendations:

According to the guidelines given by the Regional Committee of Shkodra District and other NGOs operating in this region, efforts should continue especially to:

- preventing exploitation of child Labour and Combat Against street beggary phenomenon;
- intensifying efforts in the prevention of domestic trafficking;
- Improving the efficacy and enforcement of the law no. 8387, dated 30.07.1998 *“On some amendments to the law no. 7952, dated 21.06.1995 “On the pre-university education system”*; and especially article 59, which we believe it has never been implemented correctly. Improvements can be made in the syllabi of the subject matter *“Civil Education”* taught in the 9 year mandatory education system by introducing topics on trafficking;
- Changing the status of school psychologists from part time to permanently assigned personnel and increase their efficiency;
- Broadening the range of activities held on prevention of trafficking in human beings through educational and sensitising work in the pre-university and higher education system;
- Increasing the cooperation between state institutions and NGOs;
- Intensifying cooperation among NGOs in order to increase exchange of information and experience etc;
- Increasing cooperation with the mass media and hold educational, developmental, awareness raising programs targeting vulnerable groups and the public at large;
- Encouraging the Municipality to draft a social plan to better coordinate the activities of NGOs. There are occasions in which incorrect information given on various problems report a certain problem being more serious than it is in reality.

4.2 Regional Committee Vlore

Pursuant to the order of the Prime Minister No. 139, dated 19.06.2006 *“On the Establishment of Regional Committees for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings”*, the institution of the Prefecture of Vlora District in cooperation with other state institutions and non-governmental bodies

identified the fight against trafficking in human beings as one of their primary duties. Pursuant to the abovementioned order, the Anti-Trafficking Regional Committee was established on 03.07.2006 and on 04.08.2006 its Technical Antitrafficking Roundtable.

Being aware of the specific location of the region which favours trafficking and of the emergence of this phenomenon even from other parts of the country, this Committee and its Technical Roundtable, being the coordinators of all structures involved in this effort have worked intensely to prevent and eliminate the causes of trafficking and the treatment and accommodation of victims of trafficking.

In this context the Regional Office of Labour in cooperation with the Psycho-Social Centre "Vatra" assisted mainly with the accommodation and treatment of 25 girls during the year of 2006, while during the period of January-June 2007, they assisted 8 girls by enabling them to attend tailoring courses. 5 of these girls work now for private tailoring businesses.

The Regional Office in Vlora (the Social Sector) in cooperation with the organization "Mother and Child in Focus" have begun the implementation of a project foreseeing the construction of a counselling centre for orphan children and school dropouts.

One of the main directions of the work done by state institutions and NGOs in the prevention of trafficking is identifying children who have not received formal education, school dropouts and street children and registering them in schools. These categories of our society, classified as categories at risk of being trafficked, are being treated with the utmost care from state institutions and NGOs.

As part of the MoES project "A Second Chance", implemented in cooperation with "World Vision" several schools were built for the **Roma community** in the Novosela commune, where 10 children attend school. As for the Shushica community, 13 children of the age group 7-14 year old are now integrated and attend school regularly. Curriculum used for this category of students is reduced and failure rate is 0%. NGOs are helping out these children with clothing and food. Textbooks and school bags for this category of students are given free of charge. They also benefit from psychological services with the aim of eliminating violence, conflicts or other problems that might arise.

The organization "Children and Mothers in Focus" provides care for these children until they reach 18 years of age. This centre hosts 18 orphan children; 26 children with low income; 23 children attending an English language course; 5 children attending a computer course; and 4 others who are registered to attend vocational education. This centre gives financial aid to 6 Roma families (4400-6000 leks per month).

Concluding we might say that albeit difficulties, state institutions and NGOs are committed to fight and minimize this phenomenon which might be considered as a plague of our society. The humanity and readiness showed in the treatment of victims of trafficking and the categories at risk are now part of the entire community.

4.3 Regional Committee Lezhe

Pursuant to the order of the Prime Minister No. 139, dated 19.06.2006 “*On the Establishment of Regional Committees for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings*”, the institution of Lezha Prefecture upon the order no. 53, dated 07.08.2006 established its Regional Committee for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings as well as its Regional Technical Roundtable in Anti-Trafficking.

In its first and following meetings, the Committee and the specialists of the Technical Roundtable provided direction and organized their work to:

- Familiarize themselves with the orders, guidelines and the documentation received from the Office of the National Coordinator for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings, and made efforts to further the work of the Committee and the Technical Roundtable ;
- Exchange and asses information given by members of the Committee and specialists of the Technical Roundtable on identified cases and measures to be taken;
- Organizing cooperation efforts with families, the community and school directorates to sensitise and prevent cases of trafficking;
- Disclosing, finding evidence, informing and taking preventive measures against cases of trafficking;
- Drafting and adopting the regulation “On the operation of the Regional Committee on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings”.

In the district of Lezha there are no NGOs to become part of this cooperation.

Upon the request of two organizations of the Centre for Youths “VENERINI”, as well as the organization “Artisan Women Training and Employment” (Gratë Artizane në Formim dhe Punësim) the Regional Committee approved two project-applications for a grant from the Program for Coordination of Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings. There was no response from none of the donors with respect to the approval or refusal of such applications.

Information and statistics show that the district of Lezha is little affected by the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings. Nevertheless, we should not loose our focus and this is the reason why we request that our Regional Committees be included in the Action Plan of the new Strategy and greater support be given to the district of Lezha with respect to the NGOs in the area, whose presence would help greatly in raising the awareness of the general opinion and avoid causes and prevent trafficking in human beings.

In the framework of the cooperation with the Lezha District Police Directorate we have identified:

- 2 cases referred to the public prosecutor on trafficking and exploitation of prostitution.

- Both cases were females returned from Greece due to lack of identification of documentation. After being interviewed, they were returned to their families;
- 2 interviewees - suspected cases of trafficking;
- 4 girls interviewed – their families reported their disappearance several days after they left home;
- 2 females treated in the rehabilitation centres of Berat, which were later sent back to their families;
- 2 females interviewed by anti-trafficking specialists at the moment of their deportation.

Educative programs held by the Regional Directorate of Education have identified students with special needs; social problems; divorced parents and financial problems as well as students' dropout tendency.

As part of the MoES program "A second chance", 5 teachers were appointed to work with 125 students (90 in the cities of Lezhë and Shëngjin and 35 in the communes of Shënkoll and Dajç). 16 Roma street children were taken from the street of Shengjin city and registered in the first grade of the elementary school. 25 other Roma children were integrated in the "Gjergj Fishta" school in the city of Lezha. The same practice is being followed in the schools of the district of Laç and Mirditë.

Reports from the Regional Directorate of Labour for the month of November 2007 show that the number of unemployed at a regional level is 13400.

Our Committee has held good cooperation relations with the Regional Office of State Social Services, the Directorate of Public Health and the Director of SIS all of which have participated in meetings, discussions and problem resolution.

Recommendations:

- The institution of the Prefecture must detail the activity of the Regional Committee;
- It must clearly define the duties and responsibilities as well as the authority to coordinate work with state institutions, etc;
- Regional Committees must have a Regional Coordinator appointed, even if this is someone from the Office of the National Coordinator for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings. The main responsibility of this official will be to coordinate work between various actors at a regional level. Until now, NGOs and other donors have conducted their activities independently from each other and in an uncoordinated fashion.
- In cooperation with international organizations or donors, we should look into the possibility of establishing a Centre (Rehabilitation Institution) which will not only treat actual victims of trafficking but will also serve as a training centre fighting against phenomena which are harmful to the society.
- Members of the Regional Committee and specialists of the Technical Roundtable working under the authority of their Line Ministries must be given concrete tasks relating to the activity of their subordinate structures in the framework of the combat against trafficking in human beings at a regional level.

4.4 Regional Committee Diber

Pursuant to the order of the Prime Minister No. 139, dated 19.06.2006 “*On the Establishment of Regional Committees for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings*”, the Regional Committee for Fighting Trafficking in Human beings as well as its Regional Technical Roundtable in Anti-Trafficking was working under the institution of the Prefecture of Dibra.

The Committee and its Technical Roundtable have held regular meetings as scheduled in their annual work plan. In the framework and in accordance with the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in human Beings and the Action Plan for 2005-2007, thanks to a very good cooperation between these structures and state institutions represented in the Committee, the Local Government and NGOs active in the District of Dibra, they were able to minimize the phenomenon of trafficking aiming at a zero rate of trafficking in human beings.

Some of the measures taken by the Dibra Regional Committee in the fight against trafficking in human beings

Identification of cases of trafficking

According to State Police reports, there were no cases of human trafficking in the district of Dibra during the year of 2007. Police, however, has information about females from Dibra who leave their families for Tirana where they intend to exercise prostitution. 25 similar cases were identified during the year 2007. These women are risked to be an easy prey of the traffickers. This is a difficult contingent to work with due to the fact that these are minors and their family members usually notify the relevant authorities with a delay of 3-4 weeks after their disappearance. These are girls who have no employment and no formal education, which puts them at a higher degree of risk. The Police in cooperation with other structures have taken the necessary measures for any case and has made efforts to return the girls near their families. There is only one identified case of a victim of trafficking yet to be found.

In relation to domestic trafficking, 2 cases of prostitution were identified in the city of Peshkopia. The 4 perpetrators were sentenced accordingly. SIS has identified 4 additional cases of internal trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The police has identified and taken the necessary measures to stop the perpetrators from trafficking their victims to Italy.

There were only few cases in the cities of Peshkopia and Burrel where parents make their children beg due to poverty. These children belong to the Roma community, peddlers coming from other districts. Measures were taken to eliminate this phenomenon.

Identifying vulnerable social groups in the district of Dibra

The Regional Labour Office in Dibra has received, advised and registered 3314 unemployed job-seekers during the year of 2007, 1514 of who were females.

The Regional Office for Social Services has contacted local units to ensure that families with members at risk of being trafficked were benefiting from financial aid. For these purposes, the following category of individuals experiencing social problems was identified:

- 469 women head of families;
- 277 divorced women;
- 452 biological orphans;
- 605 one parent children;
- 124 street children.

Providing financial aid and support for the abovementioned categories was the focus of attention for the state, NGOs and other donors.

Another problem the Regional Committee was faced with in its work was school dropout. 1468 students are not continuing their mandatory education during academic year of 2007-2008, 765 of who are females.

Furthermore, it has identified cases of isolation due to family blood feuds. Based on the identification data collected by the organization "Partnerë për Fëmijët (Partners for Children)" there is family in a blood feud whose 3 children dropped out of school during the academic year of 2006-2007. Thanks to the mediation efforts made by NGOs children of two other families in blood feuds in the Commune of Kastriot were able to return to school.

NGOs active in the District of Dibra

In the district of Dibra there are several NGOs operating in the field of combating trafficking in human beings. The **Dibra NGO Forum** has played an important coordinating role aimed at targeting the efforts of these bodies in the prevention of child and girls trafficking. This is a list of associations operating in the district of Dibra:

- The Association "Aleanca për Fëmijë"
- The Organization "Partnerë për fëmijë"
- The Association "Gruaja nënë dhe edukatore"
- The Association "Nëna me fëmijë jetimë"
- The Centre "Agritra-Vizion"
- The Humanitarian Association "Jeta"
- "Shoqata e Gruas" etc.

Problems and difficulties faced by the Committee in its work

- Lack of qualified local personnel in the anti-trafficking area;

- The absence of a qualified official in the institution of the Prefecture who would be in charge of affairs and coordination efforts at a district level;
- Not every institution was held responsible for the completion of anti-trafficking related tasks assigned to them. There is a lack of cooperation with the Prosecution and the Municipality of Peshkopia;
- The Committee finds it difficult to cover districts that are not centres of the prefectures;
- Lack of adequate involvement by the Local Government in this field;
- Lack of financial resources in the support of joint activities in the field of anti-trafficking;
- The absence of an actual plan of action to coordinate cooperation between institutions included in the Committee and the Anti-Trafficking Table.
- The absence of matrixes to be sent by the Ministry of Interior in order to define work priorities, assist with work planning and the content of reports to be presented to members of the Committees and Technical Roundtable and the type of information to be sent to the Office of the National Coordinator for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings.

Suggestions and recommendations

- Education and local government structures shall intensify work to enforce the law on the mandatory education;
- Increasing cooperation with local government structures;
- Broadcasting via the mass media court proceedings against traffickers with the purpose of raising the awareness of the public at large on law enforcement;
- Coordinating, guiding and assisting NGOs operating in the field of combat against trafficking in human beings at a regional level. Defining NGOs priorities, scope of work and guide them in focusing their activities in those areas experiencing most of the social and economic problems and with a tendency towards the phenomenon of trafficking; taking into consideration the experience of other countries, NGOs are asking from the state as well to financially support their operations;
- Creating the position of a full time Regional Coordinator at the Institution of Prefecture who will take charge and coordinate anti-trafficking related activities at a regional level;
- Including public order and civil emergency specialists in the membership of the Technical Roundtable in Anti-Trafficking working with the Prefect and the Deputy Prefect; district Deputy Prefects and the Public Prosecutor.
- Establishing the local commune-based and municipality-based counter-trafficking unit.

5. Preparing the necessary legal documentation on births, citizenship and wed locks as an aiding tool of social inclusion and opportunity to benefit from education services and other social services especially on the part of women and children.

The General Directorate of Civil Registry is mainly responsible for the organization and operation of the Civil Registry Services, fulfilling its tasks and authority in compliance with

empowered legislation and normative acts regulating relations for the public administration, which are:

- Law no. 8950, dated 10.10.2002, “*On the Civil Registry*”.
- Law no. 8951, dated 10.10.2002, “*On the ID numbers for citizens*”.
- Law no. 8952, dated 10.10.2002, “*On the Identification Documentation of Albanian Citizens*”.
- Law no. 9062 dated 08.05.2003 “*The Family Code*”.

The GDCR in cooperation with outside experts completed two important projects: “*The production and distribution of the identification documentation and electronic passports for the Albanian citizens*” and “*Modernizing the civil registry system*”.

Modernizing the Civil Registry System, means the development of a National Civil Registry which defines the Identification Number for each citizen, computerizes services at all levels in order to create an updated system and the construction of a System of Addresses, making it possible to relate an individual with his/her place of residence.

Based on the commitments undertaken by the Albanian Government in the framework of the European Partnership, the civil registry services were adapted to European standards through a series of consultations with international partners interested in this process such as: the OSCE Presence in Albania, the European Commission (EC), Council of Europe (CoE), Statistics Norway, USAID/IFES, NDI (National Development Institute), etc, which identified as its ultimate goal having the Civil Registry System (CRS) in place and operational before the general parliamentary elections of 2009. With this aim, work started for the development of a draft determining individual activities to be conducted, which were generated based on the “*Memorandum of Understanding*” signed between the Ministry of Interior and the OSCE Presence in Albania for the development of a ultimate Project and the Implementation of the Civil Registry System. After the “*Memorandum of Understanding*” was signed, work started for the development of the final project approved on 05.09.2007 by the Council of Ministers.

The work group of the Ministry of Interior, which had among its membership representatives of the General Directorate of Civil Registry as well, and established for the development of the project on the Identity Card (KID) work intensively for one year to complete this project. The project began to be developed in 2006 and has undergone the necessary procedure of improvement and final approval by the Council of Ministers in April 2007. In order to have qualitative project, the input of international experts was needed aside the commitment of local specialists.

An **Order of the Minister of Interior** was prepared to serve this purpose, bearing the no. 491, dated 17.03.2006 “*On the establishment of the working group for the selection of an international expert to prepare the final technical specifications of the Identity Card*”. Pursuant to this order and in cooperation with the **Police Assistance Mission of the European Community in Albania (PAMECA)**, the USA consultancy company “**Smart Card Integrators In**” was selected to fulfil such a task.

Today this project is in its bidding stage, as part of a concession tender process and biddings will be opened after the date 16.01.2008.

The completion of each one of the abovementioned projects is supported by relevant sub normative acts to guarantee their implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Thanks to efforts made by a number of actors involved in the implementation of the 2005-2007 National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, important results were achieved over this period in combating trafficking in human beings. The Assessment Report gives a quick outlook of the main developments in the field of anti-trafficking and it clearly identifies the range of problems and shortcomings met while implementing The National Strategy on Combating Trafficking of Human Beings 2005-2007.

Combating trafficking in human beings requires a multidimensional approach towards this phenomenon, which in turns brings about the need for better action coordination and daily improvements and adaptations in compliance with the daily needs. In order to achieve this approach, it is necessary to analyse the outcomes and give recommendations for the improvement of anti-trafficking actions. The Antitrafficking Unit, being the structure monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy 2005-2007 brings into this chapter several recommendations and suggestions, which we believe will help in the development of an Action Plan which will serve as a useful roadmap for the years to come.

Inter-institutional Cooperation

In these last two years of its work, the Anti-Trafficking Unit has continuously monitored anti-trafficking activities and outputs. It has found that various operational structures have achieved an important part of the objectives defined in the Action Plan, although it was made obvious that greater efforts are needed to intensify the existing efforts and to expand the range of activities beyond everyone's daily routine.

Apart from the continuous problem of delays in reporting back to the Anti-Trafficking Unit, a special importance bears the content of these reports, which in the majority of cases do not reflect a proper analysis of the work done by the institution but amount to a simple routine report. Every objective identified in the action plan clearly state activities to be completed and relevant indicators. The main responsibility of contact points (Anti-trafficking coordinators within the institutions) was and will be to supervise progress of the implementation of the activities, and coordinate action within the institution to facilitate the conduct of these activities, evaluation of the achievements and the gaps, as well as report on findings. Persons serving as point of contacts and their supervisors have to be fully informed about the objectives set by their institution in the context of the Strategy and have to translate them into working plans. This will enable these institutions and contact points to contact and inform the Anti-Trafficking Unit regularly when noticing that various activities are not implemented in the field, an information which will allow that in cooperation with the Anti-Trafficking Unit take the necessary measures to modify such an activity to be implemented or look for an alternative possible solution to their implementation. It is necessary to increase the special institutional ownership of each agency for the implementation of its own duties in the context of the strategy.

Also, being aware of the fact that for some fairly recently established structures we need to define their scope of work and the status of its staff, we are convinced that very soon we will be able to commit all of our efforts in the improvement of the way these structures work. We are likewise convinced that it is more than necessary to have members working in these structures express their concerns and problems they face during their work as well as their relevant recommendations every time one of these structures does not function properly. A similar approach would help us intervene on time to improve our weak points of operation.

Such problems must and should be faced and overcome in order for the next Action Plan be successfully implemented within the set deadlines. Timely information exchanges, and continuous communication between different actors, increase of the implementing responsibility of any type of information about national counter-trafficking duties, as well as a correct and high-quality information analysis will ensure the success of a many activities to be conducted in the future in the prevention and combat against trafficking.

The staff empowerment of the coordinating structures for example: an office for the Responsible Authority of NRM and the enlargement of the ONC will allow a more efficient monitoring and implementation of the duties of the Strategy.

Regarding the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The drafting and the implementation of the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period of 2008-2010 will seek for the input of all actors involved until today in the implementation of the National Strategy 2005-2007, as well as the inclusion of new actors that will commit to undertake responsibilities in the implementation of activities under the National Strategy 2008-2010.

The Anti-Trafficking Unit, in its role to propose and synthesize the changes, which will lead to improving the functioning of our mechanisms and systems, as part of the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and bearing in mind the outcome of the analysis at the conclusion of the monitoring process of its Strategy and Action Plan for 2005-2007, makes the following proposal to the State Committee for the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings as follows:

1. The Action Plan shall determine implementation activities which will consolidate progress made and/or develop new approaches in compliance with the current needs;
2. It is very important that a specific part of the implementation activities of the National Strategy, contribute to the full functioning of the Agreement on the National Referral Mechanism of Victims of Trafficking and its supporting structures such as the Responsible Authority;
3. Prevention shall be one of the strategic priority goals of the National Strategy, supported through specific, measurable and achievable implementation activities. The awareness activities will be designed to specifically deliver to vulnerable social groups and will be specific target-groups campaigns;

4. An important part of the implementation activities shall aim at improving and unifying statistical reporting;
5. Consolidation of procedures ensuring the protection of VoTs; consolidation of identification procedures, professional interviewing techniques of victims by well-trained persons, immediate first aid and psychological help after the identification, as well as accommodation of victims, and their continuous support to promote cooperation with state justice authorities;
6. The preventive and protective work shall be extended at the local-based structures - Prefecture, municipality, commune level;
7. The Local Committees in the Combat against Trafficking in Human Beings, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health shall be assigned with specific tasks and duties, aiming at their complete involvement in the implementation of the national duties inherent in the Strategy.
8. An important point in the new National Strategy shall cover the reintegration of victims of trafficking in the social life following their stay period at the centre; this Strategy shall foresee activities which will enable the improvement of the reintegration circumstances for victims of trafficking;
9. Channels of cooperation for the implementation of such activities of the Strategy, (such as the NRM etc.) shall be well-defined and clearly stated in the Action Plan, and such channels might even be presented in the form of diagrams for those who are going to implement it;
10. The Action Plan shall preserve the existing spirit of cooperation and inclusion among state authorities and non-governmental organizations operating in the field of anti-trafficking in persons;
11. In order to satisfy the need for effective coordination, activities undertaken by various institutions in the combat against trafficking in human beings shall necessarily comply with the objectives set in the National Strategy and be adopted by the National Coordinator. The drafting and the signing of the partnership agreements in the Strategy would contribute to this process.

The purpose of these recommendations and suggestions is to open the floor to the development of the National Strategy on Combating Trafficking of Human Beings, for the period of 2008-2010. The above listed items are an attempt to focus our work on the areas of utmost priority to be used as the bases for the design of the future implementation activities as part of the Action Plan 2008-2010. They can be a target and an object of discussion for the participants.

ANNEX 1 - STATISTICS

1. State Police

For the year 2007

Criminal Offence	Cases	Referred to Prosecution	Damaged Parties	Perpetrators	Arrested	Detained	Remanded On Bail	Wanted
(Article 110/a of CC) Trafficking in persons	4	4	3	5	0	0	4	1
(Article 298 of CC) Assistance to illicit border-crossing	195	194		241	93	45	83	7
(Article 297 of CC) Illicit state border-crossing	87	85		141	14	0	127	0
Article 114/a of CC) Exploitation of Prostitution in Aggravating Circumstances	32	32	35	41	6	9	25	1
(Article 114/b of CC) Trafficking in women	22	22	12	20	6	1	12	0
(Article 114 of CC) Exploitation of Prostitution	40	38	36	53	26	4	16	6
(Article 115 of CC) Use of Premises for Prostitution	17	17		29	25	1	3	0
(Article 113 of CC) Prostitution	1		1	3	2	1	0	0
(Article 128/of CC) Trafficking in minors	7	6	3	7	4	2	1	0
SUM TOTAL	405	398	90	540	176	63	271	15

For the Year 2006

Criminal Offence	Cases	Referred to Prosecution	Damaged Parties	Perpetrators	Arrested	Detained	Remanded On Bail	Wanted
(Article 110/a of CC) Trafficking in persons	6	6	5	7	0	0	7	0
(Article 298 of CC) Assistance to illicit border-crossing	157	157	441	259	75	45	125	7
(Article 297 of CC) Illicit state border-crossing	85	84	2	135	7	6	122	0
Article 114/a of CC) Exploitation of Prostitution in Aggravating Circumstances	24	24	22	31	10	5	15	1
(Article 114/b of CC) Trafficking in women	41	41	25	54	16	8	27	2
(Article 114 of CC) Exploitation of Prostitution	18	18	17	20	2	1	16	0
(Article 115 of CC) Use of Premises for Prostitution	23	23	7	27	15	2	10	0
(Article 113 of CC) Prostitution	5		5	5	5	0	0	0
(Article 128/of CC) Trafficking in minors	4	3	4	7	2	0	5	0
SUM TOTAL	363	356	528	545	132	67	327	10

For the year 2005

Criminal Offence	Cases	Referred to Prosecution	Damaged Parties	Perpetrators	Arrested	Detained	Remanded On Bail	Wanted
(Article 110/a of CC) Trafficking in persons	5	5	7	5	0	1	3	1
(Article 298 of CC) Assistance to illicit border-crossing	125	124	221	222	108	27	56	21
(Article 297 of CC) Illicit state border-crossing	114	112	62	204	17	5	181	1
Article 114/a of CC) Exploitation of Prostitution in Aggravating Circumstances	22	21	24	29	16	4	2	5
(Article 114/b of CC) Trafficking in women	39	37	30	61	11	6	37	5
(Article 114 of CC) Exploitation of Prostitution	14	14	13	16	10	0	4	2
(Article 115 of CC) Use of Premises for Prostitution	6	6	3	8	8	0	0	0
(Article 113 of CC) Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Article 128/of CC) Trafficking in minors	9	7	7	12	1	1	8	1
SUM TOTAL	334	326	380	557	171	44	291	36

Years	Trafficking in Women	Trafficking in Minors
2005	30	7
2006	25	4
2007	12	3

2. General Prosecutor's Office

For the year 2007

Nr.	Articles	Transferred			Registered			Restarted			Total of the Prosecutions	Total of the Defendants	Sent to trial			Terminated			Suspended			Under investigation			Adjudication concluded					Under Adjudication		
		Defendants			Defendants			Defendants					Defendants			Defendants			Defendants			Defendants			Defendants under adjudication					Defendants		
		Nr. of Prosecutions	Nr. of Defendants	Remand on custody	Nr. of Prosecutions	Nr. of Defendants	Remand in custody	Nr. of Prosecutions	Nr. of Defendants	Remand in custody .			No. of the Prosecutions	Nr. of the defendants	Remand in custody	Nr. of Prosecutions	Nr. of Defendants	Remand in custody	Nr. of Prosecutions	Nr. of Defendants	Remand in custody	Nr. of Prosecutions	Nr. of Defendants	Remand in custody	Nr. of Prosecutions	Nr. of Defendants	Remand in custody	Sentenced	Acquittal	Termination of charges	Nr. Of Prosecutions	Nr. Of Defendants
1	110/a	2	2	1	1	1				3	3				1	2	1				1									2	5	5
2	113	2	2	1	40	44	21	1	1	1	43	47	27	30	13	1	3				14	14	10	15	15	15			19	25	10	
3	114	7	2	2	19	15	9	2	1		28	18	5	10	7	8	4		1			13	4	4	6	11	11			4	6	2
4	114/a	25	11	9	26	22	17	6	3	2	57	36	17	26	23	10	3		4			24	6	4	15	19	19			22	42	31
5	114/b	18	11	3	7	1	1				25	12	2	2	2	3	2		1			21	9	4	5	6	6			10	13	10
6	115					3	2				0	3					1					2	2						1	2	1	
7	123/b	6	6	5	4	4	3				10	10	4	7	6				1			4			3	4	3	1		1	1	1
8	297	11	31		63	76	3				74	107	31	55	2	15	17				24	27	1	25	61	21	1		21	24	1	
9	298	43	35	16	146	99	65				189	134	58	83	57	20	15		41			61	34	22	48	62	74	4	1	27	45	33
Total:		114	100	37	306	265	121	9	5	3	429	370	144	213	110	58	47	1	48	0	0	162	96	47	117	178	149	6	1	107	163	94

For the year 2006

Nr.	ARTICLES	Transferred			Registered			Restarted			Total of Prosecutions	Total of Defendants	Sent to trial			Terminated			Suspended			Under investigation			Concluded adjudication					Under adjudication		
		Prosecutions	Defendants	Arrestees	Prosecutions	Defendants	Arrestees	Prosecutions	Defendants	Arrestees			Prosecutions	Defendants	Arrestees	Prosecutions	Defendants	Arrestees	Prosecutions	Defendants	Arrestees	Prosecutions	Defendants	Arrestees	Prosecutions	Defendants	Defendants	Not-guilty	Termination of charges	Prosecutions	Defendants	Arrestees
1	110/a				3	1					3	1				1	1					2	1	1						2	5	5
2	113	2	1	1	36	38	20				38	39	28	32	18	4	5		2			6	3	4	19	23	23			14	16	7
3	114	1	4	2	21	16	11	1			23	20	3	5	4	9	5	1				11	9	7	3	3	3			4	6	3
4	114/a	14	7	5	43	28	22	1	1	1	58	36	22	26	25	13	3	1	4			23	11	17	21	36	31	3		19	22	23
5	114/b	31	17	12	14	10	9				45	27	11	12	11	5	4		4			18	3	3	16	23	22	1		12	16	13
6	115				1	4	1				1	4	1	3	1		1													1	2	1
7	128/b	6	4	2	5	7	3				11	11	3	5	5	2	2		1			5	7		4	7	6	1		1	2	2
8	297	11	21		96	103	2	4	2	1	111	126	88	116	2	9	2		4			8	5	1	84	109	109			19	30	2
9	298	42	53	28	158	139	82				200	192	95	125	81	29	31	2	24	1		36	16	14	75	97	131	1	2	34	51	32
Total:		107	107	50	377	346	150	6	3	2	490	456	251	324	147	72	54	4	39	1	0	109	55	47	223	301	328	6	2	106	150	88

For the year 2005

Nr.	ARTICLES	Transferred			Registered			Restarted			Total of Prosecutions	Total of Prosecutions	Sent to trial			Terminated			Suspended			Under investigation			Concluded adjudication					Under adjudication				
		Defendants			Defendants			Defendants					Defendants			Defendants			Defendants			Defendants			Defendants under adjudication					Defendants				
		Nr.of Prosecutions	Nr.of Defendants	Remanded in custody.	Nr. Of Prosecutions	Nr. Of Defendants	Remanded in Custody	Nr.of Prosecutions	Nr. Of Defendants	Remanded in Custody .			Nr.of Prosecutions	Nr.of defendants	Remanded in Custody .	Nr.of Prosecutions	Nr.of Defendants	Remandes in Custody .	Nr.of Prosecutions	Nr.of Defendants	Remanded in Custody .	Nr.of Prosecutions	Nr.of Defendants	Remanded in Custody .	Nr. Of Prosecutions	Nr.of Defendants	Sentenced	Not-Guilty	Suspension of charges	Nr. Of Prosecutions	Nr.of Defendants	Remanded in Custody.		
1	110/a	5	3	3	3	1	1				8	4				3					5	4	4				1	4	4			2	5	5
2	113				14	15	3				14	15	9	13	2	2	1				3	1	1				7	14	14			7	10	3
3	114	5	5	2	15	12	10	2	1	1	22	18	7	10	8	3	2		2	1		7	5	5			10	15	14	2		6	7	6
4	114/a	19	16	8	31	21	15				50	37	19	30	20	15	4	2	5			13	5	3			31	43	46	4	3	20	26	19
5	114/b	10	13	7	12	8	7	1	2	1	23	23	6	10	8	9	8		2			2	1				3	4	4			8	13	8
6	115				2	4	2				2	4	2	4	2												1	3	3					
7	128/b	1			3						4	0				2																		
8	297	11	28	16	115	141	7				126	169	91	129	8	14	15	2	7			12	27	13			67	109	106			31	43	4
9	298	34	45	16	126	124	64				160	169	58	88	45	21	32	6	36	1	1	38	45	27			50	69	68			22	41	15
Total:		85	110	52	321	326	109	3	3	2	409	439	192	284	93	69	62	10	52	2	1	80	88	53	170	261	259	6	3	96	145	60		

3. Ministry of Justice

For the year 2007

Criminal Cases (for the 9 month period of the year)

Article	Criminal offences	Total cases	Concluded cases	Non-concluded cases	CONCLUDED CASES				
					Declared Guilty	Declared Not-guilty	Suspended Cases	Returned cases to complete investigations	Declared as cases of incompetence
110/a 1	Trafficking in persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
110/a 2	Trafficking in persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
113	Prostitution	36	21	15	21	-	-	-	-
114	Exploitation of prostitution	14	11	3	9	2	-	-	-
114/a	Exploitation of prostitution in aggravating circumstances	46	18	28	16	-	-	1	1
114/b1	Trafficking in Women for prostitution	4	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
114/b2	Trafficking in Women for prostitution	10	3	7	3	-	-	-	-
128/b1	Trafficking in Minors	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
128/b2	Trafficking in Minors	5	1	4	1	-	-	-	-

Article	Criminal offences	Total cases	Concluded cases	Non-concluded cases	CONCLUDED CASES				
					Declared Guilty	Declared Not-guilty	Suspended Cases	Returned cases to complete investigations	Declared as cases of incompetence
297	Illicit border-crossing	52	40	12	21	-	19	-	-
298	Assistance to illicit border-crossing	95	58	37	50	6	1	1	-

Sentenced (for the 9 month-period of the year)

Article	Criminal Offences	Punished	PUNISHMENTS					
			Fine	Imprisonment up to 2 years	Imprisonment 2-5 years	Imprisonment 5-10 years	Imprisonment 10-25 years	Life Imprisonment
110/a 1	Trafficking in persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
110/a 2	Trafficking in persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
113	Prostitution	23	5	18	-	-	-	-
114	Exploitation of prostitution	13	-	5	8	-	-	-
114/a	Exploitation of prostitution in aggravating circumstances	21	-	3	4	12	2	-
114/b1	Trafficking in women for	2	-	1	-	1	-	-

Article	Criminal Offences	Punished	PUNISHMENTS					
			Fine	Imprisonment up to 2 years	Imprisonment 2-5 years	Imprisonment 5-10 years	Imprisonment 10-25 years	Life Imprisonment
	prostitution							
114/b2	Trafficking in women for prostitution	4	-	-	-	2	2	-
128/b1	Trafficking in minors	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
128/b2	Trafficking in minors	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
297/2	Illicit border-crossing	65	4	24	31	6	-	-
298	Assisting illicit border-crossing	27	23	4	-	-	-	-

For the year 2006

Criminal cases

Article	Criminal Offences	Total case	Concluded cases	Non-concluded Cases	Concluded cases				
					Declared guilty	Declared Not-guilty	Suspended Cases	Returned cases to complete Investigation	Declared as cases of Incompetence
110/a 1	Trafficking in persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
110/a 2	Trafficking in persons	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
113	Prostitution	31	23	8	23	-	-	-	-
114	Exploitation of prostitution	23	10	13	8	1	-	-	1
114/a	Exploitation of Prostitution in aggravating circumstances	44	28	16	24	2	-	1	1
114/b1	Trafficking in women for prostitution	10	7	3	6	1	-	-	-
114/b2	Trafficking in women for prostitution	14	10	4	8	1	-	1	-
128/b1	Trafficking in minors	3	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
128/b2	Trafficking in minors	3	2	1	2	-	-	-	-

Article	Criminal Offences	Total case	Concluded cases	Non-concluded Cases	Concluded cases				
					Declared guilty	Declared Not-guilty	Suspended Cases	Returned cases to complete Investigation	Declared as cases of Incompetence
297	Illicit border-crossing	121	108	13	108	-	-	-	-
298	Assistance to illicit border-crossing	118	88	30	81	5	-	2	-

Sentenced

Article	Criminal Offences	Punished	Punishments					
			Fine	Imprisonment up to 2 years	Imprisonment 2-5 years	Imprisonment 5-10 years	Imprisonment 10-25 years	Life Imprisonment
110/a 1	Trafficking in persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
110/a 2	Trafficking in persons	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
113	Prostitution	25	4	21	-	-	-	-
114	Exploitation of prostitution	9	-	2	5	2	-	-
114/a	Exploitation of prostitution in aggravating circumstances	37	2	3	6	19	7	-

Article	Criminal Offences	Punished	Punishments					
			Fine	Imprisonment up to 2 years	Imprisonment 2-5 years	Imprisonment 5-10 years	Imprisonment 10-25 years	Life Imprisonment
114/b1	Trafficking in women for prostitution	12	-	1	1	4	6	-
114/b2	Trafficking in women for prostitution	11	2	-	-	3	6	-
128/b1	Trafficking in minors	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
128/b2	Trafficking in minors	5	-	-	-	-	5	-
297/2	Illicit border-crossing	149	108	41	-	-	-	-
298	Assistance to illicit border-crossing	105	23	60	17	5	-	-

For the year 2005

Criminal cases

Article	Criminal Offence	Total cases	Concluded Cases	Non-concluded Cases	Concluded cases				
					Declared Guilty	Declared not-guilty	Suspended cases	Returned for completing Investigation	Declared as cases of Incompetence
110/a 1	Trafficking in persons	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
110/a 2	Trafficking in persons	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
113	Prostitution	15	11	4	11	-	-	-	-
114	Exploitation of Prostitution	33	18	15	13	1	2	-	2
114/a	Exploitation of Prostitution in aggravating Circumstances	75	60	15	55	3	-	-	2
114/b1	Trafficking in women for prostitution	10	4	6	2	1	1	-	-
114/b2	Trafficking in women for prostitution	26	19	7	16	-	-	1	2
128/b1	Trafficking in minors	8	5	3	3	-	-	-	2
128/b2	Trafficking in minors	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-

Article	Criminal Offence	Total cases	Concluded Cases	Non-concluded Cases	Concluded cases				
					Declared Guilty	Declared not-guilty	Suspended cases	Returned for completing Investigation	Declared as cases of Incompetence
297	Illicit Border-crossing	121	102	19	100	-	-	1	1
298	Assistance to illicit border-crossing	82	62	20	54	2	-	5	1

Sentenced

Article	Criminal offences	Punished	Punishments					
			Fine	Imprisonment Up to 2 years	Imprisonment 2-5 years	Imprisonment 5-10 years	Imprisonment 10-25 years	Life Imprisonment
110/a 1	Trafficking in persons	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
110/a 2	Trafficking in persons	4	-	-	1	-	3	-
113	Prostitution	11	4	7	-	-	-	-
114	Exploitation of prostitution	22	2	9	11	-	-	-
114/a	Exploitation of prostitution in	69	-	2	13	50	4	-

Article	Criminal offences	Punished	Punishments					
			Fine	Imprisonment Up to 2 years	Imprisonment 2-5 years	Imprisonment 5-10 years	Imprisonment 10-25 years	Life Imprisonment
	aggravating circumstances							
114/b1	Trafficking in women for prostitution	6	-	-	-	4	2	-
114/b2	Trafficking in women for prostitution	34	-	-	-	9	24	1
128/b1	Trafficking in minors	3	-	-	-	1	2	-
128/b2	Trafficking in minors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
297/2	Illicit border-crossing	130	45	85	-	-	-	-
298	Assisting illicit border-crossing	95	2	48	25	6	14	-

ANNEX 2

Summary of Trafficking in Persons Offences and of those related to it, as well as respective Punishments under the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania

Article 110/a

Trafficking in Persons:

The recruitment, transport, transfer, hiding or reception of persons through threat or the use of force or other forms of compulsion, kidnapping, fraud, abuse of office or taking advantage of social, physical or psychological condition or the giving or receipt of payments or benefits in order to get the consent of a person who controls another person, with the purpose of exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced services or work, slavery or forms similar to slavery, putting to use or transplanting organs, as well as other forms of exploitation, *are punished with imprisonment from five to fifteen years and with a fine from two million to five million leke.*

The organization, management and financing of the trafficking of persons *is punished with imprisonment of from seven to fifteen years and with a fine from four million to six million leke.*

When this offence is committed in collaboration or more than once, or is accompanied by mistreatment and making the victim commit various actions through the use of physical or psychological force, or brings serious consequences to health, *is punished with imprisonment of no less than fifteen years and with a fine from six million to eight million leke.*

When the offence has brought death of the victim as a consequence, it *is punished with imprisonment of no less than twenty years or with life imprisonment, as well as with a fine from seven million to ten million leke.*

When the criminal offence is committed through the utilization of a state function or public service, *the punishment of imprisonment and the fines are increased by one fourth of the punishment given.*

Article 114/b

Trafficking in Women

The recruitment, transport, transfer, hiding or reception of women through threat or use of force or other forms of compulsion, kidnapping, fraud, abuse of office or taking advantage of social, physical or psychological condition or the giving or receipt of payments or benefits, in order to get the consent of a person who controls another person, with the purpose of exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced services or work, slavery or forms similar to slavery, putting to use or transplanting organs, as well as other forms of exploitation, are *punished with imprisonment from 7 to 15 years and with a fine from three million to six million leke.*

The organization, management and financing of the trafficking of woman is *punished with imprisonment of from ten to 15 years and with a fine of from five million to seven million leke.*

When this offence is committed in collaboration or more than once, or is accompanied by mistreatment and making the victim commit various actions through the use of physical or psychological force, or brings serious consequences to health, it *is punished with imprisonment of no less than 15 years and with a fine of from six million to eight million leke.*

When the offence has brought about the death of the victim as a consequence, it *is punished with imprisonment of no less than 20 years or with life imprisonment, as well as with a fine of from seven million to 10 million leke.*

When the criminal offence is committed through the utilization of a state function or public service, *the punishment of imprisonment and the fines are increased by one fourth of the punishment given.*

Article 128/b

Trafficking in Minors

The recruitment, sale³, transport, transfer, hiding or reception of minors with the purpose of exploitation for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced services or work, slavery or forms similar to slavery, putting to use or transplanting organs, as well as other forms of exploitation, are *punished with imprisonment from 7 to 15 years and with a fine of from four million to six million leke.*

³ Recently adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Albania, Law No. 9859, dated 21.1.2008 “On some supplements and amendments to the Law No. 7895, dated 27.1.1995 “Penal Code of the Republic of Albania” amended”.

The organization, management and financing of the trafficking of minors *is punished with imprisonment of from 10 to 20 years and with a fine of from six million to eight million leke.*

When this offence is committed in collaboration or more than once, or is accompanied by mistreatment and making the victim commit various actions through physical or psychological force, or brings serious consequences to health, *it is punished with imprisonment of no less than 15 years and with a fine of from six million to eight million leke.*

When the offence has brought about the death of the victim as a consequence *it is punished with imprisonment of no less than 20 years or with life imprisonment, as well as with a fine of from eight million to 10 million leke.*

When the criminal offence is committed through the utilization of a state function or public service, *the punishment of imprisonment and the fines are increased by one fourth of the punishment given.*

Article 114/a

Exploitation of Prostitution in Aggravating Circumstances:

When exploitation of prostitution is committed:

1. with minors;
2. against some persons;
3. with persons within close consanguinity, in-laws or custodial relations or by taking advantage of an official rapport;
4. with deception, coercion, violence or by taking advantage of the physical or mental incapability of the person;
5. against a person that has been forced or coerced to exercise prostitution out of the territory of the Republic of Albania;
6. It is committed with accomplices or more than once or by persons who have state and public functions/ duties;

is punishable from 7 up to 15 years imprisonment.

Article 297

Illicit State Border- Crossing

Illicit state border crossing is considered a criminal offence and is *punished with fine or imprisonment up to 2 years.*

Article 298⁴

Assistance for Illicit Borders Crossing

Sheltering, accompanying, making available or using vessels, aircraft, or other means of transport, or the assistance of any kind with the purpose of crossing illegally the border of the Republic of Albania, or for the illegal entry of a person in another state, without being its citizen, or where he has no residence permit, constitutes a criminal offence and *is punished with imprisonment from one to four years and with a fine from three to six million leke.*

When the assistance is given for profitable purposes, it *is punished with imprisonment from three to seven years and with a fine from four million to eight million leke.*

When this offence is committed in collaboration or more than once or has brought serious consequences, it *is punished with imprisonment from five to ten years and with a fine from six million to eight million leke.*

When the offence has brought the death of the victim as a consequence, it *is punished with imprisonment of no less than fifteen years or with life imprisonment, as well as with a fine from eight million to ten million leke.*

When the criminal offence is committed through the utilization of a state function or public service, *the punishment of imprisonment and the fines are increased by one fourth of the punishment given.*

Article 113

Prostitution

Exercising prostitution *is punished with a fine or imprisonment up to three years.*

Article 114

Exploitation of Prostitution

Encouragement, mediation or being rewarded for exercising prostitution *is punished with fine or imprisonment of up to five years.*

Article 115

Use of Premises for Prostitution

⁴ Adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Albania with the Law Nr. 9686, dated 26.2.2007 “On Some Supplements and Amendments to the Law Nr. 7895, dated 27.1.1995 “Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania”, Amended”.

Possession, exploitation, funding, renting premises for practicing prostitution *is punished with fine or imprisonment up to 10 years.*

Article 117⁵

Pornography

Producing, distributing, advertising, importing, selling and publishing pornographic materials in minors' environment, is considered a criminal offence and *is punishable with fine or imprisonment up to two years.*

The use of minors for the production of pornographic material, and their distribution and publication on the internet, or in other ways, *is punishable by imprisonment from one to five years, and by fine from one million to five million leke.*

Article 124/b⁶

Ill-treatment of minors

The physical or psychological ill-treatment of minors by the person, who is obliged to take care of him/her, *is punishable with imprisonment, from three months to two years.*

Forcing minors to work, provide income, beg or commit actions which harm his development, are *punishable with imprisonment up to four years, and with fine from fifty thousand leke to one million leke.*

When serious physical harm or death is caused by this act, *it is punishable with imprisonment from ten to twenty years.*

⁵Recently adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Albania with the Law Nr. 9859, dated 21.1.2008 "On Some Supplements and Amendments to the Law Nr. 7895, dated 27.1.1995 "Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania", "Amended"

⁶ Recently adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Albania with the Law Nr. 9859, dated 21.1.2008 "On Some Supplements and Amendments to the Law Nr. 7895, dated 27.1.1995 "Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania", "Amended"