

**REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN
BEINGS
JANUARY-JUNE 2011**



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
Ministry of Interior
Deputy Minister
National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings**

**REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR COMBATING
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Tirana, August 2011

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CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

The beginning of 2011 coincides with the period when the National Action Plan for Combating Traffic in Persons 2011 – 2013¹ was approved. The first half of this year has been a busy one, with frequent activities in the fight against traffic in persons, especially in the areas of criminal prosecution, investigation, trying and conviction of perpetrators of this crime.

Measures and efforts made during the 1st semester of this year are listed in this chapter, in terms of adjustments to the legal framework, increasing and building capacities, protection of children from exploitation, fighting corruption among law enforcement officials, cooperation inside and outside the country, statistics on detection, investigation and trials to the criminal acts related to traffic of human beings etc. Among the most important developments for the period January – June 2011, we would highlight:

- The approval of a series of important legal acts and the conduct of several studies on the improvement of various laws, including some proposals on amendments to Penal Code, especially to articles on criminal acts committed against children;
- Capacities of all actors involved in the fight against traffic in persons have increased.
 - **3 other coordinators** have been added to the Office of National Coordinator.
 - State Police has conducted **14 trainings**, in which **199 specialists** were trained. **7 trainings** were conducted with **Regional Anti-trafficking Committees** and **210 persons** were trained.
 - Police capacities for protecting children have been increased by improving considerably cooperation with the local government and civil society
- **Procedures on movements of children** abroad have been adjusted. Currently, an operational set of measures is under preparation to **smash the phenomenon of begging**, based on studies and encountered problems.

In the areas of international cooperation by structures combating illegal trafficking, **8 joint operations** have been carried out in total, among which **2 focused on traffic in persons**. During the 1st half of 2011, **State Police** detected **9 new cases of traffic in persons**. A total of **25 cases** of traffic in persons are currently registered in the **Serious Crimes Prosecutor's Office (SCPR)** (21 were brought from 2010 and **4 new cases** registered in 2011), with **24 perpetrators** in all. Also, the **trials of 5 cases concluded** and **5 persons were convicted** only during the Jan. – Jun. 2011 period.

1. Enrichment and improvement of legal framework

In this area, during the Jan.-Jun. 2011 period, the most important development remains obviously the approval of the National Action Plan (NAP) 2011 – 2013 for Combating Traffic in Persons.

¹ Govt. decision no. 142, dt. 23.02.2011 “On approval of ‘National Action Plan against Trafficking of Human Beings’ and of the complementary document ‘Action Plan on Combating Child Trafficking and on Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking’”.

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On the part that deals with criminal prosecution, in addition to general aims and objectives, this action plan gives special priority to the fight against internal trafficking in all its forms of exploitation, especially exploitation of children for begging and forced labor. In the context of improving the legal frame, several studies have been planned to assess accurate legal interventions, both in the Penal Code and in other laws and bylaws, which regulate in the field of fight against traffic in humans.

During the 1st half of 2011, a series of new laws were approved, mostly concerning the ratification of various international conventions and agreements, which fulfill the legal framework, especially in terms of increasing cooperation with other countries for such issues as: extradition of persons suspected of the commission of various criminal acts; transfer of convicts, including also those convicted for trafficking; child protection etc.

The legal and sub-legal frame, which regulates the operation of State Committee for Legal Assistance has already been completed. The operation of this structure will facilitate provision of legal assistance for victims of trafficking (VoTs), ensuring better protection and representation for them. This assistance will be provided in the framework of both conducting a trial and of informing and facilitating other procedures that relate to protection of VoTs.

Several studies have been carried out and reports have been drawn up on improvements of the legal framework for combating traffic in persons. Among those we can mention two OSCE reports, “*Compensation to trafficked and exploited persons in OSCE region*”, published in Dec. 2010 in Albanian, and the drawing up of “*Evaluation report on compatibility of Albanian legislation with Council of Europe Convention on measures against traffic of human beings*”. In March, the findings of this Evaluation Report were presented to a round table in which representatives of state, civil society and international organizations took part; the report was discussed and recommendations for relevant amendments to legislation were made, so that the domestic legislation be more clearly oriented towards protection of VoTs rights.

2. Capacities increase and establishment

Upon the approval of the **new structure** of **Ministry of Interior** (MoI) in February 2011, 3 new persons were added to the number of coordinators working in the Anti-trafficking Unit, which constitutes the base structure that coordinates all state and non-state agencies and antitrafficking efforts in the country. With its enlargement, the Office of National Antitrafficking Coordinator (ONAC) will be in a better position to monitor the performance of all structures, aiming at a better coordination and more thorough evaluation of the situation.

During the 1st half of this year, special attention has been given to conducting various trainings, in which main law enforcement agencies, such as police, PO, courts and other actors, as well, participated.

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During the period Jan. – Jun. 2011, State Police conducted 14 trainings and trained 199 specialists involved in the prevention and fight against illegal trafficking. According to the providers of trainings, the following activities took place:

- In cooperation with PAMECA, 5 trainings were conducted, targeting 100 specialists.
- Department for Organized and Serious Crime conducted 4 trainings, involving 63 specialists.
- SEPCA organized training for 1 specialist.
- OCTN organized training for 2 specialists.
- DTP organized training for 1 specialist.
- UNDOC organized training for 15 specialists.
- Genral Prosecutor's Office organized training for 15 specialists.
- EUROPOL in concert with the Ministry of Interior of Slovenia organized training for 2 specialists.

In the area of increasing capacities among police, special attention has been given to **promotion of gender equality**. In addition to fulfilling the objective of respecting gender equality, increasing the numbers of female police officers impacts greatly also on the enhancement of police abilities to take action, especially for the fulfillment of security needs for special social groups, especially the victims of trafficking. The Deputy Minister of Interior/National Antitrafficking Coordinator has played a rather active role in this regard, participating in several activities organized for such a purpose. In these activities, there were discussions about issues related to the improvement of legal framework and finding ways to make room for increasing the numbers of female officers throughout police. These activities were followed by the drafting of several recommendations which will be reflected in 2011 in concrete strategies and actions. So, work has started to amend the regulation of police and several awareness raising activities have been planned to be conducted over the whole country.

During the **Jan. – Jun. 2011** period, various subjects on traffic in persons were included in the Initial Training Program and Continuous Training Program in the Magistrates' School, and several activities and trainings² were conducted for such a purpose. Such trainings have been programmed also for the new academic year calendar, for the **Oct. – Dec. 2011** period. On Mar. 9, a special training took place, in which theoretical and practical aspects of traffic in humans, assistance to illegal crossing of the border, and theoretical and practical aspects seen from an international conventions prospective were handled. Overall, **38 persons** (judges, prosecutors, judicial police officers, and others) benefitted from this training; it was organized in cooperation, and with support, by IOM.

In cooperation with the organization "Refleksione", a series of 2-day training activities took place in Mar. 2011, in which officers from crime investigation and prevention structures of the police commissariats of Gramsh, Laç, Shijak and commissariat no. 6 in Tirana, took part. The main subject of these trainings related to protection, treatment and management of cases of domestic violence at a local level, based on the existing legislation, and to the creation of a

²More complete information of trainings with a criminal subject matter conducted by magistrates' School for the Jan. – Jun. 2011 period is available on Annexe I.

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coordinated response against this phenomenon, paying more attention to the treatment of women and child victims.

In cooperation with OSCE, trainings for **Regional Antitrafficking Committees (RATC)** have continued with the objective of improving cooperation and increasing antitrafficking capacities at a local level. From Oct. 2010 till Apr. 2011, **7 trainings** have been conducted in total, namely in the prefectures of Durres (Oct. 13 – 14 2010), Dibër (Nov. 11-12, 2010), Vlorë (Dec. 2-3), Kukës (Feb. 9-10, 2011), Lezhë (Mar. 1, 2011), Elbasan (Mar. 24, 2011) dhe Fier (Apr. 6, 2011). **210 persons**, members of RATC and Antitrafficking Technical Tables have participated in these trainings, together with other actors, as well, including the civil society. Among other things, these trainings have also served to improve cooperation between police structures and other agencies in order to identify as many cases of traffic in humans as possible. Also, special subjects related to the understanding the phenomenon of trafficking, its elements, root causes and the forms of its appearance, have been handled in these trainings. In the other prefectures, this training will be conducted during the Sep.-Dec. 2011 period.

3. Protecting children from exploitation, abuse and maltreatments

Recently, not only specialized structures, by ONAC itself, has paid special attention to addressing issues that relate to child protection.

During the 1st half of 2011, a number of criminal acts that harmed children were uncovered. Based on statistics³ from Directorate for Crime Investigation and Prevention, during the Jan.-Jun. 2011 period, **290 children harmed** by various criminal acts, and **282 children involved in criminal activities** were recorded. During the same period, **2 cases of child maltreatment and child exploitation for labor**, as foreseen by art. 124/b of Penal Code, were recorded.

With the relocation of the **Minors Protection and Domestic Violence Sector** within the Department for Public Security, work effectiveness has increased considerably; this has been also a result of better cooperation with other crime investigation and prevention structures. During the Jan.-Jun. 2011 period, work has continued to increase the capacities of these structures and **improve cooperation with local government structures**, health centers and other actors from civil society. During this period, efforts have been made to establish cooperation with the **Child Rights Center of Advocacy (CRCA)**, in relation to publicising the identities and finding missing children. The preparation of Cooperation Agreement “*On registration and publication on official internet page of ‘global missing children network’ (GMCN), exchange of reciprocal information for finding and returning missing children, parents or legal guardians*” serves this purpose, as well. This cooperation agreement was signed in June 2011 and has a 3-year term. In this context, the certification and direct commitment of police structures in GMCN, with support by the International Missing Children Center, headquartered in USA, will be endeavored.

³ Complete statistics on criminal acts related to children are available on tables shown on Annexe II.

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In order to prevent irregular taking and relocation of children to other countries (*taking and relocating a child with no approval by the other parent*), the current legislation and **standard procedures applied during entries and exits** by minors in the territory of Republic of Albania, and their provision with biometric passports, have been studied. Appreciating the importance of creating **special facilities for conducting interviews with children** harmed by violence, abuse or maltreatments, cooperation is currently in progress with the French Embassy in Tirana for creating such a facility in the Regional Police directorate of Tirana, which will be in compliance with international standards.

In the field of **improving the legal framework** that deals with children, State Police, in cooperation with ONAC, prepared a draft for some amendments and additions to the Law no. 7895, dated 27.01.1995 “Penal Code of Republic of Albania”, as amended. These changes consist of the improvement of several provisions of Penal Code which guarantee a more effective protection for minors and domestic violence victims. The aim is to simplify and clarify elements of the criminal act of maltreatment of minors, so that they are more easily understood and applied by law enforcement structures. Also, another aim is to bring in place stricter penalization and harsher penalties for those responsible, especially in cases of exploitation of children for labor, begging or other forms of their exploitation.

During the 1st half of 2011, State Police has prepared four **studies**:

- “*Domestic violence, measures taken and results achieved against this phenomenon*”, covers the 2008-2010 period;
- “*The phenomenon of begging in children, method of its treatment and results achieved so far*”, covers the Jan. 2010-Apr. 2011 period;
- “*Child rights and police – the legal framework related mostly to rights of children in conflict with the law and the method of their treatment by police when under escort, in remand custody and/or arrest*”;
- “*Involvement of minors in criminal activities, during the 2008-2010 period*”.

The study on begging, in addition to a general analysis of the phenomenon, contains also several findings and recommendations based on information collected from the field; herein we can mention:

- The age group most affected by this phenomenon are 6-14 year old children (60%), whereas the rest are 0-6 year old children (20%), and children of an older age, 14-18, (20%);
- Based on findings, 14-18 year old children are also exploited for involvement in various criminal activities (shop, bar, restaurant burglaries), labor (collection of scrap metal or other types of work). In sporadic cases, children (girls) have been exploited also for prostitution;
- Based on this study, the phenomenon of begging is concentrated mostly in urban areas, such as Tirana, Shkoder, Elbasan and Durres, but other cases have been observed also in other cities of the country;
- In reference to concrete cases, the study observes that in similar cases, the PO has displayed different attitudes; this relates mostly to the interpretation made to art. 124/b of Penal Code, that deals with trafficking in minors;

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- The study analyses also the way Law no. 9669 dated 18.12.2006 “On measures against domestic violence” is applied, and highlights some difficulties and positive practices from working with children. The study provides several concrete recommendations on working with children, focusing especially on:
 - accurate identification of children and families who exercise begging, their involvement in protective mechanisms and provision of comprehensive social support;
 - organization of awareness campaigns, especially for the most affected communities, such as the Roma, and
 - improvement of the existing legal framework, initially starting with a rewording of art. 124/b of Penal Code, but also with the improvement of the child protection system in the country.

Based on problems observed and conclusions from the above study material, State Police has prepared an **Operational Action Plan** for the “*Prevention and smashing of criminal activity in the area of trafficking, maltreatment, sexual exploitation, forced labor or begging by minors, in 2011*”. Activities foreseen in 2011 to be conducted in the context of this plan, will be followed up and monitored during the 2nd half of 2011.

4. Fighting against the involvement of law enforcement structures in the criminal acts of traffic in persons

To achieve their purposes, traffickers cooperate also with other persons and are continuously seeking to find corrupt persons, especially from within the law enforcement structures. Therefore, special measures have been taken to control the activity and performance of law enforcement,

During the **January – June 2011** period, **ICS** has not registered a **single case** where a State Police officer is implicated in an activity related to the trafficking in persons. In the month of July 2011, due to the ICS work, a police employee was arrested en flagrant on charges of prostitution exploitation.

The Structures of ICS during the January – June 2011 period has administrated **89 written complaints**, submitted by different citizens and institutions. **144 verbal complaints** have been submitted on a central and local level. **108** phone calls to the free toll number 08009090 (green line) from different citizens have been received and followed up with further verifications.

For the January – June 2011 period **SIS** in cooperation with the police structures has initiated **5 operations** for the prevention and the interruption of activities mainly related to the favouring of illegal immigration and prostitution.

5. National and international cooperation

In order to be successful in the fight against trafficking in persons it is required continuous coordination and cooperation within the country as well as with the authorities of the other countries. During the first six months of year 2011, the cooperation level especially in the national level has been continuously strengthened. There have been positive developments in the cooperation with the police structures of the other countries. Some joint police operations have been conducted and some others are still ongoing.

During the first 6 six months of year 2011 the central structures against illicist trafficking have conducted **8 operations in cooperation with our international partners**. These operations have aimed at the countering of traffickers implicated in criminal activities in Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Hungary, Sillovenia, Austria, Greece, and Italy etc. The objective of **two of these operations has been the countering of trafficking in women phenomenon**. **8 persons were arrested** during these two police operations. Another criminal case, where partners from the above-mentioned countries are involved, is still under investigation. The goal of the other police operations has been the fight against smuggling of persons (2 operations) and the fight against prostitution exploitation in 4 other police operations.

Within the framework of encouraging international judicial cooperation, with the initiative of the Ministry of Justice it has been realized the membership in a series of international acts and the signing of some bilateral agreements. The goal of these acts has been the creation of new

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cooperation opportunities as regards penal prosecution, the protection of human rights and particularly the protection of children against any criminal activities, including the trafficking.

As regards **extraditions of persons implicated in trafficking in human beings**, for the period january - june 2011 there are **2 cases**: 1 in Switzerland for the criminal offence of trafficking in minors (article 128/b of the Criminal Code) and another case in Kosovo for the criminal offence of trafficking in women(article 114/b of the Criminal Code).

According to information from the Ministry of Justice, 12 **Rogatory Letters** are being drafted to be sent abroad for trafficking in persons; more concretely:

- 7 cases with Italy for the criminal offence of trafficking in women raste (article 114/b KP);
- 1 case with England for the criminal offence of trafficking in women (article 114/b KP);
- 3 cases with Greece for the criminal offence of trafficking in women (article 114/b KP);
- 1 case with Kosova for the criminal offence of trafficking in persons (article 110/a CC).

However, as in the previous years there have been delays in the executions of the Rogatory Letter, by making the process of evidence administration and investigation for the criminal offences of trafficking in persons more difficult. These problems have been highlighted by the Serious Crimes Prosecutor's Office, a structure which very often has used alternative means to exchange information with the other countries.

6. Statistical data regarding the investigation and the judgement of the criminal offences related to the trafficking in persons.

The Sector against Illicit Trafficking at the State Police during the first 6 months of year 2011 has recorded a total of **9 criminal offences** of trafficking in persons: **8 criminal offences of "trafficking in women"** – article 114/b of the Criminal Code and **1 criminal offence of "Trafficking in minors"** – article 128/b i of the Criminal Code.

Criminal offences of trafficking in persons during the January – June period 2011

Criminal Offences	Recorded	Perpetrators	Arrested	At large	Wanted	Arrested
Trafficking in women	8	15	7	3	2	3
Trafficking in minors	1	2		1	1	
Total	9	17	7	4	3	3

During the January – August 2011 period, the State Police in cooperation with the other countries has conducted **2 police operations** against trafficking in women, stated in article 114/b

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of the Criminal Code; 9 implicated citizens have been identified, 8 citizens have been arrested and one is released on bail following these police operations.

During the first six months of year 2011 the structures of Border and Migration Police Department (BMPD) have **interviewed 7650 returned citizens**, 2 possible victims of trafficking were identified during their interviewing. Within the framework of the preventive fight, the MBPD structures in cooperation with the other structures has set well defined procedures for its employees to followed for the exits/entries at the BCP-s and the prevention of illicit crossing of border by these group of persons, by specifying the procedures and documentation the children that cross the border should have.

During July 2011, due to a well organized 2 week efforts, the Sector against Illicit Trafficking at the District Police Directorate of Korçë, successfully implemented an operational plan which resulted in the arrest of one person who is accused of the criminal offence of “Prostitution exploitation in aggravated”, stated in articles 114/a and 124/b of the Criminal Code. This person belongs to the Roma community and the injured minor is one of his relatives.

For the period January-June 2011 at **the Serious Crimes Prosecutor’s Office** there were registered and **are also being investigated a total of 25 cases** related to trafficking in persons. 21 one of them have been are from year 2010 and **4 new cases** are registered during 2011 (3 criminal proceeding for “Trafficking in women” - article 114/b of the Criminal Code and one criminal proceeding for “Trafficking in minors” – article 128/b of the Criminal Code. For all the criminal proceeding (old and new) have been **registered 24 perpetrators** (18 persons for “Trafficking in women” - article 114/b of the Criminal Code and 6 criminal proceedings for “Trafficking in minors – article 128/b of the Criminal Code.

The **First Instance Court for Serious Crimes** for the January – June 2011 period **has adjudicated 12 cases** related to trafficking in persons⁴:

- 2(two) cases have been registered for the first time;
- 10 (ten) cases have been form year 2010;

7 of the adjudicated cases were given a final verdict whereas **5 cases** are still being adjudicated. 14 defendants have been tried for the abovementioned cases. These cases have been classified as per the Criminal Code below:

- **“Trafficking in minors” - article 128/b** of the Criminal Code; **5 cases with 5 defendants** have been recorded.
 - **“Trafficking in minors” - article 128/b/3⁵** of the Criminal Code; **2 cases with 4 defendants** (3 defendants in one case and 1 defendant in the other). These criminal cases are still being adjudicated.
 - **“Trafficking in minors” - article 128/b/1** of the Criminal Code; 1 case has been recorded, it had one defendants which was found guilty by final verdict.

⁴ The higher level courts have not sent for re-adjudication criminal cases with this judicial classification.

⁵ Number 3 refers to the paragraph pursuant which is done the judicial classification of the criminal offence in the respective article.

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- **“Trafficking in women”, - article 114/b/3** of the Criminal Code; **7 criminal offences with 7 defendants** have been recorded (one defendant each). **5 criminal offences have been adjudicated and 5 persons have been** found guilty by final verdict. The sentences given vary from 10 - 15 years of imprisonment and fine of ALL 4-6 millions.
- **“Trafficking in persons” - article 110/a** of the Criminal Code; no criminal cases recorded for the period January – June 2011.

In **July 2011** one criminal case was registered for Trafficking of women and Trafficking of minors, stipulated by Articles 114/b/3 and 128/b/3 of the Criminal Code with four defendants.

According to statistics of the **Serious Crimes Appeals Court** a total of **7 cases** on trafficking in persons have been heard by this court from January to June 2011 out of whom 6 were registered in 2011 and one in 2010. The **respective decisions** were rendered on all cases, which **upheld** the decision of the First Instance Court (**5 cases**), overturned the decision and dismissed the case (**one**) and in one case the sentence was changed from 13 to 11 years of imprisonment. Just like in 2010, in the majority of cases (5 out of 7) for the January to June 2011 period the Serious Crimes Appeals Court upheld the decision of the First Instance Court; thus, court decisions on trafficking in persons were unified.

According to the information obtained by the **Supreme Court** a total of **6 cases** on trafficking in person were heard from January to June 2011 at this court; 5 of which for Trafficking of women Article 114/b of the Criminal Code, and 1 for Trafficking of minors – Article 128/b of the Criminal Code. All cases are in counseling rooms.

7. Findings and recommendations

- Unify statistics with regard to the numbers provided as well as stances adopted in the referral of cases by law enforcement agencies (Police, Prosecutor’s Office, Court) according to the provisions of the Criminal Code on the trafficking in persons stipulated by Articles 110/a; 114/b and 128/b of the Criminal Code;
- Conduct more proactive investigations. Compared to the same period last year there is a significant decrease in the number of trafficking in persons identified by the State Police, while no explanation was provided on this matter;
- Focus on domestic trafficking and particularly trafficking of children for purposes of forced labor, begging and prostitution. There is no overarching information in the reports to allow for an analysis in this area;
- Undertake initiatives to improve the legal framework based on research and recommendations of reports from the Council of Europe; the United States Department of State; and other in-country stakeholders.

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

The National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2011-2013 provides for a large number of activities aimed at identifying the greatest number of victims of this crime. Because of identification, victims obtain services that result in regained trust and the instruments needed to start a healthy life.

In Albania, VoT obtain rehabilitating and reintegrating services in spite of their desire to cooperate with justice. During the first half of 2011, **58 victims of trafficking were identified (sex: 52 female, 6 male)** we identified. **Of these, 21 are children (19 female and 2 male).** The identification sources have been several:

1. Police;
2. State Social Service;
3. Shelters: National Receiving Center for Victims of Trafficking -Tirana, Other Vision-Elbasan, Different and Equal -Tirana, Vatra-Vlora;
4. Office of the Prosecutor for Serious Crimes;
5. Nonprofit organizations;
6. Family.

A number of very important developments took place during the first half of 2011:

- Adoption of standard operating procedures for the identification and referral of possible victims of trafficking;
- Establishment of the working group that will prepare the draft law on medical services for victims of trafficking;
- 58 victims have been given assistance in shelters;
- Funding of the shelters of the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters by the state budget has continued;

1. National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking

During the first half of 2011 the members of the National Referral Mechanism⁶ (MNRM) and the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator (ONAC), through their continuous efforts, have aimed to make possible the strengthening and full functioning of the mechanisms that carry out the coordination of actions for the referral, assistance and reintegration of victims of trafficking. MRNM have cooperated to ensure the identification, referral, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking. Cooperation is strengthened every year and mechanisms become stronger. Periodic meetings have been held with the MRNM. Also, continuous meetings have been held with the members of the Responsible Authority. These meetings have strengthened communication and the exchange of information.

⁶ General Directorate of State Police, Ministry of Labor, Social Issues and Equal Chances, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking, Other Vision -Elbasan, Different and equal -Tirana, Vatra-Vlora, ARSIS-Tirana, IOM

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Currently, the MNRM and the ONAC are working on the review of the *Agreement on the Establishment of the National Referral Mechanism*, agreement signed on 18 July 2005. The new dynamics of the trafficking phenomenon, the creation of new structures require a new orientation of activities and undertaking of objectives, and as a result, the immediate review of the Agreement is seen as a necessity. The MNRM have expressed their thoughts and suggestions on the preparation of the improved draft of this Agreement and the ONAC is working to reflect these ideas in a consolidated draft.

We have jointly concluded that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Science should be parties to the NRM, and, as a result, they will also contribute and participate in the functioning of the Responsible Authority.

2. Transnational Mechanism for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking TRM-II

The regional project of ICMPD, funded by USAID “*Enhancing Transnational Cooperation on Trafficking Cases in South-Eastern Europe (TRM-II)*” which aims at establishing a transnational cooperation mechanism between destination, origin and transit countries, saw important developments during the reporting period. This program supports the implementation of the *Guidelines for the Development of a Transnational Referral Mechanism for Trafficked Persons (TRM Guidelines)*. The focus of activities is assistance and measures for children victims of trafficking and victims of trafficking that are exploited for work, as well as strengthening mechanisms for the exchange of information between policy making and operational structures. Meetings organized with this purpose:

- The first transnational seminar for the TRM-II project took place in Budapest, Hungary on 16-18 March 2011.
- Between 23 and 25 May, 2011 a workshop was held focusing on trafficking in children in the city of Durres. The ONAC supported organizing this workshop that focused on facilitating the exchange of information on issues of trafficking in children.
- The following activity was carried out on 27-29 June, 2011 in Bulgaria.

More on regional and international meetings attended by the members of the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator can be found in the Coordination part of this report.

3. Identification of Victims of Trafficking

The goal of government and nongovernment actors, directly or indirectly involved, in combating trafficking in human beings is to increase the number of identifications and referrals of victims of trafficking exploited within the country, on the border, outside the country and self-identifications. Identification is the most important process in the chain of efforts to ensure the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking. Without the identification step, no trafficked person would manage to obtain the necessary services. As a result, the ONAC and its

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partners have strived to ensure the improvement of identification procedures and increase of sources that would make this process possible. To institutionalize actions related to the identification and referral of victims of trafficking, the ONAC in cooperation with the expert of the IOM and in continuous consultation with the MNRM drafted the *Standard operation Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking*, the procedures were adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers nr.582, dated 27.7.2011 “On the adoption of standard operating procedures for the identification and referral of possible victims/victims of trafficking”.

Identification and Police

The State Police has continued to be active in the identification of cases of trafficking, cooperating closely with KKSAT (National Coalition of Shelters for Victims of Trafficking) and the members of the NRM to offer the necessary services to victims of trafficking. Anti-trafficking police officers have participated in the process of the formal identification of victims. Shelters report that most of the referrals are from State Police. Trainings have continued intensively⁷.

Identification and the State Social Service

The Ministry of Labor, Social Issues and Equal Chances reports that according to Order Nr. 43 dated 24.03.2011 “*On the immediate delivery of the interview and the minutes taken through the social workers of the regional offices of social services to the interviewed – victim of trafficking, potential victim and the public and non public agencies that offer social care services*”, government social workers from the Regional Social Service Offices and employees of the National Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking (NRCTV) have assisted during the initial interview stage and formal identification of victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking, or persons in risk of being trafficked. Whenever notified by anti-trafficking police they have made sure that a social worker would be present (social worker of the Regional Directorate of State Social Services or employee of the NRCTV).

During May-June 2011 social workers of the Regional Social Services Offices have been present in 7 initial interviews for the identification of victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking, according to documents submitted to the Ministry of Labor and Social Issues of Albania (MPCSSH?).

Identification and the Directorate of Consular Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

One of the main commitments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a member of the National Referral Mechanism is to encourage diplomatic and consular representations to use all sources possible to identify, protect and offer assistance to victims of trafficking. In line with the Standard Operating Procedures, MoFA has extensively instructed embassies and consular offices

⁷ More information regarding capacity building for anti-trafficking structures, training and activities carried out during the reporting period can be found under the Criminal Proceedings part of this report

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on the institutionalization of cooperation with the authorities in the receiving country and with nongovernmental associations to raise awareness with victims of trafficking.

Between 16 and 18 February 2011, a meeting was held in Salonika with the technical group on the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (PSV?) for victims of trafficking and Greek authorities (police, office of the prosecutor for minors and centers that shelter and care for victims). The Albanian consulate in Salonika was involved in all aspects to ensure the meetings were successful. During the months that followed, in cooperation with IOM, ONAC and MoFA will carry out training for consular employees in embassies on the identification of emigrants who might be in danger of trafficking.

4. Support of the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters

Four shelters operated in Albania during 2011⁸ which offered high quality services to victims of trafficking. Shelter services start with the identification process of the VT, offering immediate assistance, rehabilitation and reintegration programs.

Government support for anti-trafficking shelters

The Government of Albania is determined to create all conditions that will secure the sources necessary for sustainable quality services for victims of trafficking, meaning strengthening and continuity of sources for anti-trafficking shelters.

The Ministry of Labor of Albania (MLSIECA) administers the NRCVT, a social care organization that offers residential services for VTs and/or PVTs. The goal of the NRCVT is offering assistance for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking, nationals and foreigners. For 2011 21.4 million leks were allotted to NRCVT (salaries, insurance and operational expenses) and 18 million leks for capital investments.

MLSIECA has also strived to ensure functioning and government support for the full functioning of public non-governmental shelters that offer services to victims of trafficking **“Different and equal”, “Other Vision” “Vatra”**. Pursuant to Article 4, of Law Nr. 10252, dated 11.03.2010 “On some amendments to Law 9355”, and pursuant to Law Nr. 10355, dated 02.12.2010 “On the budget of 2011”, Instruction of the Ministry of Finance Nr. 4, dated 27.01.2011 “On the implementation of the state budget for 2011”, MLSIECA transfers funds (food) to the Social Protection Program for victims of trafficking beneficiaries who receive social services from providers of non-public services: Other Vision, Different and Equal, Vatra for a six-month period.

Based on information from the shelters on the number of beneficiaries that receive services at each center, which was submitted to the Directorate of Social Services Policies, during the first half of 2011 the state budget has allotted **1,026,480 leks** to the Social Protection Program. **Specifically:**

⁸ National Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking, Different and Equal, Other Vision, Vatra

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- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| • To “Other Vision ” | 101 920 leks |
| • To Different and Equal | 560 560 leks |
| • To Vatra | 364 000 leks |

Support from international partners for the Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters and protection for and assistance to victims of trafficking

“*Follow on Anti Trafficking Effort*” a program funded by USAID and implemented by IOM offers support for the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters to ensure protection and assistance for victims of trafficking. This program has tried to strengthen advocacy work by civil society and to support dialogue and coordination of approach between the government and civil society. The project has *three main goals*:

- a) capacity building for shelters,
- b) increasing cooperation between civil society and state anti-trafficking agencies, and
- c) building capacities of civil society to prevent trafficking and to protect victims of trafficking.

In the framework of this project, in cooperation with ONAC, MLSIECA, SSS and KKSAT, **four trainings were organized with employees of the SSS and social administrators** in the cities of Tirana (60 participants), Shkoder (60 participants), Korça (45 participants) and Vlora (50 participants). The presentations had the following topics:

- *Efforts of the Albanian government in combating trafficking;*
- *Identification and the referral process for victims of trafficking;*
- *The profile of victims of trafficking;*
- *Services offered for victims of trafficking in residential care;*
- *Evaluation of the family situation of the VoT and monitoring of services offered during the reintegration process.*

During the reporting period “*Vatra*” has implemented a project funded by USAID, Kvinna Till Kvinna, The Sigrid Rausing TRUST London, SOROS foundation, which offers direct assistance to victims of trafficking, possible victims and victims of domestic violence.

“*Different and equal*” has implemented the project “*Offering sustainable reintegration assistance to former Albanian victims of trafficking*”, whose donors are USAID/IOM, the Vodafone Albania Foundation, King Baudouin Foundation, Norwegian Foreign Ministry, UN.GIFT, MIVA, MLSIECA/Municipal unit Nr.7

Terre des hommes in Albania is implementing a project called “*Development of network for the protection of children*”, a three year-long project that aims to establish an comprehensive functional system for the protection of children, in which the Units for the Protection of Children will be the institutional structures at local level and through which numerous inter-disciplinary partners and local communities will be informed, strengthened and will undertake active measures and the necessary involvement to protect children.

5. Activities of the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters (NCAT)

During the reporting period shelters have offered physical security for victims of trafficking and, in cooperation with other agencies, have offered full social, medical, psychological and legal assistance for all victims of trafficking they accommodated. Below is a detailed representation of the most important activities of anti-trafficking shelters during the first half of 2011.

Exchange of experiences between NCAT centers

“Different and equal” reports that NCAT has organized 4 meetings to exchange experiences between shelter staff with the support of IOM

- Meeting I – in Elbasan with the participation of Directors, Case Managers and teachers, part of staff in coalition shelters. They discussed management of cases involving minors and children of victims of trafficking/violence;
- Meeting II- in Tirana with the participation of Directors, Shelter Managers, Case Managers and doctors. They discussed case file documentation based on the Standards’ Guide with the aim of unifying this documentation;
- Meeting III- in Vlora with the participation of Directors, Shelter Managers, Case Managers and psychologists. They discussed management of difficult cases in assistance programs;
- Last meeting was held in Tirana to summarize problems presented in preceding meetings and to prepare a concrete plan to address these problems.

The members of the coalition also participated in the workshop “*All together. Exchange of experience between professionals*”, with the participation of psychologist Filip Jaffe, organized by IOM Tirana, 18 May 2011.

Services offered by the Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters⁹

In all shelters, after beneficiaries are accommodated and their immediate needs fulfilled, within a two week deadline, the multidisciplinary team carries out an evaluation of the psycho-social, health, legal and educational needs. Afterwards, the social worker drafts the assistance plan, in cooperation with other professionals in the shelter, depending on the needs of the beneficiary. This plan is approved by the beneficiary and is implemented during the period of accommodation in the shelter.

Psycho-social assistance/counseling:

The shelters offer victims of trafficking counseling and group information sessions or individual counseling. Informative sessions are held daily¹⁰ Individual counseling is offered in accordance with the needs and concerns presented by the beneficiary.

⁹ A summary of services offered can be found in Annex V.

¹⁰ Topics dealt with by the shelters in *group* sessions and topics dealt with in individual counseling can be found in Annex IV.

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“Vatra” has carried out *146 individual counselings* with beneficiaries. “Other Vision” has done continuous counseling with beneficiaries. “Different and equal” has carried out 2390 counseling sessions in total. This shelter has also organized 5 sessions of art therapy, focused on discovering inner conflicts, projection of self and qualities through painting, etc.

In addition to the hard work of shelter employees, they also receive support from sources outside the shelter, ex. NCRVT has received psychological assistance from the “*Legal Clinic for Minors*” every Friday, through soothing sessions and awareness raising sessions on the problems and concerns of the week.

Legal Assistance:

The Ministry of Justice reports that during the reporting period it focused on the efficient functioning of the State Commission on Legal Aid. At the moment, the legal framework that regulated the functioning of this structure has been completed and practical results are expected.

The shelters carry out legal evaluations for all new beneficiaries that are accommodated in them. In addition to the legal evaluation, the shelter’s lawyers follow processes of girls that have file charges, and inform the beneficiaries about different legal issues. The shelter informs that during the reporting period there has been cooperation with anti-trafficking police officers. Beneficiaries that have been involved in court processes have regularly attended meetings with case prosecutors and anti-trafficking police officers. At the same time, beneficiaries have been offered legal counsel and assistance. Of course, the need for continuity and strengthening of cooperation is indispensable.

Medical Assistance:

The conditions in which VoTs have lived and the ways of exploitation have caused severe health problems. During their stay in the shelters the victims undergo continuous examinations by the shelter’s doctor and respective specialists. Some of the cases remain problematic, such as the cases of beneficiaries that are dependent on drugs, have mental health problems, dental problems, etc. These cases require special treatment in a special hospital setting and have high costs.

To this purpose ***Joint Order Nr.2551/3, dated 28.7.2011 “On the Establishment of a Working Group” established a working group to prepare a draft-act on medical services received by victims of trafficking.*** The working group consists of representatives from MH, MLSIEC, IHCS, SSS, Anti-trafficking Unit at the Ministry of Interior, representatives of the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking are invited to participate in discussions. This group will analyze and recommend ways in which receiving medical services can be made easier for victims of trafficking.

Education

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Following an evaluation to determine the educational level of each beneficiary, an educational/instructional plan is drafted as part of the individual reintegration plan.

The shelters, in cooperation with the regional educational directorates have made it possible for a number of beneficiaries to enroll in schools and continue their education. 30 victims/possible victims of trafficking have been enrolled in schools.

- Beneficiaries that lived with their families but attended school were also supported with transportations cost and other necessary school materials.

Professional qualifications:

The shelters offer courses that aim to professionally enable victims and to reintegrate them in life. The most frequent courses are those in tailoring and hairdressing. The NRCVT informs that course sessions have been held three times a week. “Vatra” reports that this year 19 beneficiaries have been given the opportunity to obtain free professional education from the state. «Other Vision” reports it has registered one VoT in a hairdresser course and one PVoT has been given an employment grant. These are financially supported with IOM funds. “Different and Equal” reports that 19 beneficiaries have attended different professional courses.

Employment

It has been years that the shelters cooperate with the Regional Employment Directorate. But even though the assistance of the directorates has been continuous, the shelters note that there sustainability in the employment of VoTs. The shelters estimate that the only programs that are successful in employment are those that stimulate employment, which are implemented by the state, and through which, beneficiaries are trained for a four month period by the Regional Employment Directorate and, after that 4 month period, are given a 1 year work contract at their respective employment entity. “Vatra” reports that in July 2010 a program to stimulate employment was implemented by the Regional Employment Directorate in Vlora, which included 7 beneficiaries. During this period this shelter found employment for **14 girls and** women in private enterprises (clothes stores, food store clerks, fast-food restaurants, tailor stores).

“Other Vision” reports that **2 VoTs and 1 PVoT** are being supported in finding employment in cooperation with the Regional Employment Directorate and local business. “Different but equal” reports that **18 beneficiaries** have had a job. **The shelters report that 35 beneficiaries have found employment during the reporting period.**

Employment training

“Different and Equal” in cooperation with ONAC and the Regional Employment Office in Tirana organized training for the specialists of this Office on: “*The successful reintegration of victims of trafficking in Albanian society through employment*”. This training was attended by personnel that work in direct contact with these individuals (registering job applications), employment agents, employees of the employment stimulation program and representatives of businesses that cooperate with the Regional Employment Office. The training focused on the needs of victims of trafficking related to professional development and employment, challenges

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in employment and how cooperation can be improved, government priorities in the protection of victims, communication with victims of trafficking and ethical problems related to working with this target group, etc.

Economic Assistance:

“Vatra” reports that in the framework of Decision Nr. 796, dated 08.09.2010 “On some additions and amendments to Decision Nr. 787, dated 14.12.2005 of the Council of Ministers ‘On the specification of criteria, procedures and measures of economic assistance’ amended”, this shelter is supporting some of the former victims of trafficking in the process of obtaining economic assistance. **One of the beneficiaries is receiving this aid, two others have submitted documents to the respective municipalities, others are in process.**

One problem that has been noticed is that a considerable number of former victims of trafficking have not accepted this assistance, out of fear of being judged and stigmatized by representatives of government institutions, where this assistance is obtained, or from the community in which they live.

Establishment and monitoring of micro businesses

The shelters work continuously with international organizations to raise funds to establish micro businesses. “Vatra” reports that during the reporting period 8 micro businesses established during the last two years were monitored. The businesses of the beneficiaries are monitored on every month by “Vatra” staff to closely monitor their performance, problems and difficulties they face in business management, offer advice, as well as alternatives for their solution, etc. “Different and equal” reports that 6 beneficiaries worked in businesses they started with the support of the shelter and IOM.

Assistance for the children of the beneficiaries

The shelters offer a very important service, care for children whose mothers are victims of trafficking. “Other Visions” has made it possible for two children of VoTs to enroll in school and kindergarten. “Vatra” reports that it accommodated at the shelter for a long period of time a beneficiary with a child. The child was assisted with preschool progress, reading, drawing or creative games, as well as free time in the shelter’s playground, under the supervision of one staff. Also, this year, the son of a beneficiary was registered free of charge in kindergarten, whose performance in kindergarten was monitored by the teacher of the center and the occasional social worker. “Different and equal” reports that 13 children accompanied by their mothers have been offered assistance.

Social activities outside the shelter:

The shelters report that entertainment activities are organized frequently. More specifically they organize excursions, beach trips, birthday parties for the beneficiaries, celebration of national holidays, going to the cinema, theater, nature trips, taking children to the playground, etc. “Vatra” reports that during this year **17** social-cultural activities were organized outside the

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shelter, specifically: at the castle of Berat, Zvernec monastery (Vlore), Llogora tourist area, Vlora coast.

Occupational activities:

The shelters report that they have organized literary hours. These activities reinforce the knowledge that beneficiaries receive in their professional courses. NCRVT offers creative activities in embroidery, lacework, knitting, styling of individual clothes, gardening and remodeling of interiors. Once in two weeks there is a discussion about a book.

At the Vatra shelter beneficiaries are involved in a handiwork course, organized by representatives of World Vision and the Evangelical Church of Vlora, during which they have produced several greeting cards, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, etc. The work of the beneficiaries was presented in another fair, organized by World Vision and the Evangelical Church of Vlora, in September 2010. This 6 month period **10 girls** were trained in handiwork. Moreover, beneficiaries that have a considerable level of education have used the library of the center to read different fiction books.

Reunion with families:

One of the challenges the shelters face in their work is establishing contacts with the families of the victims of trafficking or potential victims of trafficking and returning them to their families. The shelters assist in mediation in the relations between the victim and the family (in cases when the family did not take part in their recruitment). The shelters have supported beneficiaries in efforts to return to their families. They report that over 15 beneficiaries have returned to their families.

Financial support and long-term accommodation

“Different and equal” reports that 33 beneficiaries and 11 children were given assistance during the second and third stages of the program. Of these, 26 cases and 10 children were assisted in apartments. 7 cases and 1 child were assisted in families. 4 new beneficiaries and their 3 children have entered the program and have been immediately assisted with apartments. 8 empowered beneficiaries have moved to the third stage of the program, living independently.

Monitoring and follow up of cases

Following the offering of all these rehabilitating and reintegrating services, the third and most important step is the follow up and monitoring of the cases in the long-term reintegration process. Forms of monitoring and follow-up of cases consist of visits that social workers pay to the families of victims, to their residences, conversations with their relatives. The shelters report that the monitoring process is focused mainly on the health of the beneficiaries, their employment status, requirements for professional growth through more advanced courses, state of relations with the family, interpersonal relations, legal assistance, psycho-social counseling needs, security problems, management of daily activities and income.

6. Compensation of victims of trafficking

ONAC is committed to secure and guarantee legal compensation and indemnification for VoTs. According to Albanian legislation one of the forms of compensation and indemnification for victims of trafficking is the through the victims' compensation fund. The Ministry of Finance reports that the special fund was not created for 2011. Pursuant to Law 10192/2009, distribution of funds will be determined by Order of the Minister of Finance, from the funds obtained from confiscated property. No confiscated property has been sold until now.

The establishment of a State Compensation Scheme for indemnification and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking in human beings, can be achieved by using both confiscated properties and funding from the government through an act on the administration of funds that come from confiscated criminal property.

The OSCE reports that as part of the efforts of this organization to increase access of victims to the justice system, this organization has cooperated with the Center for Legal and Citizen Initiatives (CNI), which has offered legal assistance for the victims of trafficking free of charge. This assistance consisted in following cases of victims during court processes, starting with informing the victim of her rights and procedures that should be followed during court processes, filing charges, criminal or civil, following the case at the prosecutor's office or in court, legal representation of the victim in court, as well as efforts to implement final decisions.

The OSCE reports that 21 victims of trafficking in human beings have been given assistance in the form of free legal advice by the CNI. At the moment three cases of victims of trafficking who have filed civil suits during the criminal proceedings requesting indemnification are in process. The CNI has made continuous efforts regarding implementation of final rulings of the Court of the Judicial District of Tirana for indemnification of the victim for damages incurred during the time of exploitation.

7. Recommendations

- Strengthen cooperation and trust of MNRM;
- Finish drafting the Agreement on the Functioning of the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking;
- Continue trainings that offer information on the best practices for the identification of victims of trafficking. Cooperation between structures of the State Police and the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelter should continue to get stronger;
- Continue training that offer information on the best practices for the identification of victims of trafficking;
- Train consular employees in embassies and consulates to identify emigrants that might be at risk of being trafficked. Continue government financial support for government and non-government shelters;
- Continue to strengthen the role of special prosecutors for trafficking cases and the advocating role of the coordinator for victims;
- Facilitate healthcare services for victims.

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PREVENTION

Prevention of trafficking in persons continues to be a key course in the National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2011 -2013. Preventive activities are focused mainly in raising public awareness about the trafficking phenomenon and anything related to it, education, increase of social involvement of groups in need, offering alternatives to trafficking, social and economic development initiatives and lowering the poverty level.

Amongst the main preventive developments of the first half of 2011, we would mention:

- Adoption by DCM of the “National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2011 -2013” and its supplementary document “Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Children and for the Protection of Children Victims of Trafficking 2011-2013”.
- Establishment and functioning of the State Agency for the Protection of Children’s Rights (SAPCR), under the auspices of MLSIEC, tasked to monitor implementation of the law “On the Protection of Children’s Rights”.
- Continuation by ONAC of training for the Regional Anti-trafficking Committees in all regions of the country in the framework of intensification of efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in people.
- Establishment and functioning of the “House of Colors” Emergency Center by the Arsis organization in cooperation with the City of Tirana to treat children in crisis situations.
- Undertaking a nationwide campaign against exploitation of children for work and begging “Childhood is not exploitation for work” by the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator in cooperation with the “Together for a Thorough Care for Children” foundation.
- Undertaking measures by the ONAC and the General Directorate of Civil registry in cooperation with the “Free Legal Service, Tirana” center, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to register unregistered cases in the official register.

1. Improvement and completion of the legal framework

The “National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2011 -2013” and its supplementary document “Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Children and for the Protection of Children Victims of Trafficking 2011-2013” were adopted by DCM Nr. 142, dated 23.02.2011. The Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with UNODC, organized the Meeting of the State Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings on 1 July 2011, during which the two action plans were presented, with the participation of high representatives of central and local government, representatives of diplomatic corps and civil society, who promised they will continue to play an active part in preventing and combating trafficking in persons.

Pursuant to the Law “On the Protection of children’s Rights” Nr. 10347, dated 04.11.2010 and by Order of the Prime Minister Nr. 30, dated 18.03.2011 the State Agency for the Protection of

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Children's Rights (STPCR) was created and functions. The STPCR is a subordinate of the MLSIEC, and has the mission to monitor the implementation of the law "On the Protection of Children's Rights" and to guarantee special care and effective protection of children, in cooperation with government and non-government that act in the field of children's rights. Also, this agency, supported by the MLSIEC, is drafting the respective by-laws for the implementation of the abovementioned law.

2. Raising public awareness

Raising public awareness is one of the main measures of the policy to prevent trafficking in persons that is followed by the Albanian Government. Awareness raising campaigns serve to acquaint the public with the trafficking in persons phenomenon, its dangers and consequences, and to inform and assist victims of trafficking to escape from the situation in which they are in.

In this framework, ONAC in cooperation with the "Together for Thorough Care for Children" foundation (TTCC) and World Vision have started a nationwide campaign against exploitation of children for forced work and begging with the motto "**Childhood is not exploitation for work**". The activities carried out are:

- For **1 June**, children's day, near the **Tirana Zoo**, the coalition organized an awareness raising activity on the importance of this day and the right of children, with the participation of **300 children** from member organizations of the TTCC. This activity was dedicated to those children who work on the street.
- On **10 June 2011**, an awareness raising meeting on the prevention of exploitation of children for work was held in **Elbasan** with the participation of 200 children and adults.
- On **12 June 2011**, on the World Day against Child Labor, a press conference was organized with the participation, amongst others, of the EU Ambassador to Albania and representatives from the US Embassy. This conference focus on improving and strengthening child protection mechanisms to secure quality services for exploited or vulnerable children.

On **13 July** and **9 August**, this campaign continued in ne **Shkoder** and **Vlore** with the participation of the National Coordinator and the Deputy Minister of Education and Science, high local authorities, as well as children, parents, teachers and passers-by. These events will continue in other cities, ending with the European Day against Trafficking in Persons (18 October 2011).

World Vision has established **three community groups** in **Bathore (Municipality of Kamza)**, **Bregu i Lumit (Municipality of Tirana)** and **Guerile (Municipality of Shkodra)** with persons that have key roles in the community, who, informed about issues of child protection, are expected to take an active role in the identification and referral of trafficked children or children vulnerable to trafficking. **Three groups of peer educators**, who are children between the ages of 12 and 16, were created in these areas, selected by their peers, to receive information on children issues and to pass this information to the community. On the international day against exploitation of children for labor, peer educators organized a show with different elements such

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as mime, poetry and presentation with messages against child exploitation in the areas near Bregu i Lumit in Tirana.

3. Role of the media

The media are a tool that have a very important impact in shaping public opinion and in raising public awareness about the issue of trafficking in persons. But, at the same time, it is their duty to do this in an ethical manner, by not endangering the life of people and by not violating their rights.

On **24 February 2011**, the Office of the National Coordinator, in cooperation with IOM and USAID, organized in Kukes and Vlora a seminar for electronic and print media regarding report issues of trafficking in persons. This training focuses on principles and guidelines for media report on issues of trafficking in persons, code of ethics, ethical problems related to reporting and the sensitivity of these reports. Also, part of this training was the documentation of trafficking cases in Albanian media. The number of participants in these two trainings was **41** (23 in Kukes and 18 in Vlora).

The same training was organized during the month of **May 2011** in Durres, Shkoder and Korçe with 41 participants from local media (13 in Durres, 6 in Korçe and 20 in Shkoder). The participants were from local media and correspondents of TV stations such as Vizion +, Albanian Screen, News 24, Top Channel, TV Klan, UFO TV, Durres Newspaper, Radio Televizion Korça, Metropol Newsletter etc.

On **27 May 2011**, the Vatra center had an information session with the community in the district of Vlora on violence and its consequences through a discussion in one of the local radios of the city, which dealt with legislation for the protection of victims of domestic violence and its social aspects.

4. Education

The use of the educational system to inform students and teachers and raise awareness about issues of human and gender rights, as well as trafficking in persons, is a special focus of the prevention of this phenomenon.

The Ministry of Education and Science (MES) continues to implement and monitor activities of the “National Program for 0 Dropouts 2009-2013”. The dropout indicator for 2010-2011 was **0.39** compared to 0.80 in 2009. During the 2010-2011 school year, the “Second chance” program extended to **31 classes**, in **34 schools** (5 more schools than during the 2009-2010 school year) which were attended by **626 students**, from 513 students in the 2009-2010 school year, or 113 more students.

Support for education of students coming from parts of society that are in need continues according to DCM Nr. 170, dated 10.02.2010 “On the Publishing, Printing, Distribution and Sale

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of Schoolbooks of the Pre-university System”, which guarantees coverage of 100% of the price of schoolbooks. During the 2010-2011 school year, all students from families in need, according to the DCM we provided with schoolbooks free of charge. MAS has **allotted 240 million** leks for this purpose in its budget for 2011-2012.

Continuing with awareness raising for children and youth in regards to trafficking, ONAC in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, in 2011, has worked to enrich basic educational curricula by including topics trafficking in persons, including topics on child protection, children’s rights, gender equality, domestic violence and sexual education as part of intracurricular subjects. **210 teachers** have benefitted from training modules, including training for personnel of orphanages.

Pursuant to DCM Nr. 659, date 17.10.2005 “On Standards of Social Care Services for Children in Residential Institutions” and the respective Instruction, the work program of social workers has included informal trainings with beneficiaries in the centers such as trafficking in persons, drugs, HIV/AIDS, sexual education, etc.

During **January 2011** “Terre des Hommes” has organized **20 awareness raising activities** with staff from schools in different cities like Fier, Korçe, Elbasan, Durres, Kruje, Kavaje, Librazhd, Devoll and Tirane. The issues the staff was informed of policies and standards on child protection in schools, managing aggressive behavior, HIV/AIDS and STDs, reasons and consequences of drug use and exploitation of and violence against children.

“Terre des Hommes”, with the support of the OSCE, has organized a number of meetings and educational and psychological activities in **120 schools** in Elbasan, Vlore, Tirane, Korçe, Durres and Fier. The goal of these meetings was to make students, teachers, school directors and parents aware of issues such as trafficking in human beings, consequences of violence against children, communication between students, abuse of different substances, stress management, discrimination in schools, etc. **142 school directors** from six educational directorates in Elbasan, Vlore, Tirane, Korçe, Durres, Fier, Kurbin, Lezhe, Malesi e Madhe and Mirdite were trained on topics such as strengthening cooperation between parents, schools and children to promote children’s rights as well as the role of procedure and standards of child protection in schools.

An important topic, which is often associated with vulnerability to trafficking, is domestic violence. Activities related to this topic:

- In the framework of project “Monitoring of Institutions for the Implementation of the Law “On Measures Against Domestic Violence” and Information of the Public Regarding this Phenomenon”, funded by the US Embassy in Tirana, during the first half of 2011, the “Vatra” center has cooperated with the Educational Directorate of Vlora organizing information sessions with youths in four high schools in the city:
 - A total of **165 information sessions** has been carried out with the participation of **876 students** from these high schools (from 300 provided for in the project) with topics on domestic violence, schools violence, victims of violence, gender equality and national and international legislation on the protection of victims of domestic violence.

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- **55** social workers, representatives of district police, court, and prosecutor's office and teachers, psychologists and sociologists from high schools and 9-year schools in the city were trained, as well as **30 students** from the Law School of the Ismail Qemali University in Vlore regarding social and legal aspects of domestic violence. In February 2011, a poster with the slogan "Break the silence! Denounce violence!" was made public as part of the project, which was exhibited in 9-year schools and high schools in the city, as well as at the Prosecutor's Office, Courthouse and Bailiffs office.

The "Other Vision" center has carried out awareness raising campaigns on the topic of "Trafficking in human beings" in two high schools in Elbasan, Ahmet Dakli" and "Luigj Gurakuqi", where **692 students** in 10th, 11th and 12th grade participated, as well as in the daily center of "Other Vision", with the participation of **40 women**. It has also organized campaigns in the nine high schools of Elbasan, dealing with topics such as "AIDS, the disease of the century", "Gender equality – domestic violence and trafficking", "Reducing school dropout rates" and "Stop smoking/alcoholic drinks". **650 high school students** were trained in these activities.

The social workers of the day center for children "Magjia" in Elbasan have carried out awareness raising activities in three schools (from II to V grade), with the goal of promoting children's rights through games. **22 such meetings** were organized with the participation of **550 children**.

5. Employment

The employment program for 2011 is based on the objectives of the Employment and Professional Development Strategy 2007-2013. Government employment policies mainly include Active Policies, which include measures to encourage employment, and Passive Policies, that is supporting income.

Active Labor Market Policies

Employment services

Approximately 5000 employments were made possible during the first 5 months of 2011, of which:

- 3.626 employments were made possible through the mediation of Employment Offices. Of these, 51 percent are women and approximately 50 percent of them are no older than 30 years.
- Following the conclusion of a course, 116 persons were employed.

Programs for the creation of new jobs

The state budget for 2011 has allotted **100 million leks** for programs that encourage employment, and whose implementation is the responsibility of the National Employment Service. These programs favor women in difficult situations, PAK, the Roma, returned emigrants who facing economic problems and youth entering the job market for the first time. For the moments, 26 projects are being implemented, which involve 554 job seekers. .

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DCM 632, dated 18.09.2008, on “The Program of Encouraging Employment for Unemployed Female Job Seekers” has been revised and a new program is being drafted, which focuses on the women in difficulty group. The program aims to encourage Albanian directors and managers to employ unemployed female job seekers from specific groups, by supporting employers through the payment of social security contributions and four minimal wages country-wide.

Free tariffs have also been applied for Roma female job seekers, trafficked women and PAK.

Professional development programs

The Professional Development System operates through 10 public professional development centers in the biggest cities of the country such as Vlore, Shkoder, Tirane, Durres, Elbasan, Korçe, Gjirokaster, Fier and the Mobile Center for the northeastern part, as well as licensed private companies, and covers the whole territory of Albania.

During the first five months of 2011, a total of 3462 persons registered with the Regional Directorates of Public Professional Development, of which **36** belong to the Roma community and **6** are victims of trafficking (women).

- *Professional development programs for specific groups*

Based on policies for encouraging employment and professional development, as well as Order Nr. 78, dated 04.04.2006, “On the Tariffs of the Professional Development System”, registration tariffs for unemployed job seekers that are paid for registered job seekers who want to benefit from professional development courses are waived for Roma job seekers. During the first five months of 2011, **36 persons** from the Roma community nationwide have benefitted from the program with professions like plumber, tailor, hairdresser/esthetician, kitchen electric installations, solar panels, auto services, tile layer, etc.

UNDP project “Empowerment of Communities in Need” supports the Roma community in Tirana, Elbasan and Fier, through the implementation of small projects, amongst which are professional courses and promotion of social inclusion. The project has supported 85 Roma and Egyptians (24 of which from Elbasan) who followed professional courses and assists trained individuals in finding a job (17 of the trainees in the three regions are self-employed), while the staff of professional training centers and employment offices was trained and assisted in improving their services for the communities in need.

6. Establishment and improvement of capacities of actors that work with vulnerable categories

The Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator, in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and “Terre des Hommes” continue to aim to strengthen the capacities of the Regional Anti-trafficking Committees, raise awareness of local authorities to include anti-trafficking measures in programs and projects of social development, as well as to increase the role of these working groups in the identification of trafficked persons

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and those vulnerable to trafficking. During January-June 2011 trainings for these committees have been offered, which were adapted to the characteristics and needs of each Regional Committee and have given practical information regarding specific difficulties encountered by them in their efforts. Since the focus was on issues of child protection, the trainings generated discussions such as protection of children's rights and registration of children with the civil registry and enrollment in schools.

The General Directorate of State Police, in the framework of the continuous training of its structures, has included in training curricula for Border and Migration police (BMP) topics that deal with trafficking in persons and interviewing techniques. **20 employees** of the BMP were trained during the first half of 2011.

In April 2011, in the framework of international project MARIO, which protects mobile children, "Terre des Hommes" and "Save the Children" carried out a two-day training for employees of Units for the Protection Children on "**Risk level evaluation**".

In cooperation with the **Center for Integrated Services and Legal Practices**, "**Terre des Hommes**" organized a number of on-day trainings in Korçe, Elbasan, Pogradec, Vlore, Gjirokaster and Sarande. The trainees were employees of Units for the Protection of Children, municipality lawyers, employees of Local Employment Offices, representatives of the prosecutor's office, police and health services. They focused on children that need protection and how to strengthen cooperation of efforts to offer the children quality services.

In Baltez, Levan, Drize (Fier), Novosele (Vlore), Nish-Tulla (Durrës), Rrapishte (Elbasan) and Pogradec there are **six functioning Community Counseling Groups** that are active in meetings with local leaders and representatives of different institutions regarding issues that regard their respective communities. "Terre des Hommes" has supported the functioning of these counseling groups through trainings that this organization has offered. As a result, the six Community Counseling Groups in cooperation with police officers in the Sector of Trafficking in Human Beings in the respective regions, have organized meetings with parents and members of communities in need. Topics discussed in these trainings are related to child trafficking, causes, consequences and measures taken to assist trafficked persons, the right to education for children, good parenting, registration of births, marriages and early pregnancies, unwanted pregnancies, etc.

In cooperation with the City of Tirana, "House of Colors" Emergency Center, the ARSIS organization was created in March 2011, which deals specifically with cases of children in crisis situations. Its day center has a capacity of 100 places and is expected to offer sleeping space for six children initially. This is a center that deals with the immediate treatment of crisis situations that children might show, to clarify the problem the child has and to later refer the child to institutions or organization competent in solving the actual problem. From the time it was created until September 2011, this center assisted 162 children.

7. Activity of Regional Anti-trafficking Committees (RAC)

Regional Anti-trafficking Committees, being the most important structures at local level, have continued their activity by organizing regular meetings and by relaying information to the ONAC. During this period special attention was paid to increasing cooperation and coordinating the work of all institutions represented in the technical tables, as a precondition for success in combating trafficking in persons.

ONAC closely monitors activities of the regional committees, assisting them with the necessary suggestions and recommendations. Training¹¹ in capacity building for RACs and other local structures involved in combating trafficking in persons continue under the special care of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator since October 2010. The anti-trafficking unit has taken active part in these trainings, not only in the logistic aspect, but also in the preparation of training modules and lecturing on issues such as:

- Improving coordination of actions taken by anti-trafficking actors at local level
- Unification of their work practices
- Preparation of a set of template documents for the committees
- Exchange of information

Moreover, ONAC has been very active in organizing awareness raising activities with RACs and other local actors.

The Regional Anti-trafficking Committees are becoming all the more aware of the existence of internal trafficking as a form of trafficking which they increasingly face in their work. There is still a need for a separate entry in the budget of the prefecture for financial and material needs of Regional Anti-trafficking Committees.

Regarding some of the main activities at local level, we can mention:

- In the **Region of Durres**, in cooperation with the Regional Police Directorate, in the framework of strengthening vulnerable communities, a meeting was organized on “Trafficking of human beings and children: Social and legal causes and consequences” with the participation of 20 members of the Roma community. Employees of the school psychological service have trained students of the 14-18 age group in 9 year schools and high schools in Durres and Shijak, teaching personnel and parents from the community.
- In the **Lezhe region**, during the first half of 2011, a number of informative activities on trafficking in persons were carried out at the Children’s Cultural Center. Classes on gender equality and domestic and community violence were held in the high schools of the city.
- In the **Region of Gjirokaster**, the Regional Directorate of Public Health has organized information and advisory sessions for all health personnel regarding identification of victims of trafficking in persons and the approach to be used when such cases are identified (mostly on specific health care, confidentiality, ethical standards, etc.). These sessions paid special attention to the unquestionable cooperation that should exist between medical staff and other

¹¹ Information on the number of trainings and the dates they were offered on can be found under Point 2 “Increase and strengthening of capacities” in Penal Proceedings chapter.

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local educational, police and social structures. Also, a marathon of informative and educational activities were carried out in the Region of Gjirokaster in 9 year schools and high schools, at the university, in rural areas, public institutions and private enterprises, as well as with the local media and the Roma community, focusing on the causes, consequences and circumstance that favor trafficking in persons.

- In the **Region of Korçe**, during the first half of the year, the Regional Education Directorate has identified children that have dropped out of school and, in cooperation with the city's Office for the Protection of Children, has brought back **30** of these children to school. The inter-sector Coordinating Board, part of the prefecture, which deals with problems of the Roma and Egyptian communities, has brought **six (6)** children from these communities back to school, by creating conditions for their parents to start a business. **Six (6)** Roma and Egyptian as well as **14** Roma children have attended professional training courses offered by the Regional Directorate of Professional Education, the Red Cross and the "Help the Children" foundation. The "Kennedy" foundation organizes weekly meetings with women from the capital, informing them on the trafficking in persons phenomenon and its negative consequences.
- In the **Region of Elbasan**, the Regional Committee, in cooperating with the Regional Educational Directorate, has organized day camps with 9-year schools to discuss problems of violence and trafficking in persons. Awareness raising activities have also been carried out in some High Schools in Elbasan, where students were acquainted with efforts and initiatives in the framework of trafficking in persons and improvement of the legal framework to combat it.
- In the **Region of Diber**, a number of activities were organized in the community and in schools. **160** parents were trained on issues such as children's rights, conflicts, abuse, parenting, etc. **60** teachers were trained on topics such as class and classroom management, working with difficult children, etc. As a result of a number of aggressive efforts of the Diber Regional Educational Directorate to identify and to find a solution for the main problems of children who are in danger of abandoning school, or who have abandoned school, the number of children drop-outs for this year is **14** compared to 83 last year.

8. Researching and gathering data

To prevent trafficking in persons and draft policies related to it, initially, we must understand this phenomenon. Systematic studies and research on trafficking in persons not only offer an overview of the current situation in the country, but also give the possibility to make periodic evaluations of the measures taken against trafficking in persons.

During the first half of 2011, the Sector for the Protection of Minors and Domestic Violence did two studies on the topics of:

- *Domestic Violence, Measures Taken and Results Achieved in Combating this Phenomenon*, which regards the period between 2008 and 2010.
- *The Begging Phenomenon in Children, Manner of Treatment and Current Results and Difficulties Encountered*, for 2010 and the first trimester of 2011.

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The findings and recommendations of these studies were reflected in a concrete plan of measures undertaken by State Police, on the field or in initiatives to improve the legal framework that regulates the area of child protection and domestic violence.

ICMPD is carrying out a study on the “Typology of the begging phenomenon and policies to counter this phenomenon in the European Union”, in Kosova, Albania and another 13 countries of the EU. In Albania, this study will be carried out by “Terre des Hommes” and will finish in March 2012. This study will summarize and analyze the main policies regarding begging and their legal basis. It will also determine characteristic of the phenomenon through empirical observation, identify best practices in the criminal suits against adults responsible for children beggars, and draft policy recommendations to orient EU policies depending on the typologies that have been identified.

Increasing social involvement of groups in need

To increase the social involvement of social strata in need and to reduce their exposure to trafficking, “Terre des Hommes”, in cooperation with the “Joint Action against Poverty” association, has supported **53** families with micro loans to generate income. Thirty-one per cent (31%) of these micro loans were given to women. moreover, Terre des Hommes has supported the self-employment of **12** women in Korçe, at the “Embroiderers’ Club” and, in support of the “Rromani Baxt” association, has mediated for the employment of **three (3)** persons through the paper recycling project.

To strengthen the protection of Roma street children and their community, who are at risk of being trafficked or exploited, Children of the World and of Albania - Human Rights (CWA-HR), the Center for Roma Children, Elbasan, and the Social Service Unit, City of Elbasan, supported by ODHIR, have trained and found jobs for five (5) young Roma in the position of *Peer Educator*¹². They, together with the social worker of the city, inform Roma families daily on civil registration, education, health care, etc. and assist them in obtaining these services. Of 238 Roma families contacted by the staff of the Center for Roma Children, among others, **12** children were registered with the civil registry and **six (6)** other cases are in process. In the same context, the Elbasan Center for Professional Development has offered free professional courses for **18** young Roma interested in obtaining more professional knowledge.

The Unit for the Protection of Children and the City of Elbasan have given their support and assistance to **16** children from Roma families, following the emergency situation created for a group of Roma families relocated from the train station in Tirana.

Children at risk of being trafficked

During the first half of 2011, the employees of the Units for the Protection of Children, supported by “Terre des Hommes” I eight municipalities (Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Vlorë, Gjirokaster, Sarandë, Pogradec and Korçe) have identified **88** new cases of vulnerable children. During this time segment, they have been following **612** cases of children in need of protection.

¹² Pier educator.

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The assistance offered to these children and their families consisted in psycho-social counseling, legal and administrative assistance, support for reintegration and good performance in school, as well as material assistance or food packages. Material aid was given to another 312 families.

For the first quarter of 2011, the State Labor Inspectorate has identified 70 employed children, of which:

- 40 female
- 30 male
- 2 are 16 years old
- 47 are 17 years old
- 21 are 18 years old 10. Others.

Registration of children

The General Directorate of Civil Registry (GDCR) continues the process of regulating all laws and by-laws to reduce the number of unregistered persons and to avoid this phenomenon in the future.

Currently, the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator, in cooperation with the “Free Legal Service, Tirana” center and with the assistance of the General Directorate of Civil Registry has undertaken a number of actions to facilitate registration of unregistered cases. Specifically:

- ONAC and GDCR, in cooperation with Free Legal Service, Tirana” center and the Ministry of Health are working on a new model of the “Assistance at Birth” document.
- To register children that have been found, or those abandoned by their mothers, ONAC and GDCR, together with the General Directorate of State Police, are drafting an instruction and to form templates, which will be used for the registration of these children.
- ONAC and GDCR, in cooperation with “Free Legal Service, Tirana” center and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are working on a joint agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and the “Free Legal Service, Tirana” center to create shorter procedures and timelines for the registration of children born outside the territory of Albania.

In continuation of efforts to reduce the number of unregistered children, **27** children from 108 unregistered cases were registered at the Elbasan Civil Registry Office with the support of Terre des Hommes. Meanwhile, Arsis has offered legal counseling, facilitation and monitoring of the registration process for 56 registration cases, of which **46** were completed between January and June 2011.

10. Recommendations

- Continue awareness raising campaigns with that involve the media.
- Awareness raising for children should start at a young age, introducing them to their rights and empowering them through systems of protection, stimulation and favoring.

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- Encourage serious research and studies in the field of trafficking in persons to come up with an effective planning and drafting of macro policies to combat trafficking in persons.
- Include preventive policies against trafficking in persons and “requirements for trafficked persons” as one of the root causes of trafficking.
- Encourage government institutions and organizations to be clearer on the important details that are related to their activities, such as dates, numbers and collaborators, during the reporting they do in the framework of combating trafficking in persons.

COORDINATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL AND FURTHER

During the January – June 2011 period, under the direction of the Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons, a number of activities have been carried out, which focused in improving coordination and cooperation between government and non-government agencies involved in combating trafficking in persons domestically and internationally. In this regard we can mention:

- Periodic meetings with members of the NRM¹³;
- During the months of January – February 2011 ONAC has coordinated work on the realization of the visit of the Group of Experts on Measures Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), an instrument of the Council of Europe. The visit was conducted in the framework of the monitoring of the Convention of the Council of Europe “On Measures against Trafficking in Human Beings”. During this visit GRETA held meetings with all government and non-government institutions and agencies active in the fight against trafficking in human beings. Separate meetings were carried out with the Ministry of Interior (ONAC and GDSP), General Prosecutor’s Office, Ministry of Labor, Social Issues and Equal Chances, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Science, Regional Anti-trafficking Committee of Elbasan, National Center for Victims of Trafficking, as well as nonprofit organizations and International Organizations. ONAC has facilitated the whole process of reception, escorting and coordination of all meetings. The first GRETA report will be published in the beginning of September 2011 and will be distributed to all actors involved in combating trafficking in persons.
- ONAC has cooperated even more with domestic and international organizations and nonprofit organizations to organize different activities. Worth mentioning are meetings conducted with the Regional Anti-trafficking Committees in cooperation with OSCE; training for local media carried out in cooperation with IOM; awareness-raising meetings held in a number of districts in the country held in cooperation with TATC, World Vision, UNICEF, ICMPD, UNODC etc¹⁴.
- During the January – June 2011 period a number of international activities were carried out in which the Deputy Minister of Interior /National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons Ms. Iva Zajmi participated personally, together with representative of ONAC. Following is a list of the most important international activities carried out in and out of the country:
 - **On 16 – 18 February 2011 the Technical Monitoring Group** of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking visited **Salonika, Greece**. The goal of the meetings was to exchange experiences and best practices in the field of fighting trafficking in persons. A number of meetings were held during this visit between the Technical Monitoring

¹³ More information on these meetings can be found in chapter II – Protection of Victims of Trafficking

¹⁴ More information on these activities can be found in the chapters that follow.

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- Group of the SOPs with representatives of the Albanian Consular Office in Salonika, Salonika Police/Department against Organized Crime, Office of the Prosecutor for Minors, ARSIS and EKKKA (National Center for Social Solidarity). The Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims/Possible Victims of Trafficking were adopted by DCM Nr. 582.dated 11.07.2011.
- On **16-18 March 2011**, in **Budapest**, Hungary, the first meeting of the National Groups for the Implementation of the “Development of a Transnational Referral Mechanism of Referral (NRM) for Trafficked Persons in Southeastern Europe” project. The Director of the Anti-trafficking Unit at the Ministry of Interior and representatives of other agencies are members of this group. This activity is part of a program funded by USAID and implemented by ICMPD since 2006. ICMPD has started the second phase of the first TRM SEE 2 program, focusing more on trafficking for work exploitation, as well as child protection.
 - As part of the abovementioned program between **23 and 25 May**, the International Conference against Trafficking in Human Beings was held in Durres, focusing on strengthening cooperation with countries of Southeastern Europe. This Conference was organized by ICMPD in cooperation with ONAC and with the support of the Ministry of Interior. Representatives of different countries involved in the ICMPD – TRM II program participated in the Conference.
 - On **24-25 May, in Ukraine**, an international conference was held on “Combating Violence against Children with Special Strategies”. This Conference was organized by the State Service for Youth and Sports in the Ukraine, the Council of Europe and UNICEF. The Deputy Minister of Interior, Ms. Iva Zajmi, participated in the conference.
 - On **1- 4 June 2011**, an international conference “On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings” was organized in **Moldova** by the “Hanns-Seidel” German foundation. Different countries like Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Albania and Hungary participated in this conference. This is the tenth year that the “Hanns-Seidel” German foundation organizes such conferences. In this conference Albania was represented with representatives from ONAC, the Different and Equal center, as well as one representative of the office of the “Hanns-Seidel” foundation in Albania.
 - On **7-8 June 2011 a meeting at National Coordinator level was held in ne Belgrade** on Combating Trafficking in Persons in countries of the region. The meeting’s goal was improving coordination between countries of the region in the fight against trafficking in persons through the “MARRI” organization. Deputy Minister of Interior, Ms. Iva Zajmi, participated in this meeting.
 - On **20-21 June 2011 the 11th High Level Conference of the “Alliance against Trafficking in Persons”** was held in Vienna. This year the Conference focused on trafficking in persons with the aim of exploitation for work. Deputy Minister of Interior, Ms. Iva Zajmi, participated in this conference.

Following Instruction of the Minister of Interior Nr. 30, dated 05.02.2010 “On the joint action of implementing structures of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons”, there is a

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significant improvement of coordination of actors and reporting in the fight against trafficking during the first half of 2011. The reports of implementing institutions and agencies at local and central level have increased in number and have improved in quality. What is new is the fact that now, in addition to the reports of government institutions, thanks to very good cooperation with the civil society (international and nonprofit organization), the latter have informed ONAC on activities they have carried out regarding prevention and protection of victims of trafficking.

During the first half of 2011 the work of Regional Anti-trafficking Committees has improved. The number of actors involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings has increased, including many actors from local government and civil society in the committees. There have been frequent meetings of the Regional Anti-trafficking Committees, Technical Anti-trafficking Tables in all regions of the country. Following recommendations of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons more space has been created for civil society at local and central level and anti-trafficking actors have become more attentive to specific issues like protection of children, focusing on internal trafficking, referral and solving of cases within the capacities of the region. Nonetheless, actors at local level still need to align practices and procedures applied to combat trafficking in persons. Some committees have not held meetings according to the provisions of the abovementioned Instruction and have not sent regular reports. More difficulties were noticed during the local elections of May 8th this year. Some committees have been late in sending reports for the 6 month and one year reporting periods. Committees become more active after they have received training on issues of trafficking in human beings.

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**ANNEX I – ACTIVITIES ON CRIMINAL TOPICS CARRIED OUT BY THE MAGISTRATES’
SCHOOL DURING THE JANUARY – JUNE 2011 PERIOD**

Nr.	Dates	Course	Topic	Particip
1	12-13 January	B 04	Legal aspects related to the institute of securing evidence in a criminal proceeding. Problems of absolute invalidity and unusability of evidence obtained beforehand.	14
2	19-20 January	B 20	Problems of invalidity of criminal procedural acts. Judicial practices and unifying practiced of the High Court. Invalidity of notifications.	18
3	3-4 February	B 08	Recognition and execution of foreign penal rulings, influence of international conventions and bilateral agreements. Jurisprudence of the High Court. The notion of the international arrest warrant and the perspective of its enforcement in our domestic law. Jurisdictional relationship with foreign authorities in the penal area.	19
4	7-8 February	B 22	Problems of legal norms and court practices regarding the seizure and confiscation of criminal assets. Criteria established by the unifying decision of the High Court	23
5	9-10 February	B 23	Evidence obtained illegally and the meaning of the notion of unusability. Criteria to discern from inadmissibility of acts, in accordance with the doctrine and jurisprudence of the High Court	20
6	24-25 February	B 15	Evidence and their types. Their evaluation process. Indicia and evaluation criteria.	23
7	9 March	B 17	Theoretical and practical aspects of trafficking in human beings and court practices. Assisting the illegal crossing of borders. Theoretical and practical aspects in the point of view of international conventions. This training was done in cooperation and with the support of IOM.	38
8	11-11 March	B 05	Criteria for the evaluation of facts that emerge from the interrogation of the defendant or codefendant in a connected proceeding. The respective regimen of allowed interpretations. Respecting contradiction in accordance with the jurisprudence of ECHR.	27
9	15-16 March		Training on “Cases of child abuse.”	21
10	17-18 March		Training on “Cases of child abuse.”	17
11	25 March	B 29	Update with decisions of the ECHR to which Albania is party,	15

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Nr.	Dates	Course	Topic	Particip
			in criminal matters	
12	30-31 March	B 32	Tools used to search for evidence. Acquaintance with them and their implementation.	15
13	12-13 April	B 21	Rogatory letters in criminal proceedings and aspects of judicial practice related to their value as proof.	21
14	5-6 May	B 04	Aspects of jurisprudence related to the institute of securing evidence in a criminal proceeding. Problems of absolute invalidity and unusability of evidence obtained beforehand.	25
15	2-3 June	B 05	Criteria for the evaluation of facts that emerge from the interrogation of the defendant or codefendant in a connected proceeding. The respective regimen of allowed interpretations. Respecting contradiction in accordance with the jurisprudence of ECHR.	29
16	6-7 June	B 08	Knowledge of and execution of foreign penal rulings, influence of international conventions and bilateral agreements. Jurisprudence of the High Court. The notion of the international arrest warrant and its implementation in our domestic law. Legal relations with foreign authorities in the penal field.	19
17	8 June	B 13	Problem of trials in absentia in penal proceedings. Aspects of the jurisprudence of the High Court, in accordance with decisions of the ECHR.	16
18	9-10 June	B 21	Rogatory letters in criminal proceedings and aspects of judicial practice related to their value as proof.	18
19	20-21 June	B 19	Understanding forms of special cooperation. Practical problems of the difference between a structured group and a criminal organization, according to international conventions and foreign norms.	15

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ANNEX II – STATISTICAL DATA OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF CRIME AT THE GDSP, ON THE NUMBER OF MINORS VICTIMS OF CRIME OR ENGAGED IN DIFFERENT CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE JANUARY – JUNE 2011 PERIOD

1. Statistics of sexual crimes:

Nr.	CRIME	Victims under 18 years
I	Sexual crimes	12
	Sexual or homosexual relations with minors Article 100	4
	Sexual or homosexual relations with minors 14 – 18 years old Article 101	4
	Sexual or homosexual relations with kindred or persons in one's custody Article 106	2
	Indecent acts Article 108	2
	Total	12

2. Involved in sexual crimes:

Nr.	CRIME	Up to 14 years	14 - 18 years
I	Sexual crimes	1	3
<i>I</i>	Sexual or homosexual relations with minors Article 100		1
2	Sexual or homosexual relations with minors 14 – 18 years old Article 101		1
7	Sexual or homosexual relations with kindred or persons in one's custody Article 106		1

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9	Indecent acts	Article 108	1	
SHUMA			Total	3

7. Statistical data regarding investigation and prevention of crimes:

Nr.	CRIMES ACCORDING TO TRENDS	Up to 14 years	14 - 18 years
<i>I</i>	Crimes against personal freedom		1
<i>II</i>	Crimes against morals and dignity		4
<i>III</i>	Crimes against children, wedlock and family		1
<i>XI</i>	Crimes against the authority of the state	2	34
<i>XII</i>	Crimes against government activity Article 251,252,253,254,255		1
<i>XIII</i>	Crimes against public order and security	5	41
<i>XVI</i>	Crimes against justice	1	4
<i>XVII</i>	Crimes that affect free election and the democratic elections system Article 325,327,329,330,331,332	1	
TOTAL		9	86