



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER
NATIONAL COORDINATOR ON ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING
ISSUES**

**REPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL
STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN
HUMAN BEINGS**

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2010

TIRANA, FEBRUARY 2011

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The material was elaborated by:

Ms. Irena TAGA, Director of the Antitrafficking Unit

Ms. Ana JANKU, Coordinator at the Antitrafficking Unit

Ms. Vilma ÇOBANI, Coordinator at the Antitrafficking Unit

Mr. Milaim DEMNUSHAJ, Coordinator at the Antitrafficking Unit

This report would have not been achieved had it not been for the necessary information provided by the implementing institutions of the National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings such as: Ministry of Interior; State Police; Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Defense; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports; General Prosecutor's Office; Prosecution for Serious Crimes; Serious Crimes Court; Serious Crimes Appellate Court; IOs and NGOs; Reception and Reintegration Centers for Victims of Trafficking; Regional Antitrafficking Committees and all partners and actors that made their contributions in the implementation of the Antitrafficking Strategy of 2008-2010.

Special thanks go to the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Deputy Minister of Interior, Ms. Iva Zajmi, without the constant support of whom, the material would have not have the present development.

We would also like to thank UNODC – Tirana, for the financial support of the publication.



The translation and publication of this Annual Report were supported by UNODC through the generous contribution of the Italian Government.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Criminal Prosecution	5
a. Harmonizing and improving the legal framework	5
b. Compensation of victims of trafficking	6
c. Building and enhancing the capacities of law enforcement	7
ç. The fight against involvement/implication of law enforcement structures in the criminal activity of trafficking in human beings	9
d. Cooperation within and outside the country	9
dh. Statistical data regarding investigation and trial	11
e. Findings and recommendations	14
protection and assistance for Victims of Trafficking	15
1. Completing the legal framework regarding protection and assistance for victims of trafficking	16
2. Guarantying the delivery of assistance services for victims/possible victims of trafficking	17
2.a. The activity of the centres	18
a. Information:	18
b. Security and protection:	19
c. Care:	19
d. Rehabilitation:	20
e. Re-integration:	21
F. Case monitoring and tracking	22
g. Caring for the children of the victims of trafficking:	22
3. National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the Database for victims of trafficking	22
4. Identification and referral of the victims of trafficking	23
a. Enhancing the capacities of actors involved in the initial identification and formal identification of a victim of trafficking	24
b. Enhancing the capacities of the actors that might be involved in the process of initial identification of a victim of trafficking	25
4.1 Identification within the country's territory	25
4.2 Identification at the border	25
a. Statistics and Trainings	25
b. Presence of female police officers and of social workers at border crossing points	26
c. Cooperation with border counterparts	26
4.3 Identification abroad	26
5. Protection of witnesses who are victims of trafficking	27
a. Cooperation with the victims of trafficking and the witness protection program:	28
b. Recommendations:	28

Prevention	29
1. Improving the legislation	29
2. Public Awareness Raising	30
2.1. Awareness Raising Campaigns	30
2.2. Media Training	32
3. Improving the capacities of actors working with vulnerable categories	32
4. Employment	33
4.1. Active labour market programs/ Employment Promotion Programs	33
4.2. Vocational training (special groups)	34
5. Education	35
5.1. Continuation of efforts for increasing enrolment in mandatory education /and reducing school drop-out	35
5.2. Education access for ethnic minorities	36
5.3. Access to education for children of households in in blood feud	37
5.4. Raising awareness of the children already in the school system	37
5.5. Institutionalization of “child protection” system in schools	38
6. Institutionalization of protection and support mechanism at the local and regional levels for the vulnerable groups and those at risk of trafficking, as well as the identification and taking of preventive measures for individuals in need	39
6.1. The activity of Regional Anti-Trafficking Committees (RATC)	39
7. Miscellaneous	40
7.1. In the area of protection of children from child labour	40
7.2. Promoting Code of Conduct in Tourism	41
7.3. Addressing the issues that lie at the core of trafficking (in7.3 cluding poverty, and unemployment, discrimination of women, minorities, children, migrants and other vulnerable groups)	42
8. Recommendations	42
ANNEX I – Training sessions with the Police, Prosecution and courts on Trafficking in Human beings	43
Annex II – Table containing data for 2010 on cases related to trafficking of human beings tried by the first instance courts for serious crimes	45
Annex III – Table containing data for 2010 on cases related to trafficking of human beings adjudicated by the appellate court for serious crimes	47
ANNEX IV – Children victims of crimes and other illegal activities in the course of 2010	48

This chapter reflects very important issues related to one of the key pillars in the fight against trafficking in human beings such as: amendments to the legal framework, building and enhancing capacities, statistics as regards identification, investigation and trial of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings, etc.

a. Harmonizing and improving the legal framework

The main changes in the legal framework introduced in the course of 2010, in line with the main directions of the National Strategy on Anti-Trafficking of Human Beings (2008-2010) include the following:

1. Adoption of Law No. 10220, dated 04.02.2010 “On the declaration of Moratorium for speed boats in the Republic of Albania”, with the goal of continuing the fight against illicit trafficking, drawing upon the positive effects of former moratorium;
2. Adoption of Law no. 10301, dated 15.07.2010 “On some supplements and amendments to Law no. 8677, dated 02.11.2000 “On the organization and operation of the Judicial Police”, amended”. This law regulates the relations between the prosecution and the judicial police, in order to enhance the effectiveness in court rulings. Furthermore, the new law aims at improving the performance of the Judiciary Police, while increasing its effectiveness in terms of prevention, detection and investigation of criminal acts, while having a direct impact on the fight against crime through the division and clarification of the inter-agency competencies and tasks, both at the central and local level, and by fostering cooperation among these agencies.
3. In line with Law No. 10192, dated 3.12.2009 “On Prevention and Suppression of Organized Crime and Trafficking through preventive measures against property” a couple of decisions have also been adopted:
 - Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 314, dated 5.05.2010 “On the organization, competencies and operation of the Agency for the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AAPSK), and establishing remuneration for third parties in the administration of assets”, which lays down detailed rules related to the organization and operation of this Agency;
 - DCM No. 563, dated 14.07.2010 “On the definition of detailed rules and procedures for cooperation of the bailiff’s service with AAPSK, and the relevant fees for the bailiff service”;
 - DCM No. 623, dated 23.07.2010, “On the evaluation criteria, methods and procedures for transferral of the right of use or usufruct, sale-purchase of confiscated properties, in line with law No. 10192”;
 - DCM No. 666, dated 04.08.2010 “On some supplements and amendments to Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 314, dated 05.05.2010 “On the organization, competencies and operation of AAPSK, and establishing the remuneration for third parties in the administration of properties”. These changes fill in the legal vacuum, while enhancing the operability and efficiency of AAPSK in the administration and utilization of seized/confiscated assets and properties by court decision, including assets and properties obtained in the course of the criminal offence of trafficking of human beings. The latter may also serve as a direct means for funding of anti-trafficking activities, in particular for the protection of the victims of trafficking.
4. In line with Law no. 10193 dated 03.12.2009 “On jurisdictional relations with foreign authorities on criminal cases”, the Minister of Justice has adopted the following instruments:
 - Joint Order of the Minister of Justice and General Prosecutor (signed by the Minister of Justice No. 3273/1 dated 28.04.2010 and the General Prosecutor No. 5 dated 21.07.2010) “On definition of rules about the form of rogatory letters, the procedure and translation of acts”, which establishes the rules and procedures that need to be applied by the prosecutor’s office, the court and other entities involved in the area of international judiciary cooperation in the context of forwarding/submitting of rogatory letters;

- Instruction no. 3922 dated 28.04.2010 of the Minister of Justice “On the modalities and procedures for recording court rulings of international courts against Albanian citizens”, which provides for the establishment of a special electronic and manual registry by the Judiciary Status Office for recording of penal decisions of international authorities versus Albanian citizens;
 - DCM No. 924, dated 17.11.2010 on the approval of the draft-law “On the ratification of the agreement between the Republic of Albania and Kingdom of Belgium for the transferral of sentenced persons”, for its review and adoption by the Parliament. This draft-law has already been reviewed and endorsed by three parliamentary committees (Security Committee, External Affairs Committee and Laws Committee). Soon it will be approved in plenary session;
5. Decision of Council of Ministers No. 884, dated 08.11.2010 adopted in principle the Third Additional Protocol of the European Convention “On extradition”, which provides detailed rules about the procedure related to simplified extradition. This Convention has already been signed by the representative of the Republic of Albania, at the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg, on November 10, 2010;
 6. Also, on July 29, 2010 was signed in Belgium, the Protocol of Cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Albania and the Federal Department of Justice of the Kingdom of Belgium, which aims at further strengthening and consolidation of the administrative cooperation in legal areas;
 7. Approval of Instruction no. 30, dated 05.02.2010 of the Minister of Interior “On the joint actions of the Implementing Structures of the National Strategy on Anti-Trafficking of Human Beings”;
 8. Adoption of Order no. 69 dated 25.01.2010 of the General Director of State Police “On the coordination of the work among central and local structures in the fight against trafficking of human beings and identification of the victims of trafficking.”

b. Compensation of victims of trafficking

Serious efforts have been made with regard to the compensation of the victims of trafficking. In the beginning of 2010, the first instance court of Tirana ruled in favour of a decision (No. 1202 dated 19.02.2010), whereby acknowledging the right for compensation in a considerable amount to a victim of trafficking, to be paid by the perpetrator of the criminal offence. This decision, the first of its kind, is a positive step forward towards the introduction of practices for the compensation of the victims of trafficking.

In line with law No. 10192, dated 03.12.2009 “On Preventing and Attacking Organized Crime and Trafficking through preventive measures against property”, a number of by-laws have been enacted¹. In addition it has been established the Inter-institutional Advisory Committee of Experts on Measures against organized crime. According to the law, this committee shall be responsible for the supervision/oversight of the administration of confiscated assets by the Agency for the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets, as well as for decision-making as to their destination. The committee has adopted its Operational Regulations, and it convenes on regular bases. It has taken decisions and has made recommendations to the Minister of Finance about the modalities for use of confiscated assets. Lastly, the committee has taken a decision about the establishment of a special fund for the prevention of criminality and legal education. This fund may be also used as an important source for the protection and compensation of victims of trafficking. The establishment and proper administration of this fund is also a pre-requisite of important international organizations such as the recommendations of the Report of the US State Department (TIP – Report 2009). In the course of 2010, a lot of efforts have gone towards the enhanced operability and effectiveness of the Agency for the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AAPSK), which is responsible for administration of all seized/confiscated assets by court ruling, including those assets and properties obtained from criminal activities related to the trafficking of human beings. The Agency currently has 24 staff (both as permanent

¹ For more information see Chapter on CRIMINAL PROSECUTION - point a. Improving the Legal Framework

staff and as external administrators). Currently, AAPSK is responsible for administering a total of seized assets worth 760.997.943 Lek (5.435.699 Euro or 7.609.979 \$).

c. Building and enhancing the capacities of law enforcement

2010 was an important year in terms of significant changes in enhanced human resource capacities of law enforcement agencies. In concrete terms:

1. Order no. 372/6 dated 26.01.2010 of the Minister of Interior “On some changes to Order no. 372 dated 08.06.2009” “On the approval of the structure and limits of the organizational chart of the General Directorate of State Police”, and Order No. 200 dated 17.06.2010 have provided for increased capacities in the Sector against Illicit Trafficking (SAIT) by adding 18 new functions; 3 at the centre and 15 at the local level, mainly in terms of the fight against trafficking of human beings (at the regional police Directorates of Durrës, Shkodra, Lezha, Vlora, Korça, Kukës, Dibra and Gjirokastra). Already, the state police in SAIT covered 88 functions, out of 70 by the end of 2009, i.e. 20.4% more than the previous year. Out of 88 employees in the SAIT, 40 of them or 45% are in charge of issues related to trafficking of human beings.
2. The Serious Crimes Prosecution within the First Instance Court for Serious Crimes, in line with law no. 8737, dated 12.02.2001, “On the organization and operation of the Prosecutor’s office in the Republic of Albania”, and based on Order no. 259, dated 24.03.2010 of the General Prosecutor now includes a Section on the Investigation of cases related to trafficking in human beings. This section comprises 2 senior prosecutors of experience in the investigation filed, and representation in trial of cases related to trafficking of human beings (articles 110/a, 114/b and 128/b). The establishment of this Section, and the assignment of two prosecutors in this Section related to issues of trafficking of human beings has influenced the rates of cooperation, and has facilitated the process of communication with Anti-Trafficking police Section/unit (judicial police officers and the regional Police Directorates), while also improving the quality of investigation, and providing legal counselling on time, with regard to cases of trafficking of human beings. Also, based on order no. 723/1, dated 30.09.2010, a female Officer of the Judicial Police in the Prosecution Office for Serious Crimes has been assigned for keeping contacts with the victims of trafficking during any stage of investigation or trial, in order to create as favourable conditions as possible for the victims of trafficking. This officer offers psychological support or counselling of any sort, which can be provided by the prosecution office, and also facilitates communication and exchange of data between the prosecution and the shelters.

During January- December 2010, the Police in cooperation with Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (ONAC), Prosecution, the courts, Ministry of Justice, the School for Magistrates, and the civil society (NGOs and international organizations) have organized several training courses², which together with the work of the law enforcement agencies have been very useful. In the course of 2010, 16 training courses were organized with the participation of 259 specialists, mainly of the Sector against Illicit Trafficking, but also with the participation of other structures of the State Police, such as: Sector of Child Protection and Domestic Violence; Border and Migration Police, and the Structure for Prevention of crimes and policing in the community. Furthermore, in cooperation with ONAC, the General Directorate of State Police, General Prosecutor’s office, Ministry of Justice, School for Magistrates and civil society (NGOs and international organizations) several joint trainings and workshops have been organized with the participation of police officers, state social service employees, judges, prosecutors, counsellors, and students of the school for magistrates, and other actors involved in the process of prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings.

2 For more detailed information on trainings organized during 2010, please see Annex I, at the end of the report.

1. In the context of implementation of law No. 10192, dated 03.12.2009 “On prevention and suppression of organized crime, trafficking through preventive measures against properties”, and law No. 10193, dated 3.12.2009 “On jurisdictional relations with foreign authorities in the criminal cases”, the School for Magistrates (SM) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have conducted several trainings³. These trainings have been attended by judges, prosecutors, counsellors (lawyers) and students of the School for Magistrates;
2. In line with law no. 10193 dated 03.12.2009 “On jurisdictional relations with foreign authorities in the criminal cases”, which defines the complementary procedural rules in the field of jurisdictional relations with foreign authorities in the criminal cases, during October 11 – 12, 2010 a workshop was organized on “European Criminal Legislation”, with the assistance of TAIEX. The workshop was attended by judges, prosecutors, experts of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of State Police, counsellors and students of the School for Magistrates. The workshop focused on addressing the problems/issues encountered in court practise by the judges as regards implementation of certain articles of the law, and translation of subpoena;
3. During February-June 2010, in the context of the Basic Program for the students of the second year of the School for Magistrates (14 candidates for judges and prosecutors) a curricula was added on specific topics related to the trafficking of human beings. In total, this course included 16 hours on topics such as:
 - The social context of trafficking in human beings;
 - Analysis of the factors that favour trafficking of human beings;
 - Stress, post-trauma stress, trauma, professional burnout and protection mechanism;
 - Communication with the victim, the process of communication. Verbal and non-verbal communications;
 - Building relations based on trust;
 - The consequences on the victims of trafficking of human beings. Re-integration;
 - Trafficking of human beings – as a complex phenomenon, the causes of trafficking;
 - The Justice system – international and local legislation, methods of investigation, and other aspects related to trial of cases.
4. During November-December 2010, in some regions of the country (i.e. in Lezha, Elbasan, Kukës and Gjirokastra), ONAC in cooperation with IOM organized 4 joint meetings for piloting the Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking. These meetings were attended by specialists of Anti-trafficking Police, Border Police, and employees of the regional offices of the State Social Service, in total 71 persons;
5. During the first semester of 2010, ONAC in cooperation with OSCE organized several workshops on “Children rights”. The workshops were organized in the Regional Police Directorates of Shkodra, Gjirokastra, Dibra, Vlora, and Kukës. Each of these workshops was attended by 20-25 participants employed in the structures of crime prevention and policing in the community;
6. During December 2010, in cooperation with “Terre des Homes” and ONAC were organized two Workshops focused on issues related to “Identification and treatment of children victims of abuse and maltreatment, children victims of domestic violence; and becoming familiar with the respective legislation.” These activities were attended by 20 - 25 specialists (for each activity) from the Sector on protection of minors and domestic violence, and representatives of the Child Protection Units.

³ For more detailed information regarding the dates and topics of training sessions, refer to Annex I, at the end of the report.

ç. The fight against involvement/implication of law enforcement structures in the criminal activity of trafficking in human beings

In all the data gathered during 2010 there is no evidence of involvement of the police structures or any other law enforcement agencies in the criminal activity of trafficking in human beings.

In the course of this period, the structures of Internal Control Service (ICS) have handled 308 written complaints and 387 verbal ones. The complaints have been mainly administrative, with none of them denouncing the involvement of a police officer in the trafficking in human beings.

From a different perspective, in the course of 2010, the National Intelligence Service (NIS) reported no cases of implication of police structures or other officials in trafficking in human beings. This institution has conveyed useful intelligence/information regarding concrete activities of several networks of organization of illegal emigration, including data about the involvement/implications of state police employees, who have favoured illegal emigration. During this period, the NIS has launched 6 operations with the structures of the State Police for the prevention and stopping of activities related to favouring illegal emigration, and has provided input about 7 additional activities (5 on trafficking of human beings and 2 on organization of illegal emigration) to the General Prosecutor's Office and to the State Police.

d. Cooperation within and outside the country

A direct impact in the results attained in the fight against trafficking of human beings has played the cooperation of the anti-trafficking police structures with other structures of the state police, such as border and migration police, crime prevention structures etc. A product of the cooperation with the Directorate of Public Security was the development of the 2011-2013 Action Plan "On the implementation of Community Policing", with the view of improving the work and enhancing the cooperation among the State Police structures.

In the course of 2010 there has been intensified cooperation with other partners, in particular with the Prosecution office for Serious Crimes. During 2010 were established and are operational several working groups and joint round tables, with the active participation of the civil society. Here we can mention:

- Monthly meetings of the General Directorate of State Police. In line with Order no. 69 dated 25.01.2010 of the General Director of the State Police "On the coordination of work between the central and local structures in the fight against trafficking of human beings and the identification of victims of trafficking", meetings have been organized by the end of each month, taking stock of the situation of trafficking of human beings in the whole country. Permanent participants in these meetings are the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, and the representatives of Prosecution Office for Serious Crimes, Centres for the Accommodation and Re-integration of the victims of trafficking, etc;
- Meetings with the shelters and NGOs in order to facilitate their coordination with the state institutions and structures at the central and local levels, with the view to ensuring effective protection of the victims of trafficking;
- 2 working groups⁴ to conduct the assessment/evaluation of the legislation as regards implementation of the EC Convention "On measures against Trafficking of Human beings" and the establishment of a system for monitoring and protection of children who are victims of exploitation.

4 For more information regarding the two working groups, refer to Chapter II - PROTECTION

As regards international cooperation, State Police is presently exchanging information and carrying out joint investigations with:

- Belgian police authorities as regards the activity of an Albanian organized criminal group active in Belgium;
- Cooperation with British police authorities through the contact office of SOCA “Special Organized Crime Agency” as regards an ongoing investigation against an Albanian organized criminal group, which is believed to be involved in the trafficking of heroin and cocaine, and trafficking of women for prostitution purposes in Great Brittan.

In order to enhance international cooperation and to assist in the exchange of information/intelligence with other countries there are 12 liaison officers. At present, there are contact officers in Great Britain (1 person in London); Italy (2 persons in Rome); Greece (1 person in Athens and 1 in Thessaloniki); Kosovo (1 person in Pristine); Turkey (1 person in Istanbul); Belgium (1 person in Brussels); Rumania (1 person in Bucharest – SECI); Netherlands (1 person in Hague – Europol); France (1 person in Lion – INTERPOL) and in USA (1 person⁵).

In addition, some countries have their own contact officers who cooperate on different issues, including exchange of information/intelligence on issues of trafficking of human beings among their countries and the Albanian structures of law enforcement. The following countries have contact officers in their diplomatic corp representations: USA, Greece, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain and Italy - INTERFORZZA.

As a rule, a request for legal assistance is filed in the process of gathering evidence related to the criminal offence of trafficking of human beings. This is the most common means, but recently the institution of the Prosecution is applying even speedier forms, including on-line exchange of information/intelligence, and it serves as the bases for submitting the request for mutual legal assistance in the criminal area (through the rogatory letter), which follows standard procedure through the Ministry of Justice and diplomacy channels. Based on the principle of reciprocity, in addition to the standard procedure for the exchange of information, upon the submission of the demand in the Ministry of Justice, the exchange of information is also possible spontaneously through a request sent to the General Prosecution’s Office, which in cooperation with the Liaison Office in the respective Albanian embassy in the particular foreign country enables the exchange of the required data, which could serve for triggering or ending an investigation or court proceeding.

During January -December 2010, the office of Prosecution for Serious Crimes has cooperated with several countries in the investigation of the criminal offence of trafficking of human beings in 13 criminal proceedings mainly for the criminal offences of trafficking of young girls and women – Article 114/b of the Penal Code. The data are as follows:

- 6 criminal proceedings with Italy
- 3 criminal proceedings with Greece
- 2 criminal proceedings with Kosovo
- 1 criminal proceedings with Great Britain
- 1 criminal proceeding with Slovenia

Out of 13 above mentioned proceedings, investigation is already complete for 3 of them (2 with Italy, 1 with Slovenia), whereas 10 others are underway.

In the course of 2010, Albania has been cooperating with several countries, in order to enable the arrest of different persons extradited in Albania, and vice-versa. To this end, for purpose to facilitate extradition to other countries (Hungary –INTERPOL office in Budapest), in Albania during 2010 was arrested one person accused for trafficking of human beings. As regard extradition to Albania of persons accused of having committed the criminal offence of the trafficking of human beings and their exploitation for prostitution, we have the following data:

5 There is a vacancy now for the liaison officer position in USA

Albanian citizens arrested abroad and who were extradited in Albania during 2010:

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Trafficking in human beings</i>	<i>Exploitation for prostitution</i>
Italy	2 (trafficking in women)	2
Greece	1 (trafficking in women)	2
Belgium	1 (trafficking in women)	0
Kosovo	1 (trafficking in women)	0
Switzerland		1
Germany		1
France		1
USA		1
Total	5	8

Extradition in Albania in the course of 2010:

<i>Country</i>	<i>trafficking in human beings</i>	<i>Exploitation for prostitution</i>
Italy	2 (trafficking in women)	4
Greece	1 (trafficking in minors)	0
Spain		1
Germany		1
France		1
Total	3	7

With reference to the above mentioned data, it can be noticed that there is enhanced cooperation with other countries as regards investigation and trial of criminal acts in the fight against trafficking of human beings. The Ministry of Justice in the course of 2010 has intensified its efforts to enhance the cooperation with the Judiciary in the fight against trafficking of human beings. Negotiations have started at the expert level for the formulation and signature of an agreement with EUROJUST. In September 2010 there were technical consultations on the content of the Albanian legislation, in order to analyse the opportunities rendered by this legislation for signing such agreement. In the course of 2010 several other cooperation agreements have been signed with the Kingdom of Belgium, and there has been an approval in principle of the Third Optional Protocol of the European Convention "On extradition"⁶.

dh. Statistical data regarding investigation and trial⁷

During 2010 very important steps were taken in the aspect of anti- trafficking of human beings, in particular as regards prosecution and criminal justice. Only during January – December 2010, the State Police identified 37 cases of trafficking of human beings, which means 25 cases more or 67% more than the whole previous year.

6 For more information see Chapter I on "CRIMINAL PROSECUTION" – letter a. Improving the legal framework;

7 Information from the Police, Prosecution, the courts and the Ministry of Justice

A very positive element from the aspect of strengthening the power for prevention and suppression of illegal trafficking and in particular trafficking of human beings has been the enhancement of human capacities⁸ and strengthening of law enforcement competencies, together with continuous training sessions⁹ organized with the structures of the SAIT, for enhancing their professional and investigative skills. Positive steps have been taken regarding case trial, case adjudication in terms of expediting trial time and court ruling, which were characterized by severe punishment for the perpetrators of the criminal offences.

During January -December 2010, the State Police identified a total of 37 cases related to trafficking of human beings (3 cases of “trafficking in human beings”– article 110/a; article 33 on “Trafficking in women” – article 114/b and 1 case for “Trafficking in minors” – article 128/b) with a total of 51 perpetrators. During the investigation of the above mentioned cases have also been identified cases related to internal trafficking and from the more recent information there is also one case of trafficking in children for sexual exploitation and begging in the streets of Tirana. During the process of the identification of the victims of trafficking, and with reference to data recorded in the data base on victims of trafficking, State Police has recorded 3 criminal proceedings related to internal trafficking, respectively 1 criminal proceeding for “Trafficking in human beings” - article 110/a (the victim (female) was used for begging purposes), 1 criminal proceeding for “Trafficking in women” - article 114/b and 1 for “Trafficking in minors” - article 128/b (the victim was subjected to exploitation for begging and sexual services). All of these identified cases have been referred to the Prosecution Office for Serious Crimes. During January – December 2010, the State Police (SAIT and BMP) had identified a total of 65 victims/possible victims of trafficking (all of them female).

Statistics of the State Police regarding trafficking in human beings for 2010

Criminal offence	Identified	Perpetrators	Arrested	Free status	Wanted	Detained
Trafficking in women - 114/b	33	45	5	34	3	3
Trafficking in human beings- 110/a	3	3	0	3	0	0
Trafficking in minors - 128/b	1	3	3	0	0	0
TOTAL	37	51	8	37	3	3

In the course of 2010, the State Police (SAIT) organized 3 operations focused on trafficking in human beings (2 operations on “Trafficking in women” and 1 operation regarding the criminal offence of “Trafficking in minors”. In these operations were attacked 3 criminal groups, 2 for “Trafficking in women”, with 7 perpetrators, 3 apprehended while in the act, 3 criminally prosecuted in free status and 1 has been declared as wanted, as well as 1 criminal group for “Trafficking in minors”, with 3 authors caught in action. In the course of 2010 21 wanted persons have been caught who are being charged for trafficking in human beings (18 charged for “Trafficking in women” and 3 for the criminal offense of “Trafficking in minors”).

The Financial Intelligence Unit in the General Directorate of Prevention of Money Laundering (GDPML) in the course of 2010 had referred a total of 185 cases of financial investigation to the law enforcement agencies for further investigation. Out of these cases, 8 are related to the

8 For more information, see Chapter I on “CRIMINAL PROSECUTION” – letter c. Increasing the capacities of law enforcement agencies

9 For more information, regarding training, see chapter on CRIMINAL PROSECUTION – letter d – Establishment of capacities of law enforcement agencies

criminal offence of trafficking in human beings. Also, during the same year, GDPML had carried financial investigations for 274 cases, for which it required the cooperation of the law enforcement agencies (prosecution and the State Police). In many of these cases the scope of investigation was also related to criminal activities of the nature of trafficking in human beings.

As regards border management now TIMS exists in the 24 Border Crossing Points (BCP) in the Republic of Albania, in three Border and Migration Police Commisaritas (BMP) and in 8 Regional Border and Migration Directorates (RDBM). This system enables transmission and exchange of information in real time in terms of services delivered by the BMP, and in terms of interviewing and identification of the potential victims of trafficking, while also inputting the data in the data base for the victims of trafficking. In addition, all RDBM's now are connected with MEMEX.

For children, strict procedures apply when they are travelling with one of the parents or with other persons. In these instances, their parents are required to issue a statement which will have to carry the seal of a public notary, whereby permitting the child to travel with one of the parents or with other persons. Of the persons interviewed at the border by the Border and Migration Police officers, a total of 17 persons have been identified as possible victims of trafficking (all female) and all of them Albanian nationals. The border crossing points now have appropriate facilities for the interviewing and accommodation of citizens, in particular of the victims/possible victims of trafficking. These units have the necessary work facilities which are high tech (computers, printers, scanners for tracing finger prints, cameras etc.), in particular in those BCP which are tailored for the specific purpose of hosting repatriated citizens from the police of other countries.

Interviews at the border crossing points have led to the identification of 17 persons (all females) as victims/potential victims of trafficking, 13 interviewed at the border, 1 while leaving the country, and 4 while trying to cross the border.

In the context of the efforts for child protection, and aiming at the prevention of their trafficking and exploitation, in the course of 2010, more efforts were aimed at attacking any form of criminal activity which is detrimental for the children. According to State Police statistics, in the course of 2010 there was a total of 699 children victims of a criminal offence¹⁰ as a result of different criminal offences, among whom 120 children were victims of domestic violence. As regards child protection, a lot of work has gone for strengthening and enhancing the capacities of the Sector for Child Protection and Domestic Violence, by enhancing the protective and preventive capacities for the minors in the country.

In the course of 2010, the office of the Prosecution for Serious Crimes has investigated 39 criminal proceedings related to trafficking in human beings articles 114/b, 128/b, 110/a (according to the register of the criminal offences notification) of which 28 were new cases registered in the course of 2010, and 11 existing cases from previous years. Recently, at the Prosecution office for Serious Crimes there is one criminal proceeding for the criminal offence of "Trafficking in minors" – article 128/b of the Penal Code, involving internal trafficking. As regards other criminal proceedings related to minors, the data indicate that they are victims of trafficking outside the country for prostitution or begging. Other instances of criminal proceedings registered with the office of the Prosecution for Serious Crimes for the criminal act of trafficking of human beings are related to trafficking for prostitution purposes outside the country (Greece, Italy, and Kosovo). These are the data for 2010:

- 20 cases for the criminal offence of "Trafficking in women" - article 114/b of the Penal Code;
- 2 cases for the criminal offence of "Trafficking in human beings" - article 110/a of the Penal Code;
- 6 cases for the criminal offence of "Trafficking in minors" - 128/b of the Penal Code.

10 For more information on children victims of criminal offences for 2010, please refer to Anex IV

Data related to criminal proceedings (articles 114/b, 128/b, 110/a) for pending carried cases from 2008-2009 are as follows:

- 9 proceedings for the criminal offence of “Trafficking in women” - article 114/b of the penal code;
- 2 proceedings for the criminal offence of “Trafficking in minors” - article 128/b of the penal code.

All criminal proceedings related to the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings (recorded during 2010 and pending carried cases from 2008-2009), include the names of 29 citizens as suspects for having committed the criminal offence.

During 2010, the First Instance Court for Serious Crimes has handled 19 cases related to trafficking in human beings, of which 8 are new cases, 10 are pending carried cases from 2009 and 1 case for re-trial. In the course of 2010, 7 cases were adjudicated, and for 1 case the procedural documents were returned to the Prosecution, and 11 other cases are still being tried. These cases have involved in trial 27 persons. In the carried cases 11 persons were punished with 7 – 15 years of prison, and fines varying from 3 - 4 million Lek or 29.411 – 39.215 \$ (USD). According to the legal qualification of the criminal acts, this is the division:

- 3 cases for the criminal offence of “Trafficking in minors” - article 128/b of the penal code; 2 of which have one perpetrator each and the other has 3 perpetrators (5 perpetrators in total);
- 15 cases for the criminal offence of “Trafficking in women” - article 114/b of the penal code (4 cases were recorded during December 2010) involving 21 persons brought to trial;
- In 1 case, with three plaintiffs there has been a change in the legal qualification in the “Exploitation for prostitution in aggravating circumstances” according to articles 114/a, 5 and 6 of the Penal Code.

The information obtained from the Appellate Court for Serious Crimes indicates that in the course of 2010, this court has handled a total of 9 cases related to trafficking in human beings (8 new cases registered during 2010 and 1 pending carried case from 2009). 7 cases were adjudicated and 2 are pending trial¹¹. The court verdicts have concluded by leaving in force the court rulings of the first instance court (for 4 cases), refusal of complaint (2 cases) and only in one of the cases for 2 of the 4 perpetrators of the criminal offence there has been a change in the legal qualification of the criminal offence from article 114/b to 109/a of the Penal Code “Kidnapping or holding hostage under reasoning circumstances” which consequently led to reduced prison time from 10 to 5 years. These data lead to the conclusion that for the tired cases related to trafficking of human beings, different courts of different instances have issued unified verdicts.

e. Findings and recommendations

1. More enhanced pro-active investigation should go for the identification of cases of trafficking, as well as for the identification of victims of trafficking;
 - a. Focusing on internal trafficking and child trafficking for labour exploitation, for begging or other forms, in addition to sexual exploitation;
 - b. making use of any information/intelligence coming from different sources, and foster investigation and opening of proceedings on these bases;
2. Enhanced cooperation with the civil society, local government structures and the victims of trafficking themselves.
 - a. Foster law enforcement structures to cooperate more with the civil society and other state agencies and NGOs, in particular at the local level;
 - b. To guarantee the safety of the victims and to take the necessary measures for their protection and support by the investigation units, and if necessary their inclusion in the

¹¹ For more information please refer to table with the data from the Appellate Court for Serious Crimes- Annex III.

- witness protection program.
3. Improvement of statistical data by all reporting agencies.
 - a. All agencies should continue to process more detailed data about the cases of trafficking of human beings, completing them with new data regarding the perpetrators of the criminal acts, as well as about the victims of trafficking, their categories, types of exploitation, in order to have a comprehensible picture and to conduct an inclusive analyses of the situation;
 - b. The Ministry of Justice should coordinate the work with the other structures for obtaining consolidated statistics for the cases of trafficking of human beings. These statistics should be unified and standardized. It is of prime importance that the statistics generated by the Ministry of Justice, Police and Prosecution should contain data about all trial phases;
 - c. To reflect the data about the progress of the case from the registration of a case until the final court ruling.
 4. Enhancing international cooperation in particular with the neighbouring countries, and destination countries.
 - a. Intensification of efforts for increasing international cooperation, in particular with the neighbouring countries (Greece and Kosovo) for the identification of cases of trafficking for exploitation of labour, begging etc;
 - b. Keeping frequent contacts with our diplomatic corps and liaison officers, as well as with other similar agencies in order to enable exchange of information/intelligence about tracking of cases, and the identification and protection of the victims of trafficking;
 - c. Strengthening of cooperation with the emigration and employment offices in Albania in order to prevent illegal emigration.

Protection and Assistance for Victims of Trafficking

This Chapter outlines the main activities and problems identified in the area of protection and assistance for the victims of trafficking. This strategic pillar is closely related with the victims of trafficking and establishment of support and assistance mechanisms. Protection and assistance shall mean the entire process of identification, referral, and benefiting of counselling and health services (both for the victims in the shelters and victims not accommodated in residential centres), as well as continuous rehabilitation, re-integration and monitoring of case.

Identification of a victim of trafficking is considered as the most important phase of the process of protection and assistance. This process opens the way to saving the victims from “the paws” of trafficking and places her in the hands of support institutions. In the course of 2010, in the residential centres received services 97 victims of trafficking, of whom 83 adults and 14 children. In the course of 2010, there have not been identified any male victims of trafficking. The government of Albania is providing its contribution with free of charge rehabilitation and integration services, and direct financial support for the shelters and the victims of trafficking. Albania offers a lot of opportunities for victims of trafficking to receive the necessary assistance and a second chance for beginning a normal life. All of the identified cases have received the necessary protection and assistance. To this end, the residential centres for the victims of trafficking have been of prime importance. These centres are party to the National Referral Mechanism¹². A very important element in the fight and prevention of trafficking is that of the encouragement of victims of trafficking to testify during trial, but for this purpose, the institutions should guarantee protection of the victim during trial and later. The assistance and protection of the victims is not conditional on the cooperation of the victims with the Justice.

12 The National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking is established based on the Co-operation Agreement “*On the Introduction of a National Referral Mechanism for the Identification and Improved Assistance of Victims of Trafficking*” among the Ministry of Labour (MoLSAEO), National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking, General Directorate of State Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Vatra” NGO, “Tjetër Vizion” NGO and the International Office for Migration (IOM).

1. Completing the legal framework regarding protection and assistance for victims of trafficking

A very important step during 2010 was the adoption of the Law “On social assistance and services” focused into two main directions:

1. Financing from the state budget of non-public shelters. In line with Article 4 of Law no. 10252 dated 11.03.2010 “On some changes to law no. 9355, and in line with law no. 10355, dated 02.12.2010 “On annual budget 2011”, Instruction of the Ministry of Finance no. 4, dated 27.01.2011 “On implementation of state budget for 2011, the Ministry of Labour transfers funds (for food allowance) to the “Social Protection” program for the Victims of Trafficking clients who receive social services from private services providers such as: Tjetër Vizion¹³, Të Ndryshëm dhe të Barabartë¹⁴, Vatra and the Community centre of Gjirokastra for the semester.
2. In line with the same law, the victims of trafficking, in addition to the social services which they receive during their accommodation in the shelters and re-integration centres, they are now also eligible for financial assistance the moment they leave the centres upon employment¹⁵. This is a step that expresses the commitment of the Government of Albania for ensuring the continuity and strengthening of services of the shelters, which so far have been funded by donor projects.

Furthermore, in the course of 2010, ONAC established two working groups with representatives of state agencies, local NGOs and international organizations, active in this area, and with expertise in the field of trafficking, to analyse and recommend initiatives and measures which would improve the legislation, and strengthen the mechanisms of criminal prosecution, protection, assistance, prevention and coordination of anti-trafficking activities. The first group¹⁶ was established to assess the legislation regarding the enforcement of the Council of Europe Convention “On measures against Trafficking of Human beings”. The group worked on the compatibility of the Albanian legislation with the mechanisms required by the Convention. The second working group¹⁷ was in charge of legislation evaluation and introduction of a monitoring and protection system for children, victims of exploitation.

In the meantime, the law on “Protection of children rights” no 10347, 04.11.2010 was enacted. This law aims to establish the necessary conditions for the formulation and implementation of policies that have an impact on children rights, while harmonizing them with the international standards. Furthermore, this law for the first time makes possible installation of an efficient system of surveillance and reporting regarding realization of child rights at the central and local levels, as well as provides for the institutional mechanisms that will be responsible for the implementation of this law and will guarantee the overall protection of child rights.

Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) no. 1008, dated 10.12.2010 approved the transfer under administration responsibility of the facility in Libohova, Gjirokastra to the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in order for MoLSAEO to use it for the establishment of the National Centre for the Accommodation of the Victims of Trafficking for the South of the country.

13 Another vision (translator’s note)

14 Different, but equal (translator’s note)

15 DCM no 796, dated 08.09.2010 “On some Changes and Amendments to DCM no 787 dated 14.12.2005 “on Establishment of Criteria, Procedures and Size for Social Assistance”, amended”

16 Established by order no 32, dated 05.02.2010 “On the Establishment of the Working Group in Charge of Analysing and Drafting and Internal Report on the Enforcement of EC Convention in the National Legislation Regards Measures against Trafficking of Human Beings

17 Established by order no 31, dated 05.02.2010 “on the Establishment of the Working Group on Measures that will be Taken for Improving Legislation regarding Prevention and Fight of Child Labour

2. Guarantying the delivery of assistance services for victims/ possible victims of trafficking

From the current assessments/evaluations, we may conclude that the National Centre for the Accommodation of the Victims of Trafficking and the other non-public centres are spread throughout the territory of the country, and thus making possible coverage of needs in different regions of the country (Tirana, Elbasan, and Vlora). Also, the expertise of the staff of these centres makes it possible for the delivery of comprehensive assistance and support for the victims of trafficking. After their accommodation in the centre, victims of trafficking are eligible to receive basic fundamental services. Within a set period of two weeks there is a needs assessment process (psycho social, health care, legal counselling, vocational training). In line with these needs, the social workers in charge draft an assistance plan for the victims of trafficking, while of course obtaining the approval of the victim.

We would like to remind the readers that now the residential centres work with clear working standards. The Standards¹⁸ have been drafted by a wide group of stakeholders led by MoLSAEO. Now, the Ministry of Labour has enacted the Guidelines¹⁹ and the accompanying Manual for the implementation of the standards. This is a document which comes to the assistance of social service providers (public and non-public residential centres). The guidelines and the accompanying manual contain forms and procedures, which aim at clarifying and unifying the acts of service providers and monitoring experts, the indicators that should be used during inspection in order to monitor and assess the enforcement of standards at the licensed centres. These documents have been developed in cooperation with UNICEF.

During September 6, 2010 until October 23, 2010, the Ministry of Labour (MoLASEO), in cooperation with the Albanian National Training and Technical Assistance Research Centre (ANTTARC) and with the support UNICEF organized a Training course on “Enhancing capacities of the staff of the residential centres for the victims of trafficking and persons at risk of trafficking”. In this context, a series of training sessions were organized in the cities where these residential centres are operational (Tirana, Vlore, and Elbasan) with the participation of 131 persons. The objectives of the training courses: enhancing the capacities of the staff of the residential centres for the victims of trafficking and persons at risk of trafficking based well-known procedures, protocols and standard forms; improving the quality of care for the trafficking victims and persons at risk of trafficking.

- The first training course was organized in Tirana during September 6-8, 2010, with the participation of 35 persons;
- The second course was also organized in Tirana during September 13-15, 2010, with the participation of 26 persons;
- The third training course took place in the city of Vlora during October 5-7, 2010, with the participation of 25 individuals;
- The fourth training course was organized during October 12-14, 2010 in the city of Gjirokastra, with the participation of 26 individuals;
- The fifth and at the same time the last course was organized in the city of Elbasan during October 20-22, 2010, with the participation of 18 individuals.

The training program was focused on the standards, protocols and other forms developed recently regarding social care services for the victims of trafficking, and the persons at risk of trafficking. (Standards of social care services at the residential centres for victims of trafficking or at trafficking risk adopted by DCM no. 195 dated 11.4.2007; Instruction of the Minister of Labour

18 DCM no 195, dated 11.04.2007 “Standards of Social Care Services for Persons Victims of Trafficking or at Risk of Trafficking”

19 Instruction of Minister of Labour (MoLSAEO) no. 316, dated 10.02.2010 “On the Implementation of Standards of Social Care Services for Persons Victims of Trafficking or at Risk of Trafficking”

no 316, dated 10.02.2010 “On the implementation of the Social Care Service Standards at the residential centres for victims of trafficking or at risk of trafficking”, and the summary forms for the service providers.

The training participants were representatives of the State Social Service, Social Sectors in the municipalities, regional police Directorates, Service providers (residential centres for victims of trafficking and at risk of trafficking), representatives of child protection units, representatives of NGOs (Terre des Homme) etc.

2.a The activity of the centres

The centres that operate in Albania are specialized in offering services for victims of trafficking (women, men, children or adults). These centres host both Albanian and foreign victims. Children victims of trafficking are accommodated in the same centre, but at a different location within the centre, which offers more appropriate accommodation for children. Male victims of trafficking are also accommodated in the same centres, but at a different location separated from women and children. All victims are entitled to equal treatment. Based on the needs of the individuals, individual programs are drafted offering treatment and re-integration (counselling, medical care, psychological care, vocational training, mediation with the family members etc). The centres have strong cooperation relationships with the regional Employment Directorates, Public Health and Education Directorates etc. During 2010, the National Centre for Hosting Victims of Trafficking (QKPVT) received funding of 28.4 million Lek, while for 2011, the Centre will receive 39.4 million Lek or 39% more than in 2010.

In the course of 2010, 97 persons have received services in the public and non-public centres (victims of trafficking or persons at risk of trafficking), 14 of them were children and 83 adults. In the course of 2010, no male victims of trafficking were identified. The victims have been offered services, independent from their willingness to cooperate with the authorities. For the same period, there is no incidence when the identified victims of trafficking have refused the assistance of the centres. The centres manage to provide:

a. Information:

The staffs of the centres inform the victims about their rights, and each action from then on takes place with the consensus of the victim.

The centres, in cooperation with other local organizations that provide legal services, provide the victims with legal information as well. But, in the course of 2010, in line with Order no. 723/1, dated 30.9.2010 a (female) judicial officer in the GPO has been assigned to keep continuous contacts with the victims during every phase of the investigation or trial. The purpose behind the establishment of this new function is to create appropriate conditions for the victims during their cooperation with the Prosecution, to provide them legal counselling or any other type of assistance that can be provided by the Prosecution, as well as to facilitate communication and exchange of data between the Prosecution and the centres.

In addition, the establishment of the “Section for the investigation of causes related to trafficking of human beings” at the GPO has enabled direct communication between two prosecution officers with the judicial officer at the Regional Directorates, in order to provide the appropriate legal counselling in the for criminal cases related to trafficking. Legal counselling inter alia consists in the protection that victims are entitled to; sheltering the victim in a centre.

Example: In the course of 2010, the National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking has been cooperating with the Anti-trafficking officers. During the cooperation with the justice, the victims received legal counselling and assistance. The centre called “Të ndryshëm dhe të Barabartë” has been cooperating with the Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives. “20 clients of these centres that have

received assistance from the re-integration program have denounced their traffickers. In addition to the cooperation with the Centre of Legal Civic Initiatives, N&B has also been cooperating with the police and office of Prosecution for Serious Crimes, in order to support the beneficiaries, to obtain information regarding these cases, and to ensure their safety. The clients have been in contact with the legal counsellor of the CLCI about the possibility of compensation. All clients have been supported in their application for ID documents, and have been accompanied in their original residences for the application for ID or passport”.

The “Vatra” centre offers legal counselling through the legal counsellor of the centres. The forms of assistance are the following: direct case assistance, individual counselling and group training. 2 victims of trafficking and 1 at risk of trafficking have been receiving assistance. In cooperation with the Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives, the legal counsellor of the Centre follows the legal procedures in order for a victim of trafficking to receive compensation.

b. Security and protection:

The public and non-public residential centres are responsible for the safety and security of the victims, of the premises of the centres and their staff. The victims of trafficking do not get punished for their actions while in the course of trafficking.

c. Care:

In the residential centres, the victims of trafficking receive:

- Shelter:

The victims of trafficking stay in the centre for as long as it takes for them to go through the process of the rehabilitation of the victim and preparation for her integration in the social life.

- Psychological counselling at the centre:

In the centres for the victims of trafficking, the counselling sessions are offered by the staff of the respective centres (by the psychologist or social worker) or by external/freelance psychologists who cooperate with the centres. The beneficiary is entitled to receive these services at all times. The service is available for all victims of trafficking at all times. In total, these centres have had more than 400 counselling sessions.

Example: The centre “Të Ndryshëm dhe të Barabartë” in Tirana offers counselling services focused on “getting used to the environment, reducing the trauma impact, improving the psychological state and working on self-esteem, relations with their families, the importance of attending the course, employment and job stability, preparation for the next steps, independent life, the future etc.” At the National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking (NRCVT) in Tirana, the victims receive psychological counselling from “Legal Clinic for Minors” every Friday through facilitating and awareness raising sessions with regard to the problems and concerns for the week”. The psychologist of the centre “Vatra” provides counselling to the clients of the centre; counselling can be both individual and group counselling. “The topic of group counselling gets selected based on the problems encountered by the group of the clients, and it is also combined with free conversations and psychological mind games, which are considered as effective break-through manner for the free expression, and coming out of the daily life routine.”

- Mediation with the families:

The centres indicate that the beneficiaries from the services in their centres receive assistance and support by the organizations even when they are in their families. During their stay at the centre, the beneficiaries are in frequent contact with their relatives, and get accompanied to meet

with them within the bail insurance/security. But, the centres also report that “Victims of trafficking are subject of prejudice by their families, relatives, and the community. It is the mentality that will not let a family accept a daughter back, who has been a victim of trafficking, and would not allow her to return to her family and be able to lead a normal life.” The staffs of the centres work intensively with the families to facilitate communication and enable return of their clients in their families of origin.

- Health care

Victims of trafficking are entitled to necessary health care and check-up. The physician of the centre is in charge of ensuring routine check-up, diagnosis, specific check-ups, treatment, health education, monitoring of cases for the victims of trafficking. The victims of trafficking receive dental care services, and eyes, skin services, as well as dermatological, neurology and gynaecology services.) Serious health conditions are treated by specialized physicians. Any incidence of mental health problems is taken care of by the psychiatrist. The centre “Vatra” reports that in cooperation with the Public Health Directorate of Vlora, the victims of trafficking have received free testing. In addition, in the context of the cooperation agreement with the Centre for Women “Aulona”, in Vlora, victims of trafficking have received gynaecological check-up for free.

The centres report that treatment of clients who have problems of drug dependency, mental health problems, clients with HVC, or clients that require dental care etc, which require not only special in-patient treatment, but entail high financial costs cannot be afforded by the centres.

In addition, the centres organize information sessions for the clients regarding health care; these information forms vary, to include: group talks, individual counselling etc. According to the centre “Vatra”, the topics cover: personal hygiene issues, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), Hepatitis B, C, HIV/AIDS, digestive system disorders, influenza, nutrition issues etc., in particular during the hot season. All victims of trafficking are subjected to check-ups; victims of trafficking also receive specialized assistance should they need one. Vatra reports that the total number of check-ups is 181. Other centres report approximately the same figures.

d. Rehabilitation:

The victims become part of the vocational training programs. The centres offer continuous vocational training activities, vocational courses and other topic activities etc..

- Vocational training

The centres offer opportunities for strengthening vocational training skills of the victims of trafficking. The centres either by themselves, or/and in cooperation with the regional employment offices offer different vocational training course and employment training, mainly for free in the following: hairdresser, sewing, cleaning, English language, computer, crafts. At the centre “Të ndryshëm dhe të barabartë”, 34 clients attended different courses. Vatra reports about 12 women and girls that benefited from these courses in cooperation with the regional vocational training Directorate in Vlora, and they got certificates for courses as hairdressers and sewing.

- Education:

The centres cooperate continuously with the Education Directorates for the enrolment of their clients in the education system. Furthermore, ONAC has worked with the Ministry of Education about specific or special cases. The centre “Të Ndryshëm dhe të Barabartë” reports that 18 clients have attended school. Thanks to donor projects it has been possible to cover the expenses for several vocational training courses, which could not be offered for free by the Vocational Training Centre. The centre Vatra reports that 9 of its clients have enrolled and are currently attending school. Also, 4 clients who are staying with their families are attending school. The centre “Vatra” and other centres offer their clients the possibility of reading fiction books. To

come to the assistance of those clients that attend school, the teacher of the centre Vatra gives them tutorials daily to help them catch up. Also, the “Vatra” centre has made possible enrolment for free for this year for the child of one of the clients of the centre. The National Centre for the Accommodation of Victims of trafficking reports about reading sessions with the clients of the centre. Out of 97 victims of trafficking, 31 are attending school.

- Activities:

The centre “Të Ndryshëm dhe të Barabartë”, in cooperation with AAGW has organized activities in which they have tried to sell art crafts and the proceedings have gone to pay for the women and girls who made them. Also, in the same context, the girls and women were trained for making their products more marketable. 10 clients participated in the training of art crafts organized by the centre “Të ndryshëm dhe të barabartë”, which was delivered by a specialized trainer. In the course of 2010, two fairs were organized at the Sheraton hotel, one of which in December “Christmas Bazaar” selling crafts of the clients of the centre “Different but equal”.

The centres have organized occupational activities such as: gardening, sports games, entertainment activities, sewing and art craft courses. In the “Vatra” centre, the clients who attend vocational training courses can practise within the Shelter’s premises at sewing machines, computers, kitchen, and hairdresser’s corner in the Shelter. The clients also participate in trips in tourist sites or museum, in order to get acquainted with the cultural and historical values of the country.

e. Re-integration:

Following their exit from the social care institutions (the accommodation centres), the victims are eligible to social assistance until they get a job²⁰.

- Activities for improving life skills:

The centres have worked with the girls that attended courses, and those that attend school. Also, the centres have been working to teach how to read and write to those victims that had never attended school in their lives. Different trainings have been organized on: children psycho-social development; first aid; services in the community; etc.

- Preparing the ground for working and employment; establishment of micro businesses:

The centre “Different but equal” indicated that 20 of its clients got a job during 2010, mainly as: tailors, cooks, cook help, shop assistant, cleaning ladies, and cashier, hairdresser and warehouse keepers. The centres state that they cooperate with the Regional Labour Offices continuously. All clients get registered with these offices, and some of them have benefited from the employment promotion programs. A problem remains the sustainability/stability of employment of the victims in more intensive programs. The centre “Vatra” reports that 7 of its clients have benefited from the employment promotion programs. In line with decision No. 796, dated 08.09.2010, the staffs of the shelters are supporting some of the victims of trafficking in the process of receiving their social assistance allowance.

The centre “Different but equal” has provided assistance to 5 of its clients in establishing micro businesses. 2 of the clients have opened some sort of tailoring facility with grants from IOM and 3 other clients have opened hairdresser shops with grants from IOM and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These micro-businesses have been established in the cities where the re-integration process of the clients is also taking place such as: in Kavaja, Berat, Durrës, Tirana. Also, this centre has been monitoring 6 other clients, who had set up their micro-businesses

20 Report on the Monitoring of Piloting of Implementation of Standard Procedures for Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking is in the Annex.

earlier. The centre Vatra is lobbying intensively with donors and other international organizations for fund raising, which will be used for setting up micro-businesses with the goal of empowering financially the victims, as the only successful alternative for their return to normality. Only during the last quarter of 2010, 16 cases were assessed, and for 2 of them it was made possible to set up micro-businesses (with the support of IOM) thus sending to 8 the total number of micro-businesses established by Vatra with donor grant funds, in support of the victims. These micro-businesses are monitored and tracked by the staff of Vatra shelter every month, to see from close their performance, their problems and difficulties that they encounter during business management, and also to provide counselling and alternatives for their solution. Out of 97 victims of trafficking, 34 of them have either been employed or were assisted in opening a micro-business.

- Shelter/accommodation:

According to the centre “Vatra”, 3 clients have left the centre and are renting an apartment. According to the centre Different, but equal there are 24 clients that receive funding for paying the rent of the apartment. The new National Anti-trafficking Plan for 2011-2013 provides for activities which will enable the formulation of a plan that will make possible increased opportunities for sheltering the victims of trafficking.

F. Case monitoring and tracking

The centres continue to monitor their clients even after their departure from the centre. The staffs of the centres pay them visits in their dwellings, and provide them assistance in overcoming the various problems that they encounter upon leaving the centre.

Caring for the children of the victims of trafficking:

The centres provide care not only for the victims of trafficking, but as well for their children. The centres offer shelter, health care and education for these children.

3. National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the Database for victims of trafficking

The Office of the National Coordinator and IOM have been collaborating in the process of formulation, consultation and launching of Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of the Victims of Trafficking. The first draft was developed during January – March 2010. In April was organized a consultation workshop with the country’s main stakeholders. This consultation process included more than 50 representatives from the General Directorate of State Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities, GPO, Coalition of the shelters and other representatives who are active in this field. The opinions and suggestions that came out in this meeting were reflected in the improved document.

In July 2010 another workshop was organized that enabled the consolidation of the document with the inputs of a wide array of actors. The document was launched in October 21, 2010, while also opening the piloting phase. In November were organized several regional meetings in the regions of Lezha, Kukës, Gjirokastra and Elbasan, with representatives of the nearby regions, thus covering all of the 12 regions of the country. In these meetings, experts in the area of criminal prosecution, protection, prevention and coordination gave their advice and shared their expertise as to the best way possible for the implementation of this document. During December 2010, a monitoring group to this end did the monitoring of the implementation of the document, and of the practical needs for changes. Monitoring took place in Korça, Kukës, Saranda, Gjirokastra, Durrës and Tirana. Currently, ONAC is reflecting the necessary changes in the document⁹. This document will be officially enacted in May 2011.

During the reporting period, all actors of the National Referral Mechanism have tried to make good to their responsibilities and tasks. In the residential centres there have been 97 referrals. The average age of the victims of trafficking is 15-25 years old. Almost all of the victims come from families with severe social and economic problems, divorced parents, serious economic constraints, families with health problems, and are victims of abuse or maltreatment.

The Responsible Authority²¹, during the reporting period has been active in meeting its obligations for the identification, assistance and protection of the victims of trafficking. The Responsible Authority convenes at least once a month. Also, since last year, the Minister of Interior has organized monthly meetings with the members of the National Referral Mechanism and other partners and stakeholders.

The process of inputting the data in the data base for the victims of trafficking is ongoing. ONAC is working to improve and facilitate data entry in the system, and to improve the data analyses methodology.

4 . Identification and referral of the victims of trafficking

One of the most difficult challenges in the process of protection and assistance for the victims of trafficking is that of the identification of the victims of trafficking, the process of verification of the persons who could be or are victims trafficking – which in other words means identification of the victims of trafficking. Only when a victim of trafficking is identified does it become possible to provide assistance and protection for victims. The Albanian authorities are working to enable increased skills in the detection of all forms of trafficking: trafficking for forced labour; trafficking for prostitution; trafficking of minors; forced labour; begging. To this end are used the Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Persons Victims of Trafficking, on which ONAC is working with the support of IOM. The standard procedures for the identification and referral of the victims of trafficking are now being applied in all the regions of the country; ONAC is working on improving the directives and instructions contained in this document, in line with the needs and challenges of the process. According to the centre “Vatra”, in the course of this month, two possible victims of trafficking have been referred in line with these procedures.

In line with the Standard Action Procedures for the victims of trafficking, a victim may be identified within the Albanian territory, at the border, or outside the Albanian soil. The victims may be Albanian or foreigners, adults or minors. The process of identification goes through two phases: Initial identification and formal identification. During the reporting period, no foreign national victim of trafficking has been identified, even though the Albanian legislation provides for recovery and reflection period. This is a guarantee that is given to all the victims of trafficking, despite their will to testify or not.

21 Joint instruction “ On the establishment of the Responsible Authority for the protection and assistance of victims of trafficking and assignment of tasks of institutions involved in this process” Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, no. Prot 3394/4, dated 17.05.2006 prot no 7590, dated 24.05.2006.

a. Enhancing the capacities of actors involved in the initial identification²² and formal identification²³ of a victim of trafficking

In the past, as one of the impeding factors for increasing the number of identifications was identified the absence of human resources and capacities for conducting the interviews and case investigations. In order to address this concern, with the recent structural changes in the General Directorate of the State Police there has been an increase in the number of staff of the Sectors for the Fight against Illicit Trafficking, under the regional police Directorate (See Chapter 1 “Criminal prosecution and Investigation”). In addition to increasing the human resources capacities in terms of numbers, during the reporting period a lot of efforts have gone into continuous training of the personnel of the Anti-Trafficking Structures and the State Social Service. In the course of 2010, with the support of IOM, were organized a series of trainings for the establishment of professional capacities of the social administrators in the local government structures (municipality/region), of the social worker in the Social Service Regional Offices, and for the employees of the Child Protection Units in the municipalities/communes. The purpose behind these training sessions was to make this structures familiar with the legislation in effect, as well as with the national strategies in the fight against trafficking of human beings, the existing institutions and mechanisms, the measures taken by the Government of Albania, and the duties of specific structures for the identification, interviewing, assistance, protection and re-integration of the victims of trafficking.

In the course of 2010, the State Police structures have enhanced their cooperation capacities. The border crossing points have applied strictly the Action Plan no. 3316 dated 10.06.2008, “On prevention and fight against trafficking of human beings and the identification of victims”, and the Order of the Director general of the State Police no. 871 dated 27.12.2007 “On the procedures that need to be followed during interview of foreign nationals and repatriated Albanian citizens”, while enhancing cooperation with the specialists of the Anti-Trafficking Sections at the regional police Directorates, so that in the event of the citizens repatriated at the Border Crossing Points, the interview can be as objective as possible and could enable identification of victims of trafficking.

The shelters that provide services for the victims of trafficking also report that their cooperation with the General Directorate of State Police has led to case referrals in these shelters. The centre “Tjeter Vizion²⁴” reports that as a result of an agreement of “Tjeter Vizion” with the General Directorate of State Police was made possible the referral and assistance of cases with broad geographical coverage, including not only Central Albania, but also cases referred by the South and North of Albania. Referral of cases was also in the context of cooperation with the Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters and mutual assistance in case of transfer from one shelter to the other for security reasons or re-integration purposes.

IOM, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO) and the State Social Service, has organized several training sessions “On the establishment of capacities for cases of child trafficking”, with the staff of local social workers (social administrators) in Lushnja and Lezha, who had not received any training before on these cases. The purpose behind these training courses was to supply the social administrators in the municipalities with knowledge and skills, which would enable provision of assistance for the victims of trafficking and cooperation with other structures. The training session of Lushnja was attended by 33 participants from Fier, Berat, Lushnja, Vlora etc., while the session of Lezha was attended by 23 participants from Lezha, Shkodra, Durrës, Tirana and Laç.

22 The process of identification of elements of behaviours and physical, mental, social and economic status which indicate that this person might be a victim of trafficking, providing assistance for this individual, informing the responsible authorities and coordination and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental structures to ensure her/his protection in line with his/her needs.

23 Process of identification of elements the crime of trafficking against human beings through the formal interview of the person by an officer of the judicial police of SLKTP; assessment of the needs of the individuals for security and protection, and coordination and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental structures to ensure her/his protection in line with his/her needs.

24 Another vision (translator’s note)

b. Enhancing the capacities of the actors that might be involved in the process of initial identification of a victim of trafficking

So far, efforts have gone for the training of the law enforcement structures and of the social services employees about the ways for the identification of the victims of trafficking. The goal of ONAC is to enhance the identification capacities not only of the structures directly involved in the process, but also of the structures with highest probability of handling victims of trafficking, potential victims of trafficking or persons at risk of trafficking such as: the labour inspectorate; the schools, offices of assistance for employment and social assistance, health clinics, different organizations that work with the children, youth and parents. In order to attain this goal, ONAC in cooperation with its partners shall plan for training sessions which will aim at informing these actors about the ways in which they could assist in the identification of a person who could be at risk of trafficking or is within the trafficking network, the modalities of how these cases can be referred etc. The involvement of the above mentioned actors plays an important role in terms of identification, in particular cases of internal trafficking.

4.1 Identification within the country's territory

The agencies have improved identification of cases of internal trafficking. This improvement was the result of continuous training sessions organized by the Office of the National Coordinator in the Fight against Trafficking of Human beings and its partners. The State Police has identified 3 cases of internal trafficking.

4.2 Identification at the border

Albania now offers full security at all its border crossing points, in line with European standards. Every citizen that either enters or leaves through the state border is registered in the TIMS system. For the children, strict procedures apply when they are travelling with one of the parents or other persons. In these instances, they need to be equipped with a declaration stamped by a notary public, which permits the child to travel with one of his parents or other persons. TIMS now is connected in 24 border crossing points, in three border police and migration stations and in 8 regional border and migration directorates. Also, all regional directorates of border and migration are connected through MEMEX.

The regional committee of Kukës reports that in cooperation with the Regional Police Directorate, Border and Migration Police Directorate, in line with the agreement with IOM, ALB-AID has provided assistance for all cases, per the request of the specialized structures. ALB-AID has provided assistance in accomplishing the immediate needs of repatriated persons in terms of food, sanitation aid, presence of social workers and transportation from Morina to Kukës and then to Tirana. The regional office of State Social Service in Kukës, through its administrators, has contacted with NGOs for organizing and coordinating actions with the specialized structures in the fight against trafficking of human beings. In the course of 2010, IOM Tirana has provided assistance for assisted return of 6 cases of Albanian victims of trafficking identified in Kosovo and referred by IOM Pristine. The process of repatriation was coordinated by the respective offices of IOM. IOM Tirana in cooperation with the Responsible Authority and ONAC coordinated the process for their repatriation in the country of origin.

a. Statistics and Trainings

In the course of 2010, the goal was to provide training for the border personnel related to best practices in terms of detection and prevention of trafficking, and implementation of respective international conventions and agreements signed and ratified by the Republic of Albania related to children victims of trafficking. Consequently, training was provided to the personnel of the Regional Border and Migration Directorates of Tirana, Durrës, Korça, Gjirokastra and Kukës. Approximately 80 officers of these directorates have received training. The training sessions were organized by the office of the National Coordinator for the Fight against trafficking of human beings (ONAC) in cooperation with IOM.

b. Presence of female police officers and of social workers at border crossing points

Furthermore, the State Police has made provisions for the presence of at least one female anti-trafficking police officer at the border during the process of initial identification/interview in line with the obligations arising from the Agreement of the National Referral Mechanism. These female police officers are now present in the following border crossing points: Hani i Hotit, Qaf Morinë, Qafë Thanë, Tushemisht, Kapshticë, Tre Urat, Kakavijë, Qafë Botë, Saranda, Vlore, Durrës and Rinas. In addition, one staff from the office of State Social Service or a social worker from the non-public residential centres should be present during initial identification /interviewing of a potential victim of trafficking. This obligation has been met by both State Social Service and social workers of the non-public residential centres.

c. Cooperation with border counterparts

The regional Border and Migration Directorates have intensified their cooperation efforts with their counterparts. According to the Regional Border and Migration Police Directorate of Dibra, once in two weeks it meets with the Macedonian police to discuss about the problems encountered during the course of their work, and they are also often involved in joint police patrolling. According to the Regional Anti-trafficking Committee (RATC) of Kukës, the deported from Kosovo come mainly from the Roma community, and are mainly victims of exploitation for begging in the streets of Kosovo. In order to identify or prevent these cases, RATC-Kukës reports that it has been coordinating its actions with the Regional Border and Migration Directorate of Kukës and Kosovo Police service, for taking preventive measures in case of illegal border crossing. To this end, there have been frequent meetings organized with the Kosovo police service for exchanging intelligence.

According to the Kukës Regional Committee, for the repatriated their main destination was Kosovo to do different jobs and a considerable number of them belong to the Roma community, who were sent to begging in the streets of Kosovo. For the identification and prevention of the phenomenon of trafficking, actions have been coordinated in progress with the Regional Directorate of Border and Migration in Kukës and Kosovo Police Service in order to take preventive measures against illegal border crossings. To this end, frequent meetings have taken place with other police counterpart services, for the exchange of intelligence regarding individuals and criminal gangs involved in the illegal activity of trafficking of human beings. In addition, the regional committee of Shkoder reports of enhanced cooperation with counterpart police structures of Montenegro for the prevention of trafficking.

4.3 Identification abroad

Trafficking of human beings is a phenomenon of the last 20 years for the country. Consequently, Albanian citizens, both females and males, either adults or minors from the urban and rural areas have fallen prey to the networks of trafficking of human beings, which for the most of the cases has involved trans-national trafficking. It is hence the duty and obligation of the Albanian state to find these victims, to identify them as such and to provide them with the necessary protection. To this end, it is very important to understand the approach of the Albanian government regarding identification outside the country. A very important role in this context is played by our diplomatic corp abroad in terms of the relations they establish with the Albanian and international agencies focusing on the identification, referral, protection and assistance of the victims of trafficking. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the course of 2010, the embassies and consular offices have been issued instructions for keeping a separate register and informing the Responsible

Authorities for any instance of potential trafficking. The embassies and consular offices are fully informed about the cooperation that they should extend to the authorities of the host countries and NGOs, in terms of raising awareness of the victims of trafficking leading to their voluntary return to Albania, and in terms of assistance that they should provide them with the necessary documentation to this end.

In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has recently drafted consular manual containing general instructions about the duties of consular offices abroad (including those related to the anti-trafficking). The Albanian embassies and consular offices have been issued instructions to keep in touch with written and electronic media of the hosting countries, groups and associations of Albanians and international ones, and through them disseminate information and documents of this kind. In the meanwhile, a specific objective for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been ensuring ample dissemination of information (leaflets) regarding Albanian potential victims of trafficking abroad. To this end, the embassies and consular offices have been instructed to keep contacts with the written and electronic media of the host country, and the groups and associations of Albanians outside the country.

In November 12, 2010, upon the request of the office of the National Coordinator in the Fight against Trafficking, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to all Albanian and foreign diplomatic corps and counsellor offices, copies of the leaflets drafted by the office of the Coordinator, in terms of raising awareness of the public regarding incidences of the fight against Trafficking of Human beings. To this end, the senior officials of these representations received clear instructions about the serious commitment of the qualified staff in the services for the citizens, for their cooperation in the identification, treatment and referral of victims of trafficking. These representative offices have received instructions about the modalities of work with this leaflet, either in their premises or with the associations and NGOs active in the field in those countries.

5. Protection of witnesses who are victims of trafficking

In line with law no. 10173, dated 22.10.2009 “On protection of witnesses and collaborators of Justice”, special protection measures apply for persons with collaborate with Justice or for the collaborators of Justice. Witness protection categories are the following: witness, collaborator of justice, parties related with the witnesses or collaborators of Justice. Special protection measures applied for persons under protection are the following: change of residence, supply of fake ID, protection and special treatment when for having committed a criminal offence, the collaborator of justice is either sentenced to prison, or under a security measure, this person receives physical and technical protection in his location and in his movements, social rehabilitation, and financial support. In addition to the above mentioned measures, persons under protection are eligible for: education, medical check-up, specialized legal help, psychological support and treatment. In the course of 2010, the approved budget covered all the necessary expenses for the enforcement of special protection measures. This directorate has signed and is in the process of implementing several international cooperation agreements on “relocation of persons under protection outside the territory of the country”.

With the view of enhancing the professional capacities of the staff of this directorate, the Training Department in the General Directorate of State Police, with the support of international organizations has organized a series of trainings within and outside the country.

According to the Directorate for the Protection of Witnesses and Persons with Special Status, in line with article 28 of the above mentioned law, have been drafted and approved 3 joint instructions and 2 joint orders.

a. Cooperation with the victims of trafficking and the witness protection program:

Victims of trafficking have expressed their willingness to provide explanations any time this was deemed necessary during the process of their interviewing, in order to clarify certain circumstances of the interview. The willingness of the victims to support the prosecution was the result of their conviction that the measures in place for them are the appropriate ones and effective.

So far, there is no evidence of the inclusion of victims of trafficking in the witness protection program in line with the respective law, which guaranties protection of victims of trafficking. In the current practise there has been no recorded incidence of the inclusion of the victims in the witness protection program since the conditions of placement under protection have not been met (article 10 of the law). According to the law, conditions for placement under protection arise when under a given circumstance the victim of trafficking, because of her statement or testimony is at a risk situation. The risk situation should be current, serious and concrete, and should give cause for the life and health of the witness or of the person related to the witness to be in danger.

Recommendations:

- To provide free health care services for the victims of trafficking.
- To strengthen and institutionalize the cooperation of the shelters with the local government;
- To secure continuous financial support for non-public centres;
- To maintain a high level of cooperation and communication between/among the members of the National Referral Mechanism through frequent meetings, exchange of information and ensuring transparency;
- To enhance the capacities of the actors involved in the initial identification and formal identification of a victim of trafficking.

Prevention of trafficking has been one of the main pillars where attention was focused during 2010. Albania has made a lot of progress in the other two directions, namely criminal prosecution and protection of victims, and the current situation in the country asks for more intensive work and properly coordinated efforts of all actors as regards prevention of trafficking of human beings.

The focus of the preventive activity during January – December 2010 was mainly related to public awareness raising, regarding the causes and risk of trafficking, through:

- Organization of public awareness raising campaigns aiming at reaching the broad public, groups at risk, clients and of all the actors working with groups at risk, including the media;
- Improving social inclusion of vulnerable groups;
- Offering of economic alternatives against trafficking, including safe migration etc.

To this end and in line with the recent developments and efforts with regard to prevention of trafficking in Albania you will be able to find information in the next sessions.

1. Improving the legislation

As regards education of youth and children, in particular of marginalized communities such as that of Roma and Egyptians, through an initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science have been approved several Decisions of the Council of Ministers, which enable enrolment of the members of these communities in the education system. Thus, Decision of Council of Ministers no. 586, dated 07.07.2010 “On the admission quota and education fees in the public institutions of the Republic of Albania”, the first cycle of full time studies, and the tuition fees for the period 2010-2011 for the Roma and Egyptians includes 25 admission quota. Also, DCM no. 795, dated 06.10.2010 “On the admission quota in the public institutions in the Republic of Albania, second cycle of studies “Master Professional”, for the academic year 2010-2011 for these communities are planned 20 quota, whereas through DCM no. 786, dated 29.9.2010 “On the admission quota for the public institutions in the Republic of Albania, second cycle of studies “Master of Sciences”, for the academic year 2010-2011 are planned 20 quota. Furthermore, DCM no. 826, dated 13.10.2010 “On the admission quota in the public institutions of higher education and tuition fees for the studies of the first cycle part time and distance learning for academic year 2010-2011” for the Roma and Egyptians are planned 20 quota. According to the same decision, Roma and Egyptians who get the right for studying in a program of the first cycle, part time are exempted from the tuition fees. The same right applies to Roma and Egyptians students of senior grades. Furthermore, in line with Instruction no. 15, dated 28.05.2010 regarding selling of textbooks in pre-university education, students that enjoy the status of orphans, students coming from households that receive social assistance and unemployment benefits from the employment offices, students coming from households with members with disabilities are eligible for budgetary support for the compensation of the textbook prices.

As regards identification of citizens through improvements made in the civil registry, on April 27, 2010 was drafted and approved the Order of the Minister of Interior No. 141, dated 27.04.2010 “On referrals and registration of the birth act of persons who are not registered in the National Civil Registry.” In line with this order, and in cooperation with the General Directorate of Civil Registry, in the course of 2010 was made possible the registration of 70 births which were problematic in terms of registration, whereas during 2009, the number of registrations for the persons who had not been registered was 7000. The National Coordinator and the General Directorate of Civil Registry are working on the identification, referral and settlement of the few unregistered cases in the Registry of Civil Service.

In October 2010 was approved the Instruction No. 359, dated 11. 10. 2010 of the Minister of Interior “On the procedures for clearing duplications of the Albanian citizens from the main registers and National Civil Registry”, which defines the procedures for clearing duplications and for the identification of citizens with fictitious data.

As regards protection of children from all forms of exploitation, another piece of legislation has been enacted and this is Law No. 10 347, dated 04.11.2010 “On protection of the rights of children”. Also, the National Coordinator, in cooperation with UNICEF and the Sector for Protection of Minors and against Domestic Violence in the General Directorate of State Police have submitted proposals for further improving the Penal Code, in particular as regards the articles that punish maltreatment and exploitation of children, to complete and further improve the legal framework for the protection of children and respecting their rights, which will have a direct impact on the prevention of the phenomenon of exploitation of children for illicit purposes.

2. Public Awareness Raising

2.1. Awareness Raising Campaigns

On the International Day against Child Labour during June 1 – June 30, 2010 with the support of ILO-IPEC was organized a campaign: “Head towards the goal: Putting an end to child labour”. The purpose of this campaign was raising awareness about the worst forms of child labour and trafficking, the causes and consequences of child labour and exploitation of children. This campaign was supported by ILO/IPEC and organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in close cooperation with BKTF, the Federation of the Trade Unions of Education and Sciences (TUFESA) and the Media. The materials used in the campaign were: press releases; articles in main newspapers and magazines; public debates in TV channels and in the radio, and dissemination of materials for the elimination of worst forms of child labour for 2010, and the action plan and key findings of the Global Report of Child Labour. The activities on the occasion of this internal day consisted in:

- Raising awareness about the negative implications/impact of child labour on the children and the future of the country;
- Advocacy for increasing governmental support in the area of education and social services;
- Building capacities of the trade unions for better monitoring of the implementation of the joint agreement on prevention and elimination of child labour.
- Strengthening awareness raising and partnership among all actors, including in terms of addressing child labour and promotion of education.

In June 2010 was also adopted the revised version of the National Guidelines for Albania, in line with the Guidelines/Toolkit adopted by the Global Conference on Child Labour.

On the occasion of the European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings, the National Coordinator of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings, on October 18, 2010, in cooperation with Albanian Caritas and the MOLSAEO organized a conference on: “Trafficking of human beings destroys lives and is detrimental for the society...Together we can fight it”!!! this activity was organized in the premises of “Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë” University, where in addition to the messages conveyed by the representatives of state authorities and NGOs active in the field of anti-trafficking, were also conveyed awareness raising messages by the students of primary and secondary schools of Tirana and its outskirts addressed to their co-agers.

On November 22, 2010, ONAC in cooperation with UNICEF, the Centre for Protection of Child Rights in Albania, World Vision and Alo 116 organized a workshop on “Let’s make internet safe for children”, with the participation of state agencies such as: Ministry of Interior, General

Directorate of State Police, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Education and Science, and AEPC (Agency of Electronic and Postal Communication), NAIS (National Agency of Information Society), media etc. The purpose of this workshop was to raise the awareness of governmental and non-governmental structures about making internet safe for children by improving the national legislation, strengthening of institutional protective and preventive mechanisms, and raising the awareness of children and parents about the risks and problems that children encounter during their electronic communications.

On the occasion of the International Day on Human Rights, ONAC focused mainly on children rights, and in cooperation with World Vision it organized a picture exhibition with photos taken by 8 children of different ages coming from marginalized groups. This exhibition was organized on December 10, 2010 in the premises of the National Museum, and was broadcasted in all national TV stations in the country.

In addition to other awareness raising campaigns and activities, another means used for awareness raising purposes were the leaflets prepared for the citizens and the victims/potential victims. Thus, ONAC prepared 6000 leaflets for raising the awareness of the broad public regarding the phenomenon of human trafficking, while focusing on the victims/potential victims, and the services available for them. Also, these leaflets contained the numbers of all reception and re-integration centres, and the green line 0800 12 12. These leaflets were disseminated at all border crossing points, in the Albanian embassies and consular offices abroad, and in the diplomatic corp representations in Albania. The publication of these leaflets was made possible by World Vision. The Coalition of the Shelters prepared several publications and leaflets regarding the services that shelters provide in Albania. These materials, in cooperation with the Department for Border and Migration were disseminated at the main border crossing points.

As regards awareness raising at the local level, it is worth mentioning the following:

- In the region of Dibra, in the context of the global campaign against violence of women, with the motto “We should acknowledge and defend our rights”, on December 7, 2010, in cooperation with the centre AGRITA-Vizion were organized several awareness activities. For 10 days, the local televisions have shown awareness spots against domestic violence. Also, in support of women from the professional/vocational aspect there was organized an awareness raising campaigns for the development of mountainous tourism, and training sessions. Training sessions are organized with the support of OXFAM, aimed at supporting and providing technical assistance to women for placing in the market their handmade products, and the modalities for preparing them for the market.
- In the region of Durrës, the Section against Illicit Trafficking, in cooperation with the Sector of Public Order at the Police, and the local associations/organizations has organized meetings in several high schools and elementary schools in the city of Durrës, and in Sukth and Shijak for raising the awareness and informing the youth about the risks of trafficking, as well as about the impact and implications of trafficking for the society. Also, the Directorate of Public Health in Durrës has been working towards raising the awareness, and informing women and children about their rights, in particular the right for access to health services. To this end was also organized a round table on “Improving the lives of children with HIV/AIDS, and those affected by HIV/AIDS”, in the context of enhancing the capacities of the local communities, with the support of UNICEF.
- In the region of Korça, on October 17, 2010 on the occasion of International Day against Hunger, food supplies were distributed to households with social problems, and orphan children. In the context of the awareness raising campaign against domestic violence organized during 25 November - 10 December, RATC of Korça helped in the organization of many awareness raising activities, focusing on negative phenomena such as violence which opens the way to trafficking of persons who are victims of violence. In addition, on the occasion of end year celebrations, food supplies and toys were distributed to children

with social problems. “Kenedi²⁵” foundation organizes meeting with women on weekly bases, informing and providing counselling to women about the negative consequences of human trafficking.

- In the region of Vlora were organized 32 information sessions with youngsters from high schools in the communes of Shushicë, Novoselë, Levan and the municipality of Roskovec with the participation of 374 students (the project initially had envisaged the participation of 300 students); 12 information sessions in the communes of Shushicë, Novoselë and Levan with the participation of 134 women and girls of Roma community (the project initial figure was 60); 1 seminar in the municipality of Roskovec in the district of Fier on “Cooperation between the school-society-families, as an important factor for the education of the young generation”; 1 talk show on the radio on “Crime and violence in today’s society” organized by one of the local radios; and the publication of a leaflet “Stop to drugs! Change your life!”, in 1000 copies.

In the information sessions with the youth of the high schools, and the girls and women of the Roma community, and the community are large, the following topics were discussed: “Discrimination and prejudice among different ethnic communities”, “parent-child-school relationships, an important factor in the education of the young generation” etc. In addition, leaflets and other awareness raising materials were also disseminated.

2.2. Media Training

Given the important role of the Media in the prevention of trafficking through awareness raising programs/shows, different TV and radio debates or by broadcasting activities organized in this filed, IOM has organized 2 training workshops with journalists regarding reporting of cases of trafficking. These workshops were organized in cooperation with ONAC and Albanian Media Institute. The first workshop took place during 27-28 May 2010, and was focused on the electronic media. The workshop was attended by 16 journalists, whereas the second workshop was focused on the written media, and was attended by 15 journalists, that are responsible for the social section in main daily newspapers such as: Gazeta Shqiptare, Panorama, Shekulli, Shqip, Telegraf, Korrieri, Koha Jonë, Albania, etc. and TVs with high visibility: Top Channel, Klan, Vizion Plus, News 24, Ora News, Koha TV etc.

Only during the first semester of 2010 were trained 31 journalists and editors of the written and electronic media from the districts, on the reporting of cases of trafficking of human beings and domestic violence, while an additional 32 journalists and editors were trained on the topic of the rights of migrants. The trainings were aimed at improving the reporting skills and creativity of journalists. Two similar training workshops were organized with journalists from the districts (32 participants) with funds from Austrian Development Agency (ADA) during September 16-17, 2010. The main goal of these training sessions was raising the awareness of the journalists in their mission for the appropriate reporting of anti-trafficking efforts, as an obligation towards the broad public. The National Coordinator has been the main trainer in all of these training sessions. Also, during 21-22 September 2010 was organized the training of journalists of the written and electronic media for raising the awareness regarding the proper ways for covering in the press the migration cases.

3. Improving the capacities of actors working with vulnerable categories

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in cooperation with ONAC, has organized training sessions for improving the capacities of the local structures of the State Social Service, including the social administrators of cases of trafficking. These training sessions were organized

25 Kenedy (translator’s note)

in the regions of Lushnja and Lezha, in cooperation with State Social Service and the MOLSAEO. One of the training sessions was organized in Lushnja, with the participation of 33 representatives from the municipalities of Fier, Berat, Lushnja and Vlore and the regional offices of State Social Service, whereas the other session took place in Lezha, with the participation of 23 representatives from Lezha, Shkodra, Durrës, Tirana and Laç. The purpose of these training sessions was to supply the social workers and social administrators of the selected municipalities with the necessary knowledge and skills, to be able to provide skilled assistance to victims of trafficking through a fruitful cooperation of the state structures with the service providers.

Again, in line with the improvement of the capacities of the state structures, in cooperation with the School of Magistrates in June 18, 2010 and October 29, 2010 were organized two additional training sessions on cases of trafficking of human beings with the participation of judges and prosecutors. The overall goal of these training sessions was raising the sensitivity of the Albanian magistrates about cases of trafficking. The participants were judges of the first instance courts and prosecutors from the districts of Berat, Saranda, Mat, Tirana, Durrës, Fier, Elbasan, etc. A total of 30 prosecutors and judges were trained in these workshops.

Whereas with regard to improving the capacities of our diplomatic corp, in the second semester of 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working on a joint project with IOM in Tirana. The project is about training 20 consular officers of our diplomatic offices abroad. To this end, meetings have been organized with representatives of the Mol, MoFA and IOM for the establishment of a team with members from MoFA, Mol and IOM for training the consuls of our diplomatic and consular offices in the region. In the course of 2010, consuls have been briefed regularly, in order to conduct a good job during the interview of foreign citizens for obtaining a visa. This is done to enable identification of suspects who could be victims of trafficking or otherwise involved.

4. Employment

4.1. Active labour market programs/ Employment Promotion Programs

In the course of 2010 priority was given to employment promotion programs. These programs are developed in line with law no. 9374, dated 21.04.2005 "On state aid". Work has gone for the formulation of by-legal acts for employment promotion programs based on the agenda of the Government. In concrete terms there is a plan for a new decision of Council of Ministers for promoting youth employment.

In cooperation with the project for "Strengthening of the employment service and vocational training in the National Employment Service" funded by the Government of Italy, and implemented by ILO there is now in place a methodology for the evaluation and monitoring of employment promotion programs. There are in place instructions for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the active labour market programs for persons at risk to be excluded from the labour market, together with the respective training of the relevant specialists. For the process of monitoring funds are going to come from the state budget.

In the course of this period, special importance was attached to the organization of job fairs, which are organized by the Employment Offices, in close cooperation with the Chambers of Commerce, business community, universities etc. The fairs have served for creating connections between the labour market demand and supply, and the introduction in the labour market of the youngsters who have just graduated.

For 2010 the state budget allocated 150 million Lek for employment promotion programs, which are being implemented by the National Employment Service, through the Employment Offices, in four existing programs, as follows:

- Employment promotion programs for female unemployed jobseekers (in line with DCM No. 632, dated 18.09.2003, amended). For this program in 2010, 21 million Lek were spent for the continuation of employment of 407 women. (The program is in its third year of implementation);
- Employment promotion program through on-job training (in line with DCM no. 47, dated 16.01.2008). This program helped in the employment of 700 unemployed jobseekers, of whom 500 are females, with a fund of 59 million Lek;
- Program for promotion of employment of unemployed jobseekers in distress (in line with DCM no. 48, dated 16.01.2008). Currently, the number of beneficiaries from this program is 401, with a fund of 20 million Lek;
- Program of vocational practice for unemployed jobseekers who hold a university degree either from a domestic university, or a foreign one (in line with DCM No. 873, dated 27.12.2006). During 2010, this program employed 480 unemployed jobseekers, who are university graduates, with a fund of 28 million Lek.

During 2010 the total number of employed jobseekers through the above mentioned programs was 1988.

The Project “Employment and youth migration” is a project funded by the Spanish government, and in cooperation with INSTAT work is underway for improving labour market statistics.

Passive programs/Unemployment benefit

In August 2010 a Decision of Council of Ministers No. 697, dated 18.08.2010 was enacted “On assigning a basic level for unemployment benefit”, which is in line with the commitments in the context of ILO International Convention No. 168 “Promotion of employment and protection against unemployment”, and which is ratified by the Albanian Parliament. Article 14 of this Convention provides that unemployment benefit should not be less than 50% of the minimum wage at the country level. The current unemployment benefit amount is 6.565 Lek, compared to 6.340 Lek which was before that.

During 2010 (January – November) were registered with the employment offices 73 105 female unemployed jobseekers, of whom 41 unemployed jobseekers are women victims of trafficking in the cities of Vlora and Tirana. The latter benefit from the employment mediation services, vocational training/formation counselling, and other services offered by the staff of the employment offices.

4.2. Vocational training (special groups)

There are now in place analytical and synthetic data regarding vocational training in the vocational training courses delivered by the public centres. During this period in the centres were registered approximately 7.000 persons, of whom approximately 5.600 persons are accredited/certified. Of this number, 3.004 are females, whereas the total number unemployed jobseekers registered with the employment offices that have attended vocational courses was 1.450 persons, of whom 444 persons were able to find an employment, following these courses. The relevant documentation for the subjects that have applied to be licensed as vocational training providers is being reviewed. During the reporting period, approximately 180 subjects that had applied with the National Licensing Centre were licenced as vocational training providers.

During January – October 2010, at the country level were trained at the RDVT approximately 3610 women in different vocational courses. Out of the special groups, which include the victims of trafficking, have already obtained vocational training 796 female unemployed jobseekers, of whom 562 with reduced tariffs and 169 unemployed female jobseekers who obtained the service for free. During this period, from the group of women victims of trafficking have benefited from free of charge vocational training 26 unemployed jobseekers in the cities of Tirana, Durrës and Vlore.

In some other regions, instead, participation in vocational training courses was enabled in cooperation with non-governmental agencies support as well. Thus, in the region of Lezha, 129 persons from different age groups have participated in 11 vocational training courses. Following a one month training course, out of 23 interviewed women, 17 are now self-employed. Whereas in the region of Korça, at the regional labour office are registered 9 children, mainly boys for attending courses in furniture making business and hotel services and 35 unemployed women jobseekers from the Roma and Egyptian communities. Along the same lines, this office has supported 27 persons, mainly women heads of households, and 100 unemployed jobseekers, in order to ensure their enrolment in vocational training courses. Whereas the Regional Directorate of Vocational Training and the Red Cross, Korça affiliate have organized vocational training courses for 10 women from the Roma and Egyptian communities.

Currently, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO) is working on the adoption of a draft-law "On some additions and changes to Law No. 8872, dated 29.03.2002 "On vocational education and training in the Republic of Albania". This draft-law was drafted by a joint working group of the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education and Sciences, with support from international expertise from the project "Support for the reform in the area of vocational training education (VET)" Phase II, funded by the EU in the context of CARDS program.

5. Education

Education of vulnerable groups, in particular of children and youth, has been yet another important direction for the focus of prevention in the course of 2010. If we take a look at the measures taken in the course of the reporting, according to the categories of beneficiaries, we might say that efforts are focused on:

- Reducing school drop-out (the program called "The second chance");
- Education of ethnic minorities; and
- Education of children in blood feud.

5.1. Continuation of efforts for increasing enrolment in mandatory education /and reducing school drop-out

The Program "The second chance" is currently ongoing and is being monitored for all children that have dropped out of school. During the school year 2009-2010, the project included 29 schools of the country, with 62 classrooms, attended by 513 children of mandatory education of whom 310 children or otherwise put 60.4% are from the Roma community.

In addition, all RED²⁶ and EO²⁷ have organized training sessions with teachers that work with students that have dropped out of school, or who have this tendency. The teachers work with special programs to this end, in order to raise the awareness of parents about the importance of education. At every, RED/EO there is an assigned specialist in charge of issues of education for marginalized groups, in order to alleviate the phenomenon of illiteracy and school dropout.

In concrete terms, in the region of Lezha, in the context of the program "The second chance" there are 19 special classes with a total of 172 students. The number of Roma children enrolled in these classes is 70 or 30% of the total number of students. School attendance for the special schools was enabled in cooperation with the society of Marianists in "Saint Nicholas" youth centre. This organization has also helped in supplying teaching supplies such as: school bags and other school materials for 70 Roma students, while their families were given an allowance of 3000 Lek and food for every child.

26 Education directorates of the region (translator's note)

27 Education offices (translator's note)

In the region of Dibra, the Regional Education Directorate (RED) of Dibra has paid special attention to school enrolment aspects. Also, in line with the objectives established by the Ministry of Education and Sciences for “Zero drop-out” there is in place an action plan which this Directorate monitors every month. In 2010 there was a substantial decrease of the drop-out phenomenon among students below 16 years old. According to the reports, the number of students that have dropped out and which in the opinion of this Directorate could be a potential source of trafficking is a total of 109 students, of whom 75 are girls. In cooperation with the schools, and World Vision organization, this education directorate has managed to bring to school 7 children of the age of 13-14 years old.

In the region of Korça, Korça municipality has identified 103 children from 4 schools in the outskirts of the city, coming from households with social problems. The children receive textbooks for free to be able to attend 9th grade school cycle, school kits, and school outfits so that they can attend school. Thanks to the work and coordination with actors of the Technical round table of RATC in Korça, 15 street children were brought back to school, in the special classes with the support of the foundation “Ndihmë për Femijet²⁸”.

In the region of Vlora there are 10 enrolled part-time beneficiaries who are accommodated in the shelter:

- 2 clients in the first grade of elementary school;
- 1 client in the third grade of elementary school;
- 1 client in the seventh grade of elementary school;
- 2 clients in the sixth grade of elementary school;
- 3 clients in high school;

5.2. Education access for ethnic minorities

In line with the action plan of the “Roma inclusion decade”, in the course of 2010, RED/EO, in order to ensure education access for the ethnic minorities, and to facilitate the conditions for the education of this community:

- They have put together an annual program for tracking and monitoring with priority the problems of education access for Roma children;
- In cooperation with school principals, local government, and the Roma community itself, RED/EO have been working for the preparation and completion of statistics that secure data for the education of the Roma community;
- In cooperation with school principals, local government, and the Roma community itself, RED/EO have been working for the identification of the number and location of Roma children of school age, coming up with the figures for those that do not attend school (age and classes that they have attended). This effort will make possible the identification of the accurate number of Roma children 3-5 years old, followed by measures for their enrolment in pre-school system, and giving priority to the children of the third group.

In cooperation with the Institute for the Development of Education (IZhA) are planned and are being organized training sessions for and with the teachers on teaching/learning in an integrated diverse multi-cultural environment. The specialists of the Institute (IzhA), in cooperation with UNICEF and Save the Children have organized training of teachers on: history and culture of the Roma population; methodologies used in the inclusion of students and children from Roma community in school; curricula for addressing cases focusing on Roma, etc. Only in the course of 2010 were trained 456 teachers.

In the same context, the regional education directorate (RED) in Shkodra during 2010 has been taking concrete measures related to prevention of trafficking of children. There is concrete evidence about a substantial decline in the phenomenon of school drop-out. There are concrete

28 Help for the children (translator’s note)

projects going on about the enrolment of the children from the Roma community in schools, whereby the number of students only in the last two years has increased by approximately 100 students.

In the region of Gjirokastra, in the context of Roma Inclusion Decade, efforts have been made for the inclusion of the members of this community in the social assistance schemes, and also providing them with information. There are currently 47 Roma children who are enrolled and are attending 9th grade education.

5.3. Access to education for children of households in in blood feud

Education of children belonging to households in in blood feudis in line with the Instruction on access to education for children in self-isolation because of the phenomenon of blood feud. All children whose school is more than 2 km from their permanent residence are provided with free transportation (16500 students benefit from this service).

Thus, RED of Dibra has made possible the service of transportation for the children from their home to the school and vice-versa. There are 12 transportation service lines that provide transportation services to 750 students.

In line with the decision about financial quota/allowance for food in the canteens of the boarding-schools, state scholarship and payments for students in the public education institutions for the school year 2009-2010, priority was given to scholarships for students coming from vulnerable groups.

5.4 Raising awareness of the children already in the school system

In the course of 2010 work has been going on for raising the awareness of children and youth in schools regarding trafficking of human beings, domestic violence, positive education etc. the school curricula in 9th grade education and classes 10 and 11 of secondary education allows for addressing specific topics with the students, and this has enabled the inclusion of information about child rights and their security in schools and outside, and on other free topics such as trafficking of human beings. This is made possible through:

- “Social and civic education”, which begins since the first grade and continues until the fifth in the elementary school cycle. This is about categories of children rights based on the Child Rights Convention;
- “Civic education” in grades VI – IX, which focuses on human rights, addressing these rights in relation with the group, community, education of children in teaching them how to live in a democratic and global society;
- “Knowledge about the society” in third class of secondary school, social sciences. The purpose of the curricula is to inform the young generation about human rights and the negative phenomena that might affect their proper progress.

In order to come to concrete terms regarding enhancement of efforts of state structures regarding prevention of child trafficking, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education and Sciences signed in January 2011 a Cooperation Agreement “On information of 9th grade students with the knowledge about trafficking of human beings”. According to this agreement, there will be 2 (two) mandatory hours during the year to talk and discuss about trafficking of human beings in the curricula of 9th grade education, and to provide teacher training on these topics.

5.5. Institutionalization of “child protection” system in schools

Since April 2008 there is psychological counselling service available in pre-university education, kindergarten and schools. Each school has a PSS²⁹ service. There is also in place a support group for the psychologist composed of the school principal and two teachers. At the school level this is the group that addresses problems of children at risk of trafficking.

For the moment there are 190 psychologists for 37 RED/EO. In line with the agreement between the Ministry of Education and Sciences and TdH, in 5 regional education directorates in the country is ongoing the project for “Strengthening the role of the school in the support and protection of children in the school premises”. The project covers 160 9th grade schools. Meanwhile, there is in place a Manual on child protection, and it is being implemented in the schools of these 5 regional education directorates, and broader³⁰.

In the second semester of 2010 work has been going on with parents and students from Roma and non-Roma communities, in order to enhance their knowledge and understanding between Roma and non-Roma children. Social cross-cultural activities have been organized in 110 schools, where 370 activities organized with approximately 5800 participants.

From the examples in the field, in the region of Dibra in order to guarantee daily attendance, schools have been asked to keep regular contacts with the parents, in particular for the children on French leave. A special task befalls on the psychologist of the school who works with the children and their parents. In 2010, the number of psychologists placed in the schools of this region has increased³¹. In total, in the district of Dibra, psychological counselling is offered in 30 schools, covering a considerable number of school students.

There has been systematic work for the provision of parental counselling in schools and kindergartens for Roma parents, informing them about the right and obligations for the education development of their children such as:

- 294 teachers and specialists received training to provide counselling to parents from the Roma community;
- 23 RED/EO have organized 103 awareness raising campaigns with the participation of 995 parents from the Roma community;
- 230 teachers were trained in the sessions of teaching in a multi-cultural environment;
- There is increased participation of the parents from the Roma community in the school boards. Currently, parents from Roma community participated in 57 boards, with 87 participants.

The Ministry of Education and Sciences, in cooperation with UNICEF is working on launching a national plan on reduction of the number of cases of child abuse and violence, which aims at

29 School Psychologist Service.

30 In the course of 2010, the following activities were organized:

170 awareness raising sessions with the parents;

840 awareness raising and counselling sessions with the students;

987 ID files were opened for children with protection problems;

3 children have been referred to other local structures such as: child protection units in the municipalities, health centres etc.;

270 visits in the households of children with problems. The Ministry of Education and Sciences is working to expand and pilot further the good experience.

31 Thanks to the cooperation with the NGO “Partners for children”, the psychological counselling service is now available in the schools of Luzni, Katund i Ri, Muhurr, Hurdhë, Sllovë, Ploshtan, and Radomirë.

increasing the number of new positive practises of discipline, while avoiding or reducing forms of violence in the school premises. To the same end, another well-known organization, World Vision has organized in the region of Dibra trainings with 59 teachers from the schools of three communes in the district of Dibra about introduction of new methods of child discipline, and creating a friendly environment for them.³²

6. Institutionalization of protection and support mechanism at the local and regional levels for the vulnerable groups and those at risk of trafficking, as well as the identification and taking of preventive measures for individuals in need

6.1. The activity of Regional Anti-Trafficking Committees (RATC)

The Regional Anti-trafficking Committees have convened regularly and operate based on the recent instructions of the Minister of Interior of 2010, as regards coordination of anti-trafficking activities at the central and local levels. In the course of 2010 there is evidence of higher levels of commitment and better coordination among and between governmental agencies represented in technical round tables and between these agencies and NGOs and other active organizations that are active in the respective regions.

In terms of prevention, work has been going on for the identification of vulnerable groups, and their referral to the relevant respective services. Also, there have been topic meetings with girls and women from poor areas in order to raise their awareness regarding this phenomenon, and talks on local televisions in their fight against trafficking of human beings and domestic violence. There is an ongoing process of awareness raising at the community level regarding measures that need to be taken for the minimization of this phenomenon.

International organizations, as well as not for profit organization, which work inter alia on promotion and protection of children rights, such as: ILO-IPEC, UNICEF, Save the Children, WV, TdH, NPF, etc., have been strong supporters of the Regional Anti-Trafficking Committees (RATC), in terms of prevention of trafficking of human beings, and in particular trafficking of children. Through their support it has been possible the organization of awareness raising activities with children, for promoting their rights in their communities. Also, their project have made possible support for the enrolment of children in schools; education of children in self-isolation in their homes; vocational training of youth, and girls and women victims of trafficking.

Despite the work done by these Committees, in the course of 2010 there was not sufficient funding for these offices to go ahead with their obligations, and this continues to be the main obstacle in the proper accomplishment of these offices. This has been one of the main reasons for the committees limiting their work, mainly in those activities for which no funding is required. Their activities, and in particular the awareness raising activities, training or support for vulnerable groups were enabled mainly by the support of NGOs that are active in these regions.

³² During July- August 2010, with the support of WV was made possible sending **260 children** from **5-13 years old** in the summer camps of Lurë, while **400 additional children** were sent to the daily summer camps in the communes of Kastriot, Tomin and Maqellara, where the children in addition to entertainment were taught about their rights.

6.2. Improving birth registration by a combination of promotion systems, ensuring free of charge registration for low income households, by improving cooperation between health institutions and civil status offices, and by ensuring close cooperation NGOs of Roma communities

Since the first months of 2010, with the initiative of the National Coordinator in the fight against trafficking (ONAC) joint meetings were organized between the Ministry of Interior and NGOs that are active in the areas of protection of children at risk of trafficking, or children victims of trafficking, inter alia to facilitate the process for the registration of citizens “with no identity”. These meetings have taken place every month. In April 2010, it was deemed necessary for the formulation of an Order of the Minister of Interior regarding referral and registration of the birth act of persons that are not registered in the National Registry of Civil Status. During 2010 was made possible referral of 24 old unregistered cases; administration of 23 cases; the registration proceedings were initiated for 23 cases and in only 1 case was it returned to the court for the verification of the birth act. All instances have been settled administratively, and only when this was not possible the case has been sent to court.

Also, in terms of improving registration, the Ministry of Health through its reporting structures conveys the lists of births periodically to the Civil Status Offices.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1. In the area of protection of children from child labour

In the area of protection of children from labour, abuse and exploitation, ILO-IPEC, in cooperation with MoLSAEO, MoES, Mol and their reporting institutions, the local government, social partners, and NGOs are focused on strengthening institutional capacities and human resources at the national and local levels for the collection, analyses of data, formulation, review and enforcement of legislation and policies in the area of child protection from labour, abuse and exploitation. In addition, with the view to ensure institutionalization of the multi-disciplinary model of the System for Protection of Children from child labour, through the legal framework, on November 11 – 12, 2010, ILO/IPEC in cooperation with MoLSAEO/Directorate of Policies for Equal Opportunities and Family, organized a training on “Child labour, worst forms of child labour and the system for monitoring child labour”. In this meeting was launched the draft National Albanian Guidelines for elimination of worst forms of child labour.

The State Labour Inspectorate (SLI) in the course of 2010 has carried out inspections of different entities employing children. In the course of January-September 2010, the Inspectorate (SLI) identified 297 children below 18 years old, while for the same period during 2009 had been identified 237 children in working relations. Most of the identified children belong to 17 year old age group, i.e. 239 children, moving on to 42 children who were 16 years old, 14 children who were 18 years old, 1 child 15 years old and 1 child 14 years old. As regards to gender division, 239 are females and 58 males. In the majority of the cases, children have attended 9th grade education, i.e. 252 children, 22 have completed elementary education, 17 general secondary education and 6 children that have never gone to school.

The activities where these children are currently employed are:

- Manufacturing enterprises - 232 children
- Construction - 4 children
- Transport, warehousing, telecommunications - 6 children
- Other activities - 3 children
- Wholesale and retail trade - 35 children
- According to the sub-activity - 17 children

Out of the total number of identified children, 256 were employed with the authorization of the Inspectorate (SLI), whereas for 39 children no authorization had been issued. 258 children have undergone medical check-up, whilst 39 children have not, whereas in terms of social insurance, 278 are insured, while 19 were not.

The situation for the regions is as follows:

In the region of Durrës, in June 2010, with the initiative of TdH and with the coordination of the Prefect's office and the municipality of Durrës was organized a roundtable on child protection. The result of this round table was the enactment of an action plan focusing on street children. The action plan³³ aims at addressing and tracking the needs of this group cases by case.

In August 2010, in the municipality of Berat was set up "The Child Protection Unit". The CPU work is focused on children and the households in need, the establishment of the support and counselling network for these categories. In the region of Berat work has been ongoing for the identification of the children from Roma community. Below are data about their number according to the municipalities.

Municipality	Population	Orphan children	Drop outs	Street children	Unemployed
Berat	455	28	45	27	132
Kuçovë	533	24	24	15	94
Urë Vajgurore	72	-	7	-	-
Otllak	1018	20	20	-	-
Region	2078	79	96	42	226

In the Municipality of Shkodra, the Labour and Social Affairs Office has already built the bridges of cooperation with private entities for one-year employment of children from Roma community, and orphans. A 6 months project for the identification of children at risk, Roma children and mothers victims of abuse has provided assistance to approximately 26 children in need, vulnerable and at risk of trafficking. These children were able to receive the necessary services and assistance by the responsible sectors in the municipality.

7.2. Promoting Code of Conduct in Tourism

In context of further promotion of the Global Code of Ethics in Tourism and Code of Conduct of tourism industry, and raising the awareness of the members of the Albanian Tourism Association (ATA), the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports (MTCYS) has put these codes in its official website www.mtkrs.gov.al and in the webpage of ATA for restricted use by its members <http://ata.org.al/index.asp?id=469>. Also, the announcement and the link are part of the bulletin of June 2010, with a number of approximately 570 readers.

Meanwhile, the new draft law "On tourism" which is being drafted by MTCYS, through the relevant sub-legislation, will also include the Global Code of Ethics and Code of Ethics in the standards that need to be met by the accommodation units, tour operator and travel agencies.

³³ The first phase of this plan consisted in the social work in the streets for the identification of the children. In addition, to take the children from the streets, TdH and Durrës Municipality organized during July-August a summer camp for children victims of exploitation, and children at risk. The camp was supposed to accommodate 70 children, but in the course services were delivered to 150 children. Thanks to these integration activities in this camp, in September 40 children victims of exploitation returned to school.

7.3. Addressing the issues that lie at the core of trafficking (including poverty, and unemployment, discrimination of women, minorities, children, migrants and other vulnerable groups)

As regards social inclusion of ethnic minorities, the responsible governmental institutions in cooperation with the civil society organizations have worked in aspects of civil registration, education, enhancement of professional skills etc. thus, the Institute for Education Development (IED), in the context of the implementation of the action plan on “Roma Inclusion Decade” during June – August 2010 carried out a full-fledged study of the levels of teaching, preparation and qualification of teachers who work with children from the Roma community. The institute has also been working on the review of the content of the school curricula for pre-university education related to denigration or pejorative treatment in school textbooks and programs. In the same context, IED is developing a program for training and qualification, and a full-fledged legislation, accompanied with activities, publications and modules for training and qualification of teachers who work with Roma students.

Whereas, in some of the main districts of the country such as in Tirana, Elbasan and Fier there is ongoing support for the Roma community through implementation of small infrastructure projects, civil registration, professional courses, vocational courses, training of community mediators, and promotion of social inclusion. This was made possible through UNDP project “On empowering the communities in need”, which includes as direct beneficiaries more 1000 Roma and Egyptian families that live in Tirana, Fier and Elbasan, and is advocating for the cooperation with the central and local government for the social inclusion of minorities in need.

Also, to come to the assistance of repatriated emigrants now there is in place the National Strategy on Re-integration of Albanian Repatriated Citizens, and the action plan for 2010-2015. These documents were approved by DCM no. 461, dated 09.06.2010, and are aimed at ensuring sustainable repatriation by facilitating the process of re-integration, aiming at minimization migration cost, optimization of benefits and promoting the contribution of emigrants in the country’s economic development. This Strategy has been the bases of the work for improving the legal framework, for this category to be able to benefit from the implementation of active labour market policies and full re-integration services.

Two training sessions were organized with the participation of 84 migration personnel for the interview, identification of needs, provision of information and referral of repatriated Albanian citizens, including two employees for each migration unit.

8. Recommendations

- Awareness raising regarding trafficking and exploitation of children and adults for labour or sexual purposes should also focus on the clients;
- Continuing further with awareness raising campaigns, with the involvement of media and schools;
- Reducing child vulnerability, by creating an appropriate protective environment for them;
- Reducing school drop-out by fostering promotional systems;
- Raising awareness of the staff of school teachers as regards positive education of children through training and further qualification of teachers.
- Putting together educational programs that reiterate the importance of gender equity and respect for human rights;
- Ensuring effectiveness of employment promotion programs, in order to increase the number of beneficiaries from vulnerable categories.
- Funding from state budget of activities of the RATC in support of victims of trafficking.
- Planning of state funds in the communes and municipalities for the establishment and operation of social service centres for given groups of population, and for conducting activities

in the anti-trafficking area.

- Involvement and commitment of the governmental structures in support of employment and social inclusion of orphan children, who complete mandatory education and seek employment.
- Identification through the civil registration of the Roma community and other cultural minorities;
- Further training of border and migration police, and anti-trafficking police for the identification of cases of internal trafficking.

ANNEX I – Training sessions with the Police, Prosecution and Courts on Trafficking in Human Beings

Trainings according to the dates and topics:

- In line with Joint Instruction of the Attorney General and the Minister of Interior of 12.04.2010 “On planning, coordination, organization and running of training activities”, three joint training sessions have taken place, with the participation of 75 police officers of anti-trafficking structures, border police, prevention of crime and domestic violence;
- Also, in cooperation with the Department for Police Training several training sessions were organized with representatives from all anti-trafficking structures, providing training to approximately 54 police officers/staff. The topics of these training sessions included: investigation techniques, problems encountered during investigation, and interview of victims of trafficking, and their referral in line with the National Referral Mechanism;
- Border and Migration Police, in cooperation with IOM, ONAC and SAIT have provided training to 80 staff of RDBM (Tirana, Durrës, Korça, Gjirokastra and Kukës) in enabling them to use TIMS and the procedures for interviewing of citizens repatriated by the police of other countries;
- In cooperation with IOM and State Social Service (SSS), in the course of February-march 2010 joint training sessions were organized for the structures of anti-trafficking police, border police, domestic violence and crime prevention in the regions of Kukës, Korça, Saranda and Gjirokastra; 66 persons were trained;
- In line with Order No. 1/256, dated 09.03.2010 of the General Director of Police, a training session was organized on “Criminal procedural legislation for minors. Techniques of interviewing minors victims of criminal activity”. Training was provided by the Vocational Training Centre, with the participation of 25 staff from the police of the structures for the protection of minors and domestic violence and structures of crime prevention and policing in the community;
- In line with Order No. 1/118, dated 09.03.2010 of the Department for Police Training, training sessions were organized on “treatment and protection of the victims of domestic violence. Becoming familiar with the respective legislation”. Trainings were organized in the police directorates of the regions of Dibra, Kukës, Berat and Gjirokastra. Each activity was attended by 20-25 police staff of the structures for the protection of minors and domestic violence and structures of crime prevention;
- In the context of the project for “Promotion and consolidation of restorative justice” training sessions were organized in the regional police directorates of Vlora, Gjirokastra and Korça. These activities were organized in partnership with the Foundation for “Dispute and conflict settlement through mediation”. The topics of the training sessions included “the role of the Police in prevention and settlement of conflicts, including minors”. Each activity was attended by 20-25 police staff of the structures for the protection of minors and domestic violence and structures of crime prevention;
- 11-12 January, 2010 and 14-15 January 2010 – Training on “Assistance for victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings. The rights and services for victims and witnesses”. The training was attended by judges, prosecutors, police officers, and students of the School of Magistrates, in total 49 persons;
- 13-14 January 2010 – Training on “Legal relations with foreign authorities. Becoming

familiar with international legislation. Jurisdictional relations with foreign authorities in the civil area”;

- 16-17 March, 2010 - Training on “acknowledgment and execution of international court rulings, the impact of international conventions, and bilateral accords and agreements. The jurisprudence of the Supreme Court. Jurisdictional relations with foreign authorities in the penal field”;
- 29 – 30 March, 2010 - Training on “subpoena in criminal proceedings and aspects of court practise related to their value or power of evidence”;
- 13-14 April, 2010 - Training on “Theoretical and practical aspects of financial crime, in line with international conventions. Crime products laundry and criminal offence committed by commercial associations or companies”;
- 13-14 April, 2010 – Training on “Cases related to provisions of law No. 10193, dated 03.12.2009 “On jurisdictional relations with foreign authorities in criminal cases, and its practical implementation by the chains of the justice system,” organized by the Ministry e Justice in cooperation with the Council of Europe, with the support of PROSECO project;
- 23 April, 2010 – Training on “Respecting rights of victims in process. The right to compensation. International standards and current legislation and practise in Albania”. The training was attended by 11 judges and prosecutors;
- 18 June 2010 – Training on “Theoretical and practical aspects of trafficking of human beings and court practise. Issues related to illegal border crossing. Theoretical and practical aspects from the perspective of international conventions”. Participants in this training included 18 judges, prosecutors, legal counsellors and lawyers;
- 20-21 October, 2010 and 15-16 December 2010 – Training on “The right to compensation and other fundamental rights of victims of trafficking of human beings, what the law provides for, and how the situation in practise is.” The training was attended by 35 judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

Annex II – Table containing data for 2010 on cases related to trafficking of human beings tried by the first instance courts for serious crimes

N/R	No. Of the act	charges (article according to penal code	No. of plaintiff	Date registered at the first instance court for serious crimes	No. & dt. of court ruling	First instance court ruling (in terms of years)	Time of trial at first instance court
1	1	Traf. women 114/b-2	1	04.07.06	decision No.15 Dt. 23.04.2010	11 years + 4 mil L fine	3-4 years (the trial took this long due to procedural issues)
2	16/50/24	Traf. child 128/b-2	1	14.11.08	decision No.2 Dt. 01.02.2010	15 years of prison	1 year and 3 months
3	17/53	Traf. women 114/b-2	4	04.12.08	Court ruling No.13 Dt.19.04.2010	10 years of imprisonment 10 years of imprisonment 10 years of imprisonment 10 years of imprisonment	1 year and 4 months
4	18/53/139	Traf. women 114/b-2	1	19.12.08	=	=	Pending trial
5	24/80/47	Traf. women 114/b-1 114/a-5	2	04.03.09	Court ruling No.9 Dt.24.03.2010	7 years + 3 mil L fine. 7 years of imprisonment	1 year
6	27/91	Traf women 114/b-3	1	28.05.09			Pending trial
7	35/113	Traf. women 114/b-3	3	27.07.09	Court ruling No.44 Dt.01.12.2010	10 years of imprisonment 10 years of imprisonment 9 years of imprisonment	1 year and 2 months
8	46/129	Traf. women 114/b-3	1	26.11.09			Pending trial
9	51/134	Traf. women 114/b-3	1	15.12.09	Dt. 29.03.2010	procedural documents are returned to the prosecution	4 months (under investigation)

10	54	Traf. women 114/b-2	1	14.01.10	Court ruling No.46 Dt 06.12.2010	innocent	6 months
11	67	Traf. women 114/b-2	1	22.06.10			Pending trial
12	78	Traf. women 114/b-3	1	20.09.10			Pending trial
13	84	Traf. child 128/b-2	3	26.10.10			Pending trial
14	93	Traf. women 114/b-3	1	06.12.10			Pending trial
15	94	Traf. Human beings /women 114/a,b-1	1	07.12.10			Pending trial
16	95	Traf. women 114/b-3	1	07.12.10			Pending trial
17	97	1 - 109/1, 110/1	1	16.12.10			Pending trial
18	107	Traf. child 128/b-3	1	30.12.10			Pending trial
19	110	Exploit. Prostitution 114/a5,6	1	31.12.10		For this case there has been a change in the legal qualification from 114/b to 114/a 5,6	Pending trial
Total	19		27				

Annex III – Table containing data for 2010 on cases related to trafficking of human beings adjudicated by the appellate court for serious crimes

Case according to the articles of the penal code and date of registration in the court	No. & data of court ruling	No. Pers. Condemned according to first instance court for serious crime	Punishment in years	Court ruling by appellate court for serious crimes	Time of trial at the appellate court
Traf. of women 16.12.2009	Court ruling No. 9 05.02.2010	2 - 114/b3	15 years + 6 mil. L fine 15 years + 6 mil. L fine	the verdict of first instance court is left in effect	2 - 3 months
Traf. of human beings 25.01.2010	Court ruling No. 22 29.03.2010	1 - 110/a2	15 years	verdict of first instance court left in effect	2 - 3 months
Traf. i fem. 05.03.2010	Court ruling No. 33 21.06.2010	1 - 128/b2	15 years	Mospranim ankimi	2 - 3 months
Traf. of women 09.04.2010	Court ruling No. 28 28.05.2010	1 - 114/b1 1 - 114/a5	7 years + 3 mil. L fine. 7 years	verdict of first instance court left in effect	2 - 3 months
Traf. of women 30.04.2010	Court ruling No. 29 01.06.2010	1 - 114/b3	procedural documents returned to prosecution	verdict of first instance court left in effect	2 - 3 months
Traf. of women 18.05.2010	Court ruling No. 36 29.06.2010	1 - 114/b1	11 years + 4 mil. L fine.	Mospranim ankimi	2 - 3 months
Traf. of women 01.06.2010	Court ruling No. 55 26.10.2010 (change of the legal qualification for 2 persons 109/a-25)	4 - 114/b1	10 years 10 years 10 years 10 years	10 years 10 years 5 years -109/a25 5 years -109/a25	4 - 5 months
Traf. of women 24.11.2010	Pending trial	1 - 114/b1	8 years + 3 mil. L fine.	Pending trial	-
Traf. of women 25.11.2010	Pending trial	1 - 114/b1	11 years + 3 mil. L fine.	Pending trial	-
Total: 9		14	7 – 15 years of imprisonment 3 – 6 million L. globe		2-5 months

ANNEX IV – Children victims of crimes and other illegal activities in the course of 2010

No.	Structures and Criminal offences According to the tendencies	Age
		Until 18 years old
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
I	structures against serious crimes	119
1	<i>crimes against life</i>	65
a	Murder	18
b	Not meditated murder	6
c	tentative murder	41
2	<i>crimes against health</i>	52
3	<i>crimes against the freedom of the individual</i>	2
II	structures against illicit trafficking	27
1	Trafficking of human beings	0
2	Trafficking of women	0
3	Trafficking of minors	1
4	Trafficking of vehicles	0
5	Trafficking of guns and ammunitions	0
6	Others	6
7	Prostitution	20
III	Crime Investigation & Prevention Structures	315
1	sexual crimes	45
2	serious threat for revenge or blood feud	0
3	threatening	43
4	Minor premeditated wounding	104
5	Others from investigation and Prevention	62
6	Others from life and health	61
IV	road traffic structures	118
1	Children victims of violation of rules of road traffic	118
V	domestic violence	
1	Children victims of domestic violence	120
-	total	699