

OSCE: 16th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons

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Presented by: Valbona Hystuna
Child Protection Officer



The phenomenon and its manifestations in Greece

- Since '90s: rapid increase in the number of children of Albanian origin “working” on the streets of Greek cities.
- Children trafficked in Greece by family “friends” or by their own family. Forced begging, bad living conditions, victims of violence.
- Since 2007: Integration of Bulgaria and Romania in the EU. Expansion of the phenomenon to include Roma populations from the respective countries.

The phenomenon and its manifestations in Greece

- ❑ Pickpocket activities from teenagers from Albania, Romania and Bulgaria. A large number of girls from Bulgaria.
- ❑ Mothers with babies from Romania.
- ❑ Pregnant women from Bulgaria (illegal adoption).
- ❑ Young ladies in sexual exploitation from Bulgaria.

The phenomenon and its manifestations in Greece

- Refugee and migrant minors: unaccompanied and accompanied from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, etc.

Phenomenon & Responses

- ❑ Phenomenon develops both internationally & internally
- ❑ Related to unsafe environment
- ❑ Third party and parents exploitation
- ❑ Roma children and refugee minors most vulnerable

Child story

Agron came illegally to Greece twice within a year. In the first time, he came with a man who had his father consent. His 15-years-old cousin was also with him.

In the second time, he was accompanied by another man, his neighbor in Albania with whom he walked for one day into the forest and afterwards went up on a boat and thus reached Athens. He was compelled to work on the street, because his family needed money. The man that “hosted” him was beating him continuously, because he did not earn enough money.

Child story

Blaga, 13 y.o. girl from Bulgaria came in Greece with her “father in law”. Her “husband” would come later.

They traveled legally by his car. Blaga’s parents signed a warrant to him in order to accompany her during vacations in Greece.

They used to stop in many villages and cities among the Greek-Bulgarian border where Blaga earned money from pickpocketing. Also, Blaga’s “father in law” introduced her to many gentlemen in order to earn money. Her “husband” never came and she escaped him notifying the local police.

Issues to be addressed

- Comprehensive projects, seek durable solutions for the child.
- ❑ Prevention.
- ❑ Outreach work (native speaker workers, mixed teams)
- ❑ Empowerment of the family and the child

Issues to be addressed

- ❑ Lack of National Referral Mechanism
(difficulties in collaboration with state actors)
- ❑ Lack of welfare capacities (shelters, day centers etc.) to address and host cases detected on the streets.
- ❑ Bilateral collaboration

Bilateral Collaboration

- ❑ Bilateral Agreement between Albania-Greece set up in 2008 (Bilateral meeting in June 2009)
- ❑ Bilateral meetings between Bulgaria-Greece in Sep. 2011 and March 2012
- ❑ Transnational meeting between Greece-Albania-Bulgaria-Romania in March 2015



THANK YOU!