



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
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Trafficking in human beings**

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HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

- Warsaw, 24 September to 5 October 2007 -

Honourable ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank you most sincerely, for the invitation to this meeting and would like to greet you in the name of Coordinator for combating against Trafficking in Human Beings Republic of Serbia, then in the name of Border Police Department and in my personal name.

In a next seven minutes, I will try to present you a problem of human-trafficking in the Republic of Serbia, especially when we are talking about trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, Then, I will tell something about legislation, international (meaning Conventions) and domestic (Constitution and Penal Code) and all other forms of legislation which are connected with protection of the victims of human trafficking (regulations, instructions, etc.).

It is considered today that trafficking in people is one of profitable forms of organised crime along with drug trafficking, and that it is one of the worst consequences of globalisation. The term means getting people across state borders or transporting them within a country for the purpose of exploitation. Transportation, treating people like a commodity and illegal profit are the elements of this term, which has gained a new connotation in contemporary designations and has, to a large degree, replaced the notions of slavery and forced labour. The process of globalisation and contemporary migration trends have given an old phenomenon a new scope and new characteristics, whereas the perspective of human rights and the rights of the child have provided a new understanding of its various causes which require a systematic reaction of each individual country and the international community.

Contemporary definitions emphasise three constitutive elements in the understanding of trafficking in human beings:

- the process preceding exploitation: the recruitment, transportation, removal, hiding or accommodation of persons;
- the means of controlling the victims such as threats or the use of force or other forms of construction, kidnapping, deceit, fraud, abuse of power or of a state of being endangered, the giving or taking of money or privileges in exchange for getting the consent of a person who has control over another person;
- the forms of exploitation, including exploitation for the purpose of prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or a practice similar to slavery, submission or the removal of organs.

Trafficking in human beings may be conducted between different countries, which is usually referred to as across-the-border trafficking, or it may be conducted as internal trafficking, within the boundaries of a single country.

Trafficking occurs when, in the context of exploitation and control over another person, persons are transported from their place of origin to their final destination. Trafficking is not an isolated act but rather a combination or sequence of events, involving both legal and illegal activities, in the victim's place of origin, at transit points and at the final destination. It is possible to use very different means of luring victims into trafficking: persuasion, fraud, threats and duress. The exploitation of a relocated person turns this sequence of events into trafficking. Exploitation may occur at the beginning, in the course of or at the end of the process of trafficking.

The Constitution (Article 26) and The Penal Code of The Republic of Serbia forbid all the forms of exploitation, sexual and labour. Serbian Constitution in its article 26 stipulates that no one can be held in slavery or in position similar to slavery, and every form of human trafficking and forced labor is forbidden.

In the last few years, there is a growing number of special form of human-trafficking, which is trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. These are mostly the cases concerning children trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. Only in the last four months, we had three such cases. Unquestionably, this is a new challenge, risk and threat for the state's struggle against human trafficking.

Trafficking in human beings, especially children is a complex phenomenon. Trafficking in children represents a special form of abuse and violation of the rights of the child. Various international and regional initiatives have created a context in which states are encouraged to improve the national legislation as regards the protection of the rights of the victims of trafficking in human beings and to develop a framework for a coordinated effort on the part of institution of victims of trafficking, providing assistance and rehabilitation, participation in legislative processes, return to the community of origin or integration in the new surroundings.

The approach to trafficking in human beings based on human rights presupposes a normative basis founded on international human rights standards and focused on protecting the rights of victims of trafficking in the countries of origin and destination. The priority of respecting human rights and the rights of the child is broadly accepted today as the basic principle of responding to the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings.

Certainly, the most jeopardized (vulnerable) categories are women and children, which can very easily become the victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. Therefore, every state should take decisive measures to decrease the risk of trafficking, through the improvement of social and economical conditions for these jeopardized categories, and through developing strategies to decrease poverty.

The majority of child victims of trafficking come from underdeveloped economically unstable and poor regions of the world. The traditional norms and cultural practices of some social groups also create favourable conditions for trafficking in children. In many countries, girls are not sent to school or their education lasts for considerably shorter period of time; as a consequence of this, they are forced to accept poorly paid jobs, which greatly diminishes their chances to achieving economic independence. Customs connected to contracting marriage that exist in many cultures such as arranged marriage, the provision of dowry and "buying the bride" lead parents to invest less in female children. The result of this discriminatory practice is that a many female children do not have much choice in their immediate environment once they reach the age of puberty. **These circumstances increase the risks of trafficking and exploitation of girls and young women.**

Apart from the general social and cultural conditions, there exist circumstances which increase the vulnerability of children in certain families or social groups. Many research projects indicate

that children in single-parent families are exposed to a greater risk of trafficking than children who have both parents.

Many reports and analyses point out Roma children and children who beg and work in the streets as particularly vulnerable groups, a high percentage of the latter also are Roma. The Roma are the poorest ethnic group in Europe, to a great extent excluded from the main social developments throughout the history of Europe. IN Roma children, we may observe the accumulation of risk factors contributing to trafficking such a poverty, lack of education, gender discrimination and the acceptability of chil labour. Many Roma live in unhygienic settlements, the hygienic and nutritional habits of children are often below the level considered as minimum.

The complexity of the position and needs of the Roma as a minority national group in Serbia, and especially the needs of Roma children, require developed strategic principles and measures for suppressing poverty, overcoming discrimination and marginalisation for the purpose of improving the general position, living conditions, affirmation and inclusion of the Roma in society. In these respect, measures and activities aimed at suppressing trafficking in human beings and children are part of overall social efforts aimed at preotecting the rights and improving the living and development conditions of children in society. Specific measures for the prevention and suppression of trafficking in human beings in the Roma population should be properly adjusted to the measures for suppressing poverty and protecting human and minority rights. Failin this, the achievements of the above activities necessarily remain modest, and the Roma are stuck with a new label that contributes to the further marginalisation of this ethnic group.

Measures that states undertake against trafficking in human beings should not influence the rights and the dignity of the child victim, bud should protect the child from further exploitation and injnuries by providing adequate health, social and psychological care and assistance.

Activities aimed at suppressing the negative phenomena connected with trafficking in human beings such as ilegal migration, child labour, moonlighting or forcede labour, prostitutuion and organised crime, are part of the efforts of contemporary states to control ilegal or unwanted phenomena and to ensure safety in the country. These efforts may be designated as repressive strategies in fighting trafficking in human beings.

The strategies focus on measures for reducing poverty, overcoming cultural, ethnic, gender or age discrimination and marginalisation in employment, education and social status. Also of importance are activities pertaining to informing the risk group of adults and children so as to empower them for choices and decision that could help overcome their problems and prevent victimisation.

Effective fighting against trafficking in human beings presupposes human rights and the child rights perspective in the work of state organs and services, the establishment of a legal framework which makes possible the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking and the cooperation of governmental and non-governmental organisations and services in the prevention and suppression of trafficking, the prosecution of perpetrators, the provision of legal and social protection and the rehabilitation of victims.

The Penal Code of The Republic of Serbia incriminates all special forms of trafficking in children:

- trafficking in children for the purpose of sexual exploitation, child pornography and paedophilia,
- trafficking in children for the purpose of exploitation of child labour,
- trafficking in children for the purpose of begging,
- trafficking in children for the purpose of criminal activities,
- trafficking in children for the purpose of adoption,
- trafficking in children for the purpose of contracting marriage,
- trafficking in children for the purpose of participating in armed conflicts and
- trafficking in children for the purpose of selling organs.

For the last few years, there were many educations about trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, but none for the purpose of labour exploitation, which is now very important, I mean, primary. What is necessary are general and specialised educational programmes on the rights, needs and mechanisms of protection of child victims of trafficking and exploitation aimed at experts in the police, the judiciary, health care, social welfare and education. On the introductory level, the educational programmes should aim to sensitise experts and enable them to recognise trafficking in children as a special form of crime and abuse of children. Specialised inter-agency educational programmes are focused on establishing cooperation in the identification of and the provision of assistance to children, be it

children at risk or child victims of trafficking, and are mostly aimed at the police, social welfare services and relevant non-governmental organisations. The training and specialisation of the police and judiciary for work on cases involving children as victims of any form of exploitation, including violence in the family, abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking in children, is the necessary prerequisite for establishing an efficient system of protection. It is necessary to prescribe minimum standards for the training of professionals involved in providing assistance and legal protection to children.

1. LEGISLATION

The UN Convention against transnational organized crime is aimed at promoting international cooperation of police and judicature, to achieve a goal - suppression and barring of transnational organized crime. Convention is legally binding for countries which ratified it.

The Republic of Serbia has signed the UN Convention against transnational organized crime, the Protocol for prevention, suppression, and punishment of trafficking in human beings, women and children in particular, and the Protocol against migrants' smuggling by land, sea, air, amending this Convention, adopted in Palermo, December 12-15, 2000.

- Laws related to combating illegal migration and trafficking of human beings are:

Law on confirmation of the UN Convention against transnational organized crime and additional Protocols, adopted and ratified by Serbian Government, which are:

1) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

2) Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Published in "Official gazette of FRY – International agreements", No. 6 / 2001

3) Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

4) **UN Convention of the Rights of the Child**, adopted by the UN General Assembly on November 1989,

5) **Convention concerning Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour**, adopted by the International Labour Organisation on 1999.

Published in “Official gazette of FRY – International agreements”, No. 11/2005

The state itself has the right to choose the modality of concrete implementation of the UN Convention in its national legislation, whether by direct implementation of international law standards, or by their implementation into national legislation.

The definition of human trafficking, contained in **Protocol for prevention, suppression and punishing of human trafficking, especially women and children**, was basis for, in achieving the goal of suppression human trafficking in Republic of Serbia, changes and amendments of Penal Code made in April 2003, by introduction of new article 111b and felony of “human trafficking”, which scopes every serious shapes of human trafficking.

As many problems were noticed through applying the article 111b of Penal Code, because that article was supposed to incriminate both the human trafficking and human smuggling, a need for new legislative solution and more precise definition of these acts emerged. Therefore, on 01.01.2006., a new Penal Code was enacted, which defined this subjects in articles **388 (felony of human trafficking)** and **350 (felony of illegal crossing of state border and human smuggling)**.

The Penal Code of the Republic of Serbia also sanctions other forms of human trafficking, that is crime connected to it: **Article 350. Illegal state border crossing and smuggling of people; Article 388. Trafficking in human beings; Article 389. Trafficking in children for the purposes of adoption; Article 390. Holding in Slavery and Transportation of Enslaved Persons** and other criminal offences, as well.

- Criminal code of Republic of Serbia (CCRS), published in Official gazette of Republic of Serbia No. 85/2005 and 107/2005.

Illegal state border crossing and smuggling of people

Article 350

(1) Whoever who crosses or tries to cross the state border of SM without a due permission, armed or using violence,

Shall be punished with imprisonment up to one year.

(2) The person who, intended to acquire for him/herself or for another material gain, provides to other person illegal SM border crossing or illegal stay or transit through SM, for a person who is not SM citizen,

Shall be punished with imprisonment from 3 months up to 6 years.

(3) If the act referred to in paragraph 2, has been committed by an organized group, by abusing one's office, or in a way that endangers life or health of the persons whose illegal SM state border crossing, stay or transit is being provided, or a great number of persons is being smuggled,

The perpetrator shall punished with imprisonment from 1 up to 10 years.

(4) The items intended for or used to commit criminal offence referred to in paragraph 1 to 3 of this article shall be confiscated.

Trafficking in human beings

Article 388

(1) Whoever by use of force or means of threats, by deception or perpetuation of deception, the abuse of power, trust or of a position of subordination or vulnerability of another person, by holding personal documents, giving or receiving money or another gain: recruits, transports, transfers, surrenders, sells, buys, acts as an intermediary in sale, conceal or keeps another person for the purpose of exploitation of labour, forcible labour, criminal activities, prostitution or other kinds of sexual exploitation, begging, for pornographic purposes, slavery or related relations, removal of organs or parts of body for exploitation in armed conflicts,

Shall be punished with imprisonment from 2 up to 10 years.

(2) For the offence from paragraph 1 of this article committed against a minor, the perpetrator will be duly punished even if he/she hasn't used any force, threat or some other of above mentioned ways of committing an offence.

(3) If the offence from paragraph 1 of this article is committed against a minor, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of at least three years.

- (4) If, due to the offence from para. 1 and 3 of this article, a severe bodily harm of a person was inflicted, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment from 3 up to 15 years.
- (5) If the offence from para. 1 and 3 of this article caused death of one or more persons, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of at least 10 years.
- (6) Whoever commits a criminal offence from para.1 to 3 of this article, or the offence has been committed by an organized group,
Shall be punished with imprisonment of at least 5 years.

Trafficking in children for the purposes of adoption

Article 389

- (1) Whoever takes away a person who is not 14 years old yet for the purposes of his/her adoption against present regulations, or whoever adopts that person or mediate at the adoption, or whoever for that purpose buy, sell or surrender another person who is not 14 years old yet, or transfers him/her, provide accomadation for him/her or conceals him/her,
Shall be punished with imprisonment from 1 up to 5 years.
- (2) Whoever carries out activities from para. 1 of this article, or the offence is committed by an organized group,
Shall be punished with imprisonment of at least 3 years.

Holding in Slavery and Transportation of Enslaved Persons

Article 390

- (1) Whoever in violation of international law enslaves another person or places a person in similar position, or holds a person in slavery or similar position, or buys, sells, hands over to another or mediates in buying, selling and handing over of such person or induces another to sell his freedom or freedom of persons under his support or care, shall be punished by imprisonment of one to ten years.
- (2) Whoever transports persons in slavery or other similar position from one country to another, shall be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years.
- (3) Whoever commits the offence specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article against a minor, shall be punished by imprisonment of five to fifteen years.

2. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In June 2002, the **Republic team for combating organized crime** was formed, and today it is consisted of representatives of judicature, relevant governmental structures, and non - governmental and international organizations.

In February 2004 the National Coordinator established the **Advisory Body** for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (henceforth referred to as the Advisory Body), the members of which are:

- the National Coordinator and his associates,
- coordinators of all working groups, and
- representatives of OSCE Mission, IOM and UNICEF.

- The Role of the Advisory Body

The key role of the Advisory Body is to assist and support the efforts of the National Coordinator regarding coordination and realization of measures and activities in the fight against trafficking in human beings. For that purpose, the Advisory Body is, through the working groups coordinators, in contact with other members of the Serbian Team in order to facilitate better communication and regular flow of information between the parties involved.

- The Tasks of the Advisory Body are:

1. initiating the specific measures and activities for fight against trafficking in human beings in accordance with strategic objectives;
2. authorizing programmes and convening meetings with donors in order to coordinate funding and avoid duplication and/or overlap of projects;
3. preparation of annual reports on the work of the Republic Team;
4. establishing minimum standards for the programmes of prevention, assistance, protection and victim reintegration;

5. facilitating the flow of information between the National Coordinator and working groups, and in accordance with that, a timely recognition of the potential overlaps and drawbacks;
6. reviewing the Action Plan on an annual basis and analyzing accomplished strategic objectives on a biennial level;
7. submitting proposals for amendments of or additions to the established strategic objectives to the Council to be considered and proposed to the Government, on the basis of the previous analysis of the Serbian Team work results and characteristics of trafficking in human beings in the country;
8. formulation and adoption of the Rule Book.

The Advisory Body meets every last week of the month, at the proposal of the National Coordinator. If necessary, the Advisory Body can meet more frequently, as well as at the proposal of the members of the Advisory Body.

In October 2004, Serbian Government passed the Decision on establishing the **Council for combating human trafficking**, as expert counseling governmental body. The Council was formed for coordination national and regional activities in combating human trafficking, examining reports of relevant international bodies in combating human trafficking, as well as taking positions and suggesting measures for conducting recommendations from international bodies in combating human trafficking. Council is consisted of Minister of Interior, Minister of Education and Sport, Minister of Finance, Minister of Labor, Employment and Social policy, Minister of Health and Minister of Justice.

On a national level, in December 2006, Serbian Government adopted “Strategy in combating human trafficking”. In cases of human trafficking, as well as in cases of human smuggling, a forced and cruel limitation of freedom may happen. One of the priorities of the Ministry of Interior is fighting organized crime, especially in segment of combating human trafficking and smuggling migrants. Having in mind those priorities, inside Criminal Police Directorate - Service for fighting against organized crime, Section for combating human trafficking and smuggling was fulfilled with personnel.

Inside Border Police Directorate, a specialized Department for suppression cross border crime and criminal intelligence was formed by a new systematization. In that department, there is a Section for suppression of illegal migration and human trafficking. Regional centers towards

neighbor countries and Belgrade Airport will also have units for suppression of illegal migration and human trafficking.

- Law Enforcement Forces

(1) **Criminal Police Directorate (CPD) which comprises the Organized Crime Suppression Service (OCSS) within which a Section for Human Trafficking Suppression (SHTS) was formed-** in charge for examination of human trafficking cases including organized crime elements. OCSS is in charge for the whole territory of the Republic of Serbia. CPD also comprises the International Police Cooperation Department and and National Central Bureau of INTERPOL in charge for data exchange on the human trafficking cases in order to conduct investigations, take up other measures and activities that are in the competence of criminal police and the MoI of the R of Serbia.

(2) **Border Police Directorate (BPD)- is in charge for state border protection, state border crossing control. In October 2004 a Section for illegal migrations and human trafficking suppression was formed. The new organization in Border Police stations and Regional Centres is aimed at transborder crime, illegal migrations and human trafficking suppression. At local level, within the Secretariats of internal affairs, the units dealing with border foreigners' issues started also dealing with illegal migrations and human trafficking issues.** It closely cooperates with with CPD and other organizational units of MoI of the Republic of Serbia. It is important to note that in 2005 Border Police started a gradual taking over of state border protection from the Army which provides possibility for overall efforts in illegal migrations and human trafficking suppression in Serbia;

(3) **Special police teams for combat against human trafficking in 34 Secretariats of internal affairs in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.** These teams consist of representatives of all operational working lines (criminal police, public order and peace police, traffic police and police for foreigners). The competence of these teams is local and they are engaged when a need occurs.

- Assistance, protection and reintegration of the victims of trafficking

(i) **Agency for the Coordination of Protection of Victims of Trafficking (henceforth referred to as the Agency)** – the Agency is a public institution and it represents a coordination centre responsible for organizing and providing all types of assistance for victims. At the same time, it functions as a service centre providing information available on medical, psycho-social and legal services relevant for the assistance to victims in the country and abroad.

The main task of the Agency is the first estimate of needs of (potential) victims of trafficking in human beings in Serbia and further organization and coordination of providing adequate help for them, which, among other things, includes:

- sending to shelters for victims of trafficking or finding adequate accommodation for them;
- providing necessary documents regarding the legal status of the victim (residence status and personal documents regulation);
- finding an adequate model of help to victims, including reintegration programmes;
- notifying victims about their rights, status and possibilities of recovery in our country;
- preparation of return to the country of origin;
- monitoring the process of reintegration of victims in our country.

The Agency cooperates on a daily basis with specialized non-governmental organizations, police, judiciary, professionals in the field of social work, and other professionals and organizations that look after the victims of trafficking in human beings.

The Agency personnel are available 24 hours a day every day, including holidays.

(ii) **Shelter of Closed Type for the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (NGO “Counseling Centre against Family Violence”)** – the Shelter was opened in February 2002 in Belgrade and it is intended for both national and foreign victims of trafficking. In the Shelter, it is possible for the victims to recover physically and mentally with the provision of medical, social and legal help. Current Shelter capacity is 15 places;

(iii) **Shelter for the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Process of Reintegration (NGO “Atina”)** – the Shelter was opened in April 2004 in Belgrade and it is

intended for national victims of trafficking who are in the process of reintegration. Current Shelter capacity is 6 places;

(iv) **SOS Hotline for the Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (NGO “Astra”)** – this is the first SOS Hotline in Serbia for the victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings, which started work in 2002. ASTRA provides legal, psychological and medical help for the victims of trafficking in human beings and their families free of charge. In addition to this, SOS Hotline provides information on legal departure abroad; it checks employment contracts through employment agencies, etc.

(v) **Agency for Assistance and Support to Crime Victims – Victimology Society of Serbia Info and Victim Support (NGO VSS)** – this Agency started work in July 2003. The Agency provides crime victims (including victims of trafficking) with emotional support, information about the rights belonging to the victims and the way in which they can realize these rights; it refers the victims to the competent authorities and NGOs depending on particular needs. Assistance and support are provided for the victims of violence- and property-related crimes (for persons of both sexes who are more than 14 years old as well as for the direct victims’ family members).

In Customs Administration of Serbia, within Enforcement Division, Anti-smuggling Department is responsible for fighting all forms of smuggling, including smuggling of human beings.

4. NATIONAL PRACTICE

Republic of Serbia inherited international legal obligations taken by signing UN Convention against transnational organized crime, and Protocol for prevention, suppression and punishing of human trafficking, especially women and children, as well as Protocol against smuggling migrants by land, sea and air, which complement this convention, adopted in Palermo in December 2000.

Serbian Constitution in its article 26 stipulates that no one can be held in slavery or in position similar to slavery, and every form of human trafficking and forced labor is forbidden.

Serbian **Labor Law** and **Law on employment conditions** for foreign citizens stipulate obligations and guarantee rights in a field of employment and labor.

Having in mind international and regional standards for protection victims of human trafficking, as well as our country's international obligations, **in 2004. Minister of Interior** has passed the **Instruction on conditions for approving temporary residence permit to foreign citizens - victims of human trafficking**. According to this instruction, law enforcement unit which has territorial jurisdiction can approve temporary residence because of humanitarian reasons, and that residence can last from 3 to 6 months, or even 1 year, if Service for coordination of protection of victims of human trafficking estimates that such protection and treatment is needed. Until now, 22 humanitarian residence have been approved for victims of human trafficking (21 women and 1 men).

As we said it before, there are differences between treatment victims of human trafficking and treatment of illegal migrants, because help and protection are offered only to first ones. As the result of joint project of Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social policy and OSCE Mission in Serbia, in March of 2004, inside Juvenile correction facility in Belgrade, a Service for coordination of protection of victims of human trafficking is formed. Basic task of the service is to act as coordination center in organization of help and protection of victims of human trafficking in Serbia, as well as to do a first estimate of potential victim and its needs.

International organization for migrations (IOM) started an initiative for suspension of collecting taxes for temporary sojourn for victims of human trafficking, and addressed its request to Ministry of Finance. In reply, Serbian Parliament adopted changes and amendments of **Law on republic taxes**, by which foreign citizens (victims of human trafficking) are exempted from paying tax for temporary sojourn.

On initiative of National coordinator for combating human trafficking, Serbian Parliament adopted a suggestion that the **Law on health care** should be amended by a new article which stipulates that expenses for health treatment of foreign citizens - victims of human trafficking should be paid from republic budget.

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International cooperation unfolds on central, regional and local levels, by signing multilateral and bilateral agreements, as well as on level of Ministry of Interior, by concluding agreements on cooperation with border police services in neighbour countries, and also with EU countries. International police cooperation, on EU level, mostly unfolds over NCB Interpol. This form of cooperation includes mutual help between criminal police services in aim of better intelligence data collecting and giving operative help.

On a regional level cooperation unfolds in Regional center for combating cross border crime in SE Europe - „SECI Center“ with headquarters in Bucharest, over liaison officer, also in „SEEPAG“ - Counseling group of prosecutors for countries of SE Europe, and in „MARRI Center“ with headquarters in Skopje.

„MARRI“ initiative (migration, asylum, repatriation of foreigners and refugees) was founded in 2003, by joining Initiative on migrations and asylum (MAI) and Initiative on regional repatriation of displaced persons (RRI), both founded by Stability Pact in SE Europe.

Cooperation on national coordinator's level, in regional domain, was improved by signing common statement, which binded them and their national teams on universal cooperation, especially through joint projects on prevention, education and protection of victims of human trafficking. In aim of regional cooperation and better information exchange, the regional mailing list was formed. Because of the great interest, the mailing list, which purpose in the beggining was to be of use only to members of republic team, started to grow, and now includes representatives of governmental and non - governmental bodies of other countries.