



SIMULATION-BASED TRAINING FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, REFERRAL AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS AND THE PROACTIVE INVESTIGATION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

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TIRANA

Trafficking in human beings is a violation of human rights, fundamental values of democratic societies, and a major threat to the public order and security. Irrespective of the states' efforts at national, regional and transnational levels, trafficking in human beings remains a dynamic criminal activity that is constantly adjusts and sophisticates its actions. Each year, thousands of persons, primarily women and children, are trafficked for sexual or other forms of exploitation, both domestically and abroad. Almost all the countries in the SEE region are countries of origin, transit or destination, or a combination of them. Combating trafficking in human beings, by engaging states in a joint response and enabling an effective cooperation of their national mechanisms remains a priority of many international organizations, including the OSCE.



SIMULATION-BASED TRAINING EXERCISE

The OSCE Presence in Albania has been supporting Albanian institutions, for many years, to develop the relevant legislation and procedures, raise their capacities and foster inter-institutional cooperation to combat trafficking in human beings in a human rights-based approach.

In cooperation with the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the OSCE Presence in Albania conducted, for the first time, a simulation-based training exercise on the identification and investigation of trafficking in human beings. The training aims to foster cooperation among various state structures and civil society organisations for the identification of victims of trafficking and the investigation of traffickers.

The simulation-based training provided practitioners with the opportunity to implement in practice anti-trafficking principles, which are not addressed in conventional training courses. For example, trafficked persons received assistance in spite of

their collaboration for denouncing traffickers. Special needs of child victims of trafficking were met and trafficking cases were investigated proactively by police officers under the guidance of prosecutors.

This new methodology of learning is based on actions that simulate real-life situations of trafficking in human beings.



Unit	Trainees
Police - Sector against Trafficking	5
Police - Border and Migration	5
Police – Investigation of acts against minors and domestic violence	4
Prosecution	9
Social services and legal protection	5
Child Protection Unit	6
Labour Inspectorate Office	6
Shelter	8
Emergency services for children	4



Over the three days of the training exercise, trainees tested their knowledge involving enactment of real-life situations similar to their day-to-day job, but in a so-called “safe environment”, without having to worry about the consequences of their decisions.

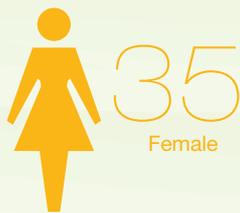
Police officers, social services employees, prosecutors, labour inspectors, victims’ lawyers addressed simulated cases of trafficking in human beings, as enacted by professional actors. Trainees were asked to act based on a series of events described in story lines prepared by the team of experts.

The cases were complex and involved domestic and foreign victims, placing participants in difficult situations requiring immediate response based on anti-trafficking laws and procedures.

and agreements were concluded so that in the future can serve to advance the anti-trafficking measures in Albania.

The training emphasized multi-agency cooperation for the identification of victims of trafficking and their referral and assistance in accordance with human rights principles.

Police actions to rescue victims of trafficking and arrest traffickers were the most dynamic and thrilling part of the training exercise. Investigation operations ended with the arrest of traffickers of children and adult victims and the rescue of the trafficked person.



New joint investigation methods between border and migration police and labour inspectors were tested, to discover cases of trafficking for exploitation for forced labour. Existing protocols were implemented

The simulation-based training was a valuable teaching method providing practitioners to overcome practical obstacles in their anti-trafficking day-to-day work.





STRUCTURE OF THE SIMULATION-BASED TRAINING EXERCISE

52
Trainees

“Trainees”

Practitioners of various target areas working in the fight against trafficking, which were trained during the simulation exercise.

10
Experts

“DIREX” (Direction of Exercise)

The team who manages the execution of the exercise together.

9
Antennas

“Antennas”

The team that supports the DIREX by monitoring and reporting the activities as they unfold during the exercise.

10
Actors

“Actors”

Role players who act out the “storylines” or the scripts prepared in advance.

14
Support staff

“Support staff”

Professionals who execute various functions during the training.

7
Observers

“Observers”

Representatives of institutions that observe and monitor, without interfering in the training.