

Awareness-raising on trafficking in human beings – the screening of “Lilja 4-ever” at the OSCE in Vienna, Austria.

The main topic of the Eleventh Economic Forum on 20 to 23 May in Prague, Czech Republic was “Trafficking in Human Beings, Drugs, Small Arms and Light Weapons: The National and International Economic Impact”. The discussions at the Forum led to a wealth of recommendations, including the need for more awareness-raising activities in countries of origin and transit but also in countries of destination.

ODIHR and the OSCE field missions (mainly those with anti-trafficking focal points) are undertaking numerous awareness-raising activities related to trafficking in human beings. There are, however, instances where gaps or niches exist and where the OCEEA in co-operation with field missions, international organisations and/or NGOs can play a complementary role.

The OCEEA is therefore organising this awareness-raising event on trafficking in human beings in Austria, following up on the recommendation from the Eleventh Economic Forum. The event is aimed at an Austrian audience of policy makers, politicians and media as well as the OSCE staff, including new field mission members and OSCE delegations.

In consultation with the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF), the OSCE Training Section, the OSCE Press Section and some OSCE delegations, OCEEA has identified a preference for an alternative approach which led to the idea of screening the movie “Lilja 4-ever”.

This is a full length movie (109 minutes), produced in 2002 by the Swedish screenwriter and director Lukas Moodysson. It received the award for the Best Swedish Film 2002.

This film shows an intense portrait of the misery endured by an Eastern European teenager who finds herself sold into sexual slavery in Sweden. The story is filmed in an honest, clear and credible way while refraining from unnecessary violence.

The screening will be followed by a round of discussion on the subject: **“What is successful awareness-raising in the fight against trafficking in human beings?”** Engaging in the discussion will be a panel of experts with, inter alia, Dr. Helga Konrad, Chair of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms. Terezija Stoisits, MP and Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, and Ms. Eva Kaufmann of the Austrian anti-trafficking NGO LEFÖ-IBF.

The date 15 September coincides with the OSCE induction course for new mission members allowing them to participate. It is also timely as this autumn a decision will be taken on proposed changes in the laws on security and prostitution in the Bundesland of Vienna.

Agenda.

Date: 15 September 2003

Venue: Neuer Saal, Hofburg Congress Centre, Vienna, Austria

5 p.m. Welcoming remarks and brief introduction to the movie, followed by the screening

7 p.m. Round of discussion on the topic: What is successful awareness-raising in the fight against trafficking in human beings?

8 p.m. Reception (Vorsaal)

Contacts: OCEEA

Mr. Ivo Kersten, Tel. +43 1 514 36 171, E-mail: ivo.kersten@osce.org

Ms. Andrea Gredler, Tel: +43 1 514 575, E-mail: andrea.gredler@osce.org