

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALBANIAN NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATTING
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
January – June 2006

**Republic of Albania
Ministry of Interior
The Deputy Minister
Anti-trafficking Unit**

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**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
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Tirana, June 2006

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1. INTRODUCTION

The prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings, a phenomenon that has a negative impact in many areas, is part of the government's agenda of priorities, which has paid special attention to combatting and preventing it. This fight has been focused on main directions, such as:

- Investigation and criminal prosecution of crimes of trafficking,
- Support and protection of victims and witnesses,
- Concrete steps for preventing trafficking and re-trafficking.

All these directions have been reflected and translated into concrete objectives and measures for every institution of the central administration, independent state institutions and other actors and actors of society that are involved in the fight against this phenomenon in the context of **National Strategy for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings**, who report on a regular basis about their implementation, on the basis of indicators of success and encountered problems.

During the last years there have been continuous changes in legislation, in accordance with international standards; new structures have been created and existing ones have been strengthened in order to enforce the above laws according to a strategy for the prevention and fight against trafficking in humans.

Structures operating both at a political and technical level play an important role in monitoring the implementation of this strategy. We can mention here the establishment and functioning of the **State Committee for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings**, headed by the Minister of Interior, which is made up of high-level political representatives from central institutions, who are also responsible for the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings in their respective areas.

An important development, as well, has been the establishment of the **Office of National Anti-trafficking Coordinator / Deputy Minister of Interior for Anti-trafficking**, which is the key point for coordinating the anti-trafficking effort at a national and international level.

Also, in the context of the key structures for preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings, upon the Prime Minister's Order no. 203, dated 19. 12. 2005, the **Anti-trafficking Unit** was established under the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator / Deputy Minister of Interior. Its main duties are to:

- a. **monitor** the activities of the institutions tasked to implement the National Strategy for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings,
- b. **coordinate** action with these institutions,
- c. **collect information and data** about matters related to the phenomenon, etc.;

In the context of achievements and problems encountered in the anti-trafficking efforts, which are a priority amongst the Government's **commitments and priorities**, the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator / Deputy Minister of Interior and the Anti-trafficking Unit working under its auspices, have prepared the **Report on Implementation of Albanian National Strategy for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings for the period January – December 2005**. Subsequently, during the first 6 months of 2006, the following steps have been made:

1. A **Responsible Authority**, which will coordinate the referral process for initial assistance, protection and long-term rehabilitation of all victims of trafficking, in cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and sheltering centers for victims of trafficking, has been established.
2. **Anti-trafficking Committees at a local level**, which will play an important role in the evaluation of vulnerable social, economic categories, in the identification of cases of potential victims of trafficking etc., made up of representatives of police directorates in the districts, directorates of education, representatives of local government and social services, have been established;
3. The Albanian Parliament ratified the **Agreement between the Governments of the Greek Republic and Republic of Albania on Protection and Assistance to Child Victims of Trafficking**. The ratification of this agreement by the Greek Parliament is expected.
4. In the context of **legal amendments**, initiated by the Office of National Coordinator of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings, an amendment to Article 298 of the **Criminal Code**, including the elements of the criminal act of **smuggling** of human beings, was passed by the Council of Ministers;
5. **Training sessions** have begun over the whole country for police officers, in providing legal and psychological assistance to child victims, witnesses or those persons who are at risk of being trafficked.
6. The process of **equipping the Serious Crimes Court** with the necessary technical elements, such as video-and-teleconference, for the protection and security for victims of trafficking who testify during a trial, has begun;
7. **Agreements have been signed with domestic and foreign actors** involved in the fight against trafficking, such as the agreement with Terre des Hommes, declarations of partnership with IOM, ARSIS, ICPMD etc.

The above measures and other institutional measures for preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings are presented in detail in the following material.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF ALBANIAN NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Hereunder, along the main lines of the National Strategy, are listed the achievements and developments during the above period, January – June 2006.

2.1. INVESTIGATION AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF THE CRIMES OF TRAFFICKING

One of the main objectives in the fight against trafficking in human beings is to increase the number of criminal prosecutions and convictions of traffickers in proportion to detentions; this has been achieved by increasing the cooperation between police and prosecutor's office, to which the responsible institutions have paid due attention. Such a cooperation is reflected in statistics presented in the statistical annexe.

With regard to the area of investigation and criminal prosecution of crimes of trafficking and those that, albeit not directly connected, have an indirect impact on investigation and criminal prosecution, the following achievements should be mentioned:

In the context of amendments to the legislation to further strengthen prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings, an amendment to Article 298 of the Criminal Code was passed by Council of Ministers. Its purpose is to ensure a more efficient fight against the smuggling of human beings; the Moratorium on Vessels was also approved and Operation "Deti i Qetë" (*Calm Sea*) is being organized to the same end.

Transparent procedures have been created together with the General Prosecutor's Office, Serious Crimes' Prosecutor's Office and international partners; reports on criminal prosecutions undertaken by State Police have been prepared every three months.

Activation of the TIMS system. According to the program, its completion is expected in 2007. So far this system has been extended to the Ministry of Interior, Regional Police Directorates of Tirana, Durres, Vlore, and in the border checkpoints of Rinas Airport, Kapshtice, Kakavije, Port of Durres, Qafe Thane, Han i Hotit, Morine, Port of Vlore. By the same token, based on the investments carried out by IOM in several facilities in Rinas, Kapshtice, Kakavije to improve conditions for possible victims, the Directorate of Border Police is working in the areas listed below in order to activate these reception centers:

- Cabling has been extended to these facilities in order to install the TIMS system, so that interviews be conducted there, instead at the present locations, where conditions are not fit. Four work stations are being prepared for each facility.
- Border police in these checkpoints have been supplied with vans in order to ensure the transport of deportees from the border checkpoints.
- The above mentioned infrastructure has already been completed at Rinas Airport and efforts are underway to train the police personnel who will conduct

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- interviews, so that the interviewing teams operate along the lines of the referral mechanism, guaranteeing also the presence of anti-trafficking specialists.
- During this year, the following border checkpoints will be connected to the TIMS system: Bllate, Gorice, Tre Urat, Qafe Bote, Port of Sarande.

Female police officers have been assigned to the border checkpoints of Vlore and Rinas. Currently, police conduct interviews at all border checkpoints where deportees are returned, to identify potential victims of trafficking. Also, in those locations where the TIMS system already exists (Rinas, Durres, Vlore, Kakavije, Kapshtice, Hani i Hotit, Murriqan, Morine, Qafe Thane, Tushemisht) data from interviewees is inserted into the system. Work is in progress to increase cooperation between border police and other specialized structures, such as the regional anti-trafficking offices, during the process of identification, referral and assistance to victims of trafficking.

It is important to stress that special modules about trafficking of humans have been included in the curriculum of Police Academy. It should be stressed, also, that training courses have taken place both in country and abroad and regional meetings with the participation of police, prosecutor's office and courts on anti-trafficking matters have been conducted.

In the context of inter-institutional coordination, in cooperation with SIS (*State Intelligence Service*), State Police succeeded in legally document and arrest in the act several individuals within the police on grounds of abuse of office or acts of counterfeiting in the passport sector, committed with the intention to provide persons wanted for serious crimes with travel passports. **73** criminal charges against **98** police officers, of whom **3** were of high rank, **34** of mid-rank and **61** of basic rank, were referred to the prosecutor's office. **33** of them were arrested. The OIC (*Office of Internal Control*) uncovered **2** cases of assistance by police officers in illegally crossing the border; both were arrested in the act.

Based on the Minister of Interior's order no. 282, dated 13. 02. 2006 "On establishment of toll-free telephone numbers for reporting corruption and procedures of conducting this activity in Ministry of Interior", the Legal Information Center received during the said period 30 complaints by various citizens against 30 police officers, of whom 1 was of high rank, 8 of mid-rank and 22 of basic rank. The complaints were related mostly to arbitrary actions and maltreatment by police officers, property-related problems, failure to follow up problems in a timely fashion, unfair tickets etc. After the complaints were verified by OIC officers in the regions, the citizens received replies and administrative sanctions, in accordance with the law, were recommended for these police officers.

The cooperation between Linza Center (*National Center For Victims of Trafficking – NCFVT*) and Ministry of Interior, State Police (anti-trafficking offices and border police) and prosecutor's offices with regard to the referral of cases, the start of criminal prosecutions together with prosecutor's office and the protection of victims, should be mentioned, as well.

International and regional cooperation in the area of law, law enforcement and justice against trafficking and traffickers of human beings will further intensify and be consolidated. In this context, the Convention of Council of Europe “On Measures against Trafficking in Human Beings”, no. 754, dated 06. 12. 2005, was approved in principle.

New agreements have been signed and joint exercises, in cooperation with border police, have been conducted with neighboring countries. Joint police operations have been mounted with Macedonia, and other operations have been conducted through SECI Center against trafficking of vehicles.

2.2. SUPPORT AND PROTECTION TO VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

The implementation of a comprehensive method for the protection of victims, trafficked persons and victims of crimes related to trafficking has also been a priority.

As mentioned above, **the agreement between the Council of Ministers of Republic of Albania and Government of Greek Republic** on protection and assistance to child victims of trafficking in human beings, was one of the most important objectives and concrete duties to be fulfilled. This agreement was signed in Tirana on 27 of February 2006 and was ratified by the Albanian Parliament on 29 of May 2006. At present, its ratification is expected by the other party. This will pave the way for further steps for its efficient implementation. In this same context, agreements on protection of victims of trafficking are expected to be signed with other countries in the region and EU, enlarging the field of activity not only for children but also for other vulnerable groups affected by this phenomenon.

Following this Agreement, the **Responsible Authority was established**. It will coordinate the referral process for initial assistance, protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in close cooperation with all the other responsible partners, such as the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consular Section, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the centers for protection of victims of trafficking in Albania. The aim is to activate the Responsible Authority as a *National Referral Mechanism (NRM)* for cases of victims of trafficking on a national basis and to ensure their protection, to establish contacts between the Albanian Responsible Authority and Responsible Authorities in Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro, other countries in the region and with destination countries, such as Italy, Germany, England, etc.

A “**help line**” – a national, toll-free, telephone line is in the process of being established in cooperation with all involved parties, in the framework of the activity of the Responsible Authority, to assist all citizens who are in need or those who want to share information they possess about such matters. A **database**, where representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labor will record cases

of victims who have been returned, referred, handled and protected in Albania will be established, as well.

As mentioned above, in the context of the drive to extend the anti-trafficking effort to the local level, the order of the Prime Minister no. 139, dated 19. 06. 2006 **“On Establishment of Regional Committees against Trafficking in Human Beings”**, was approved. These committees, headed by the respective prefects, are made up of representatives of police directorates in the districts, directorates of education, representatives of local government and social services, prosecutor’s office, regional SIS offices, etc. A series of meetings, workshops etc. has taken place, such as the regional activities in Vlore, Shkoder and Tirana in the first weeks of July, in the framework of the activity of the Local Anti-trafficking Committees, which have an important role in the prevention and fight against this phenomenon.

With regard to the strengthening of the judiciary, an important step is the beginning of the process to equip the Serious Crimes Court with the required technical elements for providing victims of trafficking who testify in a trial with the necessary protection and security, such as a videoconference system. Following this process, steps will be taken to improve legal, physical and identity protection for all victims/witnesses in a court case and to review the compensation scheme for these victims from assets originating from forfeited properties.

With regard to shelters, it should be stressed that NCFVT is making its own efforts to convince victims of trafficking to denounce traffickers. Victims are provided with the necessary information on how they can be protected when their lives are in danger. The center provides the opportunity of cooperation between police officers or prosecutors and victims sheltered and protected there. The center continues, as well, assisting the victims of trafficking who have reported their traffickers for criminal prosecution and might still need protection after the end of the trial, in compliance with the law on protection of witnesses and collaborators of justice. From this point of view, it should be stressed that the NCFVT staff cooperates with all the structures who refer victims, with border checkpoints, police commissariats, etc., to accommodate victims. The procedure of interview, assessment of needs, etc., is followed in all cases. A standard questionnaire has been prepared in accordance with NRM and periodic controls have taken place at the border checkpoints of Durres, Vlore, Rinas. Currently, border police interview deportees at all border checkpoints where they are returned, in order to identify and protect potential victims of trafficking. Also, at those locations where TIMS system already exists (Rinas, Durres, Vlore, Kakavije, Kapshtice, Hani i Hotit, Murriqan, Morine, Qafe Thane, Tushemisht), data obtained from interviewees is inserted into the system.

The National Center for Victims of Trafficking (NCFVT) has paid special attention to the improvement of the rehabilitating activity, based on capabilities and conditions that this institution offers, making maximum use of the support afforded by donors and continues offering quality services for three target groups:

- Trafficked women and girls or those at risk of trafficking
- Unaccompanied children and those at risk of trafficking

- Irregular migrants

The Linza center, among others, delivers professional courses in English, tailoring, computer, Albanian language, hairdressing etc. Other provided services are:

- Food, clothing and temporary sheltering (covering all the emergency needs shown by the beneficiary).
- Psycho-social assistance (through qualified staff of social workers, Legal Clinic for Juveniles)
- Medical assistance (offered by the Center, IOM, Public Health Institute, “Mother Teresa” Hospital Center” etc.)
- Legal assistance (staff are trained in the legal field, Legal Clinic for Minors, etc.)
- Guaranteed security and protection for witnesses (Ministry of Interior, State Police)
- Occupational, rehabilitating and integrating activities
- Referral for integration
- Return and reunion with the family
- Follow-up of the victims after they leave the Center (whenever possible)
- All these are provided by a multi-disciplinary staff, which includes professionals in the field.
- NCFVT cooperates also with donors with regard to specific needs, such as technical and financial assistance, training activities, etc by IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, OSCE, USAID, Soros Foundation, etc.

Bearing in mind these services and the most recent developments, an increase of investments in this center will be necessary.

In the meantime, the state supports the building of capacities for professional formation, both in terms of quantity and quality, by means of:

1. Development of the system of public centers of professional formation;
2. Promotion, support, cooperation with interested non-government persons and employers
3. Subsidies for employment, with which the state supports employers who create and provide new jobs and employ jobseekers sent by Employment Offices.

The employment promotion programs are:

1. The program of promotion of employment for unemployed jobseekers (Decision no. 69 of Council of Ministers)
2. The program of promotion of employment for unemployed jobseekers by means of in-job-training (Decision no. 73 of Council of Ministers)
3. The program of promotion of employment for unemployed jobseekers by means of professional formation (Decision no. 74 of Council of Ministers)
4. The program of promotion of employment for female unemployed jobseekers (Decision no. 632 of Council of Ministers). This program promotes the employment of female jobseekers, where priority is given to trafficked female jobseekers, women above 35 years of age, women from the Roma community, women with limited abilities, girls, mothers, divorced women undergoing social problems.

In this context, IOM is working to increase the capacity of state structures represented by National Employment Offices to provide information about the legal ways of migration, activities against trafficking and services for the return and reintegration of returned migrants (including victims of trafficking); and training activities for the personnel of the employment offices from 6 selected districts are being conducted in Shkoder, Kukes, Peshkopi, Durres, Elbasan dhe Vlore. A Memorandum of Understanding between IOM and the National Employment Service has been planned.

Recently (May 2006) the Linza Center has prepared, with support from IOM, and is distributing a leaflet in 2 languages (Albanian and English) with the title “Help yourself and appreciate your future! We are always near people in need!” Also, NGO’s have prepared a bilingual leaflet with support by donors and have distributed it.

In 2006, priority has been given to divulge information on courses to interested persons, and to the increase of cooperation with associations from the Roma community. In this context, in support of the national strategy “On Improving living conditions of the Roma Community”, the project “Distribution of Social Services in Albania”, financed by the World Bank, is being implemented. This project aims at financing projects managed by NGO’s, that will provide social services to the benefit of vulnerable groups, including the Roma community.

The building for accomodating victims of trafficking (women and children) has been completed; but has not been used due to superfluous reasons. NGO’s have offered the services of psychologist and social worker for this group. The reception center for victims of trafficking will be reactivated, as well, in Rinas Airport and in other border checkpoints, equipped with the necessary infrastructure.

IOM has continued its activity to increase the capacities of the local organization Different and Equal (D&E) for identifying and referring victims of trafficking. In the context of a joint project with D&E, IOM has continued to provide reintegration services for Albanian victims of trafficking in the reintegration center and in later stages. In cooperation with IOM, D&E has participated in the identification and referral of three cases.

Till the end of March 2006, in the framework of its projects, IOM has handled:

- 18 cases and 3 children of assisted cases have been accomodated in the center during this period
- 14 cases and 6 children of beneficiaries have been assisted in apartments; 8 cases were accomodated and assisted with other alternatives
- 36 assisted cases have been in need of health care and have received it.
- 15 cases have been trained to increase their abilities for living independently
- 3 cases continue their education by distance learning

All the cases assisted during this period have received psycho-social counseling.

- 595 counseling sessions have been delivered by social workers and the psychiatrist.

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- 5 cases have received legal assistance
- 3 cases have received professional training
- 10 cases have been employed during this period
- 7 cases have participated and benefitted from activities for generating revenues (such as handicrafts and their sale)

IOM organized in Belgrade a regional Conference in the framework of the IOM project “Establishment of Mechanisms for Temporary Residence Permits for Victims of Trafficking in the Western Balkan Countries”. The conference draw conclusions on the achievements of the project and gave participants the opportunity to discuss once more about the status and matters relevant to the issuance of temporary residence permits to victims of trafficking.

Based on the Council of Ministers’ Decision no. 564, dated 12. 08. 2005 “On the licencing of social service providers”, the process of licensing NGO’s that provide social services for groups in need, is in progress. So far, about 30 NGO’s have been licensed. MOLSAEO is cooperating with NGO’s that offer prevention, support, rehabilitation and reintegration services etc. The organizations that have had most impact in this area are: “Vatra” (*Hearth*) Center (supported financially and with expertise by the project “Promotion of regular migration and prevention of trafficking in human beings in Albania”), “Tjetër Vizion” (*Another Vision*), “Different and Equal”, “Shërbimi Social Ndërkombëtar” (*International Social Service*), “Terre des Hommes”, “Ndihmë për Fëmijët” (*Assistance for Children*), “Qendra Komunitare Ballsh” (*Community Center of Ballsh*), “Komisioni Ndërkombëtar Katolik për Migracionin” (*International Catholic Commission for Migration*), “Save the Children”, “Klinika Ligjore për të Miturit” (*Legal Clinic for Juveniles*), “Në dobi të gruas” (*To the benefit of woman*), “Strehëzat” (*Shelters*), IOM, “Linja e këshillimit për gra dhe vajza” (*Counseling line for women and girls*), “Qendra Shqiptare për mbrojtjen e të drejtave të fëmijëve” (*Albanian Center for protection of children’s rights*), the coalition of NGO’s “Bashkë kundër trafikimit të fëmijëve” (*Together against trafficking of children*) – BKTF, etc.

In 2005, upon the initiative of UNICEF, an activity to establish a phone line to assist children in need began. The idea of establishing this phone line was accepted as a necessary service in accordance with obligations coming out of the report on the Convention on Children. The establishment of the line for assistance to children is in its preparatory stage but it is expected to be activated in the future. A toll-free telephone line will be established for information on migration and reporting of cases of trafficking in human beings. Two points for distributing information on migration and prevention of trafficking will be created in North and South.

In the context of the support that the IOM is giving for capacity-enhancing in the area of anti-trafficking, an application for donations is being prepared to enhance capacities in the Albanian embassies in four destination countries.

Also, cooperation agreements will be prepared and finalized with local and international NGO’s, involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings, by defining the duties

and responsibilities of this partnership, with a special stress on sharing the product from information or reporting. Round tables have been organised with all the actors participating in the NRM, and agreements have been signed with local and foreign actors, involved in the fight against trafficking, such as the agreement with Terre des Hommes, the declaration of partnership with IOM, ARSIS, ICMPD etc.

The approval of the law “On Foreigners” is in process; this law will include provisions on temporary residence permits; the Emigration Sector, within Border Police, will make possible the issuance of these permits.

2.3. PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING, RE-TRAFFICKING AND COORDINATION

In the area of prevention and coordination, important preventive measures are the programs (sponsored by the government) on education, press and other ways of information, to inform and teach as efficiently as possible the population, especially women, children and groups at risk about the causes and risks associated with trafficking. As a result of good inter-institutional cooperation, meetings have been organized with NGO’s and CAAHT, ICMPD, USAID, IOM, religious communities, BKTF Coalition, namely:

- Programs on trafficking in national and local TV channels.
- Periodic editorials in the newspaper “Mësuesi” (*The Teacher*) and in the daily press.
- The rural areas of the districts of Vlore, Fier and Lushnje have been included in such awareness and preventive campaigns.

In the context of prevention of trafficking (especially of groups at risk), the Ministry of Education and Science issued Instruction no. 6, dated 29. 03. 2006 “On registration in school of Roma pupils who have no birth certificate”.

All the state institutions and NGO’s who deal with children carry out seminars, distribute information material for families with social problems, those with a low level of education and Roma community etc. It should be stressed that about 600 pupils and 200 women from vulnerable communities have been informed about the phenomenon and the danger it presents. On May 15th 2006, MOLSAEO organized a round table focusing on parents’ responsibility and child welfare, at which service-delivering NGO’s and donors participated and presented the progress made in the areas of education, health, social protection, policing, local structures etc. A number of activities have been organized by NGO’s that deal with trafficking-related problems, but it will be necessary in the future to coordinate these activities.

IOM has completed the preparation of a national awareness campaign. A poll has been organized in 6 selected areas and, in this context, a 2-day-long seminar will be held, where representatives of the press media and main supporting actors will participate. The initiative for the creation of a mobile information clinic, should be mentioned, as well.

Activities related to the fight against trafficking have been included in annual plans in schools and in the teaching plans of every separate grade. New topics have been introduced in the 1st, 2nd, 4th grade, in the subject of civic education, biology and health education. In the high-school cycle, special topics have been introduced, based on the instructions of the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES) (knowledge on society, 1st and 2nd grades). An agreement has been signed, as well, between the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and Albanian Red Cross (KKSH) on introducing in the school curricula the education program “Exploration of Human Rights”, which will be implemented in 13 schools by 26 teachers. Also, manuals and leaflets have been published for teachers and pupils of the 9-year cycle schools, high schools, etc.

Also, the signature of a cooperation agreement between IOM and MOES has been envisaged. The agreement will identify:

- contact persons in MOES who coordinate activities planned in the project,
- selection criteria of 10 pilot schools which were included in the project,
- **production** of a valid and combined package of teaching aids,
- **enhancement** of schools’ capacities by training teachers,
- providing the involved schools with TV sets, videos and film / documentary material to make possible activities with pupils.

To this end, visits and meetings by officials of ministries of education and science in the region have taken place. A mechanism for evaluation has been created to measure the efficiency and impact of the methods used. This agreement will lead to the consolidation of successful models of prevention of trafficking throughout the schools of the region. Also, 10 teachers from 10 schools from the districts of Fier, Berat, Korce, Elbasan, Shkoder and Kukes were selected by Regional Directorates of Education, based on criteria established beforehand by IOM and MOES and were trained according to a module compiled by IOM and the Institute of Curricula and Standards in Albania. 6 NGO’s, which deal with children who have abandoned school and are at risk of being trafficked and exploited, were included in these trainings. Study visits and visits to exchange experience were organized by the representatives of MOES and IOM in Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo.

In execution of Order no. 34, dated 08. 12. 2004 “On Implementation of the Project ‘Second Chance’”, the education of truant pupils and those who are confined at home due to blood revenge is going on. The training of 34 teachers who will work with confined children is expected to start in June. 61 classes have been established, with 34 full-time teachers and 5 part-time ones. 7 classes have been established for confined children, with 1 full-time teacher and 3 part-time ones. Also, in cooperation with UNICEF, a study of the current situation will take place, teachers who deal with confined children will be trained and the psychological service will be introduced in schools.

In this framework, the CEFA project for alternate education and formation for children who have abandoned school is in progress. In the context, as well, of the RMZA project

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(Increase of Opportunities for Development of Abilities), the opening of courses for hairdressing and tailoring is in progress.

Work is in progress for the study of legislation in the area of limited abilities; this is undertaken by an inter-ministry team that is drafting the integral law on people with limited abilities.

Order no. 394, dated 23. 02. 2004 of MOLSAEO “On Tariffs for Professional Formation”, provides free-of-charge courses for trafficked women and girls in public professional formation centers. In this context, “Vatra” Center has offered professional courses in 10 cases of persons from vulnerable groups and in 15 cases of persons involved in reintegrating programs, in order to prevent re-trafficking. MOLSAEO is implementing programs for the promotion of employment of unemployed female jobseekers, where priority is given to the employment of trafficked women. To date information on employment is found on the MOLSAEO website www.mpcs.gov.al. The public may find there information about promotion of employment.

The National Employment Service and Regional Employment Offices provide information, orientation and intermediation for registered unemployed jobseekers. NGO’s who provide training courses and social businesses cooperate with these offices. 3 programs of promotion of employment, where women and girls are considered a priority, are being implemented; 500 women and girls with social problems have been employed, such as women from poor families (217), Roma women (86), female heads of family (54), mothers with many children (100) etc.

According to Order no. 645, dated 20. 03. 2006 “On Priorities of the Programme for Promotion of Employment for 2006”, the professional areas of tailoring, footwear production, foodstuff production, farming, green house production and viticulture, where women are mostly employed, have been included in the priority areas of the implementation of programs for promotion of employment. In the same order, 50% of the funds for these programs are dedicated only to the implementation of the Council of Ministers’ Decision no. 632 “On Employment of Unemployed Female Jobseekers”. This program anticipates monthly financial subsidies of up to 70% of the expenses for providing mandatory insurance policies to employers who employ with a regular annual contract unemployed female jobseekers, coming from the list of the employment office, for the entire duration of the contract. When the work contract has a duration of 2 or 3 years, the subsidies cover up to 85 to 100% of the amount of expenses for mandatory insurance. In cases of employment of special groups, where female victims of trafficking are included, 8 minimum wages are added to the above subsidies for 1, 2 and 3 years of employment.

Pursuant to Council of Ministers’ Decision no. 708, dated, 16. 03. 2003 “On the Method of Licensing and Functioning of Private Employment Agencies”, MOLSAEO, as the competent authority, has issued a relevant decision on the method of functioning, licensing and monitoring of private employment agencies. Since 1999, Albanian legislation allows the establishment and functioning of these agencies. They provide: (i)

services for assessing requests and applications in the country and abroad; (ii) services related to job seeking; (iii) services for the employment of workers for a third party, a physical or legal person, who assigns duties and checks their execution. By the same token, a priority of the National Employment Strategy, which is being revised, will be to ensure closer cooperation between private employment agencies and relevant state structures; stricter control at the time of licensing is envisaged in the strategy, to ensure those agencies that obtain a licence are able to provide properly the service they offer. Currently, 15 private employment agencies operate in the country.

By Order no. 782, dated 04. 04. 2006 “On Tariffs of Professional Formation”, the registration of unemployed jobseekers registered in employment offices, who want to attend professional formation courses, offered by public centres of professional formation, is free of charge for certain groups, where trafficked women and girls are included. From January 1st 2006, till now, 13 jobseekers, who were trafficked women, have been trained in these courses without payment.

Pursuant to Law no. 9034, dated 20. 03. 2003 “On Emigration of Albanian Citizens for Motives of Employment”, the Directorate of Migration in MOLSAEO has sent a request to the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies to start negotiations on reaching a new agreement, with the purpose of:

- enlarging existing channels of migration and preventing irregular migration; in execution of National Strategy on Migration, a pilot project has been prepared to promote cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies; it has been sent for approval and a reply is expected by the Italian party,
- improving the service of intermediation for jobs abroad, which are offered to jobseekers also by private operators in the market; increasing cooperation with private employment agencies. A meeting has been organized between representatives of private employment agencies, MOLSAEO and the National Employment Service, focusing of the organization of agencies in unions and the preparation of a code of ethics, thereby assisting in the improvement of the standards that agencies offer for employment both in the country and abroad.

In the same context, the implementation of the second stage of the regional project ILO-Migrant “Opportunities for employment, professional formation and measures of migratory policies for preventing and reducing trafficking of women in Albania, Moldova and Ukraine”, has begun. The project includes the granting of micro-credits for private business undertaken by formerly trafficked women and girls in order to reintegrate them, the creation of new jobs for trafficked women, and also the prevention of trafficking of potential victims.

In the context of the project “Combating irregular migration in Albania and the wider region. Targeted support to capacity building within the framework of readmission support to Albania” 2003, financed by EU and Greek Ministry of Interior, which aims at providing assistance to Albanian government structures in view of the implementation of Repatriation Agreement, a policy paper is being prepared, which aims at institutionalizing assistance towards returned migrants (forcibly or voluntarily), in

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accordance with the demand of the labor market in Albania. A workshop took place in this regard, at which a draft document on reintegration of migrants returned in the framework of the repatriation agreement and the needs of state institutions for the reintegration of migrants, to fulfill the recommendations given by a foreign researcher, contracted by IOM, were discussed.

With a view to reducing the risk of trafficking, the amount of information addressed to the public about procedures for regular migration, has increased. Official contacts have been made with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior to activate a specialized information web page: www.migrantinfo.gov.al and the Directorate of Migration is preparing to summon a work group of experts.

Special provisions have been envisaged in the new draft law on migration, with regard to information and the risks of irregular migration, in order to prevent trafficking. To increase employment opportunities, a pilot project has been drafted in cooperation with IOM (Proposal Call): “Maximizing circular labour migration between Albania, Greece and Italy while facilitating return to Albania”. It has been sent to EU for approval in the framework of the program AENEAS 2005, in order to enlarge and strengthen Albanian capacities for the implementation of the Repatriation Agreement EU – Albania.

IOM organized in Belgrade a regional conference in the context of IOM project “Creation of mechanisms for temporary residence permits for victims of trafficking in the Western Balkan countries”. The conference drew conclusions on the achievements of the project and gave participants a chance to discuss once more the status and issues related to the issuance of temporary residence permits.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING AND PROTECTION OF CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

With regard to the anti-trafficking strategy targeting specifically children, the following developments have taken place in the respective areas:

3.1. PREVENTION

In execution of the Agreement between the Government of Republic of Greece and Council of Ministers of Republic of Albania on protection and assistance to child victims of trafficking and upon the establishment of Responsible Authority (mentioned above) contacts will be made with counterpart structures for the protection of trafficked Albanian children in destination countries. Through the organizations belonging to the BKTF coalition and Terre des Hommes we have contacted Greek NGO's who work against child trafficking, such as "ARSIS".

Also, in the context of the prevention and fight against child trafficking, various legal acts were approved in 2005, such as the National Strategy on Children; the draft order "On Establishment of Inter-ministerial Committee for Child Rights" has been prepared in the same spirit. The draft order has been sent to the Council of Ministers for approval.

As education is an important weapon to combat trafficking in human beings, the Ministry of Education and Science has undertaken a series of steps, which have been mentioned above:

- Issuance of an instruction on educational activity at the beginning of the new academic year, where the planning and organization of activities against child trafficking, fight against narcotics, prostitution etc, are stressed.
- In the new curricula of pre-university education, problems related to awareness of pupils on prevention of trafficking are dealt with.
- Publications, manuals on trafficking, gender problems (manuals for teachers, students of the pre-university education system)
- Special topics have been introduced, based on MOES instructions, on the subject of civic education, for the 1st, 2nd, and 4th grades in the high school system.
- Manuals for pupils and teachers of the 9-year and high school cycle, posters, leaflets etc., have been published.
- Teachers have been qualified to work with children and groups at risk of trafficking, especially in areas with outstanding social and economic problems.
- The project "Program of Support to Security Reform" is being implemented. It includes cooperation between schools and police in 88 schools, involving 67.000 children in Tiranë, Vlorë, Lezhë, Shkodër, Kukës. A series of competitions with poetry, essays, concerts, painting exhibitions, meetings and conversations with relevant specialists, short theatrical pieces, etc., which convey, among other things, the need to cooperate between schools and police, has been organized.
- Training and support with reference material on human/child rights, issues of gender-based violence, trafficking in human beings, migration etc., for teachers of

- 10 pilot schools that provide prevention programs for children through free-time activities; children not attending school are included, as well. A competition for participating teachers to prepare teaching programs within the subjects of the school curriculum for which they were trained, will be organized.
- Equipping the participating schools with TV, video sets and film material in order to use them in various activities that the trained teachers will carry out with pupils.
 - The identification of truant children has been made and concrete measures to reduce this phenomenon have been taken. Creation of a database.
 - 4 training activities with 25 teachers from the districts of Korçë, Elbasan, Berat, Fier have taken place.
 - 100 teachers, working with children undergoing social problems in 4 regions, have been trained.
 - Implementation of Instruction no. 34, dated 08. 12. 2004 on execution of the project “Second Chance”; education for truant children and those who remain confined at home due to blood revenge. Classes have been opened in Korçë, Elbasan, Berat.
 - The CEFA Project on alternate education and formation for advanced-age truant children
 - Introduction of psychological service in schools.
 - Opening of high pedagogic schools. Currently there are 23 pedagogic schools, 70% of the students are female.
 - Trainings for teachers, parents on gender problems.
 - Opening of courses on hairdressing, tailoring in the framework of the RMZHA Project (Increase of Opportunities for Development of Abilities) in Tirana, Durrës, Shkodër, Lushnje, Berat, Vlorë.

The Directorate of Social Policies and State Social Service, with the support of the children’s project, has carried out several visits, meetings and trainings with workers dealing with children in the social sectors, in regional and municipal structures, on matters of child protection, providing services to children in need, reforming social services, in Shkoder, Korce, Lezhe. In June, these meetings will take place in 4 other regions. The process of increasing awareness and informing state structures and the public about child protection has begun; seminars, round tables that have dealt with such issues as children from the Roma and Egyptian community, street children, working children, the family and its responsibilities for child welfare, etc., have been organized. The Linza Center is conducting reintegration programs, in which the services of counselling, health, education, professional qualification and trainings on essential abilities for living independently, are included.

We can mentioned the following about steps taken by MOLSAEO:

- The types of social services for children from the Roma community have been identified. Cooperation contracts have been made with NGO’s who provide services for children with social problems in residential and day centers, including Roma children.

- Work is in progress to increase awareness among the Roma community on education and health treatment of their children, prevention of negative phenomena, such as trafficking etc. NGO's support Roma families in precarious conditions with food aid, subsidies for buying school books, courses against illiteracy, inclusion of Roma youths in professional formation courses etc.
- The process of establishing 18 community service centers began in 2006. The inclusion of Roma children in these services is a priority.
- The process of establishing 25 other community service centers for 2006 – 2007 is in progress, as well. 1/3 of them will provide services for children. The investments and expenditures will be covered by a World Bank project. Municipalities/communes will cover part of the operational expenditures. Besides being a priority, Roma children will also receive services that are targeting them exclusively, as in Fier.
- Issuance of the Council of Ministers' Decision "On admissions in universities and higher education schools" for the academic year 2006 – 2007, in the full-time system and on education tariffs", point 5.
- Issuance of Council of Ministers' Decision "On exclusion from education tariffs of full-time students who are blind, invalid, paraplegic and tetraplegic"
- Support for pupils and students who come from orphanages and pupils from the Institute of Vision-and-Hearing Impaired Children.
- Support for those candidates who want to study in universities and higher education schools, coming from vulnerable strata of society, such as blind people, paraplegic and tetraplegic individuals, former politically persecuted people and children of police officers killed or injured on duty; they will pay 50% of the education tariff.
- For blind, invalid, paraplegic and tetraplegic students, who are registered in various university faculties and branches, the education tariff is reduced down to 12.000 leks a year.
- The Standards of Service for Children in Residential Institutions were approved by Council of Ministers' Decision no. 659, dated 17. 10. 2005. The standards were published with assistance from UNICEF in April 2006. Trainings for service providers across the whole country have already begun, as well as for service inspectors, who will monitor them. Instruction manuals will be prepared to guide service providers on how to deliver good quality services, in accordance with children's needs. The standards include elements that ensure respect for children's rights, their wishes and opinions etc., such as:
 - Information for children and "translation" of standards in a language they understand;
 - Participation and inclusion of children in the decisions made in the course of everyday life in the institution, such as decisions on food, purchase of personal items, keeping tidy the facility, enjoying free time etc.

3.2. PROTECTION OF VICTIMS

In the field of protection of victims of trafficking, we emphasize the following:

- MOLSAEO is preparing Standards of Guardianship Service and for Victims of Trafficking. A work group has been established for this purpose and the prepared draft will be sent to the government.
- The central office for children and the contact points at a local, municipality/commune level will be trained by the State Social Service, with support from UNICEF.
- The Committee on Adoptions is under the auspices of Ministry of Justice. MOLSAEO has its representative in this Committee, who presents all concerns related to residential and non-residential institutions for children to the structures of the Ministry in order to take concrete measures. The above concerns are related to issues arising from filling documents that refer to a child sent for adoption and respect by these institutions for the pertinent legislation.
- Work is in progress to introduce a new system of guardianship, which will institutionalize the new relationship between beneficiaries and providers, by assigning duties to local units which, in cooperation with NGO's, will select, train, support and assess caretaking families and the service they provide for children in their care. NGO's that have provided this kind of service for years, such as "Fshati SOS", Association "Every Child", "Hope and Home for Children", "Terre des Hommes", "Ndihme per Femijet" etc., are involved in this work group.
- The placement of children in need, who lack parental care, under the temporary or permanent guardianship of a family that can provide such a service, is a new service that is currently being implemented by NGO's. In our country, the most common form of guardianship is the placement of children with their relatives, in the absence of parents. This is part of the good tradition of the Albanian family, which needs to be supported and continued.
- Guardianship will be enlarged this year for all children with impaired abilities; the Medical Commission for Assessing Working Ability decided these children will benefit from the service of a salaried caretaker.
- MOLSAEO is cooperating with the Faculty of Social Science to engage students from the Social Work branch in internship activities in MOLSAEO, in other structures under the auspices of this Ministry and in service centers and care institutions.
- The Committees of Planning and Community Care (a model suggested by the World Bank) are made up of representatives from State Social Service, Directorates of Education, Health, representatives of regional structures and 2 or 3 representatives from municipalities. Their duties include:
 1. Assessment of needs
 2. Mapping existing services
 3. Planning interventions
 4. They meet every 5 or 6 months
- Capacities are being built and workers from the social sectors at a regional, municipal and communal level are being trained in the area of social services for children.

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- In the regional offices of four pilot regions (Tirana, Durrës, Shkoder, Vlorë) social workers dealing with child problems have been assigned
- Work is in progress to assign people in 8 other regions, who will deal with child problems.
- Work is in progress to identify the duties that child specialists, in all the structures of State Social Service, at a central and local level, will have and for contact persons in the regions and communes.
- Efforts have been made during this year and will continue in the future for the establishment of Child Rights' Sections at a municipal level.
- In the municipality of Tirana, a section of child rights has been established and operates with the following objectives:
 1. child care and protection,
 2. collection of statistical data on children,
 3. planning interventions in cases of emergency or need,
 4. creation of a complete referral system for services provided to children
- In the Municipality of Kukes, UNCIEF has supported with a project the creation of the child protection sector.
- Efforts are underway to extend such practice also to other regions and municipalities.

With regard to the area of protection of victims of trafficking in human beings, we can report that NCFVT implements strict rules for the reception, interviewing, accommodation and transferring of child victims of trafficking or those at risk of trafficking. A constant follow-up of the child is planned in every case. These rules are undergoing improvement, in order to be gradually unified with those of other centers for the reception and reintegration of victims of trafficking.

- Measures have been taken at the NCFVT to improve and provide a proper environment for children, ensuring their accommodation, education and entertainment.
- NCFVT offers quality service also for unaccompanied children and those at risk of trafficking. The center has separate facilities for children.
- In the centre, the implementation of a project financed by UNICEF "Strengthening the components of protection of child rights in NCFVT" is under way. The project aims at improving the quality of the service provided to children by qualifying the staff, improving the conditions for documenting and accommodating children, enriching educational and entertainment activities and providing a modest follow-up support to children who have left the center. All these activities have led to an improvement of facilities, to the benefit of the children's accommodation and best interests. The staff is trained to handle children.
 - Activities of a training character
 - Courses of English and Albanian language, computer.
 - Educational activities
 - Rules of good behaviour

- Sport activities
- In May, the staff prepared a brochure containing studies and topics, in which their activity and 3-year-long experience in support of victims of trafficking is reflected. The topics are varied and interesting.
- Entertainment activities inside and outside NCFVT provide a good contribution to the rehabilitation process. These activities are financed by IOM and UNICEF through requests and miniprojects presented by the director of the institution.
- These efforts mark the first step in the gradual transition of NCFVT from a reception and rehabilitation center into a reception, rehabilitation and reintegration center.

Other services for children:

- Currently, service for orphaned children and those in need is provided in 9 public residential centers. Residential services have been established by NGO's with funds from donors. The process of decentralization of social services has already begun. The transferring of 8 residential child service centers to the municipalities of Shkoder, Durres, Tirane, Vlorë, Korce has been planned for this year. By government decision, all the properties where such services take place have been placed under the auspices of communal authorities. A government decision on the transferring of these institutions to the respective municipalities, has been drafted.
- 18 community service centers are to be established in 2006 in 4 pilot regions, of which 8 are dedicated to children.
- In parallel to the process of decentralization and de-institutionalization of orphanages, according to the Social Services' Strategy, the service of guardianship for children has been proposed for enlargement.
- SOS village provides guardianship to prevent children being sent to residential institutions, and supports children at risk of abandonment by their biological families by means of programs that aim at strengthening families in their communities.
- The association "Every Child" supports families in need and children lacking parental care.
- In the new services being created with the support of World Bank projects, on the model "home / family", support to families in need, daily care centers and guardianship occupy most of community services. Also, government organizations operating currently, assist greatly in the provision of these services. Round tables and seminars have been organized focusing on these services and the range of problems affecting children in need and those lacking parental care.
- The process of de-institutionalization of services has begun. Two new services have been created by the Association "Hope and Homes for Children", operating in the orphanage of Durres. This association has been working in the last two years with a project for the de-institutionalization of children and building relationships with their biological family and probable relatives, staff training and capacity building. This process will progress in accord with the capabilities of the

state budget and support by donors. The purpose is to at least establish in every region such a model of services.

3.3. INVESTIGATIONS AND CONVICTION OF TRAFFICKERS

In this context, a separate register for victims of trafficking and the assistance to be afforded to them will be created. MOLSAEO will cooperate with the structure that will create the register. Training sessions for police officers have begun over the whole country, in order to enable them to provide legal and psychological assistance to child victims of trafficking, witnesses or those at risk of trafficking. In the same area, training courses will be conducted for all employees of prosecutor's offices and courts, with information on human rights and victims of trafficking; joint trainings of a more specialized character have taken place, as well, for police officers (including female police officers), prosecutors and court personnel who have specific duties in the field of trafficking in human beings; such courses are in progress for all police officers of general rank.

3.4. VOLUNTARY ASSISTED RETURN OF JUVENILE VICTIMS

As mentioned above, the Albanian Parliament has ratified the Agreement between the Government of the Greek Republic and Republic of Albania on Protection and Assistance to Child Victims of Trafficking. The ratification of the agreement is expected by the Greek parliament. Upon the establishment of Responsible Authority, the activity will be conducted according to duties assigned for the identification and voluntary assisted return of Albanian children who reside unaccompanied in Greece. There will be cooperation with NGO's, such as Terre des Hommes, "Ndihmë për Fëmijët", Arsis, etc. IOM will provide consultancy and financing for the establishment of a country-wide telephone line in order to denounce cases of trafficking.

3.5. COORDINATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING PARTNERS

On the basis of the National Child Strategy, the inter-ministerial committee for child rights and its technical secretariat in MOLSAEO are in the process of creation. This committee will have contact points in the regions, municipalities, communes etc.

- NGO's that deal with trafficking and implement anti-trafficking measures, have been identified. Several of them have been licenced or are through the re-licencing process. On 20 03. 2006, a cooperation agreement between MOLSAEO and the foundation Terre des Hommes – Mission in Albania "On Implementation of Transnational Action against Child Trafficking (TACT), Third Phase May 2006 – June 2009, was made.
- Creation of a toll-free telephone line to provide information on migration and receive reports on cases of trafficking in humans.
- Establishment of 2 information distribution points on migration and prevention of trafficking in Southern and Northern Albania.

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- Following the establishment of the Responsible Authority, the creation of a coordinated system for collecting, analysing and distributing information (data) on trafficking of children will be finalized.

4. SHORT – TERM OBJECTIVES

The following steps will be taken during the **last 6 months of 2006** with regard to anti-trafficking objectives:

1. **The ratification of the Agreement with Greece** on protection and assistance to child victims of trafficking, an achievement of the first 6 months of this year, paves the way for further steps to implement it efficiently, such as the beginning of identification and return of Albanian children residing in Greece to Albania;
2. **The Responsible Authority**, which will coordinate the referral process for initial assistance and protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in close cooperation with all the responsible partners, such as Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consular Section, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Centers for Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Albania, **has been established**. The purpose is to activate the Responsible Authority as a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) of cases of victims of trafficking at a national level and provide them with protection, establish contacts between the Albanian Responsible Authority and Responsible Authorities for NRM's in neighboring countries, such as Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, countries in the region and also with destination countries, such as Italy, Germany, England, etc.;
3. Also, in the context of the cooperation of the Responsible Authority with all the involved parties, a **"help line"**, a country-wide, toll-free telephone line for denouncing cases of trafficking and will assist all citizens or subjects who need help or want to share information they have about this matter, will be established;
4. A **database** will be established within the Responsible Authority, where representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, and leaders of Centers of Protection of Victims of Trafficking will record cases of victims returned, referred, handled and protected in Albania;
5. Regulation by law of the possibility to provide foreign victims of trafficking with temporary residence permits, in the context of the drafting and approval of the **new Albanian law "On Foreigners"**, in full accordance with international standards;
6. **In the context of the activity of Local Anti-trafficking Committees**, commence local campaigns to remove children from the streets, register them in schools, fight against regular prostitution etc., in cooperation between police, prosecutor's office, social services represented on the committees etc.;
7. **The establishment of direct contacts between representatives of regional committees in border regions of Albania with representatives of border regions in neighbouring countries** is intended, in order to exchange timely information about Albanian children who are present as beggars and Albanian girls who are exploited across the border, etc. This will expedite the adoption of measures within a short time on both sides of the border;
8. Reactivation of the reception centers for returnees and potential victims of trafficking, especially at Rinas Airport, and at other border checkpoints; creation by border police of standard procedures for interviewing; registration of pertinent

- data in a single system and building up of the necessary logistical infrastructure for such a purpose;
9. **Preparation of new agreements for the protection of victims of trafficking** also with **other countries** in the region, enlarging the field of activity not only for children but also for other vulnerable groups, and with destination countries of EU, as well (e.g. Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, etc);
 10. Organization of **training courses** on victims of trafficking for members of police, prosecutor's offices and courts, to increase their awareness of the special profile and specialized assistance that a victim of trafficking needs;
 11. Signature of an **agreement with Ministry of Education and Science** on the inclusion in the school curricula of a cycle of subjects on trafficking in human beings and on the opening of special classes for children who do not attend school or truant children, etc.;
 12. Creation of standards for **legal and physical protection of victims of trafficking/witnesses of justice** during the criminal process and in court; making possible their compensation by utilizing sources from properties criminally assembled by their traffickers;
 13. Equipping the **Serious Crimes' Court** with a **video-and-teleconference system to receive testimonies**;
 14. **Launching TV awareness campaigns** to inform and teach citizens, especially young people, about the risks, likelihood and causes of trafficking in humans;
 15. Raising funds for professional training and creating employment opportunities for victims of trafficking, with the intermediation of Regional Committees, Employment Offices, local businesses etc.;
 16. Preparation and finalization of **standard coordinated cooperation agreements between the Ministry of Interior and the Responsible Authority, NGO's and international organizations** that are involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings, identifying obligations and responsibilities for every party, especially with regard to sharing of information and coordinated reporting;
 17. In the context of **monitoring the implementation** of the existing **Anti-trafficking Strategy** by all involved institutions, ministries and other responsible institutions, there is continuous reporting on achievements and problems encountered during the implementation of the objectives of the National Strategy for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, which are all reflected on six monthly and annual reports prepared by the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator / Deputy Minister of Interior, in cooperation with the Anti-trafficking Unit.

It should be explained that our objectives change in accordance with social and economic developments and with the degree of functioning of those structures that are responsible in the field of anti-trafficking. Our selection is based on what we consider as priorities. Their achievement depends on the commitment of all the involved actors and on close and strict monitoring from above. The issue of trafficking in humans will be addressed in an adequate manner only if social problems become a concern for all government agencies, in addition to other factors. Support by the Government and the Office of

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National Anti-trafficking Coordinator in this area is, therefore, complete and unconditional.

5. ANNEXE A – STATISTICS

1. STATISTICS ON ARRESTS, CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, CHARGES AND PERSONS CONVICTED FOR TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTS RELATED TO THEM: 2006

A) OFFENCES OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

(i) Numbers of cases and persons arrested and charged

Penal Code Article	Number of cases referred by police to prosecutor's office	Number of cases confirmed by prosecutor's office	Number of persons arrested/detained by court order	Number of persons charged by prosecutor's office and sent for trial
110/a ⁱ	4			
114/a ⁱⁱ	6	9	3	2
114/b ⁱⁱⁱ	11	1		7
128/b ^{iv}	1			5

(ii) Prosecutions

Penal Code article	Number of persons tried	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons found not guilty	Number of persons still in court process
110/a				5
114/a	1	1		23
114/b	5	5		28
128/b				9

(iii) Court convictions and sentences

Penal Code article	Number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment	Terms of imprisonment					Number of persons fined
		Up to 2 years	2 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	Over 10 years	Life imprisonment	
110/a							
114/a							
114/b							
128/b							

B) OFFENCES RELATED TO TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS: ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING ETC.

(i) Number of cases and persons arrested and charged

Penal Code Article	Number of cases referred by police to prosecutor's office	Number of cases confirmed by prosecutor's office	Number of persons arrested/detained by court order	Number of persons charged by prosecutor's office and sent for trial
297 ^v	43	30		33
298 ^{vi}	64	39	21	34

(ii) Prosecutions

Penal Code article	Number of persons tried	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons found not guilty	Number of persons still in court process
297	25	25		19
298	15	15		42

(iii) Court convictions and sentences

Penal Code article	Number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment	Terms of imprisonment					Number of persons fined
		Up to 2 years	2 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	Over 10 years	Life imprisonment	
297							
298							

C) OFFENCES RELATED TO TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS: PROSTITUTION, VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON, ETC.

(i) Number of cases and persons arrested and charged

Penal Code Article	Number of cases referred by police to prosecutor's office	Number of cases confirmed by prosecutor's office	Number of persons arrested/detained by court order	Number of persons charged by prosecutor's office and sent for trial
113 ^{vii}	10	6	5	5
114 ^{viii}		6	2	
115 ^{ix}		2	1	

(ii) Prosecutions

Penal Code article	Number of persons tried	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons found not guilty	Number of persons still in court process
113	3	3		9
114	5	5		5
115				2

(iii) Court convictions and sentences

Penal Code article	Number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment	Terms of imprisonment					Number of persons fined
		Up to 2 years	2 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	Over 10 years	Life imprisonment	
113							
114							
115							

SUMMARY OF TIP AND TIP-RELATED OFFENCES AND PENALTIES IN ALBANIAN PENAL CODE

ⁱ Article 110/a: Recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons through threat or use of force or other forms of compulsion or deception, or the giving or receipt of payment or other benefits to a person who controls another person, for the purpose of exploitation for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, work or compelled services, slavery or others forms similar to slavery, making use of or transplanting organs, as well as other forms of exploitation. ***(5-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 2-5 million lek)***

Organization, management and financing of the trafficking of persons ***(7-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 4-6 million lek)***

In collusion with others, or repeatedly, or accompanied by mistreatment, making the victim commit various actions through the use of physical or psychological force, or causing serious harm to the trafficked person's health ***(Not less than 15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek)***.

Causing death to the trafficked person ***(Life imprisonment)***.

Abuse of state function or public service ***(Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth)***.

ⁱⁱ Article 114/a: Aggravated exploitation of prostitution, involvement of minors, coercion, compulsion to engage in prostitution outside the jurisdiction, involvement in collusion with others, repeatedly, or of persons holding government or public functions ***(7-15 years imprisonment)***.

ⁱⁱⁱ Article 114/b: Recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of women through threat or use of force or other forms of compulsion or deception, or the giving or receipt of payment or other benefits to a person who controls another person, for the purpose of exploitation for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, work or compelled services, slavery or others forms similar to slavery, making use of or transplanting organs, as well as other forms of exploitation ***(7-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 3-5 million lek)***.

Organization, management and financing of the trafficking of women ***(10-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 5-7 million lek)***.

In collusion with others, or repeatedly, or accompanied by mistreatment, making the woman victim commit various actions through the use of physical or psychological force, or causing serious harm to the victim's health ***(Not less than 15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek)***.

Causing death of the victim ***(Not less than 20 years or life imprisonment)***.

Abuse of state function or public service ***(Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth)***.

^{iv} Article 128/b: Recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of minors, for the purpose of exploitation for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, work or compelled services, slavery or other forms similar to slavery, making use of or transplanting organs, as well as other forms of exploitation ***(7-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 4-6 million lek)***.

Organization, management and financing of the trafficking of minors ***(10-20 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek)***.

In collusion with others, or repeatedly, or accompanied by mistreatment, making the child victim commit various actions through the use of physical or psychological force, or causing serious harm to the health of the trafficked child (Not less than 15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek).

Causing death of the child ***(Not less than twenty years or life imprisonment, plus a fine from 8-10 million lek)***.

Abuse of state function or public service ***(Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth)***

^v Article 297: Illegal crossing of the border ***(Fine or up to 2 years imprisonment)***.

^{vi} Article 298: Sheltering, accompanying, making available or use of means of sea, air or other transportation, with the purpose of assisting in the illegal crossing of the border ***(1-4 years imprisonment, plus fine from 3-6 million lek)***

Assisting in illegal crossing of the border for purposes of profit ***(3-7 years imprisonment, plus fine from 3-6 million lek)***.

In collusion with others, or repeatedly, or causing serious harm ***(5-10 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek)***.

Causing death ***(Not less than 15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 8-10 million lek)***.

Abuse of state function or public service ***(Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth)***

^{vii} Article 113: Practicing prostitution ***(fine or up to 3 years imprisonment)***.

^{viii} Article 114: Inducement, intermediation or recompensing in practicing prostitution ***(fine or up to 5 years imprisonment)***

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^{ix} Article 115: Possession, exploitation, financing or renting facilities for practicing prostitution (*fine or up to 10 years imprisonment*).