

Quarterly newsletter

Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH

In focus:

- One third of the victims in 2006 were BiH nationals
- OHCHR and NGOs discuss ways for improvement of services offered to victims of trafficking
- Two trainings for law enforcement agencies for combating THB undertaken in Sarajevo

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Three weeks’ training for police, prosecutors and NGOs held in Sarajevo

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH, in cooperation with the NGO *La Strada BiH*, organised a training seminar entitled “Investigating Human Trafficking without Relying on Victims: a multi-agency training programme”, which was held in Sarajevo, in the period 8 – 26 May 2006.

The aim of the course is to build the capacity of professionals involved in the fight against human trafficking and to strengthen the cooperation between the main actors. Its main objective is to improve the quality of investigations and to increase the successful prosecution of traffickers in human beings. The main beneficiaries of the training are entity prosecutors, police officers, trainers from the police academies and a representative of the non-governmental sector.

The training program, a first of this kind conducted in BiH, was prepared by OSCE’s Strategic

Police Matters Unit in Vienna. It was organised as a two week simulation of a multi-agency investigation (for 18 participants) followed by a one week “train the trainers” module (for 13 participants).

Efforts by BiH police in fighting human trafficking in recent years have been commendable. However, as victims do not often volunteer to provide information to the police, due to, most frequently, fear of reprisal, there is a need to use alternative investigation methods, sufficient to convict traffickers, which do not rely on compelling the victims to testify before the courts. This training is new in its substance and composition, utilising methodology which departs from traditional training methods. Participants had an opportunity to learn by doing, i.e. establishing a multi-agency team, simulating an investigation in real time, using their own skills, knowledge, equipment and the existing legislation in solving a hypothetical case.

As part of the two-week long training in conducting a multi-agency investigation into



THB, representatives from law enforcement agencies had an opportunity to familiarise themselves with modern education methodologies and to identify gaps in the specialised skills courses offered by their institutions.



During an additional week of training 13 police officers were successfully trained on the student centered learning methodology as part of the Train the Trainers course.

Annual report on trafficking situation adopted by the Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers adopted the Annual report by the State Coordinator on the trafficking situation in BiH. As expected, the report shows that there is a significant increase in local victims

of trafficking in comparison to previous years. Out of 66 victims identified in 2005, 22 were from BiH. During 2005, there were 68 successful investigations and criminal charges, 26 indict-

ments and 16 convictions, which is also significantly higher number than in the previous years.

Regional program for suppression of trafficking in children

State Coordinator for Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in cooperation with Save The Children Norway SEE Regional Office, started with realisation of activities under framework «Regional program for suppression of trafficking in children in BiH» in January 2006. It is a regional project which will, beside BiH, be simultaneously implemented in Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, Romania and Bulgaria. Funding for this project are provided by Save The Children Office in Albania.

The idea for a regional approach to the problem of trafficking in children, since it is in fact a regional and cross-border problem, arose from activists of Save The Children Alliance in the region, who initiated at the national level, implementation of specific activities in cooperation with local governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Consequently, the cooperation with Office of the State Coordinator resulted in drafting of two documents which are today essential in terms of prevention of trafficking in children as well as in terms of protection of rights of victims. These two documents are »Overview and analysis of a state mechanism with the aim to prevent trafficking in human beings in BiH–Trafficking in Children for the

purpose of exploitation» and «Overview of activities of the relevant institutions for protection of children, victims of trafficking—the Referral mechanism». Members of the State group for combating trafficking in human beings, Subgroup for combating trafficking in children and external experts, took part in the drafting of both of these documents.

The document »Overview and analysis of a state mechanism with the aim to prevent trafficking in human beings in BiH–Trafficking in Children for the purpose of exploitation» lists all existing services which deal with trafficking in children, identifies shortcomings and problems as well as recommendations for improvement of the system with the aim of better and more efficient protection from trafficking for children falling into high risk groups. The other document «Overview of activities of the relevant institutions for protection of children, victims of trafficking—the Referral mechanism» lists and identifies problems and shortcomings of institutions in regards to protection of children's rights.

Findings of both documents indicate a series of activities which need to be undertaken in BiH both in prevention and protection areas. One of the key

findings is a need for capacity building of professionals who on a daily basis face potential or actual victims of trafficking. That is why in the framework of the mentioned cooperation, the work on drafting a manual for professionals (social workers, police officers, SBS, health care officials, judiciary and prosecutors) in regards to the problem of trafficking in children, children's rights, protection of children, mechanism for identification, etc. The preparation for organisation of three trainings for social workers which will held in FBiH, RS and Brcko District BiH in the period July 2006–March 2007, with the goal of strengthening capacities in order to efficiently and actively encompass all risk groups of children so that their rights are respected and that they are afforded the necessary service and standards of care as guaranteed by these rights.

Organisation of trainings for health care officials, police officers, prosecutors and all professionals mentioned in the manual is being planned.

From May 2006, Save the Children Norway is planning to start research as part of a regional project on risk factors which are leading to trafficking in children and about context of life and processes of decision making of some risk groups of children in BiH.



Meeting of the second working group

LA Strada hosted a meeting between OHCHR and NGOs on improvement of services for VoT

On 27th March, NGO La Strada BiH hosted a meeting between OHCHR and NGOs Lara, Žene BiH, Vaša prava and La Strada BiH. The follow up meeting was held in Sarajevo in April. During both meeting the role of international organisations, NGOs and their joint efforts and actions towards governmental institutions in issues relating to trafficking in human beings. The role of NGO Vaša prava as a free legal aid provider was discussed as a separate issue. As a result of discussions to the issues of alleged governmental violation of human rights of human trafficking victims, differences in mandates of international and non-governmental organisations, problems relating to identifica-

tion and deportation of trafficking victims as well as a lack of procedures for dealing with local victims of trafficking. A list of recommendations as a result of both meetings was prepared, not all of which are in line with the Procedures for dealing with Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, signed on Vlašić in July 2005. Nonetheless, all recommendations relate to improvement of services for victims of trafficking and *inter alia* include:

- decision to be taken by the Ministry of Security within the reflection period on the status of potential victim of trafficking. Alternatively, potential victim will be regarded as a victim when housed in a shelter by NGOs.

- NGOs are not obliged to reveal the information received from their beneficiaries to governmental institutions, neither they should be asked to do so.

- In case that a trafficking victim addressed an NGO first, the NGO is obliged to inform NGO Vaša prava about that; Vaša prava should take the responsibility for further informing and legal issues; this should be strictly agreed between NGOs which run shelters and NGO Vaša prava.

- Programs of reintegration and re-socialisation should be more efficient; local NGOs should use the existing contacts and cooperation with other NGOs in the countries of origin of trafficking victims, in order to improve reintegration process.

“ŽENA BIH” Mostar uses an Innovative approach to prevent trafficking

Within the IOM's regional project, “Prevention of trafficking in human beings through education” Association “ŽENA BiH” conducted four workshops in Refugee Camp Salakovac. In total, there were 100 Roma participants (25 per workshop). The participants were children and youth.

The following topics were elaborated:

- Trafficking in human beings

- Abduction of children
- Physical abuse
- How to protect oneself and where to turn for help

The following interactive methods were used during the workshops:

- Solving of puzzles and talking about their motifs
- Discussing the puzzle stories

- Discussing the topics foreseen by the project (the difference between trafficking and smuggling, legal and illegal migration, basic human rights, power and control over victims, violence, where to turn for help and how).

With this innovative idea (working with children by solving puzzles), ŽENA BiH has raised awareness about the problem of trafficking in human beings among this population, as well as acted preventively.

“Ženski centar Trebinje implementing project on “Women’s and children’s human rights”

The Project “Women’s and children’s human rights”, which is supported by the American Embassy, foresees education about the trafficking phenomenon for all head teachers in 8th and 9th classes in primary schools and head teachers of all classes in secondary schools in Trebinje.

Main goal of this Project is to respect women’s and children’s human rights, the right to have a life without violence. Project objectives are:

- Raising awareness of one “risk” group (children victims of domestic violence) about the trafficking phenomenon with preventative aim
- Raising awareness of children in primary schools about the trafficking phenomenon through children’s amateur journal
- Development of governmental capacities of head teachers and pedagogues in all primary and all secondary schools in Trebinje municipality regarding the fight against trafficking in persons in order to continuously raise the awareness of young people aged between 12 and 18, about this issue.

The organisation started already at the beginning of March to implement the Project through lobbying the representatives of all primary and all secondary schools in Trebinje (there are 6 schools – 3 primary and 3 secondary schools) for the realisation of one-day seminars about the trafficking phenomenon for head teachers in 8th and 9th classes in primary schools and all classes in secondary schools. These seminars also involve school directors who are the team leaders because they co-ordinate within their schools with participants and in the coming period, they will also supervise the realisation of education about trafficking for their students that should happen at the monthly intervals. Participants at these seminars were also the pedagogues – 106 of them. There was a high level of interest from all participants in this topic and a high level of interest from directors themselves. This was used to document the agreement about taking the responsibility of all head teachers that they will continuously, on a monthly basis, talk with their students about the trafficking phenomenon as well as about other forms of violence against

children and women. This document, the Protocol about co-operation, which is also the continuation of the previous activities regulated in the Agreement about co-operation from the year 2004, was signed by representatives of all three primary and all three secondary schools.

The seminars encompassed three thematic units:

- General terms on trafficking and NGO experiences in working with victims (differences between trafficking and prostitution)
- Sexually transmitted diseases with focus on AIDS and psychological changes for the victim
- Police methods and cognition about trafficking with the view on drugs.

All participants received scripts from the previous project, as well as 80 brochures of the State Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005 – 2007. Participants were also given materials from the Centre for public safety Trebinje about their work and possibilities for co-operation with the citizens.

Regional project on Strengthening Capacities of LEAs for Fighting Human Trafficking in SEE concluded

On 4 - 6 May 2006 the final seminar of the project **Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacities for Fighting Human Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe** took place in Bucharest. The project, financially supported by the Dutch and Swiss government, was jointly implemented by ICMPD and UNDP Romania. The final seminar was

attended by national delegations comprising representatives of police forces, police training institutes, prosecutor’s offices and NGOs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and the UN administered territory of Kosovo. During the semi-

nar participants finalised anti-trafficking training manual that was developed within the project. Furthermore, they used the opportunity to exchange experiences on sustainable anti-trafficking training and to discuss efficient law enforcement cooperation at the regional level.



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Other news in brief

“Development of Reliable and Functioning Policing Systems, and Enhancing of Combating Main Criminal Activities and Police Co-operation” training held under **EC CARDS Regional Police Project (CARPO)**

The event – the fifth in the series of seven pilot training events in the Western Balkan project areas – was held from May 8-12, 2006 at the Vraca Police Academy in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). It was co-hosted by the Director and Deputy Director of the Academy together with the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (who is also the Coordinator for module 2 of this project in BiH) and organised in close cooperation with the IOM Sarajevo office. Trainers in both training courses had emphasised their objective to achieve the enhancement of participants' skills in investigative procedures to combat illegal migration and trafficking, focusing in particular on gathering intelligence and evidence. In the course on Combating Trafficking in Persons, best practices in interviewing trafficked persons who may become witnesses were also highlighted. The course on Combating Illegal Migration and Smuggling of Migrants was to enhance participants' skills concerning evidence gathering, which they achieved also with the help of two prominent prosecutors who attended as guest lecturers.

Upcoming events:

05 - 06 June 2006 - Sub-regional conference: “Safe Environment for Children: Joint Parental Response” in Prishtina, Kosovo (CRS)

15 June 2006 - Anti-trafficking Working Group meeting in Banja Luka (OSCE)

27 June 2006 - Anti-trafficking Working Group meeting in Bijeljina (OSCE, Lara)

June 2006 (TBC) - The cooperation between SECI centre and Law Enforcement Agencies in BiH. Three one-day seminars in Sarajevo, Mostar and Banja Luka (Office of the State Coordinator, OSCE, EUPM, La Strada)

29 – 30 June 2006 - International Conference “Action against trafficking and forced labour exploitation of migrant workers in Europe” in Lisbon, Portugal (ILO/ICMPD)

July 2006 (TBC) - Interagency meeting, Sarajevo (OSCE)
