



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

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## **NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR PREVENTION AND COUNTERACTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND PROTECTION OF THE VICTIMS FOR 2009**

Worldwide trafficking in human beings is recognised as a serious violation of human rights. Human trafficking impairs the honour and dignity of the victims and, in some cases, their right to life. As a form of organised crime, trafficking in human beings undermines the basic principles of the law order and the democratic standards in society. The transnational character of the phenomenon requires joint efforts of all institutions working against human trafficking at regional, national and international levels.

In this relation, the government of the Republic of Bulgaria presents the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of the Victims for 2009 which is adopted as part of the implementation of the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act. The National Programme corresponds to the international standards and obligations of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding its membership in the European Union.

The National Programme is drawn up by the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB) with the Councils of Ministers and the expert support of the Permanent Working Group with the Commission. The National Programme is focused on the counteraction of human trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation and the trafficking of children. The fight against trafficking of women and children requires continuous efforts, especially in order to eradicate the root causes of the problem, such as the lack of information, poverty and the lack of economic opportunities.

The National Commission is established by virtue of the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act. It organises and coordinates the interaction between the separate institutions and organisations executing the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act. It determines and directs the execution of the national policy and strategy for prevention of human trafficking.

With the complex causes of trafficking, there are no easy solutions for counteraction. This is why the measures enclosed in the National Programme have a wide spectrum. Priority is given to prevention and victims' protection as well as to criminal investigation of this type of crimes.

## SECTION I

### “INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES”

#### **Main goal:**

Building the administrative structures provided for by the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act at national and local levels and ensuring their effective functioning.

#### **Activities:**

1. Development of the activities of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHB) in the cities of Varna, Burgas, Pazardjik, Sliven, Montana and Blagoevgrad.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB, LCCTHB

**Partners:** Regional units of the institutions represented by the NCCTHB, international and non-governmental organisation

**Funding:** NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

2. Establishment and structuring of at least two Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHB) in the risk municipalities of Vidin, Dobrich, Veliko Turnovo, Sandanski and Svilengrad.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB, the mayors of the respective municipalities

**Partners:** Regional units of the institutions represented by the NCCTHB, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and NGOs

**Financing:** NCCTHB budgets and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

3. Researching the possibility for opening a shelter for temporary accommodation of victims of trafficking in human beings with the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Burgas and Sliven.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB, LCCTHB

**Partners:** the Municipality of Burgas, the Municipality of Sliven, IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

4. Research, analysis and reporting of statistical data on trafficking in human beings.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency and NGOs

**Financing:** NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** Permanent.

5. Development of a National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB and Foundation "Animus Association"

**Partners:** Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection and NGOs

**Financing:** Funds from projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

6. Researching and analysing the existing practices on hotlines in Bulgaria and providing the results to the European Commission for establishment of a unified European hotline.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** State Agency for Child Protection, Foundation "Animus Association", IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** October 2009.

## SECTION II

### "PREVENTION"

**Main goal:**

Raising public awareness on the problem of human trafficking and developing mechanisms for its confinement. Creating public intolerance to the phenomenon.

## **Activities:**

1. Embracing the risk groups of the population (women, children, ethnic minorities, unemployed and people on social aid) and informing them on the risks and consequences of human trafficking.

1.1. Development of a framework for development of educational policies on human trafficking which will include the basic goals, topics, key messages and results, adapted to children's ages.

**Responsible institution:** Ministry of Education and Science

**Partners:** NCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Regional Inspectorates of the Ministry of Education and Science, IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** Ministry of Education and Science budget and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

1.2. Development and spread of educational modules on the risks and consequences of human trafficking, aimed at students, teachers and parents.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB, Ministry of Education and Science

**Partners:** Regional Inspectorates of the Ministry of Education and Science, State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, LCCTHB, IOM and NGOs

**Funding:** Budgets of the NCCTHB, the Ministry of Education and Science, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Ministry of Interior and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

1.3. Creating and spreading informational materials about sexual and labour exploitation to teachers, secretaries and members of the Local Commissions for Combating Juvenile Delinquency.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB, Ministry of Education and Science

**Partners:** Regional Inspectorates of the Ministry of Education and Science, State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, LCCTHB, IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** Budgets of the NCCTHB, the Ministry of Education and Science, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Ministry of Interior and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

- 1.4. Explanatory activities on the rights of victims of human trafficking and the opportunities for help and protection in Bulgaria and abroad among risk groups (especially ethnic minorities and economically underdeveloped communities).

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB, LCCTHB

**Partners:** Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social Support, IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** Budgets of the respective institutions and funds from related projects and programmes of partnering organisations

**Deadline:** Permanent.

2. Conducting studies and organising informational campaigns.

- 2.1. Popularise the activity of the NCCTHB via various communication channels.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Labour and Social Support, NGOs and media

**Financing:** NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** Permanent.

- 2.2. Conducting an informational campaign for raising the public awareness on human trafficking for labour exploitation.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education and Science, Agency for Social Support, National Employment Agency, LCCTHB, IOM, international and non-governmental organisations

**Financing:** Budgets of the NCCTHB and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

- 2.3. Conducting informational campaigns for raising the public awareness on human trafficking for sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, Central Commission on Combating Juvenile Delinquency, LCCTHB, Agency for Social Support, IOM, international and non-governmental organisations

**Financing:** Budgets of the NCCTHB and the State Agency for Child Protection and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

- 2.4. Conducting an informational campaign aimed at parents for raising their awareness on the risks and consequences of human trafficking on their children.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, Central Commission on Combating Juvenile Delinquency, LCCTHB, National Employment Agency, IOM, international and non-governmental organisations

**Financing:** Budgets of the respective institutions and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

- 2.5. Conducting joint activities with the media to reflect human trafficking problems.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** All state institutions represented by the NCCTHB, media and NGOs

**Financing:** Budgets of the NCCTHB and partner organisations

**Deadline:** December 2009.

- 2.6. Popularizing the Crime Victim Assistance and Financial Compensation Act, including victims of trafficking in human beings, among risk groups and especially among identified victims and witnesses in human trafficking cases.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB, Ministry of Justice

**Partners:** Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Support, State Agency for Child Protection, media and NGOs

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and the Ministry of Justice and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

### SECTION III

#### “TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”

**Main goal:**

Improving the capacity of the staff and the structures of the NCCTHB in order to apply and participate in European projects.

**Activities:**

1. Training NCCTHB employees and initial training of the employees of newly added structures in accordance with the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** All state institutions represented by the NCCTHB, IOM, international and non-governmental organisations

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

2. Improving the qualification of employees working on human trafficking problems and of the experts in the Permanent Working Group with the NCCTHB.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** All state institutions represented by the NCCTHB, IOM, international and non-governmental organisations

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

3. Trainings of magistrates in the area of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

**Responsible institution:** Ministry of Justice, National Institute of Justice

**Financing:** Budgets of the Ministry of Justice and the National Institute of Justice and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** Permanent.

4. Training the staff of the Ministry of Interior and the staff of the State Agency for National Security, who pass courses on initial preparation, improvement of qualification, specialisation and actualisation of specialisation at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior.

**Responsible institution:** Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security

**Financing:** Budgets of the Ministry of Interior and the State Agency for National Security

**Deadline:** Permanent.

5. Training of investigative institutions on the methods of investigating human trafficking crimes.

**Responsible institution:** Ministry of Interior, National Investigative Service, Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation

**Financing:** Budgets of the Ministry of Interior, the State Agency for National Security, the National Investigative Service and the Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation

**Deadline:** Permanent.

6. Expansion of the training module "Human trafficking: root causes, identification and protection of the victims" in the curriculum of the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Financing:** Budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Deadline:** Permanent.

7. Organising and conducting trainings on human trafficking issues for social workers and specialists working on the hotline for children, victims of violence and/or victims of human trafficking.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** State Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social Support, NGOs

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.



8. Organising and conducting specialised training for working with children, victims of violence and/or human trafficking, for staff and social workers at the crisis centres for children, victims of violence and human trafficking.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** State Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social Support, international and non-governmental organisations

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

9. Organising and conducting specialised trainings for the staff at the shelter for temporary accommodation for victims of human trafficking with the Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Varna.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB, LCCTHB

**Partners:** State Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social Support, international and non-governmental organisations

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

10. Training of the Border Police staff on the methods of identification of victims of trafficking in human beings.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB, Ministry of Interior

**Partners:** LCCTHB, international and non-governmental organisation

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and the Ministry of Interior and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

## SECTION IV

### “PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”

**Main goal:**

Overcoming the consequences of human trafficking and reintegrating the victims in society by assistance and support of the victims and protection of their rights.

## **Activities:**

1. Use of developed good practices for raising the public awareness on the risks of using the Internet as a tool for recruiting potential victims of human trafficking.

**Responsible institution:** Ministry of Interior

**Partners:** NCCTHB, LCCTHB, Ministry of Labour and Social Support, State Agency for Child Protection, State Agency for National Security, NGOs, international organisation and internet providers

**Financing:** Budgets of the Ministry of Interior and the State Agency for National Security

**Deadline:** October 2009.

2. Provision of a mechanism for medical and psychological assistance in the centres for help and protection of the victims of human trafficking with the LCCTHB.

**Responsible institution:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** Ministry of Labour and Social Support, Ministry of Health, LCCTHB

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB

**Deadline:** Permanent.

3. Development of programmes for appropriate education and qualification for the needs of the victims of human trafficking.

**Responsible institutions:** Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour and Social Support, National Employment Agency and respective municipalities

**Partners:** LCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, NGOs

**Financing:** Budgets of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour and Social Support and the National Employment Agency and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** Permanent.

4. Supporting the participation of victims of human trafficking in projects, programmes and measures under the terms and procedures of the Encouragement of Employment Act.

**Responsible institutions:** Ministry of Labour and Social Support, National Employment Agency

**Partners:** NCCTHB, LCCTHB

**Financing:** Budgets of the Ministry of Labour and Social Support and the National Employment Agency and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** Permanent.

5. Development of minimal standards for protection of the victims of trafficking in human beings.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB, Foundation “Animus Association”

**Partners:** Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Support, State Agency for Child Support, IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

6. Development of criteria for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB, Ministry of Interior

**Partners:** State Agency for National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme Prosecutor’s Office of Cassation, Ministry of Labour and Social Support, State Agency for Child Support, Foundation “Animus Association” and NGOs

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

7. Development of a procedure for measuring the risk for victims of human trafficking returning to their region or country of origin.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB, Foundation “Animus Association”

**Partners:** Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Support, State Agency for Child Support, IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

8. Development of standards and referrals for psychological support and social services by government institutions and non-governmental organisations, providers of services for victims of human trafficking.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB, Foundation “Animus Association”

**Partners:** Ministry of Labour and Social Support, State Agency for Child Protection, IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** December 2009.

## SECTION V

### “INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION”

#### **Main goal:**

Development of international cooperation by sharing of good practices in the field of prevention and counteraction of human trafficking, presentation of Bulgarian legislation and building of bilateral and multilateral partnerships.

#### **Activities:**

1. Developing bilateral contacts with countries of destination, as well as countries of origin, for Bulgarian victims of human trafficking.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** All state institutions represented by the NCCTHB, IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** Permanent.

2. Conducting study visits in countries of destination for Bulgarian victims of human trafficking in order to improve cooperation, sharing of experience on prevention, protection and work on cases of human trafficking.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** All state institutions represented by the NCCTHB, IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** Permanent.

3. Sharing of experience and good practices between NCCTHB and similar institutions working on the issues of human trafficking and prevention of human trafficking in the member-states of the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and third countries.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** All state institutions represented by the NCCTHB, IOM and NGOs

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** Permanent.

4. Representing the Bulgarian legislation and practices in combating trafficking in human beings in the framework of bilateral and unilateral cooperation.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** All state institutions represented by the NCCTHB

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** Permanent.

5. Conducting an international round table for sharing of experience and good practices in counteraction of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** All state institutions represented by the NCCTHB

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** November 2009.

6. Establishing and developing a network of dependable partners at international level for the purpose of cooperation, assistance and coordination in the field of service provision for victims of trafficking.

**Responsible institutions:** NCCTHB

**Partners:** International and non-governmental organisation

**Financing:** Budget of the NCCTHB and funds from related projects and programmes

**Deadline:** Permanent.

## **SSECTION VI**

### **“LEGISLATIVE MEASURES”**

#### **Main goal:**

Contemporising the legislative measures in order to improve the effective counteraction of trafficking in human beings in Bulgaria in the context of the European policy for combating this type of crime.

#### **Activities:**

1. Prepare a proposal for the amendment and completion of the existing procedure in the Law for Bulgarian Identification Documents for gratuitous issuing of identity documents for victims of

trafficking in areas other than their registered permanent address, especially in case of high risk for the victims when returning to their home region.

**Responsible institution:** Ministry of Interior

**Expert assistance:** Supreme Court of Cassation, NCCTHB

**Financing:** Budget of the Ministry of Interior

**Deadline:** June 2009.

#### **Annex: List of abbreviations**

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<b>IOM</b>	International Organisation for Migration
<b>LCCTHB</b>	Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
<b>NCCTHB</b>	National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisations