



2017 NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS

SECTION I

INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES

STRATEGIC GOAL	Promote well-functioning mechanisms for institutional support, foster the development of both the national and local administrative structures provided for in the <i>Combating Human Trafficking Act</i> , and ensure their efficient operation.
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES	1. Guide and oversee the activities of all entities referred to in the <i>Combating Human Trafficking Act</i> .
	2. Organise and coordinate the interaction between the different institutions and organisations to ensure the implementation of the <i>Combating Human Trafficking Act</i> and effective implementation of the policy to prevent trafficking in human beings.

Activity 1	Consultation, coordination, and adoption of a <i>Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking in Bulgaria 2017 – 2021</i>.
Responsible institution(s)	The Administration of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (ANCCTHB) and the members of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB)
Partners	All municipalities where Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHBs) have been set up, the regional units of all institutions represented in the NCCTHB, NGOs, international organisations, and the National Legal Aid Bureau
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB and the institutions represented in it
Time frame / Deadline	July 2017
Expected Outcomes	A long-term policy of the Republic of Bulgaria to prevent, suppress, and counter trafficking in persons and to protect human trafficking victims.
Performance Indicators	A <i>Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking in Bulgaria 2017 – 2021</i> adopted at a meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Activity 2	Build and increase the capacity of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Set up a mechanism for carrying out external monitoring and assessment of the implementation of local policies to combat people trafficking.
Responsible institution(s)	ANCCTHB, LCCTHBs
Partners	All municipalities where LCCTHBs have been set up
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB and the respective municipalities, funding provided under projects and programmes
Time frame / Deadline	November 2017

Expected Outcomes	Fulfilment of all obligations laid down in Article 8 of the <i>Combating Human Trafficking Act</i> (CHTA) and a monitoring report including an assessment of the quality, efficiency, and outcomes of all actions taken, of the prevention and information campaigns carried out, of the trainings conducted, and of the policies implemented. Analysis of the need to set up additional LCCTHBs and/or to merges existing ones to meet regional needs.
Performance Indicators	Trainings with the LCCTHBs conducted; external monitoring, control, and review carried out; recommendations put forward to enhance the quality and efficiency of the performance of the LCCTHBs, work plans of the LCCTHBs drawn up and adopted in compliance with the recommendations made.

Activity 3	Introduction of new mechanisms to follow-up on the cases of human trafficking victims in the period after leaving the shelter or specialised centre for victims of trafficking in human beings
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Vienna
Partners	Members of the NCCTHB and the LCCTHBs, NGO providers of social services at both national and local level, institutions involved in the project implementation in accordance with the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme
Financing	The Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme
Time frame / Deadline	December 2017

Expected Outcomes	Higher service delivery standards at both the shelter and the specialised centre; new monitoring policies and mechanisms developed and introduced.
Performance Indicators	A study of the current situation in Bulgaria conducted; interviews conducted with institutional stakeholders at the national level; two policy papers and two documents on monitoring elaborated and adopted by the NCCTHB; number of meetings held and feedback comments received.

Activity 4	Reinforce interinstitutional cooperation towards countering trafficking in human beings in the context of the current migration realities and the new manifestations of the crime of human trafficking.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB
Partners	The NCCTHB, the LCCTHBs, NGOs and international organisations in Bulgaria, European agencies, the State Agency for Refugees (SAR), the Mol
Financing	The ANCCTHB, the Hanns-Seidel Foundation in Bulgaria
Time frame / Deadline	May – October 2017

Expected Outcomes	Improved collaboration at the local, national, and international level with regard to countering human trafficking amongst asylum seeking migrants.
Performance Indicators	An international event held designed to exchange experience and good practices related to countering trafficking in persons in the context of the new migration challenges.

Activity 5	Streamline and improve the efficiency in handling cases of human trafficking victims by implementing the procedures and measures laid down in the National Mechanism for Referral of and Support to the Victims of Human Trafficking (NRM).
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Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB
Partners	The NCCTHB, the LCCTHBs, NGOs and international organisations in Bulgaria, European agencies, the SAR, the Mol, the EA, the SACP, the GLIEA, and the MLSP
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB, NGOs, funding provided for projects and programmes
Time frame / Deadline	Throughout 2017
Expected Outcomes	Increased efficiency and effectiveness in handling cases of human trafficking; better coordination and communication achieved between the different institutions involved in the process. Practical implementation of the procedures and measures laid down in the National Mechanism for Referral of and Support to the Victims of Human Trafficking; cases of human trafficking victims handled in keeping with the NRM.
Performance Indicators	Number of alerts coordinated in keeping with the NRM; number of victims supported in keeping with the NRM requirements.

Activity 6	Setting-up a Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the city of Pleven
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB
Partners	The Municipality of Pleven, the District Prosecutor`s Office in the city of Pleven
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB and the Municipality of Pleven
Time frame / Deadline	May 2017
Expected Outcomes	Expanding the scope of work on preventing, suppressing, countering, prosecuting, and punishing trafficking in person at the local level and improved coordination and interinstitutional interaction at the local and regional level.
Performance Indicators	A well-functioning Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the city of Pleven

SECTION II PREVENTION

STRATEGIC GOAL	Raise the awareness and sensitivity of both the public and the high-risk groups on issues related to trafficking in human beings.
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES	1. Build-up public intransigence towards trafficking in human beings. 2. Organise and conduct information, awareness-raising, and education campaigns for persons from the high-risk groups for trafficking in human beings.

Activity 1	Carrying out targeted activities aimed at improving the prevention and early identification of human trafficking amongst vulnerable communities, taking account of the specific risk factors and forms of human trafficking.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB, the LCCTHBs
Partners	NGOs, the EA
Financing	Funding provided for projects and programmes, and from the budget of the NCCTHB

Time frame / Deadline	August – December 2017
Expected Outcomes	Raised awareness among the vulnerable groups on issues related to trafficking in human beings and a multidisciplinary working network deployed at the national and local level; raised awareness and commitment of all local institutions and communities – informal leaders for the purposes of early identification of human trafficking cases.
Performance Indicators	Joint events conducted; educational and awareness materials produced and distributed; communication channels created and established for the purpose of exchanging good practices. Number of representatives of vulnerable communities and informal leaders involved in the multidisciplinary working network, number of persons at risk of trafficking identified and referred at an early stage.

Activity 2	Conduct a campaign to raise awareness and public knowledge about prevention of human trafficking on the occasion of 30 July – the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.
Responsible institution(s)	The LCCTHBs
Partners	The ANCCTHB, NGOs, and the business sector
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB, funding provided for projects and programmes
Time frame / Deadline	July 2017

Expected Outcomes	Raised awareness among the vulnerable groups on issues related to trafficking in human beings.
Performance Indicators	Joint events conducted; outreach materials produced and distributed; communication channels created and established to exchange good practices and synchronise common work and joint actions.

Activity 3	Conduct a campaign to raise awareness and public knowledge about the current forms and trends in the area of human trafficking, the new profiles of the trafficking victims and the specific new methods of recruiting and controlling the victims on the occasion of 18 October – the EU Anti-Trafficking Day.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB, the LCCTHBs
Partners	Members of the NCCTHB, IOs, and NGOs
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB, funding provided for projects and programmes
Time frame / Deadline	October – December 2017

Expected Outcomes	Increased public awareness on issues related to trafficking in human beings, the current victim profiles, and the specific new recruiting methods.
Performance Indicators	Awareness events conducted; educational and awareness materials produced and distributed; communication channels created and established to exchange good practices and synchronise common work and joint actions.

Activity 4	Carrying out outreach activities to create awareness of the risks of human trafficking among migrants and third-country nationals.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB, the Mol
Partners	NGOs
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB, the Hanns-Seidel Foundation in Bulgaria
Time frame / Deadline	February 2017

Expected Outcomes	Increased awareness and improved information on the risks of human trafficking among the vulnerable groups, including migrants and third-country nationals.
Performance Indicators	Specialised outreach materials produced for the groups at risk, including third-country nationals; number of persons reached; number of outreach activities.
Activity 5	Develop the anti-trafficking network of volunteers with the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the ANCCTHB by holding training events and conducting a Volunteer Academy.
Responsible institution(s)	The LCCTHBs and the ANCCTHB
Partners	The MES and NGOs
Financing	Funding provided for projects and programmes, the Hanns-Seidel Foundation in Bulgaria
Time frame / Deadline	March – April 2017
Expected Outcomes	Additionally recruited and trained volunteers in the territory of Sofia and the country.
Performance Indicators	Volunteer Academy conducted, number of children and youth trained, number of schools covered.
Activity 6	Organise and conduct a specialised study aimed at mapping the regions home to highly vulnerable communities at risk of falling victims to human trafficking, and at identifying and analysing the risk factors and the types of human trafficking.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB
Partners	The LCCTHBs, NGOs
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB, funding provided for projects and programmes
Time frame / Deadline	March – November 2017
Expected Outcomes	A 'map' produced of the regions home to vulnerable communities; the risk factors for falling victims to human trafficking identified and analysed; the forms of human trafficking specific to such vulnerable communities identified and reported; practical recommendations for prevention and for working with them elaborated and put forward.
Performance Indicators	A study conducted, a 'map' produced, risk factors and types of human trafficking identified and reported, practical recommendations formulated and presented for prevention and for working with and among the vulnerable groups.
Activity 7	Conduct an information and awareness-raising campaign on the prevention of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.
Responsible institution(s)	The MLSP and the EA
Partners	The ANCCTHB
Financing	From the budget of the MLSP and the EA
Time frame / Deadline	December 2017
Expected Outcomes	Increased awareness among Bulgarian citizens willing to go and work in other EU Member States on issues related to human trafficking and the risks of falling victims to labour exploitation.
Performance Indicators	Number of outreach materials designed for Bulgarian citizens willing to go and work in other EU Member States and their dissemination through the territorial units of the Employment Agency.

SECTION III

STAFF TRAINING, SPECIALISATION, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC GOAL	Develop and build on the expertise of the specialists in the area of combating trafficking in human beings and protection of human trafficking victims.
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement programs for training staff in the performance of functions related to preventing and countering trafficking in human beings and to victim protection. 2. Further training and professional development of the staff of the NCCTHB Secretariat and the NCCTHB's local structures, as well as the experts with the Standing Working Group with the National Commission.
Activity 1	Conduct the training module '<i>Human Trafficking: Reasons, Victim Identification and Protection</i>' for intern diplomats, diplomats performing consular functions and police attachés through the programme run by the MFA Diplomatic Institute.
Responsible institution(s)	The MFA, the MFA Diplomatic Institute
Partners	The ANCCTHB, the members of the NCCTHB, IOs and NGOs
Financing	From the budget of the MFA Diplomatic Institute and the Ministry of Defence
Time frame / Deadline	March – June 2017
Expected Outcomes	Higher staff qualifications.
Performance Indicators	Number of training event conducted, number of persons trained.
Activity 2	Conduct specialised training events for judges, magistrates, and police investigators.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB, the Hanns-Seidel Foundation in Bulgaria
Partners	The Mol, the National Legal Aid Bureau, the Association of Public Prosecutors in Bulgaria, NGOs and IOs, the Secretariat to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
Financing	Funding provided for projects and programmes, the Hanns-Seidel Foundation in Bulgaria
Time frame / Deadline	September 2017
Expected Outcomes	Higher staff qualifications.
Performance Indicators	Number of training events conducted (nationally and internationally), number of employees trained, number of lecturers involved (both Bulgarian and foreign).
Activity 3	Conduct specialised training events for Mol officers and GLIEA inspectors on the topic of '<i>Identifying human trafficking victims and interacting with the competent police authorities in cases of human trafficking for the purposes of forced labour</i>'.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB, the Mol
Partners	The MLSP
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB
Time frame / Deadline	March – September 2017
Expected Outcomes	Improved identification of human trafficking victims and more efficient interaction with the competent police authorities in cases of human trafficking for the purposes of forced labour.
Performance Indicators	Training events held, improved and more efficient interaction.

Activity 4	Conduct training events for Roma mediators at the Labour Offices.
Responsible institution(s)	The EA, the LCCTHBs
Partners	All institutional stakeholders, the LCCTHBs
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB
Time frame / Deadline	December 2017
Expected Outcomes	Increased awareness and knowledge among Roma mediators about the risks of labour exploitations; increased awareness and knowledge among representatives of the Roma communities about the risks of labour exploitation.
Performance Indicators	Number of Roma mediators trained, number of training events held.
Activity 6	Conduct training events for labour intermediaries, staff of the Labour Office Directorates within the EA, GLIEA inspectors, and social workers at the Social Assistance Directorates.
Responsible institution(s)	The MLSP (the EA)
Partners	The ANCCTHB, the Centre for Human Resource Development and Regional Initiatives (CHRDR)
Financing	From the budget of the MLSP/the EA, the GLIEA, the SAA
Time frame / Deadline	March – October 2017
Expected Outcomes	Increased awareness on the identification of human trafficking cases.
Performance Indicators	Number of training events conducted, number of persons trained, feedback comments received.
Activity 7	Conduct specialised training events for magistrates and legal practitioners on the current trends and forms of human trafficking, as well as on the profile of human trafficking victims and their statutory rights.
Responsible institution(s)	The Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria (PORB)
Partners	The ANCCTHB
Financing	From the budget of the PORB
Time frame / Deadline	December 2017
Expected Outcomes	Increased awareness on the current trends and forms of human trafficking, as well as on the human trafficking victims' profiles and their statutory rights.
Performance Indicators	Number of training events conducted, number of magistrates and legal practitioners trained, increased awareness and sensitivity among magistrates and legal practitioners as to the rights of human trafficking victims.
Activity 8	Conduct multidisciplinary training events on the topic of '<i>Implementation of the National Mechanism for Referral of and Support to the Victims of Human Trafficking (NRM)</i>'.
Responsible institution(s)	The LCCTHBs, the ANCCTHB
Partners	Municipalities
Financing	From the budget of the ANCCTHB and the municipalities, funding for projects and programmes
Time frame / Deadline	March – December 2017
Expected Outcomes	Increased awareness and knowledge among the professionals working in the area of human trafficking about the NRM and about the procedures, activities, and measures laid down in it.
Performance Indicators	Practical implementation of all procedures, activities, and measures laid down in the NRM.

Activity 9	Conduct specialised training events for social workers at the Social Assistance Directorates on the identification of human trafficking victims and on working for their reintegration after staying at a shelter or at a crisis centre.
Responsible institution(s)	The SAA
Partners	The ANCCTHB, the LCCTHBs
Financing	From the budget of the SAA
Time frame / Deadline	March – December 2017
Expected Outcomes	Improved identification and subsequent reintegration of the human trafficking victims.
Performance Indicators	Training events held and social workers trained, increased number of victims identified and reintegrated.
Activity 10	Conduct specialised training events for teaching staff on trafficking in human beings and on early identification of potential victims.
Responsible institution(s)	The MES
Partners	The ANCCTHB, the LCCTHBs
Financing	The MES
Time frame / Deadline	March – December 2017
Expected Outcomes	Increased awareness and knowledge among teaching staff about the crime of human trafficking and acquired skills in identifying potential victims.
Performance Indicators	Training events held, number of teachers and school guidance counsellors trained, number of potential victims identified.
Activity 11	Organise training for the staff employed at the newly opened shelter and specialised centre for human trafficking victims in the city of Sofia.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB, “Die Drehscheibe” Crisis Centre, Vienna
Partners	The NGO – service provider
Financing	The Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme
Time frame / Deadline	June 2017
Expected Outcomes	Higher qualifications of the staff employed at the newly launched shelter and specialised centre for human trafficking victims in the city of Sofia.
Performance Indicators	A week-long training for 6 staff members of the newly launched shelter and specialised centre for human trafficking victims run by the NCCTHB, to be held in Vienna by experts at “Die Drehscheibe” Crisis Centre.
Activity 12	Participation in an international training event ‘Reducing trafficking in human beings by reducing the demand for sexual services provided by human trafficking victims’.
Responsible institution(s)	The Academy of European Law
Partners	Members of the NCCTHB
Financing	The Academy of European Law
Time frame / Deadline	April 2017
Expected Outcomes	Increasing the professional capacity of the experts working in the area of human trafficking and consolidation of the cooperation with international organisations active in the field of the law.

Performance Indicators	Participation in the training event, number of participants.
Activity 13	Participation in an international training event ‘Providing assistance to victims of trafficking in persons and the necessary means for that purpose’.
Responsible institution(s)	The Academy of European Law
Partners	Members of the NCCTHB
Financing	The Academy of European Law
Time frame / Deadline	December 2017
Expected Outcomes	Increasing the professional capacity of the experts working in the area of human trafficking and consolidation of the cooperation with international organisations active in the field of the law.
Performance Indicators	Participation in the training event, number of participants.
Activity 14	Increasing the capacity of the experts working at the Administration of the NCCTHB.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB
Partners	The Bulgarian Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and NGOs
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB, funding for projects and programmes
Time frame / Deadline	March – November 2017
Expected Outcomes	Higher qualifications of the ANCCTHB employees.
Performance Indicators	Number of training events, number of employees trained

SECTION IV

PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

STRATEGIC GOAL	Overcome the consequences of trafficking in human beings and reintegrate the victims in society by providing help, support, assistance and protection.
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply the National and Trans-National Referral Mechanism for Human Trafficking Victims. 2. Apply the National Mechanism for Referral of and Support to the Victims of Human Trafficking. 3. An increased number of human trafficking victims (HTV) receiving protection and support at the temporary accommodation shelters (TAS) and at the centres for protection and support to human trafficking victims (CPSHTV), crisis centres, and other support centres. 4. Reintegrate human trafficking victims through training and further training, employment, etc.

Activity 1	Protection and support to HTVs at the TASs and CPSHTVs in the cities of Varna and Burgas.
Responsible institution(s)	The NCCTHB
Partners	NGOs, the Mol, the LCCTHBs
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB, funding for projects and programmes
Time frame / Deadline	Throughout 2017

Expected Outcomes	Functioning TASs and CPSHTVs, human trafficking victims receiving care.
Performance Indicators	Number of human trafficking victims accommodated and assisted, psychosocial support and legal assistance provided.
Activity 2	Consolidate the existing partnership for specialised support to male victims of human trafficking.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB
Partners	NGOs, the MLSP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB, funding for projects and programmes
Time frame / Deadline	Throughout 2017
Expected Outcomes	Extending the coverage of the specialised support to male victims of human trafficking and synchronizing the actions in working on cases of male victims of human trafficking.
Performance Indicators	Involvement of partners providing support to male victims of human trafficking.
Activity 3	Opening of a shelter for elderly victims of human trafficking in the city of Sofia with a capacity to accommodate 10 persons.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB
Partners	NGOs, government institutions providing premises for the shelter
Financing	The Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme
Time frame / Deadline	July 2017
Expected Outcomes	Extending the coverage of the specialised services for human trafficking victims, a larger number of human trafficking victims allowed access to specialised services.
Performance Indicators	A fully functioning shelter for elderly victims of human trafficking in the city of Sofia with a capacity to accommodate 10 persons set up, renovated, and fully equipped; an agreement with the service provider concluded; number of victims accommodated.
Activity 4	Opening of a shelter for child victims of human trafficking in the city of Sofia with a capacity to accommodate 10 persons.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB
Partners	NGOs, government institutions providing premises for the shelter
Financing	The Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme
Time frame / Deadline	July 2017
Expected Outcomes	Extending the coverage of the specialised services for child victims of human trafficking, a larger number of child victims of human trafficking allowed access to specialised services.
Performance Indicators	An existing fully functioning shelter for child victims of human trafficking in the city of Sofia with a capacity to accommodate 10 persons, renovated and fully equipped; an agreement with the service provider concluded; number of victims accommodated.
Activity 5	Strengthen and formalise the network of barristers specialising in representing and protecting victims of human trafficking who assist and cooperate with the investigation.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB, the LCCTHBs

Partners	NGOs, the National Legal Aid Bureau
Financing	From the budget of the ANCCTHB, funding for projects and programmes
Time frame / Deadline	June 2017
Expected Outcomes	Expanding the scope of the existing network of barristers specialising in representing and protecting human trafficking victims.
Performance Indicators	An increase in the number of legal practitioners taking cases and providing legal assistance to victims of human trafficking.

SECTION V

RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND STATISTICAL REPORTING FOR DATA IN RELATION TO TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

STRATEGIC GOAL	Following the developments and trends in the crime of human trafficking, its prevention and suppression.
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain a single database for the victims and perpetrators of human trafficking. 2. Improve the mechanism for gathering data from all institutions and NGOs.

Activity 1	Analysis of the trends in the crime of human trafficking based on data on both the victims and the perpetrators of the crime.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB, the National Investigation Service (NIS)
Partners	The NIS, The Unified Information System for Combating Crime (UISCC)
Financing	Funding provided for programmes and projects, funds from the budget of the NCCTHB.
Time frame / Deadline	March 2017
Expected Outcomes	Collecting more comprehensive qualitative and quantitative statistical information and analysing the data collected. Developing anti-trafficking policies informed by and based on up-to-date empirical data.
Performance Indicators	Efficient specialised search tools introduced and made available; improved access to the UISCC; enriched database; number of analyses produced.

Activity 2	Conduct preliminary assessments, research and analyses with a view to improving the mechanisms for identification and protection of human trafficking victims (including male trafficking victims and victims of trafficking among asylum seekers, refugees and migrants) and provision of more comprehensive and personality-oriented help and support.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB and the LCCTHBs
Partners	NGOs, IOs
Financing	Funds from the budget of the NCCTHB, the MFA/the Council of Europe
Time frame / Deadline	Throughout 2017
Expected Outcomes	Analysis and an action plan for provision of services to human trafficking victims in accordance with the victims' profile and the identified needs for help and assistance; analysis of the factors of vulnerability to human trafficking among asylum seeking migrants, unaccompanied alien minors and third-country nationals.

Performance Indicators	Number of studies conducted, number of reports drawn up with conclusions drawn and recommendation put forward to be implemented in practice.
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SECTION VI

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGIC GOAL	Developing the international cooperation through exchange of best practices in the area of preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exchange of experience and good practices, participation in international projects aimed at countering trafficking in human beings and protecting the victims of human trafficking. 2. Building partnerships through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. 3. Developing and implementing international projects aimed at countering human trafficking.

Activity 1	Present the national institutional framework for combating trafficking in persons, current mechanisms and exchange of experience and good practices of countering human trafficking within partnership networks among the EU Member States, the Council of Europe, the UN, in the OSCE, third countries, etc.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB
Partners	International partners, IOs, and NGOs
Financing	From the budget of the NCCTHB.
Time frame / Deadline	March – December 2017
Expected Outcomes	Enhanced collaboration, exchange of information and successful practices.
Performance Indicators	Number of meetings attended, reports.

Activity 2	Consolidate the cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Swiss Confederation in the area of identification and protection of human trafficking victims through exchange of experience and familiarisation with good practices in the field of suppressing and countering trafficking in human beings.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB, the Federal Office of Police of the Swiss Confederation
Partners	Members of the NCCTHB, NGOs
Financing	The Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme
Time frame / Deadline	February 2017
Expected Outcomes	Higher qualifications of both the staff and the experts.
Performance Indicators	Meetings held, number of participants in foreign visits for exchange of experience.

Activity 3	Interaction with the competent authorities of the EU Member States concerned within the meaning of Article 4 of Directive 96/71/EC and under Directive 2014/97/EU to resolve issues relating to Bulgarian citizens within their territory in cases of labour law violations.
Responsible institution(s)	The MLSP, the GLIEA
Partners	The NCCTHB, the ANCCTHB, and the competent institutions from the EU Member States concerned
Financing	From the budget of the GLIEA / the MLSP

Time frame / Deadline	Ongoing
Expected Outcomes	Enhanced collaboration with the competent institutions of the EU Member States concerned to resolve issues relating to labour exploitation of Bulgarian citizens in the respective Member States.
Performance Indicators	Number of processed requests for mutual assistance to recover public debts, number of financial penalties or fines imposed for violations of the labour law concerning the posting of workers or employees abroad.

SECTION VII LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

STRATEGIC GOAL	Upgrade the existing legislative framework to improve the efficient combating of human trafficking in Bulgaria.
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Align the domestic legislation with the commitments assumed by the Republic of Bulgaria under international legal instruments. 2. Update the regulatory framework to ensure more efficient implementation of the government policy to prevent and counter trafficking in human beings.

Activity 1	Consultation, coordination, and adoption of amendments to the <i>Combating Human Trafficking Act</i> and to the <i>Rules for the Implementation of the Combating Human Trafficking Act</i>.
Responsible institution(s)	The ANCCTHB
Partners	Members of the NCCTHB and the LCCTHBs
Financing	Funds from the budget of the ANCCTHB
Time frame / Deadline	December 2017
Expected Outcomes	Amendments to the <i>Combating Human Trafficking Act</i> (CHTA) and to the <i>Rules for the Implementation of the Combating Human Trafficking Act</i> .
Performance Indicators	Amendments to the <i>CHTA</i> and to the <i>Rules for the Implementation of the CHTA</i> , synchronised with the European legislation, adopted at a meeting of the Council of Ministers and improved domestic legislation in the area of countering human trafficking and protection of trafficking victims.

Activity 2	Improve the interaction in the application of the Coordination Mechanism for referring and providing care to unaccompanied minors and child victims of human trafficking returning from abroad.
Responsible institution(s)	The Mol, the SACP
Partners	All stakeholder partner organisations
Financing	From the budget of the respective responsible institutions
Time frame / Deadline	Throughout 2017
Expected Outcomes	Improved efficiency in the process of referring and providing care to unaccompanied minors and child victims of human trafficking returning from abroad; efficient protection of the rights of unaccompanied minors and child victims of human trafficking returning from abroad.
Performance Indicators	Number of children referred and provided with care in keeping with the Coordination Mechanism.

Activity 3	Establishing a Coordination Mechanism for interaction between the institutions and organisations for the purpose of guaranteeing the rights of unaccompanied alien minors residing in Bulgaria, including those seeking and granted international protection.
Responsible institution(s)	The MLSP
Partners	The ANCCTHB
Financing	The MLSP
Time frame / Deadline	April 2017
Expected Outcomes	Improved mechanisms and procedures for interaction between the institutions and organisations to guarantee the rights of unaccompanied alien minors.
Performance Indicators	Signed and approved Coordination Mechanism for interaction between the institutions and organisations for the purpose of guaranteeing the rights of unaccompanied alien minors residing in Bulgaria, including those seeking and granted international protection.
Activity 4	Opinions on legislative amendments concerning the active prosecution and punishment of the crime of human trafficking and the efficient protection of the human trafficking victims.
Responsible institution(s)	The NCCTHB, the ANCCTHB
Partners	All institutional stakeholders concerned
Financing	From the budget of the responsible institution
Time frame / Deadline	Throughout 2017
Expected Outcomes	Efficient prosecution of the perpetrators of the crime of human trafficking and protection of the rights of the victims of the crime.
Performance Indicators	Number of opinions and initiatives to amend the relevant legislation.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANCCTHB	Administration of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
CCCJD	Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency
CHRDR	Centre for Human Resource Development and Regional Initiatives
EA	Employment Agency (https://www.az.government.bg/en/pages/za-nas/)
GLIEA	General Labour Inspectorate Executive Agency (http://www.gli.government.bg/en/)
IO	International organisations
LCCJD	Local Commission(s) for Combating Juvenile Delinquency
LCCTHB	Local Commission(s) for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
LOD	Labour Office Directorate(s)
MES	Ministry of Education and Science
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (http://www.mfa.bg/setlang/en)
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (https://www.mlsp.government.bg/index.php?lang=eng)
MoI	Ministry of Interior (https://www.mvr.bg/en/default.htm)
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NCCTHB	National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (http://antitraffic.government.bg/en/)
NGO	Non-governmental organisation(s)
NIJ	National Institute of Justice (http://www.nij.bg/Default.aspx?lang=en-US)
NIS	National Investigation Service
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PORB	Prosecutor's Office of Republic of Bulgaria (http://www.prb.bg/en/)
SAA	Social Assistance Agency (http://www.asp.government.bg/web/guest/home1)
SACP	State Agency for Child Protection