



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
**COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN  
HUMAN BEINGS

**REPORT**  
**ON THE ACTIVITIES OF**  
**THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING**  
**IN HUMAN BEINGS IN 2008**

The Bulgarian National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB) was set up in accordance with the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act (CTHBA) (published in the State Gazette, issue 46 of 20 May 2003, amended issue 86 of 28 October 2005, amended issue 33 of 28 March 2008). By Decision No. 860 of 4 November 2005, Mr. Daniel Valchev, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Science, was appointed Chairperson of the Commission. The current members of the Commission were designated by an order of the Chairperson of the NCCTHB of 20 December 2005. Ms. Antoaneta Vasileva has been Secretary of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings since 4 June 2007.

Pursuant to Art. 7 of the CTHBA, the National Commission shall:

1. Organise and coordinate the cooperation between the individual agencies and organisations in relation to the implementation of the Act;
2. Determine and administer the implementation of the national policy and strategy in the area of combating trafficking in human beings;
3. Develop on an annual basis a national programme for prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings and protection of victims of trafficking which shall be presented to the Council of Ministers for approval;
4. Create the organisation of research, analysis and statistical reporting for data on trafficking inhuman beings;
5. Participate in the international cooperation for prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings;
6. Organise the implementation of information, awareness and educational campaigns aimed at risk groups with respect to trafficking;

7. Develop training programmes for staff with respect to the performance of functions in relation to the prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings;
8. Manage and supervise the activities of the Local Commissions and the centres for protection and support of victims of trafficking;
9. Register individuals and non-profit legal entities providing shelter to victims of trafficking.

**This Report presents the activities implemented in accordance with the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in 2008 by all institutions and organisations which are responsible for its implementation, including the activities carried out by the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.**

## **NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

### **SECTION I – INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES**

#### **Activity 1: Development of the activities of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHBs) in Varna, Burgas, Pazardzhik and Sliven.**

##### **BURGAS LCCTHB**

The composition of the LCCTHB in the city of Burgas was changed by Order No. 3036 of 10 November 2008 of the Mayor of Burgas Mr. Dimitar Nikolov. Chairperson of the Burgas LCCTHB is Dr. Loris Manuelyan, Deputy Mayor for Health, Prevention, Social Activities, Employment and Sports; Deputy Chairperson is Ms. Yordanka Ananieva, Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture; and members – Ms. Elena Indzhova, Head of the Child Protection Department, Mr. Emil Pavlov, Inspector with the Combating Organised Crime Section in the District Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, Mr. Stefko Grudov, State Agency for National Security, and Ms. Irina Bulanova, Chairperson of the Association Initiatives for Development and Social Activity. Ms. Silvia Tsakova has been Secretary of the Burgas LCCTHB since June 2008.

On 23 November 2008, the Burgas Municipal Council took a decision to provide premises to the LCCTHB for an office free of charge in the Youth Cultural Centre for a period of 5 years.

On 3 December 2008, the Burgas LCCTHB held its first meeting for the new members to be presented and to adopt an Action Plan of the LCCTHB for 2009 comprised of four sections: Information, Analysis and Organisational Measures; Prevention; Training of Specialists; and Protection, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking.

In 2008, the Burgas Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings participated actively in the implementation of the national awareness raising campaign dedicated to the European Day against Human Trafficking, 18 October. The Secretary of the Burgas LCCTHB took part in seminars and trainings as lecturer and participant, as well as in press conferences, television and radio programmes. The Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is an active partner of the local authorities and non-governmental organisations in Burgas.

##### **VARNA LCCTHB**

The composition of the Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the city of Varna was changed by Order No. 4557 of 20 November 2008 of the Mayor of Varna Mr. Kiril Yordanov. Chairperson of the LCCTHB is Assoc. Prof. Hristo Bozov, Deputy Mayor; Deputy Chairperson is Ms. Svetla Koeva; and members – Radoslav Toskov, Engineer, Director of the

Education Directorate, Dr. Borislav Stanchev, Head of the Prevention Department, Ms. Anna Nikolova, Chairperson of the SOS Families at Risk Foundation, and Mr. Dimitar Kayryakov, Prosecutor with the Varna District Prosecutor's Office. Ms. Petya Daskalova has been Secretary of the Varna LCCTHB since June 2008.

In 2008, the Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Varna participated actively in the implementation of the national awareness raising campaign dedicated to the European Day against Human Trafficking, 18 October. The Local Commission developed brochures and information books on "trafficking in human beings" which were disseminated among risk groups in Varna.

The Secretary of the Varna LCCTHB took part in seminars and trainings as lecturer and participant as well as in study visits in the country and abroad. The Varna LCCTHB hosted a study visit to Bulgaria by a Dutch delegation.

The Varna LCCTHB works actively with Prevention Directorate of the Municipality of Varna, other municipal structures and non-governmental organisations.

### **PAZARDZHIK LCCTHB**

The LCCTHB in the city of Pazardzhik was set up in accordance with Order No. 523 of 25 March 2008 of the Mayor of the Municipality of Pazardzhik Mr. Todor Popov pursuant to Art. 5, para. 2 of the CTHBA. Chairperson of the Local Commission is Mr. Angel Velkov, Deputy Mayor for Humanitarian Policy; Deputy Chairperson is Ms. Dimitria Tserova, Director of the Social Activities Directorate, Municipality of Pazardzhik. Members of the Pazardzhik LCCTHB are Ms. Slaveia Kostadinova, Judge on the Pazardzhik District Court; Ms. Emilia Kaloferova, Juvenile Delinquency Service Inspector with the Pazardzhik Regional Police Department; Ms. Iva Dermendzhieva – Zubartova, Head of the Social Policy Section; Ms. Valentina Gesheva, Administrative Manager with IGA Fund; and Ms. Krasimira Genova, Social Activities Directorate with the Municipality of Pazardzhik. The Secretary of the LCCTHB, Ms. Tania Gyunova, was appointed on 9 June 2008. The LCCTHB office is located in the building of the Municipality of Pazardzhik. The official opening of the Local Commission and the presentation of its members took place on 12 June 2008.

The first meeting of the LCCTHB was held on 4 September 2008 at which the members of the Local Commission familiarised themselves with the activities and functions of the Local Commission and with the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in 2008. The draft of activities of the Pazardzhik LCCTHB till the end of 2008 was discussed and approved.

## **SLIVEN LCCTHB**

The Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was set up in accordance with Order No. ПД15 – 87/23 January 2008 of the Mayor of the Municipality of Sliven, Mr. Yordan Lechkov. Chairperson of the Local Commission is the Deputy Mayor for Culture and Education, Ms. Radost Kostova. The composition of the Sliven LCCTHB was changed by Order No. ПД-15-2006 of 12 December 2008 of Mr. Lechkov. After the change, members of the LCCTHB are Ms. Eleonora Hristova, Chief Legal Advisor of the Municipality of Sliven; Mr. Yordan Berberov, Head of the Education, Sport and Youth Activities Department; Ms. Snezhana Krasteva, Head of the Child Protection Department, Social Assistance District Directorate; Inspector Petko Cholakov, District Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior; Ms. Mara Kodzhamanova, Head of Department, Bulgarian Identity Documents Group, District Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior; and Ms. Violeta Steova, Deputy Chairperson of the non-governmental organisation IRSA. Ms. Donka Slavova has been Secretary of the Sliven LCCTHB since October 2008.

At its meeting on 24 November 2008, the Sliven LCCTHB adopted an Action Plan for November and December 2008 and took an active part in the events organised and held under the national campaign *Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for Action* dedicated to 18 October, the European Day against Human Trafficking.

## **Activity 2: Setting up and structuring of at least two Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHB) in the risk municipalities of Montana, Vratsa, Vidin, Dobrich, Veliko Tarnovo, Blagoevgrad and Haskovo.**

The Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the city of Montana was set up and structured in accordance with Order No. 3072 of 14 November 2008 of the Mayor of Montana Mr. Zlatko Zhivkov. Chairperson of the Montana LCCTHB is Ms. Vesela Kolarska, Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Montana; Deputy Chairperson is Mr. Alexander Gerasimov, Director of the Humanitarian Activities Directorate; members are Mr. Toni Todorov, Director of the Social Services Complex, Mr. Petko Shumanski, Trafficking in Human Beings Section with Combating Organised Crime, District Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, Mr. Milen Gechovski, Child Protection Department, and Ms. Maria Shumanska, Secretary of the Local Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency (LCCJD).

The setting up of the Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the city of Blagoevgrad was coordinated in a conversation between the Secretary of the National Commission Ms. Vasileva and the Mayor of Blagoevgrad Mr. Kostadin Paskalev on 17 November 2008. An order of the Mayor designating the composition of the Blagoevgrad LCCTHB will be issued in the beginning of 2009.

**Activity 3: Opening of a shelter for temporary housing of victims of trafficking and centres for protection and support of victims of trafficking with the Local Commissions under item 1.**

**VARNA LCCTHB**

By Order No. 2817 of 18 August 2008, the Mayor of the Municipality of Varna Mr. Kiril Yordanov provided the Preventions Directorate with the Municipality of Varna with municipal property to be used for the needs of the Varna LCCTHB. A shelter for temporary housing of victims of trafficking in human beings pursuant to the CTHBA will be opened on the property in the beginning of 2009. As of the end of 2008, the site is being prepared and maintained.

**Activity 5: Creation of an organisation of research, analysis and statistical reporting for data on human trafficking with the NCCTHB.**

Under *The Programme for the Enhancement of Anti-Trafficking Responses in South Eastern Europe – Data Collection and Information Management* implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in ten countries in South Eastern Europe, in the beginning of 2008 the NCCTHB received a computer configuration with a database of victims of human trafficking installed. The information collected about the victims will be used by the NCCTHB to analyse the trends in the recruitment, transport, period of exploitation, process of identification and provision of assistance and protection to the victim of trafficking. The analyses of the database will also help fine-tune the messages targeted at the risk groups in the prevention campaigns in Bulgaria. An NCCTHB expert has attended special training on the work with the database in Vienna, Austria.

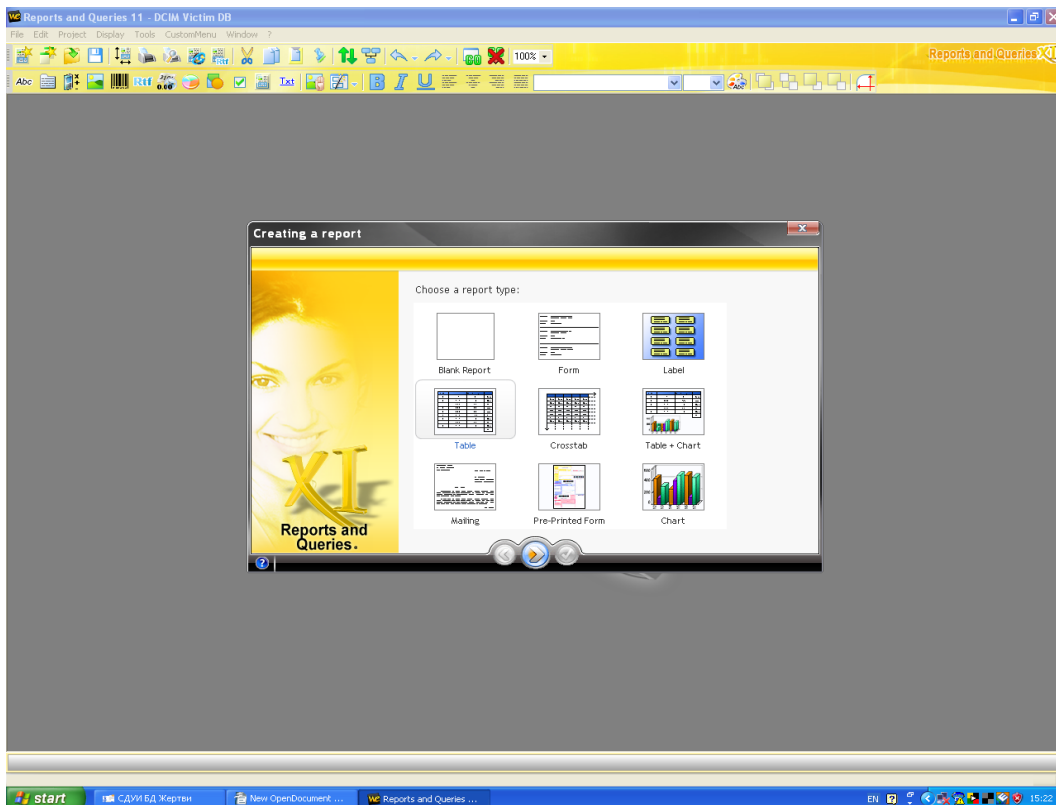
The information about the cases of trafficking in the database will be collected through a questionnaire specially developed by the NCCTHB. The questionnaire will be filled in by all institutions and organisations which work with victims of human trafficking on an every-day basis or are likely to do so. The individual elements of the questionnaire and the procedure for its distribution

and filling-in were the special topic at two of the meetings of the Standing Working Group with the NCCTHB.

The database contains five sections with more than 50 indicators concerning a case of trafficking which can be used at a later stage for cross analysis. The sections in the database are:

1. Personal information;
2. Recruitment;
3. Transport;
4. Period of exploitation;
5. Identification and assistance.

The Supreme Cassation Prosecution Office of the Republic of Bulgaria has received an analogous computer configuration with an installed database concerning traffickers.



Подробности по случая на жертвата

### Събиране на данни и управление на информацията (СДУИ)

Име: ТЕСТ ТЕСТ      Пол: найизвестен      Дата на раждане: 01.1.2000      Приблизителна дата на раждане:  да      Област/район на прохождение: ТЕСТ      Писмено съгласие:  да

Лични данни      Набрание      Транспорт      Преживявано през трафика      Идентифициране и помощ

Източник на информация: \_\_\_\_\_

Гражданство: Австралия, Австрия, Азербайджан, Албания

Държава на пребиваване: \_\_\_\_\_

Етнически произход: ромски, египетски, кърбаски, босненски, румънски

Икономическо положение: \_\_\_\_\_

Брой допринасящи лица:

Общ брой на членовете на домакинството:

Семейно положение преди трафика: \_\_\_\_\_

Брой деца н-вм датата на трафика:

По-ранно насилие:  да      Преживявано насилие: \_\_\_\_\_      Насилник: \_\_\_\_\_      Истрий:

Степен на образование: \_\_\_\_\_

Причина за миграцията/напускането на дома: \_\_\_\_\_

Дейност при възвличането: \_\_\_\_\_

Живее с при възвличането: \_\_\_\_\_

Демографска среда: \_\_\_\_\_

възможност за работа, възможност за обучение, желано прилагане, укриване икономическа нужда, принуда/готвене

родители и/или братя/сестри, съпруг (а) и/или деца, широк семеен кръг, приятели, самостоятелно

Коментари: \_\_\_\_\_

Създаден запис: 10.4.2008 г.      Променен запис: 10.4.2008 г.      Запази

## Activity 6: Creation of a National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking.

Since April 2008, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has been the main partner in the implementation of the Project for the Establishment of a National Referral Mechanism for Trafficking in Human Beings Victims in Bulgaria and Provision of Protection and Assistance for Trafficking in Human Beings Victims' Reintegration and Social Inclusion. The project is implemented by Animus Association Foundation/La Strada Bulgaria and is funded under the MATRA Programme of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The project time frame is 2008 – 2011. Its budget amounts to EUR 500,000.

The purpose of the project is to ensure access for the victims of human trafficking in Bulgaria to the social services included in humanitarian programmes and protection and reintegration programmes.

The following activities were completed under the project from April to December 2008:

### 1. Creation of an institutional framework to develop and apply a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for victims.

The teams of the National Commission and Animus Association Foundation decided to set up two working groups with a view to developing the NRM:



- An *Operational Working Group* of 12 experts, representatives of institutions and non-governmental organisations which are engaged directly in providing protection and support to victims of trafficking in Bulgaria – National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of the Interior – a representative of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section of the Prevention of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate and a representative of the General Directorate Border Police, Ministry of Health, State Agency for Child Protection (SACP), Social Assistance Agency, International Institute for Migration Policy Development, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation and Animus Association Foundation.

The purpose of the *Operational Group* is to develop the National Mechanism. The Group holds monthly working meetings.

An *Extended Working Group* which includes the representatives of the Operational Group and another 11 representatives of institutions and organisations which work with victims of trafficking – Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Justice, Supreme Cassation Prosecution Office, State Refugee Agency, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, National Association of Municipalities, International Organisation for Migration, Nadja Centre Foundation, Health and Social Development Foundation, SOS – Families at Risk Foundation, Open Door Centre Association.

The purpose of the Group is to provide an expert opinion in the process of creating the National Mechanism. The Group holds regular quarterly meetings.

## **2. Development of a map of the suppliers of social services for victims of trafficking in human beings in Bulgaria.**

The map developed and the results of the analysis were provided by the team of Animus Association Foundation/La Strada Bulgaria. The analysis covered 32 organisations from 24 population centres in the country whose area of work is countering trafficking in human beings. The information has been collected through a specially developed questionnaire based on the analysis of the needs of the victims in the short and long term.

## **3. Preparation of a national report on *Development of a National Referral Mechanism and Support to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in Bulgaria.***

An expert with the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings drew up a report on the principles on which the National Mechanism is based – use of a broad definition of trafficking in human beings, multidisciplinary approach, building on already

existing structures, existence of services in support for the victims, etc. The report also presents the conditions in which the Mechanism is being developed – regulatory framework and existing national strategies and plans in the in the field of combating trafficking in human beings – and the factors supporting its creation – existence of a national coordinator of all victim protection activities carried out, development of a national database of victims of trafficking, and existence of possibilities for funding the Mechanism.

The National Commission expert presented the report drawn up at the international conference on **National Referral Mechanisms for the Assistance and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings – Theory and Practice, 20 – 23 October 2008, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.**

The purpose of the conference was to develop recommendations for increasing the effectiveness in the application of NRMs on the basis of the existing practices in relation to the creation of National Mechanisms in Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and the Ukraine.

#### **4. Creation of an Action Plan for the Elaboration of a National Mechanism.**

As a result of the assessment made of the existing system of support for victims of trafficking in human beings in Bulgaria and the gaps and needs identified, the *Operational Group* developed an Action Plan whose purpose is to create mechanisms and ensure the implementation of activities which will compensate for the omissions in the existing system for protection and support for victims of trafficking in Bulgaria.

The Plan consists of five main sections: Identifying victims of trafficking and return; Cooperation; Protection and support for victims of trafficking; Social inclusion; and Monitoring and evaluation of the NRM implementation. The activities in the Action Plan have been coordinated with all institutions and organisations relevant to the development of the NRM.

#### **5. Study visit to the Netherlands for exchange of experience, 23 – 26 September 2008.**

**Purpose:** Study the referral mechanisms for victims of trafficking in the Netherlands and the conditions and manner of provision of social services to victims; get acquainted with the models of cooperation between the government institutions and non-governmental organisations in the process of providing protection to victims of trafficking.

The Bulgarian group held meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the National Rapporteur of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Expert Centre on Working against Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings, Zwolle, and representatives of non-governmental organisations providing shelter and support to victims of trafficking.

**Results:** Contacts established with government institutions and non-governmental organisations, familiarity with the Dutch referral mechanism of victims and cooperation between the organisations, the so called “chain cooperation,” obtaining of information about funding mechanisms for victims of trafficking.

## **7. Working meetings with Ms. Bärbel Uhl, international advisor on the development of national referral mechanisms for victims of trafficking.**

7.1. Working seminar “National Referral Mechanism (NRM) – Institutional framework against trafficking in human beings” – 16 – 18 July 2008, Sofia.

**Purpose:** The main goals of the working seminar were to present the reasons and necessity for the development of a National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking, to develop an Action Plan for the creation of an NRM and to synchronise this Mechanism with the Transnational Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking and the Coordination Mechanism for referral and care for unattended Bulgarian children and children – victims of trafficking who are repatriated from abroad.

**Results: Developed first draft of an Action Plan related to the creation of an NRM and developed first draft of the institutional framework for the creation of the Mechanism.**

7.2 Working consultation – 22 December 2008, Sofia.

**Purpose:** Delineate the framework of the monitoring system of the NRM, develop indicators to identify victims of trafficking and discuss the possible difficulties in the application of the NRM.

**Results:** Discussed versions of monitoring of the National Mechanism.

## **Meetings of the International Donor Coordination Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.**

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In relation to the coordination function of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the development of its activity and the need for joint work with all organisations working on the problem, since the beginning of 2008 the National Commission has been the host of the regular meetings of the International Donor Coordination Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

The meetings of the Coordination Group have been held since 2005 and, until now, they were hosted by the US Embassy in Sofia.

The purposes of the meetings include sharing of what has been done by the members of the Group, presentation and discussion of future projects and opportunities for cooperation and announcement of possibilities for support for projects in the field of counteraction and prevention of trafficking in human beings in Bulgaria on the part of the funding organisations.

Members of the Group are representatives of donor organisations in Bulgaria and of embassies of countries whose governments have donor programmes for combating trafficking in human beings as well as representatives of international and non-governmental organisations.

In 2008, the National Commission organised meetings of the International Donor Coordination Group in January, May and September.

Since the National Commission has started hosting the meetings, new organisations which work in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and which, until now, have not been part of the Group, have been invited to become its members. This has contributed to the enrichment of the experience and expansion of the perspective on the activities implemented by the international and larger non-governmental organisations in the field of preventing trafficking in human beings and protecting the victims.

## **SECTION II – PREVENTION**

**Item 1: Covering the risk population groups (women, children and representatives of ethnic minorities) and informing them about the risks and consequences of trafficking in human beings.**

**1.2. Creation, dissemination and popularisation of training modules and models of local and school policies, information materials and tools for teachers, secretaries and members of the LCCJD, students and parents in relation to the topics of sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings.**

In relation to the marking of 18 October, the European Day against Human Trafficking, the National Commission in partnership with the SACP developed materials related to the topic of “trafficking in human beings” for students and teachers targeted at two age groups – from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The information materials were disseminated electronically to more than 3,000 schools throughout the country through the Regional Inspectorates of Education with the Ministry of Education and Science.

The *teacher’s information package* included basic information about the problem and its peculiarities, the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act, the National Programme for

Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in 2008 and the National Commission 2007 Report. The NCCTHB team has also developed a manual on how to hold a lesson in “trafficking in human beings” for students from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Experts with the State Agency for Child Protection developed an abridged version of the curriculum for students from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade in view of the children’s’ age characteristics.

The *student’s information package* included information about trafficking in human beings in a language accessible to the children. The materials included the definition of trafficking in human beings, types of trafficking, reasons for its existence, manners and reasons to be involved and which the groups at risk are.

The materials developed were also disseminated through the education portal of the Ministry of Education and Science (<http://start.e-edu.bg/>) and this has provided access to the materials electronically to all schools in Bulgaria.

### **1.3. Explanatory activities related to the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings and the possibilities for assistance and protection among representatives of risk groups, especially among ethnic minorities.**

#### **BURGAS LCCTHB**

The Secretary of the LCCTHB took part in a national seminar on *Trafficking in Human Beings* on 14 – 15 October 2008 organised by the LCCJD which was held at the Burgas Free University. The main focuses discussed included the cooperation between the institutions and the building of a national network for communication between experts and the regulatory framework in Bulgaria for countering trafficking in human beings. The Secretary of the LCCTHB presented the activities and functions of the Burgas LCCTHB in detail as well as the regulatory framework for countering trafficking in human beings and protecting the victims.

#### **VARNA LCCTHB**

The Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings disseminated 2,000 information brochures on the topics of sexual exploitations and trafficking in human beings among the students in 57 schools on the territory of the Municipality of Varna. It provided the teachers and pedagogical advisors with the schools with the book *Trafficking in Human Beings – Laws, Conventions, Definitions* and copies of the Anti-Trafficking Manual.

#### **PAZARDZHIK LCCTHB**

In accordance with the activities planned for 2008, the Pazardzhik LCCTHB developed brochures with information about trafficking in human beings, manners of involvement and ways of protection with contact details of the LCCTHB and the NCCTHB. The brochures were disseminated among students and teachers during the information campaigns organised by the Pazardzhik LCCTHB and during lectures in schools.

**Item 2: Conducting studies and organising information campaigns.**

In January 2008, commissioned by the NCCTHB, Mediana Agency conducted a **quantitative sociological survey** among 1,502 people of more than 18 years of age on the topic of **Public Opinion and Public Attitudes to Trafficking in Human Beings**. The results can be summarised as follows:

- The concept of “trafficking in human beings” has a negative connotation to the Bulgarian society but one in four people is not clear about what it means. In one of the risk groups, that of young people with low education, this share is 45%. At the same time, one in seven young people in Bulgaria is a potential victim of trafficking – 13% state that they have plans to move abroad in the next 2 – 3 years.
- People connect trafficking in human beings with various criminal activities:

*What are the first words that come to your mind when you hear “trafficking in human beings?”*

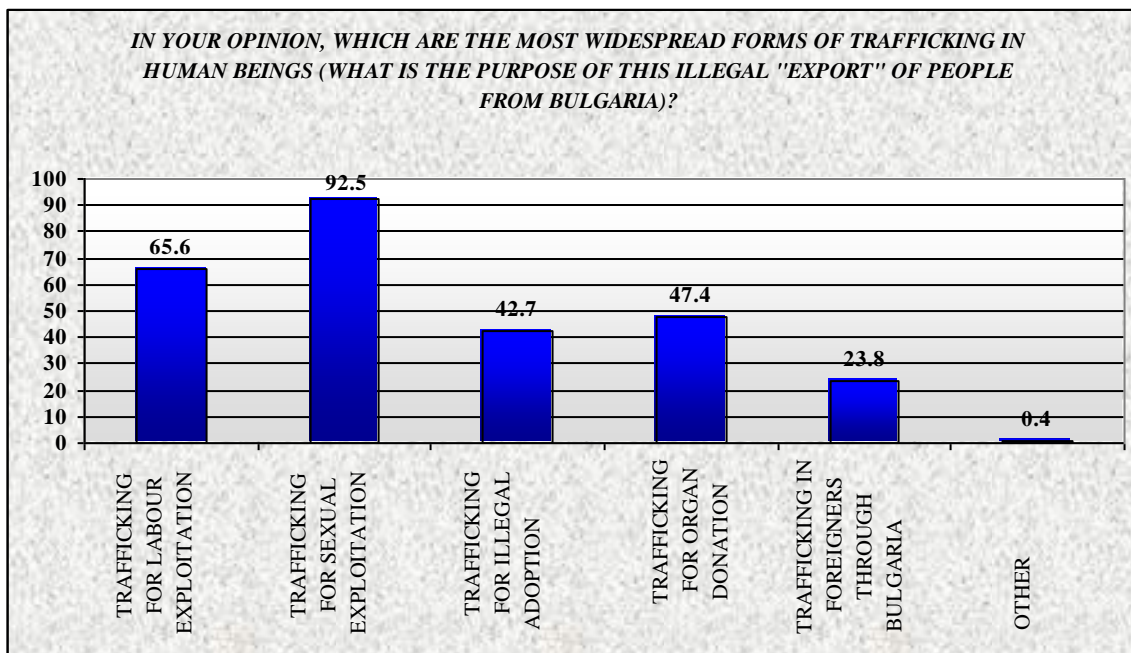
*% of all responses*

Prostitution	<b>39.2%</b>
Illegal export of people	<b>17.5%</b>
Organ donors	<b>11.5%</b>
Crime, lawlessness	<b>11.3%</b>
Adoption, trading in children	<b>10.8%</b>
Exploitation, export of work force	<b>6.9%</b>
Forced export, abduction	<b>6.2%</b>
Pimps, traffickers, suspicious deals, cheats	<b>6.5%</b>
Trading in human beings	<b>5.5%</b>
Money, business	<b>4.9%</b>
Violence, harassment	<b>4.0%</b>
Something bad, fear, indignation, disgust	<b>3.7%</b>
Deceived people, victims, uninformed people	<b>2.6%</b>
Illegal work	<b>2.1%</b>
Drugs	<b>1.9%</b>
Foreigners	<b>1.4%</b>
Discrimination, disrespect for human rights	<b>1.4%</b>
Slavery	<b>1.2%</b>
Emigration	<b>1.0%</b>
Poverty	<b>0.9%</b>

Coercion	<b>0.7%</b>
Maladministration	<b>0.6%</b>
Border	<b>0.2%</b>
Vanko 1	<b>0.2%</b>
Other	<b>0.3%</b>
Nothing indicated/Do not know	<b>13.4%</b>

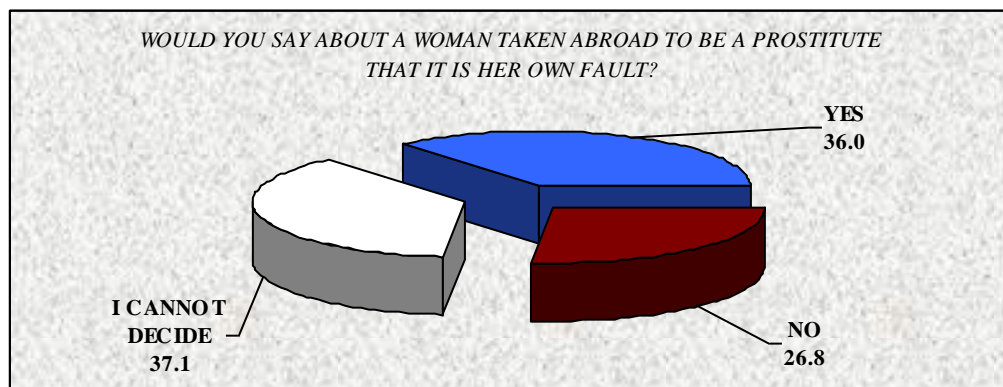
*The total exceeds 100% because the respondents could give more than 1 answer.*

- Trafficking in human beings is associated with sexual exploitation (forced prostitution) in the first place and then with labour exploitation and organ donation.



- Most Bulgarians define as trafficking in human beings the cases in which the victims suffer damages (forced prostitution, forced “bondage” of illegal workers and failure to receive the remuneration agreed, etc.). When, however, the people trafficked do not suffer damages, the public opinion does not consider this trafficking. Two-thirds of the people (more than 70% among the young people) do not see anything bad in someone becoming an “illegal” worker abroad. Less than 9% believe this is not right and reprehensible.
- More than half of the Bulgarians do not blame the victims and believe that they have been misled and deceived because they are ill-educated, poor, looking for a living. Yet, when it comes to sexual exploitation, the public opinion is more likely to look for the “blame” in those engaged in prostitution (36%).





- 38% of the people below 35 years of age are convinced that emigration is a good solution to their material problems. In the risk group of young uneducated people, this share is 48 percent and one-third of them are representatives of the Roma community. 21% of the young people see the countries in Europe as a place without poor people and people suffering in poverty.

In the long run, 82.4% of the participants in the survey believe that it is the responsibility of the state to combat trafficking in human beings. The society entrusts the government institutions not with the fight against trafficking as a whole but with the protection of the people who have fallen victim to trafficking. It is troubling that many share the view that “It is not bad to be an illegal worker – it is bad not to get paid and to be turned into a slave. The state should interfere then.”

In April 2008, commissioned by the NCCTHB, Mediana Agency conducted a **qualitative sociological survey** with four focus groups of young people aged between 18 and 35. The topic of the study was **Trafficking in Human Beings – Connotations, Meanings, Attitude, Expectations of the Institutions**. The results have shown the following:

- The topic of “trafficking in human beings” is alien to the every-day life of the young people in the country. Even when immediate impressions are shared (with relatives, acquaintances and personal experience), these are rather individual “happenings” not encompassed by the overall concept.
- As a whole, the concept of “trafficking in human beings” is associated primarily with the “export” of Bulgarians across the border or the passing of foreigners through Bulgaria. To many participants the concept is too general and includes “anything illegal.”
- The participants in the study show evasive reactions to the question “Is trafficking in human beings possible within the country?” – “Maybe,” “It is possible,” but trafficking in human beings is associated rather with pimps, illegal work, etc.



- Trafficking in Bulgarians is perceived as something which is not right, unfair. When, however, it is a matter of trafficking in foreigners in Bulgaria, things acquire different dimensions, another meaning, “It is their own fault.” When asked the specific question whether Bulgaria can turn into a country which is the “final destination” for victims of trafficking, many respond that this is already a fact (Vietnamese women, Pakistanis and other). At the same time, none of the participants points to this fact when discussing the concept of “trafficking in human beings.” In practice, the mass consciousness excludes this phenomenon from the general concept. There is “trafficking” when Bulgarians are exported.
- The participants find it hard to define the concept of “victim of trafficking.” The people who are likely to work without a labour contract or another form of contract and for a compensation which is much lower than the level in the respective country are not perceived as “victims.” The “victims” are described as victims of their own social and institutional infantile attitude from which other people benefit (“a person who is not socially and societally educated”). The victims are perceived as people who do not know and cannot turn to the institutions, people who can be threatened easily even with impossible threats and who do not know that there is labour legislation. An additional aspect is the idealised view of life “in the West” and the strive for “easy money.”
- The lack of clarity about the essence of the concept of “trafficking in human beings” is also transposed onto the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The young people do not know that it exists, they are not clear what its functions are, what it deals with and what it is actually doing. The associations in this regard are limited to organisations from the non-governmental sector. Only two people had heard about the existence of such a commission and some believed it to be a police department or a non-governmental organisation.

## **2.2. Popularisation of the specialised electronic page of the NCCTHB, SACP, LCCJD**

The electronic page of the National Commission is a main channel for the popularisation of the activities of the National Commission. The electronic page is used to obtain information about the problem – reports, laws, statistics, for connections with other institutions and organisations working the field of prevention of trafficking in human beings, to obtain information about upcoming and past events organised by the National Commission, etc.

The electronic page has been included in all information materials developed and disseminated by the National Commission. For the period January – December 2008, a total of 7,742

new visits of the electronic page of the National Commission were registered. The greatest number of visits (2,087) was registered in October when the national campaign on *Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for Action* took place to mark 18 October, the European Day against Human Trafficking.

In relation to this campaign, the electronic page of the NCCTHB was published on the websites of the Municipality of Burgas, Municipality of Varna, Municipality of Pazardzhik, Municipality of Sliven, Municipality of Ruse and partner non-governmental organisations. An Internet banner was developed to mark the national campaign which was published on the websites of the media partners of the NCCTHB and which led to the website of the National Commission.

During their events, the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings popularise the website of the NCCTHB.

The electronic page of the SACP is published in the Useful Links section of the website of the NCCTHB. During the national campaign in relation to the European Day against Human Trafficking, 18 October, the SACP was popularised as a partner of the NCCTHB by means of all information materials developed.

The electronic page of the Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency (CCCJD) is still under construction.

### **2.3. Conducting an awareness raising campaign to increase the public awareness about the problems of trafficking in human beings.**

#### **National campaign *16 Days against Violence against Women***

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The beginning of the campaign *16 Days against Violence against Women* which the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings marks for the second year was set with a video conference with the participation of Ambassador Mark Lagan, Director of the Department for Combating Human Trafficking with the State Department and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State. Dr. Lagan has been Head of the Department for Combating Human Trafficking which coordinates the policy of the US Government in the global fight against modern slavery, including forced labour and sexual exploitation since May 2007. Before that he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State on matters concerning international organisations and member of the Policy Planning Cabinet of the Secretary of State.

The video conference was held on 24 November 2008 in the US Embassy on the eve of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The event was opened by H.E. Ms. Nancy McEldowney, US Ambassador to Bulgaria, and Mr. Boris Velchev, Chief Prosecutor of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Secretary of the NCCTHB presented the functions of the NCCTHB and the current activities of the Commission. Also participating were Members of Parliament and representatives of the US Embassy, NCCTHB, Ministry of the Interior, Supreme Cassation Prosecution Office, NGOs and media.

On the occasion of the international campaign *16 Days against Violence against Women*, the National Commission in partnership with the International Security and Cooperation Institute and with the support of the Centre for Study of Democracy conducted two round-table discussions in Blagoevgrad on 17 October 2008 and in Plovdiv on 20 October 2008 as well as a closing event in Sofia on 25 October 2008.

The purpose of the events organised was to conduct a forum which would focus the attention of the public, institutions and non-governmental organisations on the problem of trafficking in human beings in two of the regions which are exposed to the greatest risk in Bulgaria in this regard – Blagoevgrad and Plovdiv.

The national policy for combating trafficking in human beings was presented during the events and so was Bulgaria's experience in the international cooperation in the field of investigation of cases of trafficking and criminal proceedings against the perpetrators. An important focus of each round-table discussion was the presentation of the status and specificities of the problem of trafficking in human beings in the respective region. Specific cases and good work practices in relation to uncovering the crime, judicial proceedings and protection of victims were presented.

The meetings were attended by representatives of the law-enforcement bodies, regional and district prosecution offices, representatives of the municipal and regional governance bodies, diplomatic representatives and contact officers from countries with which Bulgaria cooperates in counteracting trafficking in human beings. The Secretaries of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, representatives of local non-governmental organisations and educational institutions took part in the working discussions.

The closing event on 25 October 2008 in Sofia was held at Boyana Residence. It gave the start to the campaign *16 Days against Violence against Women*. The event was held at a high government level and was attended by Mr. Mihail Mikov, Minister of the Interior, Ms. Emilia Maslarova, Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Mr. Hristo Manchev, Deputy Chief Prosecutor of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Hristo Monov, Deputy Chairperson of the SACP, H.E. Ms. Tove Skarstein, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Bulgaria, and Mr. Norbert Ceipek, Director of the Crisis Centre for Victims of Child-Trafficking Drehscheibe in Vienna, Austria.

The campaign was closed officially with the conducting of a round-table discussion with the special participation of Ms. Eva Biode, Special Envoy and Coordinator of OSCE on the fight against human trafficking.

### **Awareness raising campaign to mark the premiere of the feature film *Taken* in Bulgaria**

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The premiere of the French film concerning the topic of human trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation, *Taken*, was held on 26 September 2008. The Director Luc Besson shows the story of a father (played by Liam Neeson) who is looking for his daughter abducted during a trip to Europe.

In this regard, in partnership with Alexandra Group, distributor of the film for Bulgaria, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings carried out, developed and printed out 20,000 information brochures which were disseminated with the tickets for the film at the cinemas where the film was shown throughout the country.

### **2.4. Conducting information campaigns to improve the awareness of the risk groups concerning the problems of human trafficking.**

#### **Awareness raising campaign *Cargo: A Safe Holiday***

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In June 2008, in the cities of Sofia, Varna, Pazardzhik and Burgas, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings held an awareness raising campaign *Cargo: A Safe Holiday*. The campaign was implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the US Embassy in Sofia and the International Organisation for Migration. In the cities of Varna, Burgas and Pazardzhik, the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings organised and held the awareness raising campaign. The campaign was aimed at the students with a view to increasing their awareness about the problem and the methods of involvement in trafficking, especially during the summer time. The main tool of the campaign was the American documentary *Cargo: Innocence Lost* directed by Michael Cory Davis. Free screenings were organised for students which were accompanied with short discussions on “trafficking in human beings”. Special brochures focusing on the manners of prevention from involvement in situations of trafficking were also developed. They were handed out to the students attending the screenings in the four cities and disseminated through the International Organisation for Migration and among partners from the country.

A total of 31 schools in the four cities and 1,385 students were encompassed during the campaign.

	<b>Total students encompassed</b>	<b>Total schools encompassed</b>
Sofia	750	11
Burgas	95	3
Varna	500	4
Pazardzhik	40	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>31</b>

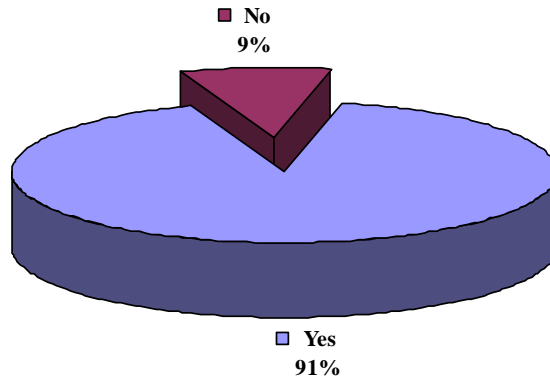
### **The campaign in Sofia**

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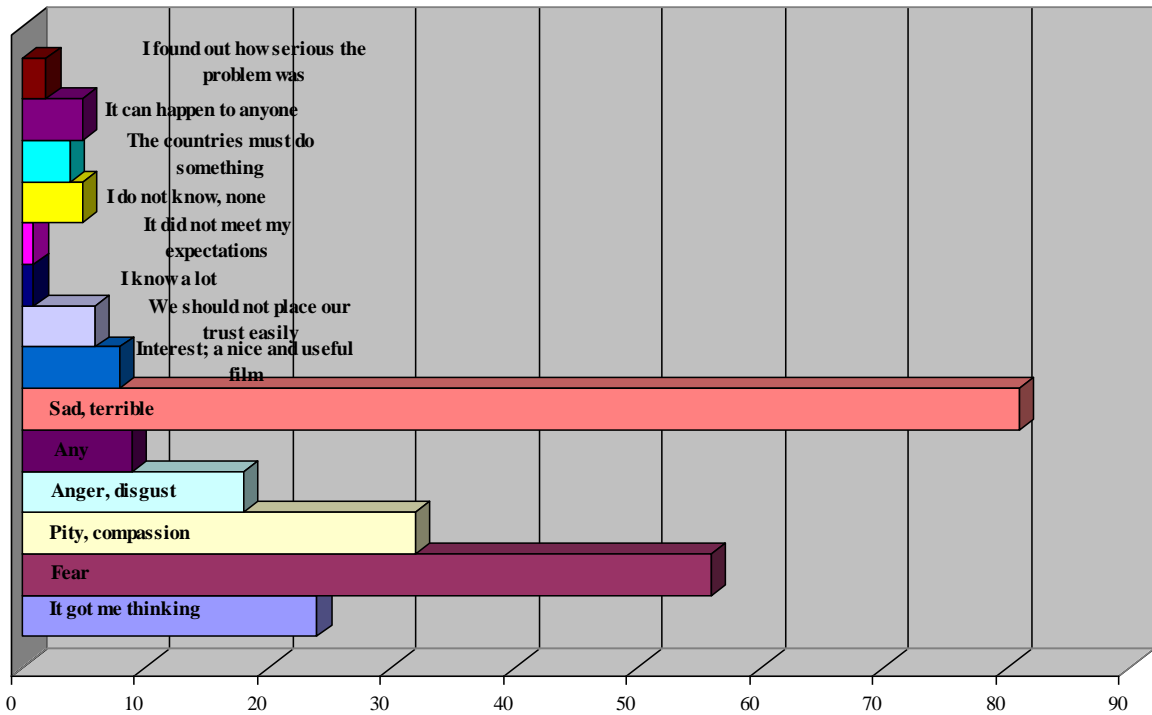
In Sofia, the campaign was held actively between 16 and 20 June 2008. Screenings of the film were organised at the Odeon cinema every day. In addition, screenings were held at the office of the National Commission and in individual schools.

The screenings at the Odeon cinema were attended by a total of 600 students from 11 schools. Before every screening, an expert with the National Commission familiarised the students with the problem of human trafficking, its scale and reasons, and held discussions about the manners of involvement in trafficking. In addition to brochures, the students were given feedback forms aimed at evaluating the impact of the film on the students and their familiarity with the problem. In brief, the results from the feedback forms can be summarised in the following charts:

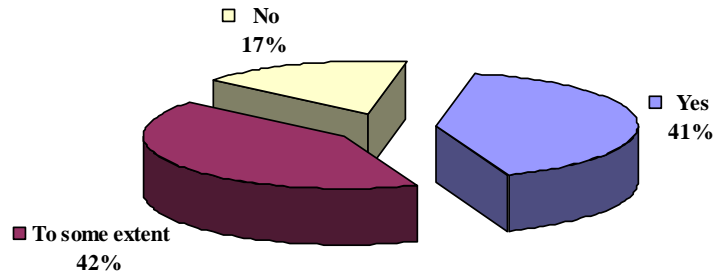
Did you know what trafficking in human beings means before you attended the screening?



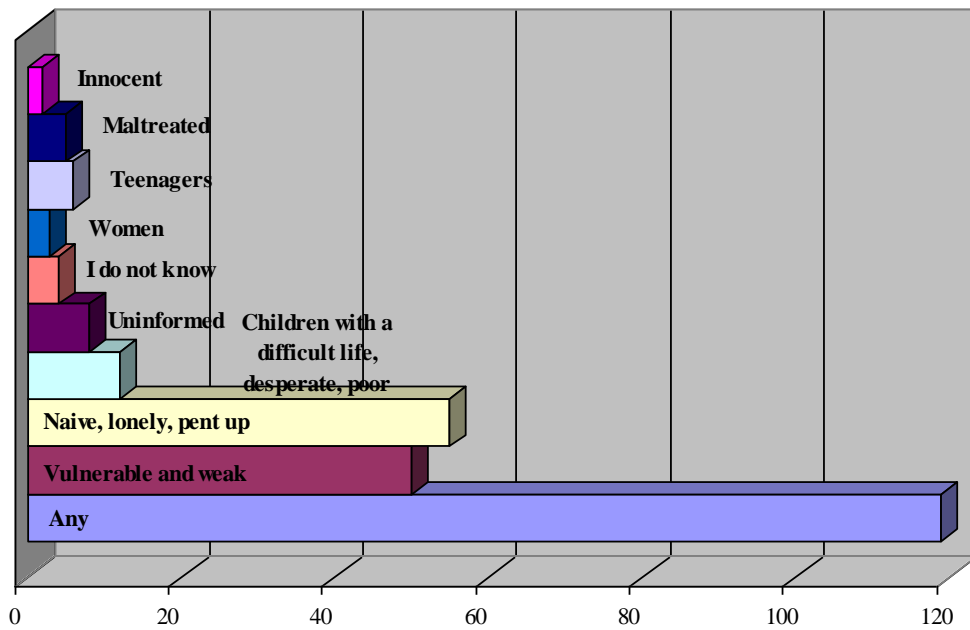
What thoughts and emotions has the story in the film evoked in you?



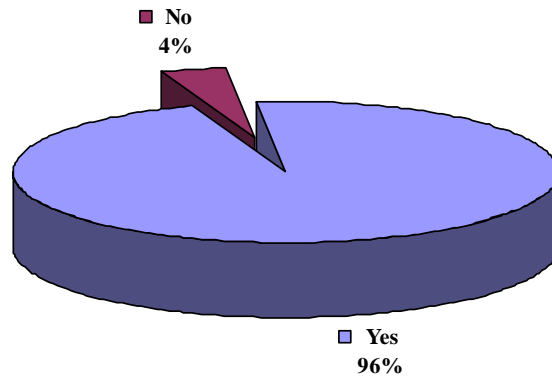
**Has the film changed your attitude to the problem of human trafficking?**



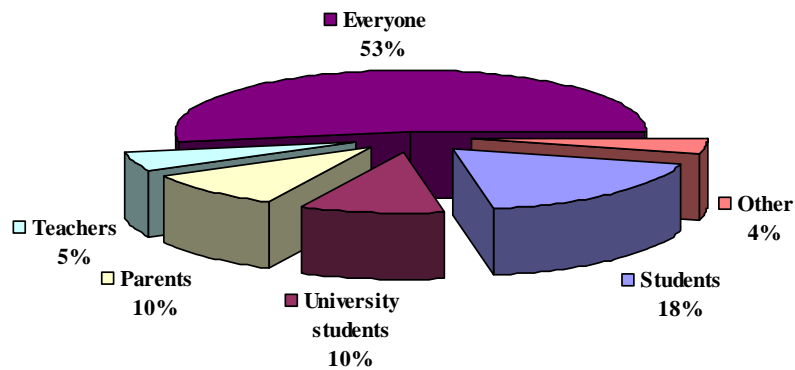
**In your opinion, what people could become victims of trafficking in human beings?**



**Do you think that the film is a good information tool on the topic of human trafficking?**



**In your opinion, what audience should the film be shown to?**



### **The campaign in Burgas**

The awareness raising campaign in Burgas was held from 13 June 2008 till 25 June 2008 in three schools by the Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Burgas and the International Organisation for Migration represented by Ms. Irina Bulanova, Member of the Burgas LCCTHB.



Every screening was accompanied with a discussion about the problem of “trafficking in human beings” – what trafficking is and what the ways to protect ourselves are. All attending students received campaign brochures and *Open Your Eyes* brochures of the International Organisation for Migration. The students also filled in a questionnaire aimed at measuring their awareness of the problem of “trafficking in human beings.” In the results of the questionnaire, the most frequently asked question was related to whether “trafficking in human beings” and “smuggling” are the same crime. The difference was explained accordingly.

To achieve a greater effect and attract the students’ attention, the Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings announced a competition for the best essay, drawing or another piece of art on the impressions of the film *Cargo: Innocence Lost*.

### **The campaign in Varna**

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During the campaign on the territory of the Municipality of Varna, the film *Cargo: Innocence Lost* was shown in four schools and its official screening was held on 26 June 2008 at the Varna Home of Youth and it was organised by the Varna LCCTHB.

Approximately 500 people were encompassed by the campaign, including students, pedagogical advisors and supervisors from four schools in the city. Other schools have expressed their desire for the film to be shown to their students as well during the school year 2008 – 2009.

### **The campaign in Pazardzhik**

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The campaign began in Pazardzhik on 12 June 2008. The film *Cargo: Innocence Lost* was shown to students from the upper grades from schools in Pazardzhik gathered in the Plenary Hall of the Municipality of Pazardzhik. Before the screening, the Chairperson of the Pazardzhik LCCTHB Mr. Angel Velkov presented the composition and functions of the Commission. Materials had been prepared in advance which included the contact telephone numbers for the Local and the National Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and they were handed out to the students.

The local media showed a great interest in the event. As a result, articles were published in the *Zname* newspaper (issue 108/12 June 2008) and the *Videlina* newspaper (13 – 19 June 2008).

By the end of June 2008, brochures *A Safe Holiday*, posters *Every child can be the victim of trafficking* and cards with the contact numbers of the Pazardzhik LCCTHB and the NCCTHB were provided to 13 schools in Pazardzhik.

## **18 October – European Day against Human Trafficking under the motto *Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for Action***

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On 18 October, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings marked for the second time the European Day against Human Trafficking under the motto *Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for Action*. The initiative, which was prompted by Mr. Franco Frattini, is an important element of the long-term commitment of the European Commission to prevent trafficking in human beings and increase the public awareness of the phenomenon.

The main organiser in 2008 was again the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science, the State Agency for Child Protection, and the International Organisation for Migration.

In this regard, the National Commission organised information activities together with the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the respective Municipalities and non-governmental organisations in the cities of Sofia, Plovdiv, Ruse, Pazardzhik, Burgas, Varna, Sliven and Gotse Delchev. Within a ten-day campaign, a school lesson was held throughout the country dedicated to the problem of human trafficking for students from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in more than 3,000 schools in the country.

The campaign was launched by the Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Mr. Daniel Velchev with a lesson conducted with class 10B of the National Secondary School of Trade and Banking in the capital on 17 October 2008.

The campaign had two target groups – students from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade and the teachers. The goal was for the students to receive information about the problem, its forms and potential risks of involvement in human trafficking. With respect to the teachers, the goal was to increase their awareness about the topic and to build up their motivation and preparedness to present the problem of “trafficking in human beings” to students.

The team of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings developed several types of information materials for the purposes of the campaign:

- **125,000 information cards** with brief information about human trafficking and the National Commission and the message *Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for Action*;
- **52,000 page dividers** with the same appearance and message;
- **5,000 posters**;
- **5,000 pens**;

- **An electronic banner** with the appearance and message of the campaign which was published on the website of the National Commission. The banner was also sent to all partner organisations and institutions which placed it on their websites;
- **Information packages** for the teachers and students.

The *teacher's information package* included basic information about the problem and its peculiarities, the Combat against Trafficking in Human Beings Act, the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in 2008 and the National Commission 2007 Report. The NCCTHB team also developed a manual on how to conduct the lesson dedicated to the topic of “human trafficking” with students from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Experts with the State Agency for Child Protection developed an abridged version of the curriculum for students from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade in view of the children's age specificities.

The *student's information package* included brief information about human trafficking presented in a language accessible to the children. The materials included the definition of trafficking in human beings, manners and reasons for involvement and the groups at the greatest risk.

The materials developed were also disseminated through the education portal of the Ministry of Education and Science (<http://start.e-edu.bg/>) which has ensured electronic access to the materials to all schools in Bulgaria.

The campaign materials were disseminated to all border checkpoints by General Directorate Border Police and volunteers from the US Peace Corps distributed the materials throughout the country.

## **The campaign in Sofia**

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In Sofia, the campaign was held actively between 17 and 24 October 2008. School headmasters turned to the National Commission with an invitation for participation in the special lesson. Experts with the National Commission presented a lesson on the topic of “trafficking in human beings” in the following schools in Sofia:

- Professional Secondary School of Trade and Banking;
- 9<sup>th</sup> French Language School Alphonse de Lamartine;
- 1<sup>st</sup> Secondary School Pencho Slaveykov;
- 148<sup>th</sup> Secondary School Prof. Lyubomir Miletich;
- 55<sup>th</sup> Secondary School Petko Karavelov;

- 139<sup>th</sup> Secondary School Zahariy Krusha.

During the campaign, Caritas Bulgaria disseminated brochures and informational materials of the NCCTHB by its bus which the organisation uses for field work directly with representatives of the risk groups for human trafficking.

### **The campaign in Burgas**

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On the occasion of the European Day against Human Trafficking, 18 October, the Burgas LCCTHB together with the Association IRSA held a press conference which was attended by the Mayors of the Region of Balgarovo, Municipality of Kameno, the District Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, doctors and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The start of the campaign and the upcoming activities were announced.

The Burgas LCCTHB organised an official screening of the film *Cargo: Innocence Lost* at the Home of Lukoil – Neftochim. More than 400 students, teachers and school headmasters were in attendance. Also invited were the members of the Local Commission and non-governmental organisations which work against human trafficking. Present were representatives of Demetra Association, the Centre for Sexual Health, the Social Assistance Agency, the SACP, the District Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior and others. Before the showing itself, volunteer students handed out information materials to all participants. A competition was formally announced for all students who had been part of the campaign and their task was to express their impressions of the film in the form an essay, poem, drawing or another piece of art they would chose.

On the very day of 18 October, together with the Centre for Sexual Health, the Local Commission held a discussion with children from the Home for Children Kodzhakafaliyata about the risks of involvement in human trafficking, the different forms of trafficking and the necessary precautionary measures. The children who took part in the discussion were given information materials and were shown the film *Cargo: Innocence Lost*.

### **The campaign in Varna**

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On the occasion of 18 October, the European Day against Human Trafficking, the Varna LCCTHB conducted a campaign *Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for Action* on the territory of the Municipality of Varna. The class teachers held special lessons in “trafficking in human beings” in every school and the Secretary of the Local Commission held discussions in several schools in the

city. The total number of students encompassed in the campaign on the territory of the Municipality of Varna is 24,945 and the total number of teachers – 1,012. The implementation of the campaign activities involved the LCCTHB, the Prevention Directorate with the Municipality of Varna and the Education Directorate, Municipality of Varna, the Varna Regional Inspectorate of Education, NGOs, media and others.

### **The campaign in Pazardzhik**

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The Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Pazardzhik joined the campaign with initiatives targeted mostly at the children:

- **An exhibition under the motto *A Second Chance*** with drawn by children who have been imposed protection measures and reside in the Crisis Centre in Pazardzhik for children who are victims of trafficking. The exhibition located in the lobby of Maestro Georgi Atanasov Hall consists of 15 pieces of art (pictures, black and white drawings, ikebana) in which the children have recreated their feelings, thoughts and moods. The exhibition was opened officially by the Mayor of the Municipality of Pazardzhik Mr. Todor Popov.
- **The performance *Open Your Eyes*** given by the actors of Tsvete Theatre was dedicated to the prevention of human trafficking. On the invitation of the Pazardzhik LCCTHB, it was attended by teachers, students and representatives of all institutions working in the area of prevention of human trafficking and supporting victims in Pazardzhik.
- **Development and dissemination of brochures** – the information materials developed by the NCCTHB were disseminated during the initiatives conducted in Pazardzhik. In addition, the Local Commission developed and disseminated two brochures aimed at presenting the problem of human trafficking and popularising the work of the Local Commission in Pazardzhik.

### **The campaign in Ruse**

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In relation to marking the European Day against Human Trafficking, Caritas Ruse in partnership with the NCCTHB organised an inter-institutional meeting between Bulgaria and Romania. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the cooperation in combating trafficking in human beings in the border regions between Bulgaria and Romania.

The Romanian participants included the President of and Experts with the Romanian National Agency for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, representatives of border police and

representatives of non-governmental organisations. The Ruse representatives came from the local authorities, border police and non-governmental organisations.

The National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the state policy on counteracting the problem were presented by Ms. Antoaneta Vasileva, Secretary of the NCCTHB. Special bands were made for the campaign.

Foundation Nadja Centre in Ruse was an active partner during the marking of the European Day against Human Trafficking. Information brochures, T-shirts, pens, paper pads, key holders, etc. were developed in partnership with the NCCTHB. The Documentary *Cargo: Innocence Lost* was shown for free at the Profitable House in partnership with the Municipality of Ruse and the European Information Office. Volunteers from the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth disseminated the brochures and promotional materials on the territory of Ruse in schools and institutions. Discussions were held and the film was shown in the building of the District Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior during the entire ten-day campaign.

Experts from the organisation and the District Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior conducted discussions in schools. Two training seminars and a screening of the film *Cargo: Innocence Lost* were organised with youths from the Homes for Children Deprived of Parental Care Raina Gateva and Dimitar Basarbovski.

### **The campaign in Plovdiv**

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The NCCTHB in partnership with the non-governmental organisation Free and Equal opened the campaign on the occasion of the European Day against Human Trafficking in the gallery of Cultural Centre TRAKART in Plovdiv. A showing of the documentary *Cargo: Innocence Lost* was organised for the participants and it sparked the audience's interest and provoked a discussion.

The film was shown for free during the ten days of the campaign. More than 400 people attended the screenings – students from Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski specialising in law, psychology and pedagogy, teachers, students and citizens.

Discussions were organised during the campaign in schools and Plovdiv University. An expert meeting on *Involving the local authorities in counteracting trafficking in human beings* was held in the Regional Governance office which was attended by Ms. Tania Georgieva, Director of the Secretariat of the Bulgarian Red Cross in Plovdiv, active members of the Bulgarian Red Cross, representatives of the Youth Society for Peace and Development of the Balkans, Plovdiv University students.

## **The campaign in Sliven**

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In relation to marking the European Day against Human Trafficking, the Sliven LCCTHB in partnership with IRSA Association announced the start of the ten-day campaign at a press conference. The guests of the event included Ms. Radost Kostova, Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Sliven and Chairperson of the LCCTHB, representatives of the District Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, Juvenile Delinquency Service, Child Protection Department with the Social Assistance Directorate, local authorities, NGOs and media.

## **The campaign in Gotse Delchev and Blagoevgrad**

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In partnership with non-governmental organisations from the cities of Gotse Delchev and Blagoevgrad, campaign materials were disseminated among students and representatives of risk groups for human trafficking in the two cities.

## **Evaluation of the campaign**

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In relation to the national campaign *Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for Action* dedicated to 18 October, the European Day against Human Trafficking, and the special school lessons in human trafficking held on a national scale, the NCCTHB conducted a survey among 7,837 teachers and 133,189 students from almost 3,000 schools throughout Bulgaria about the effectiveness of the campaign.

### **Feedback from the teachers**

Prevalent in the feedback from the teachers are the responses that there is nothing to be changed and that the lesson is very well developed and structured. 97% of the teachers believe that the materials prepared are a good tool to inform the students about the problem of “trafficking in human beings.”

The main part of the recommendations focus on the manner of visualisation of the topic – video materials, documentaries, scientific films. Obviously, the teachers think that the young people perceive much better visual materials rather than written text or lectures and this will achieve an even higher involvement of the students. The students’ high activity during the lesson held can be seen in the following table:

**What was the level of their activity on a scale from 1 to 10?**

*% of the teachers in the respective grade*

	<b>1-5 grade</b>	<b>6 grade</b>	<b>7 grade</b>	<b>8 grade</b>	<b>9 grade</b>	<b>10 grade</b>	<b>11 grade</b>	<b>12 grade</b>	<b>13 grade</b>
Average activity	6.99	7.26	7.23	7.12	7.15	7.19	7.21	7.23	7.75

Some class teachers recommend that experts in the field be involved in the lesson. It can be said that the teachers do not feel prepared enough. The questionnaires show that almost 75% of the teachers presented their first lesson in the topic.

The class teachers of a significant part of the youngest students (up to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade) believe that the topic is too complicated for their students' age. They recommend that the definitions be simplified, that there be more specific examples and that the lesson be presented in the higher grades. Still, it is important to note that there is a high level of awareness about the problem of "trafficking in human beings" among the younger students: more than 50% have an idea about the problem and only 16% had no idea about it.

**What was the level of student awareness of the topic?**

*% of the teachers in the respective region*

	<b>WERE NOT FAMILIAR</b>	<b>SOME CHILDREN HAD AN IDEA ABOUT THE PROBLEM</b>	<b>MOST CHILDREN KNEW ABOUT THE PROBLEM</b>	
BLAGOEVGRAD	3.2	36.8	60.0	100%
VARNA	5.4	43.8	50.8	100%
VRATSA	3.8	35.2	61.0	100%
GABROVO	7.4	41.5	51.1	100%
KARDZHALI	7.2	46.8	46.0	100%
KYUSTENDIL	8.2	32.3	59.5	100%
LOVECH	5.6	44.4	50.0	100%
MONTANA	3.3	36.2	60.5	100%
PAZARDZHIK	5.8	32.9	61.3	100%
PERNIK	2.9	26.4	70.7	100%
PLOVDIV	5.2	34.5	60.3	100%
RAZGRAD	6.0	44.0	50.0	100%
RUSE	0.0	7.7	92.3	100%
SILISTRA	7.8	40.6	51.6	100%
SLIVEN	5.6	37.3	57.1	100%
SMOLYAN	7.4	40.7	51.9	100%
SOFIA CITY	3.0	28.7	68.3	100%
STARA ZAGORA	8.9	42.9	48.2	100%
HASKOVO	4.7	36.7	58.6	100%



SHUMEN	11.2	46.9	41.9	100%
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It is suggested that the information about the regulatory framework and the details about the National Commission be simplified, especially for the younger students. With respect to the older students (12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> grade), some class teachers report that the students have enough information and that they hardly need such a lesson.

***What was the level of student awareness of the topic?***

*% of the teachers in the respective grade*

	<b>1-5 grade</b>	<b>6 grade</b>	<b>7 grade</b>	<b>8 grade</b>	<b>9 grade</b>	<b>10 grade</b>	<b>11 grade</b>	<b>12 grade</b>	<b>13 grade</b>
Were not familiar	15.9	6.6	4.4	5.1	4.1	3.2	1.6	1.8	0.0
Some children had an idea	53.7	51.0	38.5	37.9	37.3	28.1	24.4	20.3	20.0
Most children knew	30.4	42.4	57.1	57.0	58.6	68.7	74.0	77.9	80.0
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

At the same time, the teachers also report that almost 20% of the young people are only partially familiar with the problem. The teachers believe that a more flexible form of the lesson which is targeted at those already mature people is more appropriate.

**Other prevention activities among the risk groups**

**BURGAS LCCTHB**

The Secretary of the Burgas LCCTHB held a lecture and discussion on the topic of trafficking in human beings with a group for professional training in cooking made up of young people from risk groups under the Advocacy against Trafficking in Human Beings Project of IRSA Foundation in Burgas. The participants in the discussion were also shown the documentary *Cargo: Innocence Lost*.

The group consisted of eight people who showed interest in the regions in Bulgaria where human trafficking is most widespread as a phenomenon. The group included people from the towns of Kameno and the town of Balgarovo who expressed the desire to have the Local Commission visit the schools in their towns and present a lecture on trafficking because, according to the data, there is a strong traffic in these regions with the purpose of trading in babies.

## **PAZARDZHİK LCCTHB**

In December 2008, the Secretary of the Pazardzhik LCCTHB was invited to attend an event under the motto *Let's Say NO! – Now and Forever* dedicated to the World AIDS Day, 1 December. The event was organised by the LCCJD, the District Council for Narcotic Substances in Pazardzhik and the Regional Inspectorate of Protection and Control of Public Health. A quiz was organised for the participants and three teams from three schools in Pazardzhik competed in it. There were also questions to and prizes for the students in the audience. The students from the teams demonstrated very good knowledge about the sexually transmitted diseases – contracting them, prevention and treatment.

## **PAZARDZHİK LCCTHB**

In July 2008, the Secretary of the Local Commission disseminated prevention materials among the mayoralities in the Municipality, the Youth Home, the Regional Library N. Furnadzhiev and the Regional Inspectorate of Education in Pazardzhik. In August, posters *Every child can be the victim of trafficking* and cards with the contact numbers of the Pazardzhik LCCTHB and the NCCTHB were provided to Chitalishte Vidolina, Chitalishte Hristo Botev, Trolleybus Transport in Pazardzhik, Foundation for Multi-ethnic Cooperation Napredak. In September, together with the LCCJD, a working meeting was organised to discuss joint activities with public supervisors, pedagogical advisors, representatives of the Child Protection Department, inspectors with the Social Assistance Directorate and chairpersons of school commissions for combating juvenile delinquency. The members of the Pazardzhik LCCTHB were also present.

On 28 October 2008, the Secretary of the Local Commission attended a working meeting with the headmasters of schools in the municipality organised by the Education Section with the Municipality of Pazardzhik. The Secretary presented in brief the activities of the Commission and the reasons for its setting up in this manner and appealed for cooperation and greater involvement in the initiatives of the LCCTHB.

### **2.5. Conducting joint initiatives with the media to cover the problems related to trafficking in human beings.**

## **NCCTHB**

In 2008, the activities of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and those of the Local Commissions were widely covered in the media. The Secretary of the

National Commission took part in numerous television and radio programmes in relation to the national campaigns held during the year.

### **BURGAS LCCTHB**

In relation to 18 October, the European Day against Human Trafficking, the Secretary of the Burgas LCCTHB took part in the television programme *Aktsenti* of TV-Mix together with Ms. Diyana Videva from Demetra Association, Ms. Mara Kostadinova from the Centre for Sexual Health and Ms. Dora Petkova from Association Doza Obich. The programme was dedicated to the problem of “trafficking in human beings” and the role of the different institutions in counteracting it. The Secretary of the LCCTHB presented general information about the phenomenon of human trafficking and its forms as well as information about the activities and functions of the Burgas LCCTHB.

The focus was placed on the need for more stringent measures for counteracting trafficking in human beings because Burgas, due to its strategic location, proves to be a region at risk, especially with respect to sexual and labour exploitation during the summer time.

### **VARNA LCCTHB**

During the campaign *Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for Action*, two press conferences were held to announce the launch of the campaign, present its purposes and tasks and close and present preliminary results from the feedback from students and teachers which, on their part, were covered in all local media.

### **PAZARDZHIK LCCTHB**

All activities organised by the Pazardzhik LCCTHB were covered in the local media.

### **SLIVEN LCCTHB**

In relation to the elaboration of an Action Plan of the Sliven LCCTHB, the Internet portal Sliven NET covered in detail the composition, functions, purposes and planned activities for 2009 of the Local Commission. In an interview for the local television station Cable Tel on 12 December 2008, the Secretary of the Local Commission specified the activities related to expanding the scope of training in children’s rights. Focuses were placed on the prevention and protection of victims of human trafficking as well as on the improvement of the cooperation between the institutions and non-governmental organisations in counteracting the phenomenon of “trafficking in human beings” in Sliven.

## **SECTION III – STAFF TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION**

### **Activity 1: Training of the staff of the administration of the NCCTHB and LCCTHBs and of the experts on the Standing Working Group with the NCCTHB.**

#### ***Trainings on Trafficking in Human Beings and the Transnational Referral Mechanisms for Trafficked Persons in South Eastern Europe***

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In the period February – April 2008, the NCCTHB organised and conducted seven two-day trainings on *Trafficking in Human Beings and the Transnational Referral Mechanisms for Trafficked Persons in South Eastern Europe* in the cities of Sofia, Burgas, Varna and Pazardzhik. The purposes of the trainings were to familiarise the participants with the Manual on the Transnational Referral Mechanism for Trafficked Persons in South Eastern Europe developed by the ICMPD, to provide practice guidance on how the Manual can be used in the participants' every-day work and to create professional contacts among the participants and between the participants and the organisers. Participants in the trainings were also the Secretaries and members of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the cities of Burgas, Varna, Pazardzhik and Sliven.

#### **Training practice in the Crisis Centre Drehscheibe in Vienna**

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In the week of 1 – 7 June 2008, two experts with the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings attended training practice at the Vienna Crisis Centre for Children Drehscheibe. The experts observed the every-day work of the team of the Crisis Centre and specific work on cases. During the visit, meetings were organised with Vienna-based non-governmental organisations and representatives of the local authorities.

#### **Trafficking in human beings. Basic skills to implement the national policy**

##### **Varna**

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On 24 – 25 July 2008 in Varna, the NCCTHB and Varna LCCTHB organised and held a training seminar on *Trafficking in human beings. Basic skills to implement the national policy*.

Lecturers were the Secretary of and experts with the NCCTHB and a representative of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the Ministry of the Interior.

The main purpose of the seminar was to familiarise the participants with the phenomenon of “trafficking in human beings” – risk factors, groups and regions – and with the national policy for counteracting human trafficking. The role of the Varna LCCTHB was discussed and so was the role of the institutions and non-governmental organisations. The national and international legal framework for the problem was presented and a focus was placed on prevention, protection of victims and judicial proceedings against the perpetrators.

The training was attended by 29 representatives of the Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Directorates of the Municipality of Varna, LCCJD, non-governmental organisations and Juvenile Delinquency Service inspectors with the Varna District Police Directorate.

### **Training for the Secretaries of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Sofia**

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In relation to the administration of the activities of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, on 18 October 2008, the NCCTHB organised an administrative training for the Secretaries of the LCCTHBs. The training covered the administrative services for the Local Commissions, preparation of the necessary documentation and drawing up of reports and opinions and it was held in the NCCTHB office in Sofia. The future activities of the Local Commissions were also discussed during the training.

## **Training of the team of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

### **Velingrad**

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The team of the National Commission participated in a training on *Stress management for a better team cooperation*. The purpose of the training was to acquire knowledge and skills for recognition of stress, create sustainable individual and group mechanisms for dealing with stress and anxiety, use of supporting communication in situations of professional stress and burnout, and improve the team cooperation in the National Commission. A focus of the training was the increase in trust and unity of the team of the National Commission through role and sensitising plays and sharing of personal experience in the group. Role plays related to team work, group identity and decision making in crisis situations were also acted out.

### **Activity 2: Training of magistrates on counteracting and prevention of human trafficking.**

#### **Training on *Trafficking in human beings and the Transnational Referral Mechanism for victims in South Eastern Europe, Bulgaria***

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In the period February – April 2008, the NCCTHB organised and conducted seven two-day trainings on *Trafficking in human beings and the Transnational Referral Mechanism for victims from South Eastern Europe* in the cities of Sofia, Burgas, Varna and Pazardzhik. The purposes of the trainings were to familiarise the participants with the Manual on the Transnational Referral Mechanism for Trafficked Persons in South Eastern Europe developed by the ICMPD, to provide practice guidance on how the Manual can be used in the participants' every-day work and to create professional contacts among the participants and between the participants and the organisers.

Participants in the seminars were representatives of local authorities, the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the District Police Directorates, border police, regional and district prosecution offices, the State Agency for National Security, district investigations services, the LCCJD, the Child Protection Department and non-governmental organisations. 141 professionals from a total of 25 population centres in Bulgaria took part in the trainings. Lecturers were experts with the NCCTHB, the Supreme Cassations Prosecution Office, the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the Ministry of the Interior, border police and NGOs.

For the first time in the practice of the NCCTHB and its partner institutions and organisations, two parallel trainings were held at the same time – in the cities of Varna and Burgas.

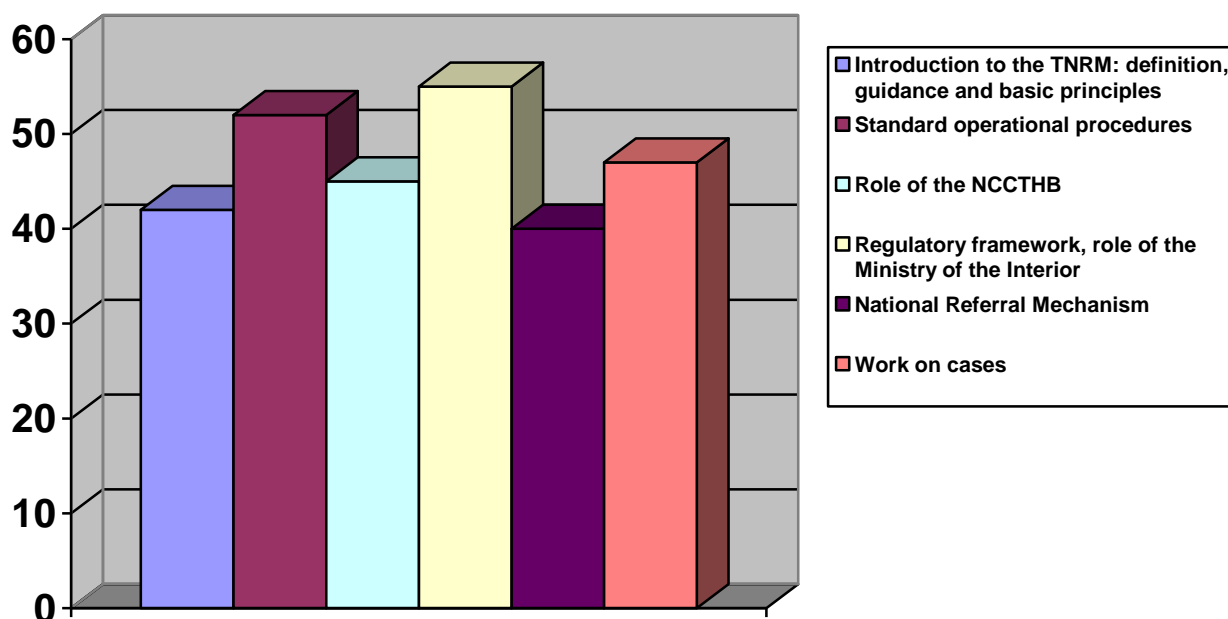
The target group of the first were law-enforcement bodies and of the second one – representatives of institutions from the social sphere and non-governmental organisations. On the second day of the trainings, the two groups worked together in small multi-disciplinary teams on real cases of trafficking in human beings and, thus, they had the opportunity to exchange experience and learn more about their partners’ work.

At the end of each training, the participants filled in feedback forms concerning the usefulness of the training for them. In brief, the results from the feedback forms can be summarised in the following tables:

**How do you evaluate the training conducted? (1 is the lowest and 5 the highest mark)**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Content</b>			<b>5.5%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>76.2%</b>
<b>Effectiveness</b>			<b>5.5%</b>	<b>17.75%</b>	<b>76.75%</b>
<b>Methodology</b>			<b>2%</b>	<b>25.2%</b>	<b>72.8%</b>
<b>Presentations/ trainers</b>			<b>1%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Place</b>		<b>1.75%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>73.65%</b>

## Which topics were important and interesting for you?



### ***Seminar on Regulatory framework and problems related to the implementation of the migration policy of the Republic of Bulgaria in accordance with the requirements for protection of the national security and EC directives, Stara Zagora***

The seminar was organised by the State Agency for National Security on 2 October 2008 in the city of Stara Zagora. An expert with the National Commission was invited to present the main thrusts of the government policy for prevention and combat of trafficking in human beings, the regulatory framework with regard to the issue, the structure, roles and functions of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of Victims of Trafficking.

### **Activity 6: Organising and conducting of training for journalists on the issues of prevention and counteraction of human trafficking.**

On 11 – 12 December 2008, the NCCTHB conducted a training seminar for journalists on the issues of prevention and counteraction of human trafficking *Trafficking in human beings and the media*. Mediators from J.com Agency took part in the training as well as a representatives of the



*Express* newspaper, Bulgarian Telegraph Agency, The *Gradski Vestnik*, Focus Agency and The *Novinar* newspaper.

The purposes of the training were to increase the participants' awareness of the problems of "trafficking in human beings" and their understanding of the psychic trauma due to the violence one has suffered and also to improve their knowledge about the joint work with the NCCTHB and other government institutions. Another main purpose was for them to acquire specific skills to cover professionally the problem of human trafficking in a manner which supports the work of the government and non-government institutions on cases of trafficking in human beings.

Web crimes were also discussed during the training and specific, already closed, cases of trafficking in human beings were presented by Ministry of the Interior staff. Mediana Sociological Agency presented the results of the campaign on human trafficking conducted by the NCCTHB in all schools in Bulgaria for a lesson dedicated to the European Day against Human Trafficking, 18 October.

The journalists who took part in the training stressed on the importance of such seminars, the knowledge gained and increased awareness as well as their readiness to be involved in initiatives of the NCCTHB in the future. A special approval was expressed for the idea to develop a manual with useful tips for journalists.

### **Activity 7: Organising and conducting a training on the topic of human trafficking for social workers and specialists working with the hot line for children who have suffered violence and trafficking.**

#### **Trafficking in human beings – an introduction. Basic skills for working with victims of trafficking**

##### **Montana**

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The National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings conducted a two-day training for the staff of the Crisis Centre supporting children who are victims of violence and trafficking in the city of Montana on 27 – 28 October 2008. In addition to representatives of the Crisis Centre in Montana, the training was attended by representatives of the local authorities who work with risk groups and with children who are victims of trafficking.

The main goals of the training included increase in the participants' knowledge of the problem of "trafficking in human beings" and their understanding of the psychic trauma as a result of the violence suffered. In view of the acquisition of specific skills to provide the necessary support to

children who are victims of trafficking, an expert with Nadja Centre Foundation was also invited as a trainer.

## **OTHER TRAININGS CONDUCTED BY THE NCCTHB**

### **Training of volunteers and assistants of the US Peace Corps, Hisaria**

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An expert with the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings conducted a training for volunteers of the US Peace Corps in Bulgaria and their Bulgarian partners regarding the national policy on prevention of trafficking in human beings and the role and functions of the NCCTHB in the period 13 – 14 February 2008 in the town of Hisaria. The American documentary *Cargo: Innocence Lost* was presented as part of the training. The volunteers were given information materials which they will disseminate in the communities in which they work.

### **Training during the annual US Peace Corps camp**

#### **“CAMP GLOW”**

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The Secretary of the NCCTHB was lecturer at the annual student camp *GLOW* in Veliko Tarnovo organised by the US Peace Corps on 4 – 5 August 2008.

The purpose of the camp is to develop the leadership skills of girls from throughout the country and serious social problems in whose resolution the students can take an active part are presented as part of the training. The purpose of the training held on *Trafficking in human beings – prevention and protection of victims* was to familiarise the participants with the problem of human trafficking, the role of the National Commission and the national regulatory framework in the area and to provide basic knowledge and skills for counteracting human trafficking. The documentary *Cargo: Innocence Lost* was also shown.

## **Seminars organised by Public Fund Pazardzhik Foundation under The Civil Society – A Competent Partner in the Implementation of Public Policies Project**

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### **Information seminar on *The civil society – an active participant in the policy for combating trafficking in human beings*, Plovdiv**

The purpose of the seminar organised was to create a network for cooperation of non-governmental organisations with a view to mobilising the NGOs to take part in the process of creation of policies focusing on the national policy for combating trafficking in human beings. The seminar was attended by representatives of thirty-one non-governmental organisations from throughout the country.

The Secretary of the NCCTHB Ms. Antoaneta Vasileva presented the structure and functions of the National Commission, the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of Victims of Trafficking and the work of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the role of the non-governmental organisations in preventing the problem. All participants in the seminar received a set of information materials.

### **Information seminar on *The national and European policy on the problems of trafficking in human beings. Key problems in the implementation of the policy*, Plovdiv**

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Experts with the NCCTHB, the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the Ministry of the Interior and the Academy of the Ministry of the Interior conducted a training on *The national and European policy on the problems of trafficking in human beings. Key problems in the implementation of the policy* in the city of Plovdiv on 20 – 22 April 2008.

The purposes of the seminar were to familiarise the participants with the problem of human trafficking, the mechanisms for counteracting human trafficking and the main institutions and organisations working in the field and to present the methods for counteracting human trafficking.

The meeting was attended by representatives of non-governmental organisations from throughout the country which are part of the network created under the project.

## **Closing conference on *Legislative and institutional aspects and good practices in combating trafficking in human beings in Bulgaria, Pazardzhik***

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An expert with the NCCTHB, the Secretaries of the LCCTHBs in Burgas, Pazardzhik and Sliven and the Deputy Chairperson of the Varna LCCTHB participated as lecturers in the closing conference organised by Public Fund Pazardzhik Foundation under The Civil Society – A Competent Partner in the Implementation of Public Policies Project. The purpose of the conference was to present the results of the project and to exchange experience, ideas and successful practices among the members of the network of non-governmental organisations and representatives of local and national institutions created under the project.

The NCCTHB representative acquainted the participants in the seminar with the current activities of the National Commission and special attention was paid to the coordination mechanisms existing in the country for referral and care for victims of trafficking in Bulgaria. The representatives of the Local Commissions presented the activities and functions of the LCCTHBs.

## **SECTION V “INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION”**

### **Bulgaria’s membership in the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

The Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings held its first official meeting on 5 and 8 December 2008. One of the issues on its agenda was the election of members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). Mrs Vessela Banova, one of the four nominations of the Bulgarian government, was elected a member of GRETA.

Prior to the elections, on 5 and 8 December 2008, two letters from non-governmental organisations have been received in the CoE Secretariat with reference to the government nominations to GRETA. KISA Cyprus questioned the independency of the two nominees from Cyprus, while Animus Association Foundation from Bulgaria challenged the transparency of the election procedure in Bulgaria. The representative of Cyprus in the Committee of the Parties informed those attending the meeting that his State has spared no effort to designate the best nominees and that KISA allegations were unsubstantiated.

The permanent representative of Bulgaria to the CoE in Strasbourg Ambassador Ivan Petkov in turn introduced to the Committee of the Parties the letter of Vice Prime-Minister and chairperson of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB) Mr Daniel Valchev, which was sent in response to Animus Association Foundation letter. The letter has been already copied to the delegations of all States Parties to the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Consequently all nominations were admitted. The prompt reaction on the part of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which organised the national nomination procedure for GRETA members in Bulgaria, had been received very well by the other States' delegations.

Subsequently, on 8 December 2008, it was decided that GRETA would consist of thirteen members, the election taking place amidst strong competition. The following nominees (in alphabetical order) have been elected members of GRETA:

1. Mrs Vessela Banova, (**Bulgarian**);
2. Mrs Louise Calleja (**Maltese**)
3. Mrs Josie Christodoulou (**Cypriot**)
4. Mr Davor Derencinovic (**Croatian**)
5. Mr Vladimir Gilca (**Moldovan**)
6. Mrs Hanne Sophie Greve (**Norwegian**)
7. Mr Nicolas Le Coz (**French**)
8. Mrs Alexandra Malangone (**Slovak**)
9. Mrs Nell Rasmussen (**Danish**)
10. Mrs Leonor Maria Da Conceição Cruz Rodrigues (**Portuguese**)
11. Mrs Gulnara Shahinian (**Armenian**)
12. Mr Robert Stratoberdha (**Albanian**)
13. Mrs Diana-Florentina Tudorache (**Romanian**)

Resolution CM/Res(2008)7 on rules on the election procedure of the members of the GRETA stipulates that members shall be elected for a term of office of four years as of 1 January 2009. The first meeting of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) will take place in the first quarter of 2009.

**Activity 1: Establishing bilateral contacts and exchange of experience and best practices with similar organisations and state bodies working in the field of combating and preventing**

## **trafficking in human beings in Member States of the European Union, the Council of Europe and third countries.**

### **Working visit to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 25 – 28 February 2008**

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To strengthen bilateral co-operation in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, the National Commission Secretary Mrs Antoanetta Vassileva made a working visit to the Kingdom of the Netherlands from **25 to 28 February 2008**. Mr Svilen Tourmakov, deputy-director of the National Investigation Service, Mr Dobromir Dochev, head of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate, Mr Evgeni Dikov, prosecutor at the Supreme Cassation Prosecution Office, and Mrs Mirella Bachvarova, desk officer for the Netherlands at the MoI International Co-operation Directorate took also part in the working visit.

The working visit aimed at introducing to the competent Bulgarian institutions the work of the Dutch Expertise Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings and Human Smuggling (EMM) and the Dutch model for combating trafficking in human beings.

The Bulgarian delegation visited the Expertise Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings and Human Smuggling (EMM) in Zwolle, the Friesland Regional Police Office in Leeuwarden, a shelter for victims of domestic violence and trafficking in human beings in Utrecht, as well as the Prosecution Office in The Hague. The delegation was also shown places where paid sex services were offered in Leeuwarden and Amsterdam.

The Expertise Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings is basically involved with detecting and preventing crimes concerning trafficking in human beings, as well as preventing and supporting victims of human trafficking. The Centre works with cases regarding all forms of exploitation related to the trafficking of human beings – trafficking in women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation, trafficking for the purposes of forced labour and labour exploitation, crimes related to forced sale and provision of human bodily organs.

The Regional Police in Leeuwarden introduced to the Bulgarian delegation the priorities and specific characteristics of the police work following legalisation of prostitution in the Netherlands in 2000. The Dutch party described in detail the methods for controlling brothels by imposing severe sanctions on owners and managers of brothels in case of violations, child prostitution among others, thus arriving at a very good level of co-operation between managers and owners of brothels and the police. The Dutch party pointed that currently there were some 50 to 60 prostituting Bulgarian

women, largely from the North-East part of Bulgaria (Rousse, Shoumen, and Dobrich) and the town of Sliven, as the season was not high. Our hosts underscored that for a year the Bulgarian women, mostly of Roma origin, held the leading number of prostituting women in the Netherlands, followed by nationals of Romania, Hungary and Nigeria.

The Bulgarian delegation visited a shelter for victims of domestic violence and trafficking in human beings in Utrecht that provided support, legal and psychological assistance to victims of domestic violence and trafficking in human beings, including children. The Animus Association Foundation/La Strada (Bulgaria) and the International Organisation for Migration mediate the return of victims to Bulgaria.

As a result of this working visit, a project started being elaborated, ‘Trafficking in Human Beings in Bulgaria and the Netherlands – joint efforts in counteracting a common problem’, which the National Commission, jointly with the Ministry of the Interior, submitted for consideration under the MATRA Programme for Social Transformation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Expertise Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings and Human Smuggling (EMM) is the Dutch partner under the project. The project was approved and vice Prime-Minister Daniel Valchev, the National Commission chairperson, and Interior Minister Mihail Mikov signed a memorandum of understanding. The two-year project is worth 370,000 EUR.

### **Working visit in Norway**

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In relation to finalising preparatory work on a joint project ‘Bulgaria – Norway: combating trafficking in human beings’, the National Commission Secretary visited Oslo, Norway and conducted a series of meetings with her Norwegian colleagues from 13 to 15 March 2008.

The other members of the delegation were: Mrs Snezhina Marinova, head of the International Co-operation Section at the Ministry of the Interior, Mr Evgeni Dikov, prosecutor from the SUPREME CASSATION PROSECUTION OFFICE, Mrs Mirella Bachvarova, desk officer for Norway at the International Co-operation Directorate, and Mrs Olga Rangelova, inspector in the Trafficking in Human Beings Section in the Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate. Members of the Norwegian delegation were experts from the Ministry of Justice, the police and the national unit for trafficking in human beings prevention, who were directly involved in the project elaboration.

The constructive discussions helped outline three distinct components of the project – investments, strengthening capacity, and co-operation. The two parties underlined once more their commitment to focus their work on strengthening the bilateral co-operation in counteracting

trafficking in human beings and in supporting victims. The manifest political support for the project implementation was acknowledged. Norway pointed to the need to strike, in the framework of the project, a balance between the two major areas of work – investigating trafficking in human beings and support for victims of trafficking.

The parties agreed on the following:

1. To include, in the framework of the **investment component** of the project, the purchase of two PCs and two sets of mobile equipment for a video conference line for conducting interrogations. The equipment will be installed in the Prosecution Office (one standing and one mobile set), the National Investigation Service (one standing set) and the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate (one mobile set). In addition, software will be provided for visualising the analysis of electronic information, as well as computer configurations for the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate. Training for working with the equipment will be provided too. Furthermore, equipment will be provided to the public shelters for victims of trafficking in human beings that will be set up pursuant to the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act.

2. The **‘Strengthening capacity’** component will include activities aimed at exchanging good practices and training in the following areas:

- Investigating trafficking in human beings – per appellate regions for police investigators, investigators and operational officers working on trafficking in human beings. The trainers will be prosecutors but judges will be involved as well.
- Victim identification – training of officers from Regional Police Departments and District Police Departments, who don’t per se have competence in combating trafficking in human beings, but can nevertheless identify victims of trafficking in human beings in their daily work. Representatives of NGOs and Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings will take part in some of the trainings as well.
- Victim protection and prevention – training of social workers, members of NGOs, etc.
- Preparation and dissemination of a CD with information on the Bulgarian and Norwegian legislation, international legal acts in the area of trafficking in human beings, as well as information on the structure and competence of the different human rights watch organisations in the area of trafficking in human beings in the two States.

A substantial part of the project activities falls under the ‘Co-operation’ component. Two reciprocal one-week visits of Bulgarian experts to Norway and Norwegian experts to Bulgaria are



included under the project to facilitate exchange of information and experience in two areas: counteracting trafficking in human beings and work on specific cases, and support and assistance for victims. Activities related to exchange of experts for work on particular cases of trafficking in persons from Bulgaria to Norway are included as well. In result of this working visit, the project proposal 'Bulgaria – Norway: combating trafficking in human beings' was finalised and submitted. It is currently reviewed by the Innovation Norway Programme.

### **Dutch Delegation Visits Varna, Bulgaria**

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In December 2008 a delegation of the Netherlands Police Service paid a working visit to the Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Varna. Members of the delegation visited the SOS Crisis Centre at the 'SOS – Families at Risk' Foundation and the shelter for temporary housing of victims of trafficking with the Local Commission. Mrs Svetlana Koeva, deputy-chairperson of the Local Commission, introduced to the members of the delegation the work of the Varna Local Commission and the Prevention Directorate with the Varna Municipality. The delegation discussed with Varna deputy-mayors, with Ass. Prof. Dr. Hristo Bozov, chairperson of the Local Commission and Gen. Vesselin Petrov, head of the Varna Police Service, the role of the municipality as a factor uniting various institutions and NGOs that work on trafficking in human beings. The Varna Local Commission expressed its commitment to join a research project funded under the MATRA Programme for identifying the reasons why victims of trafficking from Bulgaria opt for the Netherlands.

### **Official visit of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Pazardzhik**

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On 14 October 2008, at the invitation of the city mayor Mr Todor Popov, the Netherlands Ambassador H.E. Mr Willem van Ee visited Pazardzhik. He met some of the members of the Pazardzhik Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and was introduced to its work and co-operation on local and national level.

### **The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking in support of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), Vienna, Austria**

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From 13 to 15 February 2008 in Vienna, Austria the National Commission Secretary, together with representatives of the Interior and Justice Ministries, took part in the Vienna Forum to Fight

Human Trafficking ([www.ungift.org](http://www.ungift.org)) in support of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

The Forum aimed at raising public awareness, facilitating co-operation, and forging new partnerships among participants to actively counteract human trafficking.

All forms and dimensions of trafficking were covered and discussed during the sessions: trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour, removal of organs and body parts, and forced submission.

The main topics dealt with the vulnerable position of victims of these particular crimes as well as with the factors that most often contribute to the easy fall into trafficking. Discussions were held on demand for forced labour and sexual exploitation, corruption and trafficking in human beings, vulnerability of communities in crisis, profiling of traffickers and human trafficking for the purpose of removal of body organs.

The need was reiterated to study in-depth the consequences of human trafficking on the victims, the other members of society and even the economies of the countries of origin or final destination of victims of trafficking. Relevant discussions dealt with estimates of the trafficking in human beings, consequences from the sexual exploitation, the healthcare system and human trafficking, the role of media in counteracting this type of crimes and human trafficking as a transnational organised crime.

Thirdly, specific actions were discussed to be undertaken on national level by interested parties by making recourse to available domestic legal acts and existing international instruments in this field.

**The Forum's focal point was the prevention of human trafficking as a requisite of any successful strategy for combating human trafficking.** Measures to counteract human trafficking must doubtlessly include campaigns for raising public awareness in this respect, setting up the so-called 'hot-lines', improving the legal regulation of the rights and situation of the most vulnerable groups of persons, and a 'response' to the demand for 'services' of victims of trafficking.

In addition, to successfully counteract and mostly to criminally prosecute the crime of human trafficking, it was underscored, a clear distinction between illegal migration, prostitution, sexual exploitation and forced labour, on the one hand, and human trafficking, on the other, must be made. This required special preparation through training of those involved in the fight with trafficking in human beings and in particular the law enforcement agencies.

**The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons – „Child trafficking: responses and challenges at local level”, Vienna, Austria**

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On 26 and 27 May 2008 experts from the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings took part in the OSCE and the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference “Child Trafficking: responses and challenges at local level” in Vienna, Austria. The main focus fell on good practices in combating child trafficking at local level and in particular prevention of child trafficking, and on identifying, supporting and assisting children victims of trafficking. Delegations from more than 50 States as well as representatives of international and non-governmental organisations attended the conference.

### **European Approaches towards Data Collection on Trafficking in Human Beings, Brussels, Belgium**

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From 17 to 19 September 2008 the European Parliament in Brussels held a conference on the European approaches towards data collection on trafficking in human beings. The conference was organised in the frame of the joint project “Development of guidelines for the collection of data on trafficking in human beings, including comparable indicators” of the International Organisation for Migration and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior. The project, its aims, as well as envisaged and planned activities were presented at the conference.

Representatives of Austria, the USA, Hungary, Romania, Sweden, and Belgium, international and non-governmental organisations presented their views on the project and the need for data collection on trafficking in human beings on European level. To effectively counteract trafficking in human beings across the European Union, a standardised system of harmonised data collection is needed, it was opined. Experts from the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human beings and the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate took part in the conference.

### **OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, Poland**

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The yearly OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, 29 September – 10 October 2008, aimed at reviewing OSCE State Parties’ human rights commitments. 8 October 2008 was devoted to the trafficking in human beings, where the focus was on the identification, support, access to justice and compensations for victims of trafficking. Conference participants noted the substantial and rising level of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, and

the insufficient efforts of States to secure compensation for victims of trafficking. Compensation of victims of trafficking was brought to the attention.

Mrs Eva Biaudet, OSCE's Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, underlined the continuing difficulties in identifying all forms of exploitation; the treatment of victims as criminals; the growing number of women sentenced for trafficking in human beings; and the existing conditionality of support to victims of trafficking on the victim assisting the investigation and the judicial proceedings against the traffickers.

### **Working seminar ‘Focus approach of NGOs in combating trafficking in human beings’, Ankara, Turkey**

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A National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings expert took part on 19 November 2008 in a working seminar in Ankara on “Focus approach of NGOs in counteracting human trafficking”. The seminar was organised by the Turkish Republic Prime Ministry Directorate General on the Status and Problems of Women. Representatives of the Turkish government indicated some of the measures they had undertaken to counteract trafficking in human beings and ensure victim protection e.g. a hot-line for victims in four languages, prevention campaigns, free psychological assistance, and safe return to the country of origin.

Representatives of Turkish non-governmental organisations providing services to victims of trafficking attended the event, as well as experts from institutions and organisations from Moldova, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Romania and Georgia. From Bulgaria Ms. Ilyana Derilova, Chief of IOM Bulgaria Mission, and Mr Yordan Tarnovski, psychologist with the Centre Nadya Foundation took part in the seminar.

### **Symposium „The Future of the European Policies on Legal Migration”, Vienna, Austria**

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On the occasion of ICMPD 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Secretary Mrs Antoanetta Vassileva and an expert of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings took part in the symposium on the “Future of the European policies on legal migration” on 4 December 2008 in Vienna.

The event was opened by Mr Willibald Pahr, former Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and former chairman of the ICMPD Advisory Board. Mrs Maria Fekter, Federal Interior Minister, attended the official opening, underlining the increasing migration trends to Austria following the fall

of the ‘Iron Curtain’ and pointing that legal migration was related mostly to labour markets, while illegal – to the trafficking in human beings.

Representatives of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission, ICMPD and ICMPD national and international partners attended the symposium as well.

All speakers took note of the financial crisis and its impact on the migration processes in Europe but also in the USA and Canada.

Bulgaria was represented by the NCCTHB, Ministry of the Interior and the Bulgarian Embassy in Vienna.

## **Activity 2: Providing Bulgarian legislation and practice in combating trafficking in human beings in the framework of bilateral relations and international co-operation.**

### **Regional conference „Children and minors victims of trafficking: police, judicial, educational, social and medical intervention and care”,**

#### **Budapest, Hungary**

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A National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings expert presented the work of the crisis centres for children victims of trafficking and violence in the framework of the panel on ‘Protection and support for minors victims of trafficking: social, educational and medical aspects’ during the Regional Conference „Children and minors victims of trafficking: police, judicial, educational, social and medical intervention and care”, Budapest, 31 March 2008. The Conference was organised by the French Institute and the International Organisation for Migration, Hungary with the financial support of the French Government. The Conference aimed at introducing to the participants various aspects of the work with children victims of trafficking in the States taking part in the event.

Representatives from Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, Romania, Bosnia I Herzegovina, Slovenia, Kosovo, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Albania, Slovakia, Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine took part in the seminar. Bulgarian participants were Mrs Iliana Derilova, Chief of the IOM Bulgaria Mission, and Dr. Rossanka Venelinova, director of the Centre Nadya Foundation.

### **International conference in the framework of the Feedback Project, Paris, France**

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The National Commission Secretary took part in a conference in Paris within the international 'Feedback' project of the ALC Association funded by the European Union Daphne Programme. The project is premised on a network of institutions and non-governmental organisations from six EU Member States: France, Italy, Spain and Lithuania that are countries of final destination for victims of trafficking in human beings, and Bulgaria and Romania, which are countries of origin of victims of trafficking. The Bulgarian partner under the project is the Centre Nadya Foundation.

The results of a qualitative survey of the life of victims of trafficking were presented during the international conference. The survey tries to go deeper into the experiences and feelings of victims of trafficking during their contacts with non-governmental organisations and/or governmental institutions.

Victims of trafficking, most of them under the age of 25, had been interviewed during the survey. Five of them were under 18, ten had children, and fifteen were interviewed in the country of origin. The interviews had been assessed and publication of the survey in seven languages is pending. The survey will be distributed to the participants.

The sociologist Paul Philippe presented a summary of the interviews. The basic conclusions made were that most of the victims were of poor social standing and believed to be guilty of the violence used upon them. An interesting fact was that all victims reportedly hoped to be able to get out of the traffic situation through the person that proposed the job to them in the first place.

As for the state of the victims and the care for them, Mr Philippe underlined that the victims themselves should build a positive attitude to their own future. Most often the victims identify with what they have gone through and decide themselves to sustain the situation of dependency. The aim in the process of support and reintegration was to assist the victims in helping themselves and regaining their social skills.

Mrs Ona Gustiene, director of the Lithuanian Missing Persons Families Support Centre, underscored the fact that more and more children aged between 14 and 18 become victims of trafficking influenced by their material way of thinking, media impact and lack of moral values. Mrs Gustiene further mentioned that often parents did not support their children testifying but wanted rather to forget as fast as possible about what had happened.

**Participation in the international conference „Trafficking of Women in Post-Communist Europe”, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies with the Stanford University, the USA**

At the invitation of HE Ambassador John Beyrle and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), Mrs Antoanetta Vassileva, executive secretary of the NCCTHB, took part as a speaker in the international conference on ‘Trafficking of Women in Post-Communist Europe’, 17 – 19 April 2008, organised by the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies with the Stanford University, the USA.

The aim of the conference was exchange of experience and best practices, with a special focus on the strategies for combating trafficking in human beings and how to meet the needs of the victims.

State officials, analysts from the non-governmental sector, political scientists and students took part in the conference. During the first panel particular attention was paid to the strategies for counteracting this crime and for meeting the needs of women victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The Bulgarian national policy for combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation and the work of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings captured the interest of the organisers.

During the second panel session „Interventions: Law and the State” Mrs Vassileva made a presentation of the Bulgarian model for combating trafficking in human beings and the good practice in Bulgaria regarding prevention, criminal prosecution and victim protection. The main argument of the National Commission Secretary was that Bulgaria availed of a very good legal framework where all institutional actions regarding prevention and combating trafficking in human beings, protection and reintegration of victims were anchored. Mrs Vassileva emphasised that despite the good results, however, Bulgaria faced the challenges of increasing the victims’ of trafficking trust in the institutions so that victims would testify against traffickers and of changing the public perceptions in general as regards the crime of human trafficking.

Other speakers during the conference were Mrs Simona Zavratnik (Research Associate, University of Primorska, Slovenia), Mrs Donna Hughes (Professor, Women’s Studies Program, University of Rhode Island), Mrs Eva Brems (Professor, Human Rights Law, Ghent University), Mr Daniel Horodniceanu (Chief Prosecutor, Anti-Trafficking Bureau of General Prosecutor’s Office, Romania), Mrs Stana Buchowska (National Co-ordinator, La Strada Poland), Mrs Oksana Horbunova (Deputy Counter-trafficking Program Co-ordinator, International Organisation for Migration, Mission in Ukraine) and Mrs Jacqueline Berman (Principal Research Analyst, Berkeley Policy Associates).

Mrs Zavratnik presented a survey on trafficking in women in Slovenia. The results indicated that Slovenia was a country of origin, transit country and country of final destination for victims of trafficking, and that a large part of the victims in Slovenia come from the Balkans and East European

states in transition. Many of the victims were young girls, either jobless or low paid. The interviews of women victims of trafficking revealed that the main reasons for turning those women victims were lack of employment opportunities and poverty. Mrs Zavratnik emphasised further that the lack of systemised and detailed information was one of the obstacles to disclosing the problem of trafficking in Slovenia in its full proportions.

In her presentation Mrs Hughes dealt with the proposition that trade in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation was based on the demand-supply principle. Supply of girls from particular regions in turn was determined by factors like easy access to victims due to poverty, unemployment, lack of opportunities, dreams about the Western way of life, love and the need to feel safe. The demand for victims was facilitated by prostitution, either tolerated or legalised. In the regions and cities with well developed sex industry pimps and brothel owners could not recruit sufficient numbers of local women for prostitutes hence traffickers raised the girls from the above-mentioned regions. Mrs Hughes dwelled on the particular factors determining the demand for victims:

- Men who order sex;
- Sex industry exploiters taking advantage of the sale of sex services;
- States that profit from tourism or active sex industry;
- Mentality that illustrates and adds romantic shades to prostitution.

Each of these factors should be addressed to reduce the number of victims of trafficking, she opined.

In conclusion, Mrs Hughes shared her view that to prevent trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation it was necessary to adopt the abolitionist approach, which clearly distinguished between victims and abusers and provided the necessary measures for each.

Mrs Brems started her presentation by stating that Europe took pride in having the strongest supra-national human rights protection system in the world. Trafficking in human beings is one of the most serious and widespread violations of human rights in Europe today.

Most of the human rights violations in relation to victims of trafficking fall within the scope of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: deprivation of liberty (Art. 5), torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment (Art. 3), murder as a violation of the right to life (Art. 2), slavery or forced labour (Art. 4), forced marriage (Art. 12) etc. Most of the violations of victims' human rights refer to lack of access to justice (Art. 6), discrimination (Art. 14 and Protocol 12), deprivation of liberty (Art. 5), forced return involving a risk of inhuman treatment



in the country of origin (Art. 3) etc. Despite the nature of this crime, the cases involving trafficking in human beings before the European Court for Human Rights are rare.

One of the key premises of the Convention is its human rights based approach to the victims of trafficking, unlike some national and international documents that treat this issue in the context of illegal immigration and organised crime.

Mrs Brems further looked into some drawbacks of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings as well as into aspects that could be improved like for example support and protection of victims, residence status and asylum, repatriation and monitoring of the Convention, alongside with the terminology the Convention made use of.

Mr Daniel Horodniceanu emphasised how important adequate support and financial compensation for the victims of trafficking was as one way to compensate the consequences of their involvement in trafficking in human beings. In the opinion of prosecutor Horodniceanu the financial compensation would strengthen the position of the victim vis-à-vis the trafficker. In this sense the act of compensation would also act dissuasively on traffickers. Victims of trafficking in Romania could avail of two possibilities for receiving compensations: either within the criminal proceedings, or from state funds. Every court in Romania would have a Financial Compensations for Victims of Trafficking Committee composed of at least two judges appointed for a three-year term of office.

In her presentation on "Best Practices and Challenges of Direct Assistance to Trafficked Persons in La Strada Poland" Mrs Buchowska introduced the aims and basic principles of the work of La Strada International and in particular La Strada Poland in care for victims of trafficking. La Strada Poland worked in three areas: raising awareness and lobbying, prevention and education with a view to reach and empower groups in risk to take decisions in full awareness of their human rights, and support and protection of victims of trafficking. The latter was the main area of work for La Strada Poland and aimed in particular at supporting victims of trafficking in reinstating control over their lives through empowerment and social reintegration. The organisation had set up thus four main units:

- A 24-hour hot-line providing information and support to victims of trafficking and their relatives in Polish, Russian and Vietnamese language;
- A crisis centre dealing with the urgent needs of victims following their rescue and providing psychological and medical support, shelter, new IDs and connection with the victims' families;
- A consultation centre providing direct support to victims. Everyone in this programme has a personal mentor who manages the overall victim's development till the process of supporting the victim was accomplished;

- A shelter for victims of trafficking. Twelve women victims of trafficking from Bulgaria were accommodated over the period January – December 2007.

Mrs Horbunova spoke in her presentation on “Trafficking in Human Beings: Myth and Reality” about the main delusions regarding the problem of human trafficking in Ukraine, for example the fact that trafficking affected not only women but children and men alike; that victims were of low education background – quite the opposite, most of the victims from Ukraine were well educated and employed though low paid. Another myth in her view was the fact that the number of trafficked women for the purpose of labour exploitation was much higher than the number of women trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation and there was no clear borderline between the different types of traffic, i.e. a person could be lured into both labour and sexual exploitation. Data from Ukraine indicated that victims of trafficking were transferred not only in rich countries but also in such with similar or even lower level of living costs compared to Ukraine, for example Russia, Yemen, China, Liberia, etc. More and more often victims left the country voluntarily and were ‘hired’ by criminals at the moment of their arrival in the country of final destination. More than 600 employees work in the Interagency Co-ordinating Council for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Ukraine. They managed to accomplish more than 350 cases in 2007. In conclusion Mrs Horbunova emphasised that the economic factor alone was not the sole reason for having the problem of trafficking in human beings; lack of adequate legislation added substantially to this.

Mrs Berman dwelled on “Not the Usual Suspects: Exchanging Insecurity and Bare Life for the International Organisation of Human Trafficking in a Liminal European Zone”. In her presentation she introduced some of the scandals in Bosnia I Herzegovina involving in particular military contractor DynCorp and the International Police Service regarding employees of theirs who intentionally used sexual services of victims of trafficking or covered and took part in channels smuggling women for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Mrs Berman underlined that the employees in question had been dismissed and sent back home but had not been held criminally liable.

Mrs Berman referred to the public secret that routes of trafficking in human beings on the Balkans passed through Montenegro to Bosnia I Herzegovina. In Montenegro several public officials, in that group also the deputy Prosecutor General of the country, had been arrested for traffic in women from Moldova, Ukraine and Romania.

Mrs Berman further said that many Western Europeans believed the Balkans to be the gate to organised crime in Europe. At a conference in the UK in 2002 Lord Asdown announced 60 percent of the women working in brothels to be passing through Bosnia I Herzegovina.

Mrs Berman brought the attention to another problem, that of the victims’ unwillingness to assist the authorities and the supporting organisations. She gave the example of a police operation in

Bosnia I Herzegovina where 177 prostituting women mainly from Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Russia were detained, of whom however only thirteen consented to be placed in a shelter of the International Organisation for Migration in Sarajevo. The majority of the girls insisted on not being victims of trafficking and returned to the clubs where they had been arrested earlier.

All speakers' presentations are accessible to students at the Stanford University website: <http://fce.stanford.edu>.

### **Seminar on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Varna**

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The NCCTHB Secretary presented the work of the National Commission at a seminar on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on 30 and 31 October 2008 in Varna. The seminar was organised by the Bavarian Ministry of Justice and Hanns Seidel Foundation in partnership with the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice. Mr Boyko Rashkov, deputy Minister of Justice, and Mr Hristo Manchev, deputy Prosecutor General, both members of the National Commission, and representatives of Hanns Seidel Foundation opened the event.

Prosecutors and judges from Varna and the region, experts from the Ministry of Justice, the National Commission and the Local Varna Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings took part in the seminar.

Dr. Klaus Fisinger from Hanns Seidel Foundation noted that earlier in 2008 another seminar on combating trafficking in women and victim protection was organised jointly with the Ministry of the Interior and non-governmental organisations. Mr Helmut Palder from the Bavarian Ministry of Justice emphasised that EU criticism was another occasion to co-operate actively in counteracting organised crime and trafficking in human beings in particular.

Deputy Prosecutor General Hristo Manchev underscored the growing number of this type of crimes worldwide due to the high profits and the comprehensive circumstances and difficult interaction between law enforcement agencies. Mr Manchev provided relevant statistics of the SUPREME CASSATION PROSECUTION OFFICE regarding cases involving trafficking in human beings and emphasised the active work of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings since 2007.

Deputy Minister of Justice Boyko Rashkov made a brief overview of the domestic and relevant international legislation regulating the fight against human trafficking and the protection of victims.

Mr Heinz Bernd Weibniz, Bamberg Chief Prosecutor, presented during the seminar a report on the organised trafficking in human beings and its consequences as seen from Bavaria's perspective.

National Commission Secretary Antoanetta Vassileva presented a similar report on the Bulgarian model for counteracting trafficking in human beings in Bulgaria. Ministry of Justice senior expert Irena Borissova introduced the participants with the proposed amendments of the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes in sections relevant to human trafficking.

Each State's experience in requesting and providing international legal assistance, to other countries and between each other, was discussed in huge details. Mr Kamen Mihov, head of the Legal Co-operation Section at the SUPREME CASSATION PROSECUTION OFFICE, talked about the Bulgarian experience in international legal co-operation, in particular in relation to cases involving trafficking in human beings.

A real case of a Bulgarian girl trafficked to Bavaria in 2004 was discussed during the second day of the seminar.

### **Activity 3: Round table for exchange of experience and good practices in counteracting trafficking in human beings.**

#### **International conference on “The Rights of Victims in Trafficking and Their Protection”, Sofia**

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On 27 and 28 November the NCCTHB organised in Sofia an international conference on “The Rights of Victims of Trafficking and Their Protection”, in co-operation with the Romanian Agency against Trafficking in Persons and in the framework of the project “Reducing the Number of Romanian and Bulgarian Victims Trafficked to Italy and Spain”. The Secretary of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Mrs Antoanetta Vassileva and the President of the Romanian National Agency against Trafficking in Persons Mr Dumitru Licsandru opened the conference.

More than 20 representatives of state institutions and organisations providing support to victims in trafficking in ten countries in Europe, and more than 30 representatives of Bulgarian institutions and non-governmental organisations took part in the conference.

The aim of the conference was to share experience and good practices for rendering support to victims in trafficking, in particular as regards human rights protection. The state authorities and the non-governmental sector shared their experience in Bulgaria and Romania respectively, as well as their experience in assisting Bulgarian and Romanian nationals who were victims of trafficking in Italy and Romania. Special attention was brought to the different state practices in relation to providing the victims in trafficking with compensations.

## **International Conference on “Practices and Challenges in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Europe”, Sofia**

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On the occasion of the international 16 Days Against Violence Against Women campaign and the official visit to Bulgaria of Mrs Eva Biaudet, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings organised on 9 December 2008 in Sofia, together with the Embassies of Finland and Norway, a round table on ‘Practices and Challenges in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Europe’.

Official openings were made by Mr Daniel Valchev, Vice Prime-Minister and NCCTHB chairperson, Mr Hristo Manchev, deputy Prosecutor General, HE Kauko Jämsén, Ambassador of Finland to Bulgaria, and HE Mrs Tove Skarstein, Ambassador of Norway to Bulgaria. Interventions were made also by Mr Dobromir Dochev, Head of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate, Mrs Iliana Derilova, chief of the International Organisation for Migration mission in Bulgaria, Dr. Rossanka Velinova, Nadya Centre Foundation Director and Mr Atanas Tsvetanski, executive director of the Bulgarian Youth Red Cross.

### **Activity 4: Setting up a network of reliable international partners for co-operation, interaction and co-ordination in the area of providing services to victims of trafficking.**

#### **Working visit in Norway**

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The National Commission Secretary made a working visit to Oslo, Norway, from 13 to 15 March 2008, and had a series of discussions with her Norwegian counterparts to finalise preparatory work on the draft proposal of the ‘Bulgaria and Norway: Combating Trafficking in Human Beings’ project.

The constructive discussions helped outline three distinct components of the project – investments, strengthening capacity, and co-operation. The two parties underlined once more their commitment to focus their work on strengthening the bilateral co-operation in counteracting trafficking in human beings and in supporting victims. The manifest political support for the project implementation was acknowledged. Norway pointed to the need to strike, in the framework of the

project, a balance between the two major areas of work – investigating trafficking in human beings and support for victims of trafficking.

A substantial part of the project activities falls under the ‘Co-operation’ component. Two reciprocal one-week visits of Bulgarian experts to Norway and Norwegian experts to Bulgaria are included under the project to facilitate exchange of information and experience in two areas: counteracting trafficking in human beings and work on specific cases and support and assistance for victims. Activities related to exchange of experts for work on particular cases of trafficking in persons from Bulgaria to Norway are included as well. In result of this working visit, the project proposal ‘Bulgaria – Norway: combating trafficking in human beings’ was finalised and submitted. It is currently reviewed by the Innovation Norway Programme.

### **Working visit to the Netherlands**

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The National Commission Secretary Mrs Antoanetta Vassileva made a working visit to the Kingdom of the Netherlands from **25 to 28 February 2008** in the framework of efforts to strengthen bilateral co-operation in the area of combating trafficking in human beings. Mr Svilen Tourmakov, deputy-director of the National Investigation Service, Mr Dobromir Dochev, head of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate, Mr Evgeni Dikov, prosecutor at the SUPREME CASSATION PROSECUTION OFFICE, and Mrs Mirella Bachvarova, desk officer for the Netherlands at the MoI International Co-operation Directorate took also part in the working visit.

The working visit aimed at introducing to the competent Bulgarian institutions the work of the Dutch Expertise Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings and Human Smuggling (EMM) and the Dutch model for combating trafficking in human beings.

The Bulgarian delegation visited the Expertise Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings and Human Smuggling (EMM) in Zwolle, the Friesland Regional Police Office in Leeuwarden, a shelter for victims of domestic violence and trafficking in human beings in Utrecht, as well as the Prosecution Office in The Hague. The delegation was also shown places where paid sex services were offered in Leeuwarden and Amsterdam.

As a result of this working visit, a project started being elaborated, ‘*Trafficking in Human Beings in Bulgaria and the Netherlands – joint efforts in counteracting a common problem*’, which the National Commission, jointly with the Ministry of the Interior, submitted for consideration under

the MATRA Programme for Social Transformation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Expertise Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings and Human Smuggling (EMM) is the Dutch partner under the project. The project was approved and vice Prime-Minister Daniel Valchev, the National Commission chairperson, and Interior Minister Mihail Mikov signed a memorandum of understanding. The two-year project is worth 370,000 EUR.

### **ICMPD Programme for the Enhancement of Anti-trafficking Responses in South-Eastern Europe: Data Collection and Information Management (DCIM)**

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A final conference in Skopje, Macedonia concluded the ICMPD Programme for the Enhancement of Anti-trafficking Responses in South-Eastern Europe: Data Collection and Information Management". Under the programme the NCCTHB received in the beginning of March 2008 a PC with installed data on victims of trafficking in human beings.

The ICMPD presented some of the accomplished results by the States participating in the project:

- Installed PC/data bases – one PC not installed; one data base not installed; twelve installed PCs/databases. All participants commented that the database was user friendly;
- Only three data depositors have inserted data; only one used the reporting function;
- Seven data depositors had IT administration support in the building; five didn't have; for two there was no information;
- Ten data depositors availed of analytical resources, for three there was no information, and the data of one of the depositors would be analysed by another department;
- Ten data depositors had consulted domestic legislation pertaining to personal data, 82 percent did not encounter any problems in relation to security of data sources;
- Only one data depositor had concluded written agreements for confidentiality; six were planning to do so in the future; one depositor was refused to conclude such an agreement, four depositors were awaiting green light, one depositor had received the necessary authorisation, while for two depositors there was no information;
- Three of the data depositors undertook measures to ensure data security;
- One of the depositors used all modalities for transfer of data, four only used hard copy, four used only electronic, one depositor other means, while for three depositors there was no information;



- Five of the depositors had informed the data sources but did not provide them with any materials;
- Most of the data contained in the data bases on victims of trafficking related to attempted luring and trafficking.

### **Transnational Referral Mechanisms (TRM) for Trafficked Persons in South-Eastern Europe**

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A third regional seminar was held in **19 to 22 May 2008 in Rome, Italy**, on the occasion of the completion of the third phase of the ICMPD “Transnational Referral Mechanisms for Trafficked Persons in South-Eastern Europe” project. During the seminar the States involved in the project implementation presented and discussed the results, difficulties and challenges in accomplishing the third project phase, as well as the established good practices.

Members of the national working groups of all States involved in the project implementation took part in the seminar, as well as representatives of countries of final destination for victims of trafficking. The Bulgarian national working group consisted of the National Commission Secretary Mrs Antoanetta Vassileva, SUPREME CASSATION PROSECUTION OFFICE prosecutor Mr Evgeni Dikov, head of section at the General Directorate Border Police Mr Svetoslav Tanev, inspector at the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate Mrs Olga Rangelova, and Animus Association Foundation director Mrs Maria Chomarova.

#### **Results from the third project phase:**

To reach more experts working directly with victims of trafficking in the States involved in the project implementation, a series of trainings were carried out and a Trainer’s Manual was elaborated. A total of 30 trainings were conducted from February till May 2008 and some 750 policemen, prosecutors, judges, social workers and NGO representatives participated.

The seminar organisers summarised the following recommendations:

- Need of more trainings at national level to expand the target group;
- To enact domestic anti-trafficking legislation as some of the States did not have any;
- To relate the existing national referral mechanisms to the international referral mechanism;
- Need to put transnational co-operation in formal terms;
- Sharing of information.

The ICMPD introduced to the participants the fourth phase of the “Transnational Referral Mechanisms for Trafficked Persons in South-Eastern Europe” project, which will develop from June



2008 till June 2009. The main partner in the fourth phase would be UNICEF, putting the focus thus on the protection of children victims of trafficking. The main activities in the fourth phase would be study visits in countries of final destination, working seminars, monitoring and a final regional seminar.

#### **Fourth Phase of the ICMPD “Transnational Referral Mechanisms (TRM) for Trafficked Persons in South-Eastern Europe” project**

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A meeting in relation to the fourth implementation phase of the project took place from 8 to 12 September 2008 in Skopje, Macedonia.

During the meeting participants from 10 States presented the status of the Transnational Referral Mechanism in their respective countries. The ICMPD in turn introduced the upcoming project activities till the completion of the project in June 2009:

- Visit of the working group to a country of final destination for Bulgarian victims of trafficking;
- A regional seminar for the working group;
- Elaborating a monitoring mechanism for the application of the TRM;
- Final conference under the project for the working group.

#### **Study Practice in the Vienna Centre for Victims of Child-Traffic „Drehscheibe“**

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Two NCCTHB experts visited the Vienna Centre for Victims of Child-Traffic “Drehscheibe” for a one-week study practice from 1 to 7 June 2008. The experts were introduced to the daily work of the Centre and to specific cases. Meetings with Vienna-based non-governmental organisations and representatives of the local authorities were organised during the visit as well.

The study visit coincided with the opening of the European Football Championship in Austria. In this relation the experts met the Director of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Section at the Vienna Criminal Police, the Bulgarian liaison officer at the Bulgarian Embassy in Vienna and the Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate officer who was commissioned to Vienna on the occasion of the Championship.

#### **“National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking in Bulgaria”**

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In connection to the establishment of a National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking a Bulgarian delegation visited Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 23 to 26 September 2008. Representatives of the operational working group for the establishment of the NRM were introduced to the referral mechanisms for victims of trafficking in the Netherlands, the terms and conditions for providing social services to victims, as well as the co-operation modalities between state institutions and non-governmental organisations in the process of victim protection. The visit took place in the framework of the project “Development of the Bulgarian National Referral Mechanism for Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking” funded under the MATRA Programme and implemented by the Animus Association Foundation in co-operation with the NCCTHB.

**International Conference on “National Referral Mechanisms for the assistance and protection of trafficked persons – theory and practice”** took place on 21 and 22 October 2008 in Chisinau, Moldova. The conference was organised by International Centre for Women Rights Protection and Promotion “La Strada”, Moldova. The main aim of the conference was developing recommendations for enhancing both the NRM theoretical and practical application. A NCCTHB representative prepared and presented the analytical report “Development of the Bulgarian national referral mechanism for support and protection of victims of human trafficking”.

### **„Transnational Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking between countries of origin and countries of final destination in the EU” project**

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The ICMPD project on „Transnational Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking between countries of origin and countries of final destination in the EU” was launched in May 2008. The leading partner is the Italian Ministry for Equal Opportunities, and main partners under the project are the Bulgarian National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Hungarian Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement, the Romanian Agency against Trafficking in Persons, the Crime Prevention Directorate with the Czech Ministry of the Interior, the Albania Office of the National Co-ordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Macedonian Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Portuguese Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality, as well as ‘On the Road’ and ‘Nexus Institute’, non-governmental organisations. Italian non-governmental organisations from Naples, Padua and Bari that work directly with victims of trafficking will take part in the project as well so that civil society may be involved in the project too. The duration of the project is 18 months.

The project pays special attention to children victims of trafficking. The project builds on the good experience of the Italian Equal Opportunities Department. Italy is among the leading EU Member States in elaborating tailor-made and adequately structured measures for combating trafficking in human beings. Effective referral mechanisms will be developed to allow formal agreements for identification and reintegration of victims to be effectively implemented in practice. Italy has acquired experience mostly in the area of support for victims of sexual exploitation though in the last years it has also dealt with cases of labour exploitation and beggary involving minors. Its knowledge and practice are an important prerequisite for the long-term sustainability of the project that will further develop and strengthen co-operation between destination and source countries.

### **„Reducing the Number of Romanian and Bulgarian Victims Trafficked to Spain and Italy”**

The first Steering Group meeting under the joint project of the NCCTHB and the Romanian Agency against Trafficking in Persons “Reducing the Number of Romanian and Bulgarian Victims Trafficked to Spain and Italy” took place in Bucharest on 25 September 2008. Representatives of the project partners from Bulgaria, Romania, Spain, Italy and the UK attended the meeting. The upcoming project activities till March 2010 were discussed and tasks were distributed among partners.

The project activities are briefly presented in the following table:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Period for/date of implementation</b>	<b>Venue/implementing partner</b>
1. Steering Group Meeting	25 September 2008	Bucharest, Romania
2. International Conference on “Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings”	27-28 October 2008	Bucharest, Romania
3. International conference on “Protection of Victims of Trafficking”	27-28 November 2008	Sofia, Bulgaria
4. Steering Group Meeting	1 – 15 December 2008	Italy
5. Working visits in the partner countries	January – April 2009	Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Romania
6. Steering Group Meeting	1 – 15 April 2009	Spain
7. Elaborating the prevention campaigns’ design	October 2008 – April 2009	Romania

8. Conducting the prevention campaigns	April – October 2009	Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Romania
9. Steering Group Meeting	July 2009	UK
10. Steering Group Meeting	15-30 November 2009	Bulgaria
11. International final conference	December 2009	Bucharest, Romania
12. Steering Group Meeting	March 2010	Bucharest, Romania

A working conference in the framework of the project “Reducing the Number of Romanian and Bulgarian Victims Trafficked to Italy and Spain” took place on 27 and 28 October 2008 in Bucharest, Romania. The National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is the Bulgarian partner under the project.

The conference was organised by the Romanian Agency against Trafficking in Persons with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Administrative Reforms of Romania. The other partners under the project attended as well: Department for Rights and Equal Opportunities, Italy and the Direccion General de la Policia y de la Guardia Civil, Spain. As a partner under the project, Bulgaria was represented by the NCCTHB, MoI Trafficking in Human Beings Section and IOM Bulgaria.

Participants presented their respective experience in the prevention of trafficking in human beings. A NCCTHB expert presented a comprehensive overview of the work and competence of the NCCTHB and the experience of Bulgarian institutions, NGOs and IOs had in preventing human trafficking. Specific proposals for prevention campaigns under the project were discussed as well. The following conclusions were made after the discussions:

**Prevention campaign in the countries of origin Bulgaria and Romania:**

- Target group – persons above 18 years of age;
- Campaign will be targeted at trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation;
- Message of the campaign: inform about the advantages of legal employment in Spain and Italy; inform about the risks of becoming victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation; possibility to make an informed decision; dissemination of information about contact points for help.

**Prevention campaign in the countries of final destination Italy and Spain:**

- Target group – general public, particularly in the regions with compact Romanian and Bulgarian population, potential clients of the services provided by victims of trafficking in human beings; Bulgarian and Romanian communities in Italy and Spain;
- Campaign targeted at trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation; campaign targeted at real and potential victims of trafficking;
- Message: inform about the existing problem of trafficking in human beings and ways to get out of similar situations; dissemination of information about contact points for help; build a tolerant attitude towards the victims of trafficking.

Following the conferences held in Bucharest and Sofia on 27 and 28 October 2008 and 27 and 28 November 2008 respectively, a second steering group meeting was held in Rome, Italy on 15 December 2008. The upcoming project activities were discussed during the meeting. Particular attention was paid to the study visits in the project partner countries.

**The activities implemented by the agencies within the NCCTHB under the 2008 National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of the Victims are presented below:**

## **MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**

### **SECTION I “INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES”**

#### **6. Development of a National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs HQ and diplomatic and consular missions are in daily contact for rendering assistance to and directing victims of trafficking.

### **SECTION II "PREVENTION"**

#### **1. Embrace the risk groups of the population (women, children and ethnic minorities) and inform them about the risks and consequences of human trafficking.**

*1.3. Explanatory activities on the rights of victims of human trafficking and the opportunities for assistance and protection among representatives of the vulnerable groups, especially ethnic minorities.*

Specialised information materials targeted at risk groups in relation to trafficking in human beings are sent to Republic of Bulgaria’s diplomatic and consular missions abroad for dissemination.

### **SECTION III “TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”**

#### **5. Include training module “Human trafficking: root causes, identification and protection of victims” in the curriculum of the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

The Bulgarian Diplomatic Institute with the MFA has included a module on combating illegal trafficking in human beings in the curricula of the following courses:

1. Basic course in diplomacy for junior MFA employees; the course had two editions in 2008; 41 junior employees in total took part;

2. Course in consular diplomacy, which was held from 11 February till 11 March 2008 for 45 MFA and other agencies’ employees commissioned as consuls to diplomatic and consular missions of Bulgaria abroad;

3. Course in defence diplomacy; in accordance with its annual programme, the Bulgarian Diplomatic Institute organised two editions of the course for 30 representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the General Staff and the Military Academy.

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

##### **1. Update the Coordination mechanism for referral, care and protection of repatriated Bulgarian UAM and children victims of trafficking returning from abroad.**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs HQ and diplomatic and consular missions of R Bulgaria abroad work jointly to render assistance and ensure return to Bulgaria of unaccompanied Bulgarian minors and children victims of trafficking in human beings.

### **MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

#### **SECTION III “TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”**

##### **2. Training of magistrates in the area of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.**

The National Institute of Justice conducted two trainings in 2008 for judges and prosecutors on “Transborder crimes and trafficking in human beings”. The first training was held from 26 to 28 March 2008 in Haskovo and was attended by ten judges and twelve prosecutors.

The second training devoted to the counteraction of human trafficking was organised in Sofia from 18 to 20 June 2008 and a total of 26 magistrates, 16 judges and ten prosecutors were trained.

A seminar on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings took place on 30 and 31 October 2008 in Varna. The seminar was organised by the Bavarian Ministry of Justice and Hanns Seidel Foundation in partnership with the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice. Bulgarian participants included representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Varna Court of Appeal, Varna and Bourgas District Courts, Varna and Bourgas Prosecution Offices and the SUPREME CASSATION PROSECUTION OFFICE. Representatives of the National and the Varna Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings also took part in the seminar. Bavarian participants included representatives of Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Bavarian Justice Ministry and the Bavarian Prosecution Office.

The seminar dealt with issues related to the general context of trafficking in human beings as a form of organised crime in Bulgaria and Bavaria and the relevant conclusions and practical matters regarding the international legal assistance on such cases between the two States. The seminar further facilitated the exchange of experience and good practices between the Bulgarian and Bavarian colleagues regarding judicial proceedings on cases in human trafficking involving an international element. In an open dialogue Bulgarian and Bavarian colleagues discussed also the most frequently encountered difficulties in investigating and proving this type of crime. The need for timely recourse to the opportunities of international legal assistance in relation to facilitating the investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking in human beings as a form of transborder organised crime was particularly highlighted. The Bulgarian and Bavarian magistrates looked together for solutions in this area, considering among others holding bilateral meetings in the future on this subject matter.

## **SECTION V “INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION”**

### **2. Present the Bulgarian legislation and practice in combating trafficking in human beings per the bilateral relations and multilateral cooperation.**

Representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Ministry of the Interior took part from 13 to 15 February 2008 in the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking in support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

The Forum aimed at raising public awareness, improving the existing co-operation mechanisms and looking into new ways to actively counteract human trafficking. The Forum three-day agenda included expert sessions on prevention, identification of victims of trafficking, basic mistakes resulting in false identification of victims and the consequences thereof, specific characteristics of the pre-trial criminal proceedings and investigation, criminal prosecution and peculiarities of judicial proceedings in cases involving human trafficking, the role of media and business in combating trafficking in human beings, etc.

All forms and dimensions of trafficking were covered and discussed during the sessions: trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour, removal of organs and body parts, and forced submission.



The major topics related to the vulnerable position of the victims of this particular crime and to the factors that most often contributed to easy involvement in trafficking. Discussions on the following topics were held:

- demand for forced labour and sexual exploitation;
- corruption and human trafficking;
- vulnerability of communities in crisis;
- profiling the traffickers;
- trafficking in persons for the removal of organs and body parts.

Special attention was brought to the need to study in-depth the consequences of trafficking on the victims of trafficking, the other community members and even the economies of the countries of origin or final destination. The following discussions were held in this relation:

- quantifying human trafficking and its impact;
- consequences from sexual exploitation;
- health care systems and human trafficking;
- the role of the media in combating such crimes;
- human trafficking and transnational organised crime, etc.

## **SECTION VI “LEGISLATIVE MEASURES”**

**1. Prepare a proposal for the amendment and supplement of the Criminal Code concerning the execution of Bulgaria’s obligations to Art. 19 from the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings for criminalisation of the intentional use of services from victims of human trafficking.**

By an order of the Minister of Justice No JIC-04-997 of 15 October 2008 an interagency working group was set up and commissioned to prepare a draft Criminal Code Amendment Bill. In accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ratified by an act of ratification promulgated in State Gazette No. 24 of 2007, in force for the Republic of Bulgaria as of 18 June 2007), one of the proposals in the draft law is criminalising the “intentional use of services of a person who is a victim of trafficking in human beings” (new Article 159(g)). Requirements of the international legal act put aside, the proposed amendments are further justified by the fact that trafficking in human beings is gaining prominence as one of the more widespread forms of transnational organised crime and a profitable criminal ‘business’. The draft Criminal Code Amendment Bill further envisages harsher sanctions for the crimes under Chapter

Two, Section ‘Trafficking in Human Beings’, and above all increasing the fines imposed. A new Article 281 is proposed, which relates indirectly to human trafficking.

The draft Criminal Code Amendment Bill was circulated to all interested agencies on 5 November 2008 for interagency co-ordination. On 17 December 2008 the draft law was submitted to the Council of Ministers to be included in its agenda.

## **SUPREME COURT OF CASSATION**

### **SECTION III “TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”**

#### **2. Training of magistrates in the area of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.**

Judges from the Supreme Court of Cassation took part in the trainings under the training programmes of the NCCTHB and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). SCC judges also participated in the working groups for the preparation of draft laws amending and supplementing the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure in compliance with CoE and EU acts related to improving penal law enforcement. Legislative amendments concern combating human trafficking and sexual abuse of children; improving methods for collection and verification of proofs; enhancing the procedural guarantees of the rights of the parties in penal proceedings.

Mrs Veronika Imova, SCC judge and member of the NCCTHB Standing Working Group, introduced magistrates (prosecutors, judges, investigators and police investigators from different court districts) in the framework of the NCCTHB training programme in February and the NIJ curricula in June 2008 to “SCC Case-law on the Crime of Trafficking in Human Beings: Problems in Application”. The lectures raised substantial interest and triggered discussions on particular cases.

Magistrates endorsed the conclusion that a guiding interpretative ruling was necessary to streamline the contradictory court practice both in the area of human trafficking and debauchery under the Special Part of the Criminal Code.

### **SECTION VI „LEGISLATIVE MEASURES”**

#### **1. Prepare a proposal for the amendment and supplement of the Criminal Code concerning the execution of Bulgaria’s obligations to Art. 19 from the Council of Europe Convention on**

## **Action against Trafficking in Human Beings for criminalisation of the intentional use of services from victims of human trafficking.**

In her capacity of member of a working group of representatives of the academic law school, judiciary, MoI, MoJ and civil servants from the Legislative Council Directorate with the Ministry of Justice, Mrs Veronika Imova took part in October 2008 in discussions on a draft Criminal Code Amendment Bill as well as in deliberations about a new Criminal Code concept.

Particular proposals were elaborated for new corpus delicti in the Special Part of the Criminal Code. Some existing provisions were improved with a view to the upcoming ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, and in particular the obligations under Chapter VI ‘Substantive criminal law’ for introducing amendments in the domestic penal laws. Alongside ‘traditional’ sex crimes (rape, fornication, producing, possessing or distributing child pornography, and child prostitution), Chapter VI of the Convention introduces new forms of sexual exploitation of children, for example recruiting and coercing a child into prostitution. The chapter further provides for criminalisation of knowingly obtaining access to child pornography and having recourse to child prostitution. Not only is the organiser of child pornography criminally liable but the pornography clients likewise. The Convention further prescribes the State Parties’ obligation to criminalise the intentional causing, for sexual purposes, of a child to witness sexual abuse or sexual activities, even without having to participate. The Convention furthermore recommends an adequate and timely response to the increasing number of abuses of information and communication technologies for the purpose of committing sex crimes engaging a child.

In compliance with the obligations under the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, the draft law envisages amendments to the Articles 154, 155 and 159 of the Criminal Code, Chapter Two, Section Debauchery, and proposes new Articles 154(a), 155(b) and 158(a).

In accordance with Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA and Article 19 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the draft law proposes a new Article 159(d) criminalising the use of services of a person “with the knowledge that the person is a victim of trafficking in human beings”. The proposed amendments are justified not only by the requirements of the Framework Decision, but also by the fact that trafficking in human beings is gaining prominence as a form of transnational organised crime and a profitable criminal ‘business’. The draft Criminal Code Amendment Bill further envisages harsher sanctions for the crimes under

Chapter Two, Section ‘Trafficking in Human Beings’, above all increasing the fines imposed. A new Article 281 is proposed, which relates indirectly to human trafficking.

Both the Convention and the Framework Decision envisage criminal sanctions for legal persons that profited from crimes against children and trafficking in human beings. In this relation Article 83(a)(1) of the Administrative Violations and Sanctions has been amended accordingly.

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE**

### **SECTION II „PREVENTION”**

#### **1. Embrace the risk groups of the population (women, children and ethnic minorities) and inform them about the risks and consequences of human trafficking.**

*1.1. Expand the training on human and children’s rights in secondary schools and in pre-school preparation by using school and out-of-school activities.*

The Ministry of Education and Science (MES) is working regularly on this task. The materials published in official MES print editions, the guidelines set forth in the regulatory education framework, the curricula and the State Education Standards regarding study content are of a general nature and apply every school year. That is why civil education covering also issues of democracy and human rights goes throughout the 12-year cycle of high education in Bulgaria varying in accordance with the students’ age. The main parts of the study plan of ‘Civil Education’ set forth in Regulation No. 2 on the Study Content are ‘Citizen of My State’; ‘Human Rights and Duties’; ‘Citizen and the World’; ‘Global Issues of Modern Life’, ‘Citizens, Rights and Duties’. A number of approved teaching aids is used e.g. ‘Alphabet for You and Me’ (for pupils of fifth to eighth grades; basic topics there are ‘Personal Privacy – Rights and Duties’, ‘Violence in School’, and ‘Sexual violence, Abuse and Exploitation’), ‘Guidelines on Violence Prevention in the School Network’ (for school counsellors, social workers and supervisors; provides feedback on the application of a methodology for assessing behavioural and physical signs of children for whom there is doubt to be subject to domestic violence), ‘Guidelines for developing social and personal skills of children’ etc. The number of schools where these teaching aids are used keeps growing.

The number of schools involved in the implementation of the ‘Prevention of Violence among Children in Educational Institutions’ project has been increased to involve all secondary schools in eight pilot municipalities.

Funding for the elaboration of violence prevention programmes has been earmarked within the granting scheme ‘Let’s Make School Attractive for Young People’ funded by the ‘Human Resources Development’ Operational Programme. Support has been extended to municipalities, schools and organisations that have elaborated projects in this area.

*1.2. Develop, spread and popularise educational modules and models of local and school policies, information materials and tools on the topics of sexual exploitation and trafficking of human beings to teachers, secretaries and members of the LCCTHB, students and parents.*

The ‘Guidelines for School Directors and Teachers for the School 2005-2006 Year’ provide directions for organising the work of the school prevention commissions and for work with all categories of children in risk. The school commissions study and put forward solutions related to:

- The roots of antisocial misdeeds of minors in school;
- The factors jeopardising safety at school;
- The problems of students living in unfavourable family environment (e.g. families with parents serving sentences in prisons; families with parents with criminal record; families with parents with alcohol and drug addictions; families with mentally ill parents; families where violence is used; socially disadvantaged families; families where children are not raised by the parents);
- The reasons for consistent absence and dropping from school and for running away from home;
- Cases of violence to children;
- Opportunities for involving children in various prevention activities.

Regional seminars for school counsellors are held annually to discuss violence in school and school level measures to that end. Social workers, representatives of the local juvenile delinquency commissions, members of prevention and information centres and police officers take part in these seminars.

Training of different categories of school teaching staff are included in the ‘Themed Plan for Qualification of Teaching Staff’ implemented by the National Pedagogical Centre. Trainings deal with prevention of school drop-out, identifying and preventing risk behaviour of children (drug and alcohol addictions, tobacco smoking, PCs, etc.), prevention of aggression (outward and inward) in

school, prevention of involving children and students in prostitution and human trafficking abroad, work in multiethnic environment, building positive attitude of parents towards the school environment, etc. Trainings conducted in 2008 involved 2114 teachers and school counsellors.

## **MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**

### **SECTION I „INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES”**

#### **5. Creation of an organisation within the NCCTHB for research, analysis and reporting of statistical data related to trafficking in human beings.**

An officer of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate is member of the Standing Working Group with the NCCTHB. At its regular meetings the Group is considering setting up mechanisms for studying, analysing and reporting statistical data related to trafficking in human beings.

#### **6. Development of a National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings.**

An officer of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate is member of the working group for the development of a national referral mechanism under the Animus Association Foundation’s project, implemented in co-operation with the NCCTHB. The Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate officer takes part in the monthly meetings of the operational working group, the quarterly meetings of the expanded working group and other events organised in relation to the development of the national referral mechanism. A General Directorate Border Police officer also participates in all working meetings and seminars related to the development of the referral mechanism.

### **SECTION II „PREVENTION”**

#### **1. Embrace the risk groups of the population (women, children and ethnic minorities) and inform them about the risks and consequences of human trafficking.**

*1.2. Develop, spread and popularise educational modules and models of local and school policies, information materials and tools on the topics of sexual exploitation and trafficking of human beings to teachers, secretaries and members of the LCCTHB, students and parents.*

MoI officers take part in international and national seminars aimed at elaborating training modules, information materials and aids for counteracting trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children. With a view to preventing human trafficking and sexual exploitation MoI representatives deliver public lectures to pupils and students where they explain the rationale of human trafficking, ways for protecting yourself, competent national authorities and partner non-governmental organisations. Information materials and contact data of MoI bodies and NGOs are provided. The General Directorate Border Police has disseminated information materials in all border check-points.

*1.3. Explanatory activities on the rights of victims of human trafficking and the opportunities for assistance and protection among representatives of the vulnerable groups, especially ethnic minorities.*

MoI officers present, in the framework of campaigns, round tables and projects organised by the NCCTHB and NGOs, the work of the Ministry of the Interior for the protection of potential victims of trafficking and identified victims in the course of conducted investigations. In case victims of trafficking are identified, MoI officers explain to them the possibilities for rendering support and protection. Where specialised police operations and investigations are conducted, the rights of victims of trafficking and the possibilities for rendering support and protection are explained to the victims.

## **2. Conduct studies and organise information campaigns.**

*Popularise the specialised websites of the State Agency for Child Protection ([www.stopech.sacp.government.bg](http://www.stopech.sacp.government.bg)), the NCCTHB ([www.antitraffic.government.bg](http://www.antitraffic.government.bg)) and the Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency.*

MoI officers raise awareness about the specialised websites of the State Agency for Child protection (SACP), the NCCTHB and the Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency (CCCJD) among international partners and other MoI officers at trainings where the co-operation in the area of human trafficking at international and national level is presented.

*2.5. Conduct joint initiatives with the media to cover the problems of trafficking in human beings.*

MoI press centre provides to the media information regarding detained Bulgarian and foreign nationals accomplices in trafficking in human beings. MoI representatives take part in radio and TV broadcasts reporting on trafficking in human beings. Information about the NCCTHB national

campaign ‘16 days against violence against women’ is published on the MoI website, section ‘News’. Information about the ways for luring into human trafficking and how to protect yourself from getting involved in a trafficking situation is provided.

### **SECTION III "TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF"**

#### **3. Improvement of the qualification of the Ministry of the Interior staff working on cases of trafficking in human beings, the staff of the Academy of the Ministry of the Interior and its centres for specialisation and professional preparation.**

MoI officers at the MoI Academy are trained in ‘Counteracting organised crime’, which is part of the Bachelor Degree curricula for MoI officers. Combating human trafficking is also dealt with in the framework of the following study courses: initial training; improving the qualification; specialisations; and various specialisation upgrades. MoI officers take also part in seminars organised jointly with partner police services of other states.

Training in counteracting trafficking in human beings is provided at the Police Faculty and the Centre for Professional Training with the MoI Academy. The training modules are in compliance with the international and European standards regarding counteracting trafficking in human beings. Cases from manuals and guidelines for training of law enforcement bodies elaborated by the UN are actively used. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development and representatives of NGOs providing care and support for the reintegration of victims of trafficking take part in the trainings of police officers. Acknowledged experts from the specialised MoI agencies competent for counteracting trafficking in human beings participate as trainers as well.

Training in counteracting trafficking in human beings at the MoI Academy Police Faculty is conducted in the framework of the Bachelor Degree Programme; six training sessions are included in the ‘Counteracting Organised Crime’ course. The course deals with operational and detection methods and means for counteracting human trafficking and for interaction with the agencies involved with counteracting trafficking in human beings.

Anti-trafficking training is further provided at the Professional Training Centre with the MoI Academy where the following professional training courses are included:

1. Initial professional training – basic professional skills related to MoI duties and activities e.g. safeguarding public order and counteracting crime;
2. Improving the professional qualification – expanding expertise and professional skills following successful competition for acquiring a higher professional category;



3. Professional specialisation – enhancing the professional qualification following successful competition for a position requiring a particular level of knowledge and skills;
4. Upgrade of professional qualification – upgrading the expertise and professional skills regarding changes affecting the effective implementation of official duties.

From two to 20 hours of training are devoted to the subject matter of counteracting trafficking in human beings depending on the particular police work in the different MoI bodies. A total of 96 police officers have been trained in 2008 at the Centre for Professional Training.

#### **4. Training of investigation organs on the methodologies of investigation of human trafficking crimes.**

Investigating police officers take part in the trainings under various projects on combating trafficking in human beings.

#### **5. Include training module “Human trafficking: root causes, identification and protection of victims” in the curriculum of the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

An officer of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section took part as a speaker in the training of consular missions’ officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diplomatic Institute.

#### **8. Acquainting the investigation authorities with the “Manual of good practices for police officers, preliminary investigators and investigators when carrying out procedural activities with children who are victims of sexual exploitation”.**

The Manual is at the disposal of the investigating police officers in different MoI units. The Students at the MoI Academy are introduced to the Manual of good practices for police officers, preliminary investigators and investigators when carrying out procedural activities with children who are victims of sexual exploitation as well.

### **SECTION IV „PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”**

#### **1. Update the Co-ordination mechanism for referral, care and protection of repatriated Bulgarian UAM and children victims of trafficking returning from abroad.**

Officers of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate have provided the SACP with proposals for changes of the Co-ordination Mechanism.

## **2. Develop measures to limit and prevent the use of the Internet to recruit potential victims of trafficking in human beings.**

A web portal [www.cybercrime.bg](http://www.cybercrime.bg) has been launched in 2007 by the Cyber Crimes Section of the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate. The web portal was established as a platform for signals about crimes. Internet users send in real time signals about illegal and harmful content with a focus on child pornography and violence against children by filling in a form online.

The platform facilitates Internet users' active contribution to counteracting the Internet distribution of child pornography and other materials with illegal and harmful content. The Internet user is thus entitled to more rights, which in turn enhances his motivation and advances the human resources involved in this activity.

The website of the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate provides to Internet users, in particular parents, teachers and children, information about the negative impact of trafficking in human beings, ways to protect yourself from getting involved in human trafficking, the regulatory framework in place, as well as about campaigns and measures for combating illegal and harmful content on Internet.

A link to the website of the State Agency for Child Protection is put at [www.cybercrime.bg](http://www.cybercrime.bg), the website of the Cyber Crimes Section. Signals for sexual exploitation and trafficking of children are checked together with the SACP and Internet providers.

MoI officers have been trained in detecting Internet crimes and collecting online proofs.

Together with NGOs awareness raising campaigns have been organised, for example the 'Children – safe in Internet' campaign.

A contact point maintaining 24/7 contact with foreign police services operates at the Cyber Crimes Section in the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate. A Cyber Crimes Section officer takes part in a Civil Council for Safe Internet. Cyber Crimes Section officers participated in September 2008 in a round table on 'Computer Games and Safety of Children in Internet'.

## **SECTION V "INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION"**

**1. Establish bilateral contacts, exchange of experience and best practices between the NCCTHB and similar structures and state institutions working on the issues of combating and preventing trafficking in human beings in the European Union member states, member states of the Council of Europe and third countries.**

MoI officers take part in international conferences, seminars and round tables whereby useful contacts have been established, experience has been exchanged and bilateral and international co-operation in counteracting trafficking in human beings has been effected.

**2. Present the Bulgarian legislation and practice in combating trafficking in human beings per the bilateral relations and multilateral cooperation.**

MoI officers have presented the Bulgarian domestic legislation and experience in combating trafficking in human beings in the framework of bilateral meetings and international initiatives.

**3. Conduct an international round table for the purpose of sharing experience and best practices in the counteraction of trafficking in human beings.**

An officer of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section with the MoI Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate took part in the international round table in December 2008 organised at the initiative of the Finnish and Norwegian missions to Bulgaria and the NCCTHB.

## **SUPREME CASSATION PROSECUTION OFFICE**

### **SECTION I „INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES”**

**5. Creation of an organisation within the NCCTHB for research, analysis and reporting of statistical data related to trafficking in human beings.**

*I. Scope of crimes related to trafficking in human beings.*

Bulgaria has been criticised in the last several years for failing to distinguish between trafficking in human beings (a crime within the meaning of Articles 159(a) to 159(c) of the Criminal Code) and illegal smuggling (a crime within the meaning of Articles 279-280 of the Criminal Code) and thus artificially increasing the reported number of cases involving human trafficking. In legal

terms the two crimes are separated both in international legal acts and domestic legislation (Cf. Criminal Code Amendment Bill, State Gazette No. 92 of 2002).

By an internal order of the Prosecutor General of R Bulgaria regarding the provision of information, the scope of reporting crimes involving trafficking in human beings has been revised to comply with international requirements and the domestic legislation.

## *II. Statistical Data*

The data quoted in this report are for the period 1 January – 30 September 2008. The summarised information for 2008 will be available after 31 January 2009, after the reports for the work of the district and regional prosecution offices in 2008 have been processed. By the end of September 2008 the number of initiated pre-trial proceedings in relation to trafficking in human beings was 74. In 65 of the cases the illegal trafficking of human beings was for the purpose of debauchery. The number of victims is 187, of whom 151 women and 23 minors. The prosecutors have accomplished work on 87 cases and 38 prosecutor's acts charging a total of 50 persons have been deposited in court. In the end of September 2008 the number of convicted persons stood at 34, of which 24 with enforced convictions.

## *III. Supreme Cassation Prosecution Office involvement in international projects for combating trafficking in human beings*

Bulgaria's Prosecution Office took part in 2008 in ICMPD Programme for the Enhancement of Anti-trafficking Responses in South-Eastern Europe: Data Collection and Information Management (DCIM). In the framework of this project the Supreme Cassation Prosecution Office received a PC configuration and special software for uploading data about persons against whom pre-trial proceedings for human trafficking have been initiated. The software works through a set of indicators regarding criminal proceedings. An SPOC expert has been appointed to work with the database, which contains data about the persons against whom pre-trial proceedings have been initiated, as well as about the progress of the criminal proceedings, from depositing the prosecutor's act in court to the enforcement of the sentence. Since April 2008 district and regional prosecution offices provide, in table format, monthly information in line with the existing criteria. At the Supreme Cassation Prosecution Office the information is uploaded by a particularly designated expert.

## **SECTION III „TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”**

### **1. Training of NCCTHB and LCCTHB employees as well as of the experts from the Permanent Working Group within the NCCTHB.**

An SCOP prosecutor took part in the regional seminars organised by the NCCTHB in Pazardzhik, Varna, Bourgas and Sofia in April and May 2008. Members of the newly set up Pazardzhik, Sliven and Varna Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings took part in the seminars conducted in Pazardzhik, Bourgas and Varna.

## **2. Training of magistrates in the area of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.**

A SCOP prosecutor took part as a speaker in seminars organised by the National Institute of Justice.

## **4. Training of investigation organs on the methodologies of investigation of human trafficking crimes.**

A Manual for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Practical Guidelines for the Prosecutor's Office Work) was compiled and published in 2008 and sent out to all first instance prosecution offices. Excerpts of the manual have been distributed on CDs to all participants in the regional seminars organised by the NCCTHB.

### **SECTION V „INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION”**

#### **1. Establish bilateral contacts, exchange of experience and best practices between the NCCTHB and similar structures and state institutions working on the issues of combating and preventing trafficking in human beings in the European Union member states, member states of the Council of Europe and third countries.**

A SCOP prosecutor took part in the bilateral Bulgarian-Dutch meetings (in March 2008 in the Netherlands and in September 2008 in Sofia) and in a Bulgarian-Norwegian meeting (in March 2008 in Oslo). The domestic Bulgarian legislation and practice of the Bulgarian law enforcement bodies in combating trafficking in human beings were presented at these meetings.

### **SECTION VI „LEGISLATIVE MEASURES”**

#### **1. Prepare a proposal for the amendment and supplement of the Criminal Code concerning the execution of Bulgaria's obligations to Art.19 from the Council of Europe Convention on**

## **Action against Trafficking in Human Beings for criminalisation of the intentional use of services from victims of human trafficking.**

With an order of the Minister of Justice an SCOP prosecutor was included in the working group with the MoJ that elaborated in September 2008 a draft Criminal Code Amendment. A new Article 159(d) is hence proposed to criminalise intentional use of services provided by victims of trafficking in human beings.

## **2. Formulation of a request to the Supreme Court of Cassation for the issuing of an interpretative decision on the contradictory court practices related to criminal cases of human trafficking and, specifically, the contradiction between Art. 159a (3) and Art. 182b of the Criminal Code.**

The Prosecutor General has prepared in December 2008 a request to the Supreme Court of Cassation for issuing an interpretative ruling on contradictory court practices related to criminal cases of human trafficking.

## **STATE AGENCY FOR CHILD PROTECTION**

### **SECTION I „INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES”**

#### **5. Creation of an organisation within the NCCTHB for research, analysis and reporting of statistical data related to trafficking in human beings.**

The State Agency for Child Protection has been collecting ever since its establishment in 2001 information on the number and profile of children victims of violence. This allows following their development and identifying the main trends and adequate responses for prevention of violence against children and protection of children.

A basic instrument for the collection of data is a specifically designed information map, where all departments involved with the protection of children on municipal level feed in information. The map includes the following basic indicators in relation to cases involving violence against children on which the social workers have been working during the reporting period:

- number of cases of violence against children;
- type of violence;
- crime scene;

- age and family status of the children victims of violence;
- profile of the signal sender;
- profile of the wrongdoer;
- measures taken.

The experts in charge of applying protection measures for children victims of violence follow trainings and observe written recommendations to ensure respect for the rights of the child and that timely measures in cases of violations are undertaken.

The State Agency for Child Protection collects and keeps a data base on children victims of violence, including trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation and other forms of violence. The data come through signals and complaints deposited in the Agency (complaints lodged at the SACP and signals received over the phone, the SACP e-mail and the specialised website for sexual exploitation of children for commercial purposes [www.stopech.sacp.government.bg](http://www.stopech.sacp.government.bg)) and the child protection departments<sup>1</sup>.

As regards social work, every child for whom a detailed check of the received signal has established it to be in need of protection becomes a ‘case’. At the end of 2007 according to the social practice in Bulgaria some three of every five received signals have become ‘cases’ involving social workers.

The State Agency for Child Protection gathers data on victims of trafficking of human beings since 2003. The following indicators are used:

- number of cases of international referrals of children where protection measures are needed;
- number of cases of children victims of human trafficking that have been co-ordinated by the SACP according to the Co-ordination Referral Mechanism;

In 2008 the State Agency for Child Protection has, pursuant to the Co-ordination Mechanism for Transnational Referral of Unattended Bulgarian Children and Children-Victims of Trafficking, co-ordinated 71 cases: involving 43 children from Greece, three children from Austria, one child from Spain, three from Switzerland, one child from Belgium, one child from the Czech Republic, one child from Cyprus, one child from Romania, two children from Italy, five from Germany, two from France, five from the Netherlands and two children from Denmark.

The SACP chairperson has proposed to the Minister of Interior 51 measures under Article 76a of the Bulgarian Identity Documents Act in 2008.

## **6. Development of a National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings.**

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<sup>1</sup> Social Assistance Agency departments for child protection in the structure and organisation of the municipalities.

In 2008 the State Agency for Child Protection was invited to take part in the work of the *expanded working group* for the development of a National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings. In the course of the deliberations it appeared that due to the co-ordinating role of the SACP in the process of referral of every single case of a child victim of human trafficking as per the Co-ordination Mechanism, a SACP representative must actively participate in the *operational group* for the development of a National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings as well.

## SECTION II “PREVENTION”

### **1. Embrace the risk groups of the population (women, children and ethnic minorities) and inform them about the risks and consequences of human trafficking**

*1.1. Expand the training on human and children’s rights in secondary schools and in pre-school preparation by using school and out-of-school activities.*

In 2006 the Council of Ministers endorsed an Integrated National Plan 2006 – 2009 for the implementation of the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child. The National Integrated Plan aims at guaranteeing children’s welfare by uniting the national policies and strategies for child protection and putting in longer-term framework the roles and duties of the institutions competent in this field and their interaction. One of the fundamental tasks in the area of education is ensuring good interaction between institutions, local authorities and non-governmental organisations on issues like school drop-outs, children outside the school system, including bilingual children; and integration of children with special educational needs. To that end the working group on education at the National Council for Child Protection (NCCP) has discussed and analysed problems related to the following:

- setting up an electronic National Register of the children outside the school system and endorsing uniform definitions of ‘students outside the school system’ and ‘school drop-outs’. To that end a letter has been sent to the Minister of Education and Science informing him of the stage of building the Students’ Electronic Register and of the existing possibilities to frame the definitions of ‘school drop-outs’ and ‘children remaining outside the school system’ through the MES regulatory mechanisms;
- streamlining and improving the criteria for collecting information regarding the Integration Plan and possible additional indicators proposed by the working group;
- elaborating a mechanism for interaction at school level with the other municipal partners to prevent school drop-outs.



Good practices and programmes targeted at school drop-outs and children outside the school system of the Institute for Social Practices (NGO), Step by Step Foundation (NGO), the municipalities of Varna and Pazardzhik have been shared.

*1.3. Explanatory activities on the rights of victims of human trafficking and the opportunities for assistance and protection among representatives of the vulnerable groups, especially ethnic minorities.*

Essential prerequisites for the successful socialisation of Roma children, students and youngsters are the measures related to preserving their cultural identity and developing their social skills. In addition to the school curricula and materials, measures aimed at preserving their mother tongue and traditions are included in the individual care plan of every child for whom placement outside the family as a protection measure has been issued. Children in institutions are furthermore the target of measures aiming at developing their social skills for life outside the institutions. The data received has been analysed and measures have been identified to enhance the process of compiling and implementing Individual Care Plans in the specialised institutions.

Two themed regional meetings were held in 2008 in the towns of Gotse Delchev and Berkovitsa on issues related to expanding the access to quality education of Roma children through improving their social and study environment in the community.

## **2. Conduct studies and organise information campaigns.**

*2.2. Popularise the specialised websites of the State Agency for Child Protection ([www.stopech.sacp.government.bg](http://www.stopech.sacp.government.bg)), the NCCTHB ([www.antitraffic.government.bg](http://www.antitraffic.government.bg)) and the Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency.*

In 2004, as part of the implementation of the National Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children 2003 – 2005, the SACP started elaborating a specialised Internet website for counteracting commercial sexual exploitation of children - [www.stopech.sacp.government.bg](http://www.stopech.sacp.government.bg). The website provides information on sexual and labour exploitation, as well as national legislation, international standards, national policy papers, documents, practices and other useful information in this area.

An essential asset of the website is the *Signal Form* whereby more than 450 signals have been sent so far about violated rights of the child, including violence against children in Internet. A total of 143 signals have been received using the signal form after January 2008. The child protection bodies take the respective measures within their competence to prevent the distribution of illegal and

harmful content in the cyber space, child abuses and other situations endangering the life and health of children.

The SACP is maintaining since 2006 a specialised website on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provides information to children and professionals working with children on issues related to guaranteeing the respect of the best interests of the child.

In 2008 the SACP continued working on the Teenager Internet Club established in 2003 and having consulted so far almost 900 children and teenagers aged from six to nineteen. In the first half of 2008 the Teenager Club consulted 74 boys and girls from all over the country. More than half of the teenagers look for answers of questions related to the sexual and reproductive health and voice uneasiness with the changes occurring in the process of their physical and psychological growth.

The online Parents Club was set up in 2007 and continues to function successfully. More than 40 parents have consulted it for assistance in relation to hardships in raising and upbringing their children.

The SACP continued in 2008 its work on the 'Mobile Field Work with Street Children' project, implemented by the Children and Youth Alliance. Its main aim is to enhance the work with begging and street children through field work teams, working daily as well as in the evenings and during official holidays.

The long-term objective is related to diminishing the number of children living and working in the streets and aims at taking the children out of their immediate adverse environment and providing them with protected environment for their normal physical and psychological development. In the last two years the SACP chairperson has issued 14 licenses for day care centres and shelters for street children throughout the country.

### *2.3. Conduct an information campaign for raising society's awareness of the problem of trafficking in human beings.*

The State Agency for Child Protection compiled and published in 2007 two aids for social workers in child protection departments: Practical Guidelines for Social Work with Children Victims of Violence, and Methodology for Family Violence Risk Assessment.

The Practical Guidelines pay special attention to the protection of children against violence, the right to protection against violence, the child protection bodies and the interagency relations, as well as the multidisciplinary teams working on particular cases. The Guidelines provide detailed information on the different forms of violence and the behavioural and physical indicators that could help the social worker distinguish the signs of violence. The publication follows the algorithm of the social work and looks into the steps undertaken on a signal, including checks and, where

appropriate, a protection measure. Simulation exercises and specific cases add practical muscle to the publication.

Focus in the Practical Guidelines is on the peculiarities of working with children victims of violence and the specific interview techniques for reducing secondary trauma of children as much as possible while at the same time preserving the information received intact and reliable. A particular section deals with the mandatory case documentation issued and stored by the child protection departments. Yet another section dwells on the role of the social worker in court.

The Methodology for Family Violence Risk Assessment concerns a particular instrument for assessing the probability of a parent hurting his/her child in the future. It is an acknowledged fact that, given particular characteristics of the child, parents, family environment and situation, the probability that the parent hurts his or her child grows. That is why it is essential to identify in time the risk factors and start work to reduce the violence risks and undertake adequate and timely measures to support and assist the child and the family. This is done through assessing the risk or the probability of actual child abuse.

During their regional meetings in relation to the elaboration of projects to reform, restructure or close down specialised institutions for children, SACP experts disseminated the aids in all Child Protection Departments in the country. Additional copies of both editions were printed in the beginning of 2008 in response to the high interest.

#### *2.4. Conduct an information campaign for raising awareness among groups vulnerable to human trafficking.*

The SACP has continued in 2008 its work on the joint UNICEF and MES initiative of ‘School Free of Violence’. The project was launched in six pilot schools in Sofia, and in the 2008-2009 school year the model for prevention of violence among children will be introduced in other schools in Sofia and the rest of the country. A draft of a Manual on ‘Models for Prevention of Violence in School’ is currently being finalised. The manual has been elaborated in the framework of the “Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Violence against Children” project.

The joint work of the SACP, UNICEF and the Centre Nadya Foundation, a non-governmental organisation, is an example of another successful partnership in 2007 and 2008. The work of the **0800 19 100** National Hot-line for Children, which was launched on 14 November 2007, has been summarised and analysed. The hotline is part of the efforts to ensure a more efficient protection of the rights of the child nationwide.

In 2008 SACP experts took part in media and information campaigns, providing expert support in a series of initiatives, public lessons, forums and conferences dealing with the prevention of violence against children.

Licensing providers of social services for children is part of the child welfare reform. The process aims at developing a network of social services in response to the needs of children and their families for community support.

Pursuant to the amendments of the Child Protection Act and the Rules for the Implementation of the Child Protection Act of January 2004, and to Article 17a, item 5 of the Child Protection Act the licensing of providers of social services for children has started. The State Agency for Child Protection has issued so far 74 licenses to non-governmental organisations throughout the country that provide social services for children victims of violence.

### **SECTION III „TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”**

#### **7. Organise and conduct training for social workers and specialists working on the Hot Line for children, victims of violence and human trafficking.**

Work on the compilation of a Manual for good practices and basic recommendations in first reception, protection and treatment of Unattended Minors started in the beginning of 2008. The Manual contains several sections and covers the existing national legislation in relation to first reception, protection and treatment of unattended minors, advantages and disadvantages of the national methodology in this area, application of international and EU standards, data collection and analysis, funding sources for similar activities, recommendations and good practices. The Manual should be published and disseminated by the end of the year. A website of the project will be launched as well.

Implementation of the second phase of the project is pending. A huge awareness campaign will be carried out to prevent disappearance of children victims of human trafficking from the institutions of their placement; their rights; future perspectives for their development and possible risks in leaving the institutions. Questionnaires will be distributed to children victims of human trafficking and to the staff attending to them. The basic needs, obstacles and possible solutions will be identified and summarised in a report. A seminar will be organised, a film will be broadcast and a final forum will be held.

In February 2008, at the invitation of ECPAT Bulgaria, experts from the Programmes, European Integration and International Co-operation Directorate took part as speakers in the second national final training of police officers and social workers under the project for the ‘Application of

the multi-institutional training on problems related to sexual exploitation of children and trafficking of children for the purpose of sexual exploitation – Trafficking 4’.

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

##### **1. Update the Co-ordination mechanism for referral, care and protection of repatriated Bulgarian UAM and children victims of trafficking returning from abroad.**

The State Agency for Child Protection is responsible for upgrading the Co-ordination mechanism for referral, care and protection of repatriated Bulgarian UAM and children victims of trafficking as provided for in priority area IV, objective 8, activity 8.1. of the 2008 National Programme for Child Protection.

The current work on the update of the Co-ordination Mechanism was temporarily suspended in 2008 awaiting the amendments of the Family Code and other legal acts that must be reflected in the final version of the document.

Provided that at present Parliament has not yet approved the draft Law Amending and Supplementing the Family Code and there is no indication when the draft law will be read, the finalisation of this activity will be included in the 2009 National Programme for Child Protection.

#### **SECTION V „INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION”**

##### **4. Establish an international network of reliable partners for the purpose of co-operation, assistance and co-ordination in the field of service provision for victims of trafficking.**

The State Agency for Child Protection is IOM’s partner in the project for ‘Exchange of information and best practices on first reception, protection and treatment of unaccompanied minors’ funded under the ARGO 2006 Programme of the European Union. The following States take part in the project: Belgium, Bulgaria, Austria, Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic.

The main activities accomplished during the reporting period are as follows:

1. Two working meetings of civil servants from every participating State working directly with unaccompanied minors have been held (in Brussels in October 2007 and in Vienna in March 2008). The aim of these meetings was to prepare exchange visits, make an overview of existing legislation, identify the main points of discussion and prepare a questionnaire to be used during the working visits and the elaboration of the Best Practices Manual.

2. An exchange visit in one of the participating States has been accomplished. An accommodation centre for minors was visited to observe in practice how the treatment policy was applied. A visit to the Czech Republic was organised in November 2007, and in January 2008 an Austrian delegation visited Sofia.

From 25 till 28 November a SACP representative took part in the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The focus of the forum was reporting on the results achieved in combating sexual exploitation of children and identifying future measures to size down this phenomenon.

## **MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY**

### **SECTION I „INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES”**

#### **3. Creation of a shelter for temporary accommodation and centres for protection and support of victims of trafficking in human beings within the local commissions under item 1.**

In 2008, with the support of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP), the number of crisis centres has increased, from three to six, of which five centres for temporary housing of children victims of human trafficking and one for women victims of trafficking in human beings. The newly set up crisis centres for children are premised in the Balvan village in the region of Veliko Tarnovo, Pazardzhik and Dragoman in the Sofia region, and Montana and Alfatar in the region of Silistra. The crisis centre for women and children victims of trafficking in human beings is located in Silistra. The six centres may now accommodate 59 victims, twice the capacities in the end of 2007. The MLSP plays a leading role in the elaboration and introduction of uniform spending standards to finance as of 1 January 2008 State-delegated social services through the municipal budgets. The social service 'crisis centre' is included in these standards. This provides optimal conditions to effectively assist the victims in trafficking accommodated in the crisis centres. The annual budget set forth in Council of Ministers decision No. 20 of 21 January 2008 is 6 911 BGN (approximately 3,500 EUR) per person.

### **SECTION V „INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION”**

#### **1. Establish bilateral contacts, exchange of experience and best practices between the NCCTHB and similar structures and state institutions working on the issues of combating**

**and preventing trafficking in human beings in the European Union member states, member states of the Council of Europe and third countries.**

An international seminar dedicated on the Daphne III Special Programme for combating violence against children, young people and women and protecting victims and groups in risk took place in Warsaw, Poland, on 20 and 21 November 2008. An MLSP representative took part in the seminar in her capacity as member of the Steering Committee. The seminar, convened under the motto 'Combating Violence: a European and Polish Practice' introduced Poland's practice in combating violence and presented the tool box available under the Daphne III EU Programme. The aim was to encourage non-governmental organisations and other potential candidates to take part in the implementation of the 2007-2013 Programme by raising awareness on the means to ensure concerted actions, research and training, identification and support of victims, and building sustainable networks for co-operation.

## **SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY**

### **SECTION II „PREVENTION”**

**1. Embrace the risk groups of the population (women, children and ethnic minorities) and inform them about the risks and consequences of human trafficking.**

*1.3. Explanatory activities on the rights of victims of human trafficking and the opportunities for assistance and protection among representatives of the vulnerable groups, especially ethnic minorities.*

The Social Assistance Agency (ASS) territorial units inform and consult the victims of trafficking on available forms of support.

### **SECTION III „TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”**

**7. Organise and conduct training for social workers and specialists working on the Hot Line for children, victims of violence and human trafficking.**

Social workers from the Child Protection Departments took part in a training on 'Partnership for counteracting trafficking in human beings in Bulgaria', organised by the International Organisation for Migration in February 2008. Thirty-one social workers from the regions of Veliko Tarnovo, Varna, Shoumen, Rousse and Targovishte took part in the training. An SSA expert gave a lecture on the national legislation in place for the protection and care of unattended minors.

## EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

### SECTION II „PREVENTION”

#### **2. Conduct studies and organise information campaigns.**

*2.3. Conduct an information campaign for raising society’s awareness of the problem of trafficking in human beings.*

Information materials on the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings have been provided to the Employment Agency territorial units and to the labour bureaux throughout the country and are available to the persons visiting the labour bureaux.

The Employment Agency website and the labour bureaux note boards display lists of companies licensed by the MLSP to work as recruitment intermediaries abroad in compliance with the Regulation on the Terms and Procedure for acting as a recruitment intermediary.

Following the Employment Agency inclusion in the EURES network (labour mobility portal), every person looking for a job may apply for vacancies in the European Economic Area. Experts of the Employment Agency have been specially trained to work as EURES counsellors. Data regarding persons looking for employment and employers is protected through an identification mechanism.

*2.4. Conduct an information campaign for raising awareness among groups vulnerable to human trafficking.*

When conducting interviews for work in Spain and Germany under the terms and procedure of the concluded Agreements on exchange of labour force, the Employment Agency informs applicants about their fundamental rights and duties as provided for by the labour laws of the respective foreign State. The Agency further emphasises the need to have a labour contract and a work permit in order to work legally abroad and remind of the requirement to always carry along an ID.

Persons applying for work in Spain may further consult an information material with contact data of the local labour bureaux and the labour attaché at the Bulgarian Embassy in Madrid.

### SECTION IV „PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”

#### **4. Inclusion of the victims of trafficking in appropriate forms of training and qualification.**



The Employment Agency has organised and funded trainings of registered unemployed persons in professions identified by employers for filling vacancies. The Employment Agency improves the employment chances of illiterate persons and such with poor literacy by including them in literacy courses. The motivation training organised at the EA territorial units aims at stimulating persons looking for employment into more active labour market behaviour and teaches skills for independent job search.

Employment Centres at the Labour Bureaux assist in the professional orientation of persons with no qualification or such who want to change their professions. In some labour bureaux psychological assistance is rendered as well to persons with various problems related to their employment.

#### **5. Support the participation of victims of human trafficking in projects, programmes and measures under the terms and procedures of the Encouragement of Employment Act.**

The Employment Agency implements programmes and measures under the Stimulating Employment Act targeted at disadvantaged groups at the labour market. These measures are available to all registered unemployed and no additional personal information is required save for the one required for their registration at the labour bureaux.

Registered unemployed persons are involved in programmes and measures for employment and training if they comply with the specific requirements for the job placement in question set by the programmes and the respective employer.

### **STATE AGENCY FOR NATIONAL SECURITY**

#### **SECTION III „TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”**

#### **4. Training of investigation organs on the methodologies of investigation of human trafficking crimes.**

The State Agency for National Security organised in October 2008 a seminar on the regulatory framework of Bulgaria's migration policy and related problems in the context of EU and national security protection requirements. Representatives of the NCCTHB, SPOC, NIS, MoJ, MFA and MoI Migration Directorate delivered lectures on these issues.

**8. Acquainting the investigation authorities with the “Manual of good practices for police officers, preliminary investigators and investigators when carrying out procedural activities with children who are victims of sexual exploitation”.**

The State Agency for National Security does not avail of this Manual. This activity is performed in accordance with the State Agency for National Security Act, the Rules for the Act Implementation, the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Child Protection Act and the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act.

**SECTION IV „PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”**

**1. Update the Co-ordination mechanism for referral, care and protection of repatriated Bulgarian UAM and children victims of trafficking returning from abroad.**

Changes in the legal regulation of the rights of the child are pending. Following these, changes in the Co-ordination Mechanism will be prepared together with the other competent institutions.

**2. Develop measures to limit and prevent the use of the Internet to recruit potential victims of trafficking in human beings.**

The National Security State Agency currently lacks the technical capacity to elaborate such measures.

**SOFIA CITY MUNICIPALITY**

**SECTION I „INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES”**

**4. Creation of a crisis centre in Sofia for temporarily accommodation of children victims of trafficking in human beings.**

By way of Decision No. 653 dated 23 October 2008 of the Sofia City Council, the social community service in the Faith, Hope and Love Centre for Street Children has been changed as of 1 October 2008 to two new social services, namely a Crisis Centre for Children Victims of Violence, and a Centre for Work with Street Children. The Crisis Centre for Children Victims of Violence renders social services also to children victims of trafficking in human beings.

The City Council Decision has been sent to Mrs Tsvetelina Vassileva, director of the Sofia Regional Social Assistance Directorate, and will be lodged with the Social Assistance Agency executive director to greenlight the new social services.

## **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

### **SECTION IV „PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”**

#### **3. Ensure a mechanism to provide medical and psychological assistance in the Centres for Protection of Victims of Trafficking with the LCCTHB.**

Article 82 of the Health Care Act concerning medical services outside the framework of the compulsory health care insurance guarantee the necessary medical care for victims of trafficking, especially in the initial stage when victims have no health care insurances: treatment of emergencies, birth delivery, psychiatric and psychological support, medical treatment of children up to 16 years of age, immunisations, life saving medication, etc. In this initial stage efforts should be directed at the victims' inclusion in the **social assistance safety net, which would automatically attribute to them the status of health insured persons.**

To ensure medical assistance and psychological support at the Centres for Victim Protection, representatives of the Regional Health Care Centres, territorial units of the Ministry of Health, should be involved in the work of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. This would provide insight into the problems encountered on local level and indicate ways to overcome them. Through the Regional Health Care Centres victims' of human trafficking access to health care may be facilitated by providing instructions to MoH local structures and medical treatment units.

**Annex: List of abbreviations**

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<b>USAID</b>	US Agency for International Development
<b>EA</b>	Employment Agency
<b>MoI Academy</b>	Academy of the Ministry of the Interior
<b>SAA</b>	Social Assistance Agency
<b>BAS</b>	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
<b>BRC</b>	Bulgarian Red Cross
<b>SCPO</b>	Supreme Cassation Prosecution Office
<b>CBS</b>	Correctional Boarding Schools
<b>BIDG</b>	Bulgarian Identity Documents Group
<b>GDBP</b>	General Directorate Border Police
<b>BCP</b>	Border Check Point
<b>GRETA</b>	Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
<b>SACP</b>	State Agency for Child Protection
<b>SAITC</b>	State Agency for Information Technology and Communication
<b>SAYS</b>	State Agency for the Youth and Sports
<b>SANS</b>	State Agency National Security
<b>SAT</b>	State Agency for Tourism
<b>LOD</b>	Labour Office Directorate
<b>HCDPC</b>	Home for Children Deprived of Parental Care
<b>MoI ICD</b>	International Co-operation Directorate with the Ministry of the Interior
<b>PEIICD</b>	Programmes, European Integration and International Co-operation Directorate
<b>COSCD</b>	Counteraction of Organised and Serious Crime Directorate
<b>JDS</b>	Juvenile Delinquency Service
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>CTHBA</b>	Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act
<b>SANSA</b>	State Agency for National Security Act
<b>CPA</b>	Child Protection Act

<b>CCAB</b>	Criminal Code Amendment Bill
<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of the Interior
<b>MFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health Care
<b>MoC</b>	Ministry of Culture
<b>LCCJD</b>	Local Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency
<b>LCCTHB</b>	Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
<b>IOs</b>	International Organisations
<b>IOM</b>	International Organisation for Migration
<b>MES</b>	Ministry of Education and Science
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>MoJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MLSP</b>	Ministry of labour and social policy
<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>ICMPD</b>	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
<b>NIJ</b>	National Institute of Justice
<b>CC</b>	Criminal Code
<b>NCCTHB</b>	National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
<b>NRM</b>	National Referral Mechanism
<b>CCP</b>	Code of Criminal Procedure
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>NIS</b>	National Investigation Service
<b>MoI DD</b>	Ministry of the Interior District Directorate
<b>DPD</b>	District Police Directorate
<b>CPD</b>	Child Protection Department
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>DPO</b>	District Prosecution Office
<b>DC</b>	District Court
<b>OSCE</b>	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>DIS</b>	District Investigation Service
<b>RISANSA</b>	Regulations Implementing the State Agency for National Security Act
<b>PO RB</b>	Prosecution Office of the Republic of Bulgaria
<b>MES REI</b>	Regional Education Inspectorate with the Ministry of Education and

	Science
<b>RPD</b>	Regional Police Directorate
<b>CoE</b>	Council of Europe
<b>EMC</b>	Electronic Media Council
<b>SU</b>	Sofia University 'St. Kliment of Ohrid'
<b>UNICEF</b>	UN Fund for Children
<b>CCCJD</b>	Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency
<b>MFA HQ</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Headquarters
<b>BSEC</b>	Black Sea Economic Co-operation
<b>ECPAT</b>	End Child Pornography and Trafficking