



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**  
**Ministry of Interior**  
**The Deputy Minister**

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**Objectives for the prevention and fight against traffic in humans for the second half of 2006 and some achievements from the first half of 2006**

Hereunder are some of the achievements of the first half of 2006:

1. The **Responsible Authority** has been established; it will coordinate the referral process for initial assistance and protection and long-term rehabilitation of all victims of trafficking in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the sheltering centers for victims of trafficking.
2. **Local Anti-trafficking Committees** have been established; they will play an important role in assessing vulnerable social and economic groups, in identifying cases of potential victims of trafficking etc. The committee is comprised by the representatives from police directorates, directorates of education in qarks, representatives from local government and social services,;
3. The Albanian Parliament has ratified the **Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic of Greece and the Republic of Albania, on Protection and Assistance to Children Victims of Trafficking**. It is expected the ratification of this agreement by the Greek Parliament;
4. It has been compiled **The Report on the implementation of the Albanian National Strategy for Combating Trafficking of Human Beings for the period January - December 2005**;
5. In the framework of **legal amendments to the Criminal Code**, initiated by the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator for Combating Trafficking of Human Beings, an amendment to the Article 298 of the Criminal Code was approved by the Council of Ministers, this amendment incorporates elements of the criminal act of **smuggling** of human beings,.
6. **Training sessions** have begun throughout the country for police officers, in the area of the provision of legal and psychological assistance to child victims, witnesses or those at risk of trafficking;
7. It has begun the process of **equipping the Serious Crimes' Court** with the necessary technical elements for the protection and the safety of victims of trafficking, who testify in trials by videoconferencing;
8. **Agreements** have been signed **with domestic and foreign agencies and organizations** involved in the fight against trafficking such as Terre des Hommes, Declaration of Partnership with IOM, ARSIS, ICPMD etc.

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

1. **The ratification of the Agreement with Greece** on protection and assistance to child victims of trafficking, paves the way for the undertaking of further steps in implementing it efficiently, that is beginning the identification and return of Albanian children residing in Greece to Albania;
2. **The Responsible Authority has been established**, which will coordinate the referral process for initial assistance, protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in close cooperation with all the responsible partners, such as the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consular Section, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Centers for Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Albania. The purpose is to activate the Responsible Authority as a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) of cases of victims of trafficking, at a national level and provide them with protection; establish contacts between the Albanian Responsible Authority and Responsible Authorities for NRM's in neighboring countries, such as Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, countries in the region and also with destination countries, such as Italy, Germany, England, etc.;
3. Also, in the context of the cooperation of the Responsible Authority with all the involved parties, a **"help line"**, a country-wide, toll-free telephone line for denouncing cases of trafficking will be established, which will come to assist all citizens or subjects who need help or want to share information on this matter;
4. A **database** will be established within the Responsible Authority, where representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor, and leaders of Centers of Protection of Victims of Trafficking will record cases of victims returned, referred, handled and protected in Albania;
5. Regulation by law of the possibility to provide foreign victims of trafficking with temporary residence permits, in the context of the drafting and approval of the **new Albanian law "On Foreigners"**, in full accordance with international standards;
6. **In the context of the activity of Local Anti-trafficking Committees**, commence local campaigns to remove children from the streets, register them in schools, fight against regular prostitution etc., in cooperation between police, prosecutor's office, social services represented on the committees etc.;
7. The proposal of a new provision in the Penal Code on the **Exploitation of Children for forced labor purposes**, as well as the planning for a new social-educational package-deal of assistance for these children and their families in the form of employment, education and other kind of aid;
8. The initiation of a campaign with the Ministry of Tourism in compiling an Joint Operational Regulation for the **Tourism Agencies that prohibits the sexual exploitation** of women and children in their settings;
9. The undertaking of a **national advertising campaign on the risk of trafficking** as well as other specialized campaigns with youngsters, children from diverse ethnic groups, etc;

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

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