

REPORT ON REALIZATION OF THE ALBANIAN NATIONAL STRATEGY
TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
January-December 2005

**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
DEPUTY MINISTER
ANTI-TRAFFICKING UNIT**

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TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
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1. INTRODUCTION

The prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings, as a negative and destructive phenomenon within the country and overseas, is one of the Government's priorities to which it has given a special attention. This fight is concentrated on some principal directions, out of which:

1. investigation and prosecution of trafficking offences,
2. support and protection to victims and witnesses, as well as
3. real measurements on preventing trafficking and re-trafficking.

These represent objectives and real actions of a National Action Plan for each state institution concerned with this phenomenon.

Albania has made significant progress in adoption of laws on anti-trafficking according to international standards, including here the amendments to the Penal Code, The Protection of Witnesses and Anti-Mafia Law, establishment of the Serious Crime Court and Regional Task Forces against the organized crime, to treat among other cases, the serious cases of trafficking in human beings. A **National Reference Mechanism** has also been established for the identification and protection of the returned victims.

Albania continues as well to improve her detention abilities in the main cross-border points, and in the active participation with neighbour countries and third host countries in the process of development of cooperation in matters of uncover, law implementation and law.

The functioning of the **State Committee of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings** which is chaired by the Minister of Interior is as well of such importance, which was recently changed by the decision of the Council of Ministers, no. 653, on 10. 17. 2005. This Committee is drawn from high political level representatives of central institutions, who are responsible for the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings in their respective fields.

With reference to the government **commitments and priorities** bearing in mind that the anti-trafficking efforts have the priority, within this period, the concrete undertaken steps are as follows:

1. According to the Prime Minister's Order no. 203 on 12.19.2005, **the Anti-Trafficking Unit** was established under the supervision of the National Coordinator / Deputy Minister of Interior and its crucial tasks are:
 - a. **to monitor** the activities of institutions in charge with the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings,
 - b. **to coordinate** with these institutions,
 - c. **to collect information and data** on cases related to this phenomenon etc.
2. An important progress was the drafting and signing of the **Draft-Agreement on Protection and Assistance of Child-Victims of Trafficking** with the Hellenic Republic, which will be signed on February, 27th 2006. In the future

such agreements will be signed with other countries as well, extending in this way the action field not only regarding children, but for other groups too, vulnerable to this phenomenon.

3. The establishment of a **Responsible Authority** is in progress. This Authority shall coordinate in joint cooperation with other actors involved, the referral process for assistance, initial protection, and long-term rehabilitation of every trafficking victim, where the **Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** play the leading role.
4. **The European Commission Convention on “Measures against Trafficking in Human Beings”** is adopted in principle – Decision of the Council of Ministers no.754 on 12.06.2005.
5. In addition, on the decision of the Council of Ministers, **the 3 year moratorium for the sailing mediums** was adopted, aiming at prevention of trafficking by sea;

Besides, if we would refer to figures, there were real achievements during the period of **September-January 2005**, where **22 criminal offences** were detected of **33 perpetrators**, out of which 24 detained/arrested. More specifically:

- **2 cases of child trafficking** with 3 detained perpetrators;
- **4 cases of women trafficking** with 7 perpetrators, out of which 3 arrested;
- **7 cases of the criminal offence of “exploitation for prostitution in aggravated circumstances”**, with 11 perpetrators out of which 10 detained / arrested;
- **3 cases of exploitation for prostitution** with 5 perpetrators out of which 3 detained / arrested.

Still in this framework, emphasizing that, from the assessment of the data it results that during the last period the trafficking trend in human beings from Albania to other countries is declining. We can say, that today Albania does not represent a transit country for trafficking victims arriving from other countries with destination the EU member countries. Taking into consideration the undertaken steps until now, and those still in process, as well as the serious commitment and joint cooperation with all national and international actors, positive results toward this phenomenon shall be promising and efficient, in the interest of all involved counterparts, especially victims of trafficking.

2. THE REALIZATION OF OBJECTIVES OF THE ALBANIAN NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

2.1. PROSECUTION

One of the main objectives of the Albanian government in the fight against trafficking in human beings is to increase the number of criminal prosecutions and convictions of traffickers in proportion with arrests, through improved cooperation between police and prosecutors, toward which responsible institutions have been working; worth mentioning here are the statistics, which you will find in the statistics annex.

As regards the establishment of inter-institutional procedures, by using the potential of managing cases that the Management System of Overall Information – TIMS financed by USA/ EU – manages to follow up the progress of special cases of trafficking from arrests to convictions; it has to be said that the cooperating institutions created transparent procedures with the General Prosecutor and that of Serious Crimes, as well as with the international partners.

As regards the management system TIMS, now operating in the Ministry of Interior, in Tirana, Durrës, and Vlorë district Police Directorates, as well as in border checkpoints of Rinas, Kapshticë, Kakavijë, Port of Durrës, Qafë-Thane, Han i Hotit, Morina and port of Vlora, shall be completed by 2007.

Taking into consideration the work and cooperation between institutions, it should be stressed the fact of constant reporting in relation to the criminal prosecutions carried out by the State Police, and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, as an institution included in the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, at MoH. Within the same frame, Linza Centre (NRCVT)¹ has cooperated with Ministry of Interior and State Police (anti-trafficking offices and border police), and prosecutor's office for the referral of cases, initiation of criminal proceedings with the prosecutor's office, and protection of victims.

The cooperation between institutions involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings, has aimed at enhancing prevention, coordination and cooperation in joint operations. These have been executed by assigning a prosecutor to give legal advice on procedures to follow; in order to enable more effective criminal prosecutions of the corrupted police officers, and to generally improve the working relation between NIS²/MoPO³ and the General Prosecutor. Alike cooperation has been identified in 3 cases in the regions of Shkodër, Durrës, Berat, as well as with criminal police structures and regional offices of narcotics, anti-trafficking, economic crimes. Joint tasks have been performed and concrete results have been achieved in

¹ National Reception Center of the Victims of Trafficking

² National Internal Service

³ Ministry of Public Order

preventing and detecting illegal activities, which have been carried out by various police officers.

It is the objective of the Albanian government to raise the public trust in state bodies and to have transparency by means of publicizing more widely and make effective the use of the public tip line to obtain information from the public. Mol has reported that a phone line is operational at NIS, located at the Ministry of Interior. In the period January – 15 Dec. 2005, the Legal Information Centre at MoI⁴ has received 31 complaints from the public, either directly or through the above mentioned phone line. These complaints concern mostly arbitrary actions committed by police officers in various regions, and cases of trafficking in human beings as well.

It is the objective of the Albanian government to continue to expand the international and regional law enforcement, legal and criminal justice cooperation against human trafficking and traffickers. Vlora Anti-Trafficking Centre, as a national, regional and international source for trainings, analysis and information distribution, in cooperation with Germany, Greece, Italy and other neighbouring countries, it currently operates as a centre for exchanging information only.

In the framework of institutional cooperation on anti-trafficking efforts within the country and overseas (besides joint police operations performed with Macedonia, Greece and Montenegro via SECI, such as “Roadshow”), there have been signed bi-and-multilateral agreements, out of which, during 2005, we can emphasize:

- Protocol to the implementation of the Understanding Memorandum on Police Cooperation between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Mission of the Temporary Administration of the United Nations in Kosovo, signed in Tirana, on 02.11.2005.
- Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Mission of the Temporary Administration of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) “On Transfer of the Convicted Persons” signed in Tirana, on 02.11.2005.

In addition, readmission agreements are signed with European Union member countries, such as:

- The bilateral agreement for readmission of the persons with Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed on 15.10.2003, and has entered into force on 16.08.2005.
- The bilateral Agreement between the Republic of Albania and the European Community for the readmission of persons ratified on 14.4.2005 and recently adopted by the Albanian Assembly.
- Protocol to the implementation of the Agreement of EU with the Benelux Countries (Kingdom of Belgium, Great Dukedom of Luxemburg, and Kingdom of Netherlands), signed on 09.06.2005.
- Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Swiss Federal Commission “On Police Cooperation to Fight Against Crime”, signed in Tirana, on 21.09.2005.

⁴ Ministry of Interior.

- The agreement for the readmission of the persons with Croatia ratified on 28.01.2003, has entered into force on 15.06.2005.

Encountered problems:

- There have been concerns on creating an inter-institutional database, because the working group established for this purpose, based on a joint order of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice aiming at agreeing on a common statistical matrix, gathering method, and reporting procedures, has not yet been set up and for that reason such a database actually does not exist.
- There have been concerns, on information exchange, on the development of a study on trainings for trafficking awareness and gaps in relevant structures of State Police, and on the recommendation of procedures for common training of anti-trafficking unit police officers, prosecutors and judges.
- The non-drafting of an internal order on the staying of trained personnel at the regional Sector / Office of Anti-Trafficking for at least 3 years, aiming at continuity, will lead to problems in the future, although small in appearance, with reference to permanency of personnel familiarized with the work.

2.2. SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

The implementation of a comprehensive method for the protection of victims; trafficked persons and crime victims associated with trafficking, has also been a priority.

Taking into account the importance of the new Law “On Witnesses Protection”, aiming at enhancing the legal, physical and personal identity protection, for all the victims/witnesses in criminal proceedings, independently from their participation in the Witnesses Protection Program, Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with General Prosecutor’s Office, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Finance has drafted the bylaws of the law on witness protection. In this frame, a witness protection sector has been established within the Organized Crime Directorate at the Ministry of Interior. The achievements and cooperation of this sector are as follows:

- Drafting a particular program on treatment of witnesses who are accommodated in NCFVT (National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking).
- Drafting a project on realization of needs for witnesses’ special treatment.
- Treatment of witnesses.
- Security and protection of the witness’s life is one of the chief objectives of NCFVT’s activity. The high security of the Centre, provided by MoI, provision of legal assistance and security for victims who agree to testify in court sessions; when they are present, have greatly increased confidence in the security of the Centre.
- NCFVT tries to increase the victims’ awareness so that they report traffickers. Victims are provided with the necessary information on how they can be

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protected when their lives are in danger. The Centre enables cooperation between police or prosecutor's office and victims sheltered there.

- The Centre continues to assist victims of trafficking who have reported their traffickers for criminal prosecution and may be in need of protection even after the end of court proceedings, in accordance with the law on witness and justice collaborators' protection.
- As a result of the cooperation with the Sector of Witnesses and Justice Collaborators Protection, one of the girls has been accommodated and assisted by this institution.

With reference to the statistics, regarding the program on witnesses' protection, it can be said that:

- During 2005, there have been 11 witnesses provided with special protection measures including relocation. In addition temporarily protection measures (which last for one month) have been applied for 15 witnesses. In respect of human trafficking specifically, there has been 1 case of protection relocation;
- During 2005, 9 victims of trafficking/witnesses from Fier, Vlore, Peshkopi, Lezhe, Tirane, Durres. etc., have cooperated with Police Departments and have denounced their tutors for criminal prosecution;
- In 15 cases, the victims have denounced their traffickers. For 6 cases, trials have been concluded in favor of the girls. 3 cases of trials are still going on.

	Criminal Proceeding has ended	Criminal Proceeding is on process
Girls /Women	5	3
Children	1	0
Irregular emigrants	0	0
Total	6	3

The National Reception Centre of Victims of Trafficking (NRCVT) is established in the framework of the National Strategies against Trafficking of Human Beings and Children and it is an institution of the State Social Service (MoLSAEO⁵), which operates in bases of a close co-operation with the Ministry of Interior and IOM. The centre carries out its activity in 2 facilities (one 3-floor building and one 2-floor building); with a maximum capacity of 100 beds (80 are in the 3-floor building and 20 in the 2-floor one). The real capacity consists of 60 beds. NCFVT presents a draft budget every year, where its needs for personnel, services for victims, investments etc., are presented. NCFVT cooperates with donors for specific needs, such as technical and financial assistance, training etc. from IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, OSCE etc.

NCFVT staff co-works with all the structures of victims' referral, with the border checkpoints, police commissariats etc. to accommodate the victims. The procedure of

⁵ Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

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interviewing is followed in all cases (the questionnaire is realized with the help of international donors.) and the assessment of needs etc. Regular controls have been made in the main border checkpoints, of Durres, Vlore, and Rinas. Some of the statistics are as follows:

- For July 2003 – December 2005 period, 209 persons were accommodated and assisted in NRCVT.
- For January – December 2005 period, 127 persons were accommodated and assisted (116 new cases and 11 taken from 2004), which include three main target groups:
 - 71 are victims of the trafficking or are in danger of being trafficked of Albanian nationality out of which 58 women, 13 men, 36 adults and 36 children coming from Berat, Tirane, Elbasan, Fier, Kavaje, Rrogozhine, Pogradec, Vlore, Burrel, Lezhe, Peshkopi, Bulqize, etc.
 - 14 are foreign victims of trafficking (9 men and 5 women).
 - 42 are illegal migrant (1 woman and 41 men). Migrants are namely from China, Turkey, Moldova, Romania, Egypt, Nigeria, Bangladesh, etc.

In more details:

Groups	Family	Centre, NGO	State Institutions	Refuse assistance
Albanian	29	19	2	7
Foreign (VoT +AVR ⁶)	50 repatriated	1 UNHCR	1 Tirana police	4
Girls/women (Albanian VoT)	14	13	1 witness protection	4
Children	15	6	1	3
Illegal migrants	35 Repatriated	1 UNHCR	1 Tirana police	4
Foreign VoT	15 Repatriated	0	0	0

Continuing the shelters' issue, for the Linza centre 27,7 million lek were foreseen in the budget of 2005, whilst for 2006, are foreseen 30 million lek. As regards the VATRA centre in Vlora, it will be funded by donors.

The budgetary funds of the Linza Centre are:

Name	2004	2005	2006 (draft-budget)
Salaries	9,608	10,426	18,727
Current expenditures	9,327	13,800	15,000

⁶ The abbreviation VoT means Victims of Trafficking. AVR means illegal migrants.

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Expenditures for investments	0	3,500	4,000
Total	18,935	27,726	37,727

The cooperation between MoLSAEO and civil society has enhanced in combating the trafficking of human beings in the field of support, protection and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking and their families. MoLSAEO is cooperating with NGOs which offer preventive, supportive, rehabilitating and reintegrating, etc., services. The organizations with more impact in this direction are “Tjeter Vision (other vision)”, VATRA centre, International Social Service, Terre des Hommes, Help for Children, etc.

Linza Centre has a staff of 23 people, 14 of whom are social workers. The work is organized in two shifts. One of the main issues of the regulation of this centre is confidentiality. With the help of the donors the internal regulation of the Linza Centre is continuously being improved, which provides reintegration programs, including counselling, health, educational, vocational and training services.

The order no. 394, dated 23.02.2004 of the MLSA⁷, “On the tariffs of the vocational education system” provides free courses in the vocational public education centres for trafficked girls and women. In this direction, Linza Centre offers courses on: English, tailoring, computers, Albanian, hairdressing, etc. During 2005, MoLSAEO has licensed 81 courses of the vocational education out of which 75 % are courses mainly with professions for girls and women such as tailoring, secretary, hairdressing, etc. These courses are expanded throughout the country. For the period January-November 2005 the number of the trainees at the public Centers of Professional Shaping reaches up to 6511, among which 3500 are women and girls. Whereas in the private Centers of the Professional Shaping the number of the trainees is 6863 people, where the number of the women and girls trained reaches up to 5422.

The Linza Centre collaborates with the Ministry of Interior on the compilation of the guidelines for the Residence permit of foreign victims up to the point when they are repatriated. As for the temporary residence permit in accordance with the legal and administrative procedures, the Sector of Migration at the Border Police makes possible the providing of such permits.

During the 2005 period, 127 persons were accommodated and assisted (116 new cases and 11 taken from 2004) in the Linza Centre. 15 of them have denounced their traffickers. 6 cases have ended the trail in favour of the girls, 3 cases are still in trail. The database is established in Linza, Social State Services and in the MoLSAEO, which are being continuously updated.

Even though there have been licensed 2 NGOs that offer services in the reception and accommodation for the trafficking women and girls: the Vatra centre in Vlore and “Tjeter Vizion (Other Vision)” in Elbasan (IOM will be licensed soon), the number of the NGOs that work in the field combating trafficking and especially those working

⁷ Ministry of Labour and Social Affaire

against the trafficking of children has increased. Round tables have been organized with the participating actors of the National Referral Mechanism, and agreements have been signed with IOM, Terre des Hommes, AMEC, etc. Some of the NGOs worth mentioning are "Tjeter Vizion (other vision)", Ndihme per Femijet (help for children), psycho-social centre "Vatra", Communitarian Ballsh Centre, International Catholic Commission for Migration, Ne dobi te gruas (In the woman's benefit)", shelters, counseling for girls and women, Albanian Centre for the protection of the children's rights. The coalition of the NGOs "Together against trafficking of children", (BKTF) is currently made up of 16 NGOs.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the National Referral Mechanism on improved identification and assistance was adopted on 18.07.2005 between: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, National Reception Centre for the Victims of Trafficking, Ministry of Public Order, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, VATRA, Other Vision, and the International Organization for Migration – IOM. The agreement specifies the responsibilities and commitments of each party involved.

Directly depending from the Ministry of Finance, the Agency for the Management of the Confiscated Assets deriving from criminal activity is established and is in its first steps. The Chief Administrator is assigned and this agency is operating on five cases of the administration of the confiscated assets by a court decision. Based on the requirements of the Law "On the measures against organized crime", the administration of these assets will be given, among others, for the compensation and rehabilitation of the victims of organized crime.

In relation to the protection of children, victims of trafficking, as it is mentioned above, this is a priority of the Albanian government, as such, it has been translated into strategy and action plan already adopted and presently under implementation (National Strategy and Action Plan in the Fight against Child Trafficking and Protection of the Children Victims of Trafficking 2005-2007). As a result, in this direction, as an achievement we could mention:

- The adoption of the **National Strategy for Children** with DCM no. 368, dated 31.05.2005.
- **The Strategy for Combating the Trafficking of Children and for the Protection of Children Victims of Trafficking**, adopted with DCM no. 171, dated 11.2.2005
- **The Strategy of Social Services**, adopted with DCM no. 265, dated 28.04.2005
- **Standards for the Services of Children in the Residential Institutions**, adopted with DCM no. 659, dated 17.10.2005;
- There were adopted the **standards of children for the residential services**.
- Supported by UNICEF at the Directorate of the Social Services in the Ministry of Labor Social Affairs and Equal Opportunity started working a **Specialist for children**
- The establishment of an **Inter-ministerial Committee for children** is being worked on, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister and ministries being members that are directly involved (should be reactivated),

- It is ongoing with the UNICEF the establishment of a **Technical Secretariat for children** near the MOLSAEO,
- Member in the **Administrative Council of the Social State Service** – with representatives from the NGOs that offer services for children.
- **Specialist for children in the Social State Service**
 - At the central level and in 12 regions of the country.
 - The ToRs are defined for the children personnel in SSS, at the central and local level, for the contact persons in districts and communes.
- **At the districts**
 - Specialists for the children in the sector of social services (sectors are established in four pilot circuits (Tirane, Durres, Shkoder, Vlore)
- **Units of the local government**
 - Focal points for the children in 65 municipalities, 308 communes.
- Law no. 9355, dated 10.03.2005 “On assistance and social services”

As mentioned above, the Agreement with Greece on protection and assistance to the children victims of trafficking, a very important agreement, taking in consideration the fact that it will mark a good practice on other agreements alike with other countries. It will be signed by both parties in a ceremony organized on 27.02.2006, in Tirana. This is closely linked to the assignment of the **Responsible Authority** shall coordinate in joint cooperation with other actors involved, the referral process for assistance, initial protection, and long-term rehabilitation of every trafficking victim, where the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs play the leading role.

In the frame of expanding the identification, protection and supportive role of the Albanian MFA employees in Tirana and abroad, and their cooperation with the respective authorities in the main destination countries, as it is mentioned above as well, MFA will undertake measures, in cooperation with other implementing bodies in the training and instruction of the consular employees in the representations abroad on giving assistance to the victims of trafficking, availing from the Academy of Diplomacy but seeking for the assistance of other governmental and non-governmental institutions on the organization of the training modules. Beside this, MFA will contribute to preparing the leaflets as well as their distribution to the destination/transit countries. Such a leaflet is developed by NGOs with the support of the donors in two languages.

Countered Problems:

- Taking in consideration the supply problems of the serious crimes courts with regard to the technical means for the protection and security of the witnesses, it is included in the short term objectives for the first six-months of the year 2006 (see below).
- The scheme for the compensation and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking, based, among others on the confiscation of the traffickers’ assets, presently, even though it does not exist, the first steps have been made and it will be realized very soon.
- Training on human rights should be developed for the media employees, in order to improve their reports on cases of trafficking in persons, mainly by concentrating on the necessity of protecting and respecting their identity and

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their right to privacy, especially of those that do testify against their traffickers.

- It has to be mentioned that the accommodation centre for the victims of trafficking (women and children) is ready, although it is not yet functional. NGO-s offered psychological help or the assistance of social workers to this group.
- Even though it is a priority and objective of the strategy, and emphasize the fact that the telephone lines exist, it should be said though that there is no SOS telephone line in the police especially for the alleging of the human beings trafficking cases. It is presently being discussed to establish a national telephone line, but it is not yet finalized. The MoLSAEO in cooperation with UNICEF and other NGOs is preparing a line only for children.

2.3. PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING AND RE-TRAFFICKING AND COORDINATION

Important preventive measures are even the programs (government sponsored) on education, printing press and other mediums of information, to inform and teach with more efficiency the population on the causes and threats of trafficking, especially the women, children threatened by trafficking. On this frame, as a result of the good inter-institutional cooperation there have been organized meeting with the NGOs and CAAHT, ICPMD, USAID, IOM, Religious Communities, BKTF Coalition, etc. such as:

- Conference against trafficking in human beings, organized by CAAHT on October 2005.
- National Inter-Religious Conference against Trafficking of Human Beings, organized by IOM.
- Meeting of the Special Rapporteur of UN on child selling, prostitution and pornography, with the concerned actors during 31 October -7 November 2005.
- Meeting of the American Ambassador with the Minister of Labor on the trafficking issues in November 2005.
- Organization of different television programs, students-parents-specialists round tables, publishing of the works on the prevention of trafficking, the causes, etc.
- Television programs on trafficking on national and local channels.
- Ongoing publishing in the “Mesuesi (teacher)” gazette and the daily newspapers.

With regard to the overall awareness on trafficking, on all the subjects that cover gender awareness and social education at all the school levels presenting the links between the trafficking of human beings, causes and other social issues regarding it, it should be mentioned that:

- In the 1st, 2nd, 4th grade (Civics), there have been introduced new topics on civics, biology, and health Education,
- In the secondary education there have been intertwined specific topics according to the guidelines provided by MoES⁸ (knowledge on society, 9th and 10th grade) etc,
- There have been published manuals for the students of the 9-years schools, high schools and teachers, leaflets etc.
- The guidelines at the beginning of the first year of school on the civics work, where it has been emphasized the planning and the undertaking of the activities against trafficking of children, the war against drugs, prostitution,
- Publications, manuals related to trafficking, gender issues (manuals for teachers, students of the primary and secondary education).
- In the new pre-university curriculums there are covered problems related to making aware the children on trafficking prevention.

⁸ Ministry of Education and Science.

As a result of the continuous request on training and awareness rising not only public related to the anti-trafficking efforts, during 2005 could be mentioned:

- MoJ organized a seminar on the Palermo Convention with representatives of the prosecutor and police who manage trafficking and police cooperation. High representatives of DNA and Syracuse Institute were invited, who mainly deal with organized crime. (It has to be mentioned that until the reporting moment, no cases were reported of judges involved in trafficking.)
- Special subjects on traffic in humans have been included in the curriculum of Police Academy.
- Training courses have taken place in the country and abroad; regional and other international meetings, with participation from police, prosecutor's office and courts have taken place, too. Trainings of various durations have been carried out with all the members of the anti-trafficking structures.
- Another important step is the assignment of female officers at the border checkpoints of Vlore and Rinas.
- MFA will be engaged in training the consular servants on dealing with the victims of trafficking and cooperating with the reception authorities.

In the frame of the initiatives and funding from civil society adopted by law no. 9355, dated 10.03.2005, "On assistance and social services", which gives the right to the NGOs to provide social services, to take funds from the Municipalities. On the same line, it has to be emphasized the fact that MoLSAEO implements programs on the incitement of the employment of the female jobseekers with priority given to trafficked women. The DCM no.632, date 18.09.2003, "On the program of job incitement for the female jobseekers", had as a priority the security of long term employment as well as the engagement of the jobseekers from various groups in difficulty, in the job market. This program provides 1, 2 and 3 years employment for the female jobseekers. The support consists mainly on funding with certain percentage of the obligatory insurances all the female jobseekers involved in the program with different salaries for different groups. The Order No.394, date 23.02.2004 of MOLSAEO, "On the tariffs of the vocational education system" ensures free courses at the centers of vocational education for the trafficked women and girls.

Continuing in this direction, besides the efforts (within the legal frame) with regard to the employment within the country, Law no. 9034, date 20.03.2003, for the "Migration of the Albanian Citizens for Employment Purposes" regulates the right to be employed or self-employed abroad. To the present there have been ratified three employment agreements respectively between Albania and Greece (1997), Italy (1996) and Germany (1991). Besides the agreements on the national level, the Italian regions are defining the annual quotas foreseen in the Italian legislation. These regions can conclude agreements on seasonal employment according to their needs. Aiming this, different regions have been contacted, including Lombardy, Puglia, etc. The agreements are signed by the two homologue ministries, while the private employment agencies (that cooperate with the Employment Agencies abroad) are the beneficiaries of these agreements. With the new law on migration (not yet adopted) MoLSAEO is in charge of reviewing the existing agreements with Greece and Italy. This draft-law foresees to enhance the diversity of the cooperation, meaning that other agreements be signed with other countries.

Also it should be emphasized, that based on the law “On the Employment Incitement⁹”, the National Employment Service (NES), through the regional and local offices, might intermediate for jobs abroad, based on the existing agreements for jobs with the other countries. NES is an autonomous public service at the central administrative and it responds to MOLSAEO.

Supporting the DCM no. 708, date 16.3.2003, “On the manner of licensing and the functioning of the Private Employment Agencies”, MOLSAEO, as the competent authority, has issued a guideline on how it should function, issue licenses and monitor them. Starting in year 1999, the Albanian legislation, allows the creation and the functioning of the Private Employment Agencies, which ensure:

- (i) Services that make the evaluations of the requests and applications for employment in and out of the country;
- (ii) Services that relate to job search;
- (iii) Services for the employment of the workers, to become more available for a third party, which depicts the duties and monitors their implementation.

In the National Employment Strategy (which is under revision) it will be emphasized on a closer cooperation between the Private Employment Agencies and the state homologue structures as well as a stricter control is foreseen in the licensing moment, aiming at the fact that the ones that receive the license are able to carry out the services they claim to offer. In this frame, even though during 2005, 2 fallacious agencies in Tirana were attacked, there are 16 Private Employment Agencies. In 2005, 10 agencies are licensed and 2 others were re-licensed. The activity of these private agencies is focused namely on the employment of a limited number of persons, especially of those abroad.

It is important to say that the Private Employment Agencies licensed by MoLSAEO are not alleged for incitement or assistance to the trafficking of human beings.

The services of the agencies are free for the jobseekers, while the expenditures for the mediation service made by the agencies are covered by the employer.

The State Inspectorate of Labor has received complaints for the private employment agencies that ask the jobseekers to pay great amounts of money for the mediation. This is a breach of the article 4 of the decision on the ways of licensing and functioning of the private employment agencies¹⁰ that defines that the costs of the mediation should be covered by the employer and should be free for the jobseeker.

As regards the public information, especially for the interested parties and individuals, on the services mentioned above, the staff of the Migration Directorate in the MoLSAEO carries out the delivery in the electronic and written media on the opportunities and ways for a secure employment migration. Another contemporary way to receive information is the internet WebPages such as www.migrantinfo.gov.al where necessary information on employment migration can be found.

⁹ Law no. 7995, date 20.09.1995, article 7

¹⁰ DCM no. 708, dated 16.10.2003.

As it is mentioned above, another important point in preventing the trafficking in persons (especially child trafficking) is the educational and professional training offer for those that have abandoned school or have been secluded because of blood feud. In this frame, in the implementation of the Guidelines no. 34, date 08.12.2004, "On the implementation of the project "The Second chance" it continues the education of the students that have dropped out of school and those students that are secluded as a result of the blood feud, by opening courses in Korçe, Elbasan, Berat. Meanwhile, has entered in schools the psychological service in all the big rural centres and there have been established courses in: Tirane, Durrës, Shkoder, Lushnje, Berat, Vlore. On the same line continue their efforts in this field:

- The CEFA project on the educational and the alternate shaping for the children that are over aged and have abandoned school.
- The opening of the courses in hairstyling, tailoring on the frame of the project (Rritja e Mundësive të Zhvillimit të Aftësive – Enhancing Skills Development Opportunities), etc.

Another key issue as regards the efforts on the prevention and fight against trafficking of human beings is the coordination of these efforts and actions among the involved actors and factors, such as among the ministries' employees and respective institutions, NGOs and National Coordinator for the fight against trafficking – Deputy Minister of Interior or Anti-Trafficking Unit established by the Prime Minister Order no. 203, dated 19.12.2005, etc. The main goal of the continuous strengthening of the coordination is the improvement of the efficiency of the implementation of the National Action Plan for Anti-Trafficking as well as to improve the quality of the reporting and international cooperation of Albania in the field of anti-trafficking.

The functioning of the special group with the Contact Points in every interested ministry and institution is improved. This group is established according to the Action Plan 2003-2004, by the Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 653, dated 17.10.2005, in order to monitor the work in the inter-institutional level in the period between the meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee for Anti-Trafficking.

Also, worth mentioning is the positive steps undertaken with regard to the implementation of the revised requests on the statistical reporting foreseen in the Action Plan as an important help for the evaluation of the activity and in order to accomplish the main international obligations for the reporting. Continuing this idea, the continuous improvement of the coordination of the official representation in Albania in the international and regional meetings on anti-trafficking has to be highlighted and facilitating the coordination of the Albanian Anti-Trafficking Strategy with that of the neighboring countries and those of the region, as well as with the recommendations of the international bodies and institutions.

3. REALIZATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY AGAINST THE TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN AND THE PROTECTION OF THE CHILDREN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

3.1. PREVENTION

On this framework, the conclusions on the draft-agreement with Greece, for the protection of the children victims of trafficking have been concluded, at the present it is expected the signing of the agreement, as well as is in process the establishment of the *Responsible Authority* which will coordinate the process of referral for initial help and protection and the long term rehabilitation of all the victims of trafficking, in close cooperation with all the included partners, where the main role is played by the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labor Social Affairs and Equal Chances, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Agreements will be signed in the future with other countries so that the field of action could be expanded, not only for the children but as well for other vulnerable groups; such agreements are related to the negotiations made for the repatriation of the unaccompanied children with Great Britain.

At the same time, MFA will identify other destination/transit countries, to create the capacity for the establishment of contact. Simultaneously, through the organizations such as the coalition BKTF, Terre des homes, there have been established contacts with Greek NGOs that work on combating trafficking such as "ARSIS".

As far as it takes the public awareness regarding the anti-trafficking efforts, there should be mentioned:

- In the secondary education, the grades I, II, VI, are intertwined in specific topics (Civics) according to the MoES,
- There have been published manuals for the students and the teachers of the 9 years schools, high schools, posters, leaflets, etc.
- The guidelines at the beginning of the first year of school on the civics work, where is emphasized the planning and the undertaking of the activities against trafficking of children, the war against drugs, prostitution
- The new curriculum of the secondary education covers problems that relate to making aware the students on trafficking prevention.
- Publications and manuals related to trafficking, gender issues (manuals for teachers, students of the secondary education) etc.
- It has been realized the qualification of the teachers to work with children and groups threatened by trafficking, especially in the areas with pronounced socio-economic problems,
- It has been developed the Program of Support in Security, collaboration school-police, which has been implemented in 88 schools and to the present it has extended the participation to 67 000 children. (Tirane, Vlore, Lezhe, Shkoder, Kukes).

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- There have been organized a range of poetry, essay contests, concerts, drawing exhibitions, meetings and talks with field specialists, short plays etc., which reflected above all the need for a collaboration school-police.
- Training and support for the teachers of 10 pilot schools that ensure preventive programs for the children through extracurricular activities as well as those students that do not attend school.
- Providing the teachers with reference materials on the human/children rights, violence cases that have gender basis, the trafficking in persons and migration etc.
- The providing of participant schools with TV and Video as well as documentaries to be used in various activities that trained teachers will organize with students.
- The organization of a contest for teachers on the development of educational plans within the school subject plan on the topics on which they were trained.

Regarding the various trainings on this line, should be emphasized those that have been done by the service structures and NGOs, that work in the anti-trafficking field. The training sector at SSS will conduct training on the children's standards, services for the trafficked children etc. The staff of NRCVT is trained and will be prepared continuously in cooperation with IOM, UNICEF etc.

As far as it concerns the measures for preventing and combating the phenomenon of school abandonment (during year 2004-2005 have abandoned school 0.9 % of the children whereas during year 2003-2004 it was 1.2%), or help given to the secluded children, it should be mentioned:

- MoLSAEO has cooperated with NGOs that work on combating the trafficking of children and have expanded their activity in the neighbouring countries, as the National Social Service, Terre des Home, etc.
- There have been trained 100 teachers, that work with children in 4 regions, children that have social problems
- It is ongoing the education with special programs of the students that have abandoned school and are secluded because of blood feud, classes have been opened in Korçe, Elbasan, Berat.
- Courses against illiteracy in Zhupan of Fier etc.
- Presently, there are 23 teaching schools, where 70 % of the students are girls;
- Courses have started in Tirana, Durres, Shkoder, Lushnje, Berat, Vlore;
- The order no. 394, dated 23.02.2004 "On the tariffs of the vocational education system", assures free courses in the public vocational centres for the groups in need, such as:
 - Roma community
 - Trafficked girls and women
 - Persons who have finished their prison sentence
 - Orphans.
- Even though to enter free professional courses they should be registered in the employment offices as unemployed jobseekers.
- The network of non-public vocational courses (private and NGOs). During year 2005 there have been licensed 81 vocational courses. These courses are diffused throughout the country. For the period January-November 2005 the

number of the trained in the Public Centres of Vocational Training reaches up to 6511, among which 3500 are women and girls. Whereas at the private Vocational centres the number of the trained is 6863 persons, among which the number of the trained women and girls reaches 5422.

- In Shkoder there are running two projects for orphan girls, directed by the “Shpresa” organization, that offer employment and income for them.
- YAPs Foundation (Youth Albanian Postal Initiative), in Tirane has employed youth in difficulty in various forms of social business.
- “Every Child” Association, supports families and children in need as well as children without parental care.
- SOS village offers guardianship for the prevention of making children enter residential institutions.
- During year 2005 have been supported with guardianship care about 350 children.

As far as it takes the enhancing the economic level of the marginalized groups, especially, for the Roma community, through the involvement in job enticing programs, material support, environment, financial means and human resources for the development of such businesses that have as destination the products of the tradition should be mentioned:

- The pupils and students who attend school away from their residence and fulfil the economic criteria, are granted scholarships;
- Pupils who live in the village, which do not have a 9-year school within 5 km., are placed in a public dormitory;
- Pupils and students who have the orphan status and fulfil the economic criteria;
- Pupils and students who have lost their parents’ custody with a court decision and fulfil the economic criteria
- DCM no.632, date 18.09.2003, “On the program of job enticement for the female jobseekers”, had as a priority the security of long term employment as well as the engagement of the jobseekers from various groups in difficulty in the job market. The implementation of the program began in year 2004, where 120 people (5% of the total number of those employed). From these 100 were mother with many children (4% of the total number of those employed), 86 Roma (3.5% of the total number of those employed), 54 heads of households, 18 divorced females with social problems as well as 7 jobseekers with limited capabilities.
- For year 2005 there have not been implemented programs for job stimulation, for lack of funds.
- Classes and kindergartens are opened near the Roma community in Shkoder, Korce, Gjirokaster, Morava, Roskovec, Llakatund, Novosele, Elbasan, Pogradec
- Courses against illiteracy in Zhupan of Fieri etc.
- The social centre “Murialdo”, “Don Bosko”, “Seize the Future (Kape te ardhmen)”, “Hope (Shpresa)” organization, YAPS foundation (Youth Albanian Postal Initiative), “Every Child” association, etc., offer services for children and young people in difficulty, on vocational formation, mediation

for employment, incitement for the small businesses, creation of the appropriate environment for the leisure time. These centres have cooperation contracts with MoLSAEO and are licensed by it for vocational courses. Financed by the church, Italian organizations etc.

- At the Don Bosko centre there is open a daily centre, which is frequented by around 100 children, mainly from the Roma community. In total the Social centre is been frequented by 1000 children and youths.
- “The children’s world. Human rights”, runs at the Kinostudio, Bregut te Lumit regions, and offers daily services on school integration for the Roma children. In cooperation with the Food World Program it is assured the support with a monthly food package for around 400 families in need. The association helps the Roma children of the “Bajram Curri” school and other schools of the periphery on school work.
- Shoqata “Help for the Children”, offers school and economic support or the children who have not been school, children that have abandoned school, children that work on the streets, trafficked children in Korce, Berat, Tirane. Around 80% of the children beneficiaries belong to the Roma and Egyptian community.
- “EDEN” Centre provides daily services and school activities for the street children and families in difficulty in Tirane.

Child labour:

- The Labour Inspectorate identifies the child labour within the above-mentioned legal limitations, without making a distinction between the Roma children and others. This institution issues individual authorizations for the children under 18 of age to be employed in the working positions not harmful to their health. During 2005, 52 employers of fewer than 18 years of age were identified.
- According to the law no. 7961, dated 12.07.1995, changed with the law no. 9125 dated 29.07.2003, article 98, “hiring of the children under 18 years old is forbidden, except for the cases when the child of 14-18 years old, is hired during the school holidays for easy jobs”. The following articles: 99 – “on easy jobs”. 100 – “on difficult and dangerous jobs”, article 101 – “on night-shift jobs”, article 102 – “general provisions”, impose to the Labour Inspectorate to control their implementation.

As regards the education and the scholarships or other school benefits:

- The DCM “on the financial and food rates in the dormitories and lounge, the state scholarships and the pupils and students payments in the public education institutions” support the pupils and students coming from the orphanage, the pupils from the Institution of the Deaf and Blind Children, etc.
- This year were developed and adopted with DCM VKM no. 658 and 659, dt. 17.10.2005, the General Standards of Service as well as the Standards of Services for the Children in Residential Institutions. The service standards will be published during year 2006 and there will be trainings for the providers of such services as well as for the inspectors of these services as well as their monitors, employees with the intention of applying them gradually.

- The Ministry of Education and Science, for the 2005-2006, is given 900 scholarships for the secondary education and 880 for the higher education.

There are 13 standards for the Children's Institutions, which are associated with indicators that measure quality and guidelines for the best possible implementation. Standards include:

- The clear definition of the services,
 - The existence of an individual caring plan for each child,
 - The preparatory plan for each child that will leave the centre,
 - The identification and fulfilment of all the physical, emotional, health, dental, food, clothing, self-belonging necessities,
 - the providing of recreational activities,
 - animation procedure at the service centre, as well as security for the security and the protection from abuse,
 - comfortable environment for the child and near the family settings,
 - defined structure of employees with job descriptions, etc.
- Near the National Social Service is in progress the establishment of the Sector of Trainings, which will be train service specialists, social workers, the NGO staff, etc.
 - In implementing the standards will be prepared Guideline to orient the providers of the services towards quality services and in accordance with the needs of children.

As far as it takes to public informing in relation to the provided services should be emphasized the fact that MoLSAEO on its website www.mpcs.gov.al gives updated information related to employment and employment stimulation. The National Employment Service and the Regional Employment Offices provide information, orientation and intermediation on job search for the registered unemployed jobseekers.

3.2. VICTIM'S PROTECTION

NRCVOT implements the set rules on waiting, interviewing, accommodation and the transfer of the children victims of trafficking or threatened by it, in the family or other services. There are child situation follow ups for each case if possible. These rules are improved continuously so that they can be unified gradually with the other waiting and reintegration centres for the trafficking victims, where there are set procedures on waiting, interviewing, and the training of the children victims of training. For year 2007 in the program of MoLSAEO is planned to take place the development of the standards for the victims' of trafficking.

This centre (NRCVOT) has a capacity of 100 clients, where there are separate places for children and the staff is trained to deal with children. Thus, for the January – December 2005 period, 36 children were assisted. At the centre there have been taken measures on improving and creating an appropriate environment for their accommodation, education and recreation. It has been improved the quality of the services provided through the qualification of the staff through training that cover

such services. This is carried out in cooperation with UNICEF (the project “On the strengthening of the security elements of the children’s rights in NRCVOT” which makes possible the staff training, enhancing of the creative activities within and outside the centre as well as little support for the children going out of the centre (follow up support), which is contributing with a modest play corner and some toys and books for children, since recently, the number of the children assisted in the Centre has increased.

The conducted activities include:

- Training activities
- Courses of the English language, Albanian language, computer courses.
- Educational activities
- Conduct rules
- Sports activities

The centre is an institution of the National Service Centre (MoLSAEO), and it functions on the basis of the close collaboration with MoI and IOM. The main objective of the Centre is to intensify the battle against the trafficking of the human beings and the public awareness enhancement on this phenomenon.

The organization and management of this centre consists of the following activities:

- Food, clothing, and temporary sheltering (covering all the immediate needs that the beneficiary shows to have)
- Psycho-social, medical and legal assistance
- Security and protection guaranteed to the witnesses
- Vocational, rehabilitation and integrating activities,
- Referral for integration
- Return to and joining the family.
- Following up the victims even after they leave the Centre (when possible)

The “Linza” centre has its own guidelines (continuously improved), on the basis of which is confidentiality. On of the main objectives of the Centre are the security and the protection of the witness. Besides the protection and the psycho-social help provide after the accommodation at the centre, it should be emphasized the work that is done on making them aware of the phenomenon, so that they can testify on the traffickers. The centre makes possible the cooperation between the police or the Prosecutor’s Office with the victims sheltered and protected at the centre. By taking in consideration the multi-functional role of the NRCVOT there are undertaken efforts of opening an atelier with vocational courses, such an event will mark the first step towards the reintegrating process” from a Waiting Centre to an Waiting Rehabilitating and Reintegrating Centre.

An important step on this direction is the signing on 18.07.2005, of the agreement of cooperation for the creation of the National Referral Mechanism for the Identification and Improved Assistance for the Victims of the Trafficking of the Human Beings by: the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, National Waiting Centre for the Victims of Trafficking, Ministry of Public Order, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vatra NGO, Vlore “Tjeter Vizion” NGO, Elbasan and the International Organization on Migration (IOM), Tirane. It has to be emphasized that for the victims witnesses to the trial

process, applies the principle of confidentiality in cooperation with other institutions such as prosecutors, police, etc.

With regard to the development of the protection and reintegration models for the victims, after the devolution of the institutions in municipalities, where they are located, it will start the de-institutionalization and establishment of the daily and supportive services for the families in need in order to raise the children in a familiar environment. 7 institutions will depend on the municipalities in 2006.

Law no. 9355, dated 10.03.2005, "On assistance and social services", municipalities have the right to finance the services of the NGOs with funds provided by the central budget. The fund for services will be allocated to the municipality/commune at the beginning of the year and in accordance to the priority necessities the municipality will provide the funds.

Besides the above information related to the organized trainings, it should be mentioned the fact that the "Don Bosko Social Centre", organizes 1-3 yrs courses for the social workers, where general information is received. For the year 2005 the total number of those that take the three year course for is 58. It has been collaborated with the Faculty of Social Sciences for the Social Work students to have the practicum at the MoLSAEO at the structures dependent to the Ministry and the Care Service Centres and Institutions.

As regards to the provided services for the protection and reintegration of the victims of trafficking, should be mentioned:

- Structures of the Social Service in the regional and local level have cooperated with the NGOs in order to help and support the cases of the trafficked children or in danger to be trafficked
- Regional committees in the district level are dealing with the necessary investigation for the involvement of all actors.
- The Services Sector is established in 4 pilot districts, where there is a specialist for the children. It will be established in 8 more districts during 2006.
- Every unit of the Local Government is going to have a contact point for the children.
- The Inter-Ministerial Committee and the Office for the protection of the children will be functional in early 2006.
- The Adoption Committee is the authority which follows the adoptions, realization of the adoptions and their follow up for reintegration. Some cases of custody are implemented by the NGOs – Every Child, Help for Children, SOS village, Hope and Homes for Children, etc.
- Municipalities/communes treat these families as special cases and support them.

3.3. INVESTIGATION AND SENTENCING OF TRAFFICKERS

The social services structures have cooperated with the public order forces, NGOs in order to prevent and support the children in danger to be trafficked or repatriated. The Ministry of Justice has prepared a legal package, according to which, the child, is treated with a psychologist and has a special protection during the investigation as well as during the trial. Presently, the package is at the stage of receiving the opinion of the Ministries.

3.4. ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN OF THE MINORS VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

One of the most important steps, as mentioned above, is the agreement with Greece for the protection and assistance to the children victims of trafficking that presently is in its final stage to be signed. In the same context, it is under process the establishment of the Responsible Authority.

As regards the instruction of the representatives of the Albanian consular services on the verification of the data, ways of issuing of the traveling documents in time for the children who can be repatriated, according to the respective order of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, 2003, such an activity is regulated and functions, as well as the issuing of the pass permit.

For the 2007, the Standards for the Services in the Centres for the Victims of Trafficking are planned to be drafted. The central institutions such as MFA¹¹ and MoLSAEO will respectively start to undertake measures for the negotiation of the agreement with Italy, if it will be requested by other authorities and offering of expertise in the working groups that will draft and negotiate the agreement. Also, measures will be taken to deliver the leaflets in the places of the destination/transit countries, as well as initiatives will be supported on the drafting of the informative materials. In this frame, the cooperation with the NGOs such as Terre des Hommes, Help for Children, etc. will continue.

3.5. COORDINATION OF THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING PARTNERS

According to the Strategy for the Children, an Inter-Ministerial Committee as well as its Technical Secretariat will be established for the rights of the children in the MoLSAEO. This Committee will have contact points in the districts, municipalities/communes, etc. At the same time MFA will immediately start, through its representatives abroad, with the identification of the NGOs and other institutions that deal with the trafficking and implement the policies of the anti-trafficking measures in the countries of interest. It will as well continue the supportive cooperation with MoLSAEO with NGOs that have inter-regional projects such as Terre des Hommes, Help for Children, etc.

¹¹ MFA is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

4. SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

As regards the short-term, on the first 6-months of 2006, in the frame of the objectives to be carried out in the anti-trafficking field, the following steps will be taken:

- **Improvement of the existing Anti-Trafficking Strategy** according to the government's priorities and program;
- **Signing of the Agreement with Greece** on the protection and assistance to the children – victims of trafficking and its ratification;
- Initiation of the talks for the **singing of such agreements with other countries** of the region and beyond, expanding the action field not only for the children, but for other vulnerable groups towards this phenomena as well, with countries of EU (such as United Kingdoms), regarding Albanian victims of trafficking;
- **Establishment of the Responsible Authority** which shall coordinate the reference process on initial assistance and protection also long-term rehabilitation of every victim of trafficking, in close cooperation with every involved partners, wherein the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunity, Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays the leading role.
- **Establishment of the Anti-trafficking Committees on local level**, which shall play a crucial role on preventing and combating this phenomenon, with representatives of police directorates in districts, educations directorates representatives from the local government and social services;
- Reactivation of the **reception centre for the victims of trafficking in the Rinas Airport** and its equipment with the necessary infrastructure and logistics serving this purpose.
- In cooperation with other involved actors **training courses** shall be conducted for all the employees on the general role of police, public prosecutor and courts: on knowledge on human rights and victims of trafficking; as well mutual trainings with special profile with police employees including female police employees, employees from the Prosecutor's Office and Court with specific duties regarding special cases of trafficking of human beings;
- Steps on improving **the legal, physical protection** and the personal identity of all the **victims/witnesses** in the trial cases and the reassessment of the compensation scheme for the schemes derived from the confiscated assets,
- As a result of the financial support by the international institutions it will be worked on providing the **Serious Crimes Court** with the necessary appropriate elements for the protection and the necessary security for the victims of trafficking that do testify during a trial process,
- **Awareness campaigns** will be undertaken with other actors involved, to inform and educate the population with efficiency, mainly the women, children and the groups threatened by trafficking, on the threats and causes of trafficking;
- The compiling and the concluding of the agreement with the **local and international NGOs**, that are involved in the war against the trafficking of human beings, by defining the duties and the responsibilities of this

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partnership and especially that on the division of the product of information and reporting.

- It will continue the **international and regional collaboration** against trafficking in persons and the traffickers in the legal field, rule of law and in the field of justice;

As a result of the serious undertaking and the close collaboration with all the national and international actors, we are fully convinced that the established objectives will be positively achieved.

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5. STATISTICS

1. STATISTICS ON ARRESTS, PROSECUTIONS, CHARGES AND CONVICTIONS FOR TIP AND TIP-RELATED OFFENCES: 2005

A) TIP OFFENCES¹²

(i) Numbers of cases and persons arrested and charged

Penal Code Article	Number of cases referred by police to prosecutor's office	Number of cases confirmed by prosecutor's office	Number of persons arrested/detained by court order	Number of persons charged by prosecutor's office and sent for trial
110/ai	2	3	4	0
114/aai	19	31	23	30
114/biii	30	12	15	10
128/biv	10	3	0	0

(ii) Prosecutions

Penal Code article	Number of persons tried	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons found not guilty	Number of persons still in court process
110/a	4	4	0	5
114/a	43	46	4	26
114/b	4	4	0	13
128/b	0	0	0	0

¹² In the given figures, there are included ongoing cases from previous years, and it should also be taken in consideration that a certain case might start under a certain article and during the investigations it might come out that the criminal offence is defined under a different article.

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(iii) Convictions and Sentences

Penal Code article	Number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment	Terms of imprisonment					Number of persons fined
		Up to 2 years	2 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	Over 10 years	Life imprisonment	
110/a	4	0	1	0	3	0	0
114/a	43	2	12	26	3	0	0
114/b	10	0	0	10	0	0	0
128/b	2	0	0	0	2	0	0

B) TIP-RELATED OFFENCES: ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING, ETC¹³.

(i) Numbers of cases and persons arrested and charged¹⁴

Penal Code Article	Number of cases referred by police to prosecutor's office	Number of cases confirmed by prosecutor's office	Number of persons arrested/detained by court order	Number of persons charged by prosecutor's office and sent for trial
297 ^v	104	115	23	129
298 ^{vi}	123	126	80	88

(ii) Prosecutions

¹³ In the given figures, there are included ongoing cases from previous years, and it should also be taken in consideration that a certain case might start under a certain article and during the investigations it might come out that the criminal offence is defined under a different article.

¹⁴ Including data from –OIC (Office of Internal Control) on 14 cases referred to the prosecution; 14 confirmed by the prosecution. 4 persons arrested/detained and 1 still wanted, for 9 the investigation is ongoing and for 5 the cases are dismissed.

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Penal Code article	Number of persons tried	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons found not guilty	Number of persons still in court process
297	109	106	0	43
298	69	68	0	41

(iii) Convictions and sentences

Penal Code article	Number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment	Terms of imprisonment					Number of persons fined
		Up to 2 years	2 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	Over 10 years	Life imprisonment	
297/1/2	65	63	2	0	0	0	30
298	61	29	13	5	14	0	2

C) TIP-RELATED OFFENCES: PROSTITUTION, VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON, ETC¹⁵.

(i) Numbers of cases and persons arrested and charged

¹⁵ In the given figures, there are included ongoing cases from previous years, and it should also be taken in consideration that a certain case might start under a certain article and during the investigations it might come out that the criminal offence is defined under a different article.

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Penal Code Article	Number of cases referred by police to prosecutor's office	Number of cases confirmed by prosecutor's office	Number of persons arrested/detained by court order	Number of persons charged by prosecutor's office and sent for trial
113 ^{vii}	14	14	3	13
114 ^{viii}	11	15	13	10
115 ^{ix}	5	2	2	4

(ii) Prosecutions

Penal Code article	Number of persons tried	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons found not guilty	Number of persons still in court process
113	14	14	0	10
114	15	14	2	7
115	3	3	0	0

(iii) Convictions and sentences

Penal Code article	Number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment	Terms of imprisonment					Number of persons fined
		Up to 2 years	2 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	Over 10 years	Life imprisonment	
113	8	7					1
114	32	8	6	16			2
115		2					

SUMMARY OF TIP AND TIP-RELATED OFFENCES AND PENALTIES IN ALBANIAN PENAL CODE

i Article 110/a: Recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons through threat or use of force or other forms of compulsion or deception, or the giving or receipt of payment or other benefits to a person who controls another person, for the purpose of exploitation for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, work or compelled services, slavery or others forms similar to slavery, making use of or transplanting organs, as well as other forms of exploitation. **(5-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 2-5 million lek)**

Organization, management and financing of the trafficking of persons **(7-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 4-6 million lek)**

In collusion with others, or repeatedly, or accompanied by mistreatment, making the victim commit various actions through the use of physical or psychological force, or causing serious harm to the trafficked person's health **(Not less than 15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek)**.

Causing death to the trafficked person **(Life imprisonment)**.

Abuse of state function or public service **(Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth)**.

ii Article 114/a: Aggravated exploitation of prostitution, involvement of minors, coercion, compulsion to engage in prostitution outside the jurisdiction, involvement in collusion with others, repeatedly, or of persons holding government or public functions **(7-15 years imprisonment)**.

iii Article 114/b: Recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of women through threat or use of force or other forms of compulsion or deception, or the giving or receipt of payment or other benefits to a person who controls another person, for the purpose of exploitation for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, work or compelled services, slavery or others forms similar to slavery, making use of or transplanting organs, as well as other forms of exploitation **(7-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 3-5 million lek)**.

Organization, management and financing of the trafficking of women **(10-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 5-7 million lek)**.

In collusion with others, or repeatedly, or accompanied by mistreatment, making the woman victim commit various actions through the use of physical or psychological force, or causing serious harm to the victim's health **(Not less than 15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek)**.

Causing death of the victim **(Not less than 20 years or life imprisonment)**.

Abuse of state function or public service **(Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth)**.

iv Article 128/b: Recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of minors, for the purpose of exploitation for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, work or compelled services, slavery or other forms similar to slavery, making use of or transplanting organs, as well as other forms of exploitation **(7-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 4-6 million lek)**.

Organization, management and financing of the trafficking of minors **(10-20 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek)**.

In collusion with others, or repeatedly, or accompanied by mistreatment, making the child victim commit various actions through the use of physical or psychological force, or causing serious harm to the health of the trafficked child **(Not less than 15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek)**.

Causing death of the child **(Not less than twenty years or life imprisonment, plus a fine from 8-10 million lek)**.

Abuse of state function or public service **(Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth)**.

v Article 297: Illegal crossing of the border **(Fine or up to 2 years imprisonment)**.

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- ^{vi} Article 298: Sheltering, accompanying, making available or use of means of sea, air or other transportation, with the purpose of assisting in the illegal crossing of the border (***1-4 years imprisonment, plus fine from 3-6 million lek***)
Assisting in illegal crossing of the border for purposes of profit (***3-7 years imprisonment, plus fine from 3-6 million lek***).
In collusion with others, or repeatedly, or causing serious harm (***5-10 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek***).
Causing death (***Not less than 15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 8-10 million lek***).
Abuse of state function or public service (***Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth***)
- ^{vii} Article 113: Practicing prostitution (***fine or up to 3 years imprisonment***).
- ^{viii} Article 114: Inducement, intermediation or recompensing in practicing prostitution (***fine or up to 5 years imprisonment***)
- ^{ix} Article 115: Possession, exploitation, financing or renting facilities for practicing prostitution (***fine or up to 10 years imprisonment***).