

## SEMESTRIAL PROGRESS REPORT

### - FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS -

#### 1. Legislation

The Governmental Decision no. 1.584/08.12.2005, published in the Official Gazette no. 5/4.01.2006 regarding the setting up and functioning of the **National Agency for Preventing the Trafficking in Human Beings and for Monitoring the Assistance provided to the Victims of the Trafficking in Human Beings** was drawn up and adopted.

#### 2. Institutional Development. Administrative Capacity.

**The National Agency for Preventing the Trafficking in Human Beings and for Monitoring the Assistance provided to the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings**, established by the G.D. no. 1584/08.12.2005 aims at coordinating and evaluating the activities for preventing the trafficking in human beings and for monitoring the assistance provided to its victims. For reaching its purpose, the Agency is cooperating with the Romanian and foreign non-governmental organizations, as well as with the inter-governmental organizations in order to raise the awareness among the public at large with respect to the phenomenon and its consequences. Together with the establishment of the Agency, the activity of the **National Office for Preventing the Trafficking in Human Beings and Monitoring the Assistance provided to the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings** ended.

The National Agency for Preventing the Trafficking in Human Beings and for Monitoring the Assistance provided for the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings has a total number of 50 positions, as following:

- **34 positions** at the central level:
  - The leadership of the Agency is represented by a President (at the rank of a General Director in the Ministry of Administration and Interior), helped by a Deputy General Director;
  - Three services: The Service for Research, Evaluation and Prognosis (8 positions), the Service for Preventing the Trafficking in Human Beings and for Monitoring the Protection of Victims (9 positions) and the Legal, Public Relations and Human Resources Service (9 positions);
  - Two departments: the Financial Department (3 positions) and the Secretariat Department (3 positions).

- **16 positions** at the regional level – at the territorial level, the Agency will be represented by 8 regional departments, with 2 positions each.

The Agency has already started its activity and the priority activities regarding the creation of a national system of identification and referral of the trafficking in human beings' victims being launched with the participation of the public institutions involved and in consultation with the specialized NGO-s. Moreover, the National Strategy against trafficking in human beings and its corresponding Action Plan have been drafted and are in the final evaluation stage, and will be submitted to the Romanian Government for approval by the end of July, 2006.

The legal protocol between the Public Ministry and the Ministry of Administration and Interior was concluded in order to permit to the prosecutors from the Directorate for Investigation of the Offences and Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIOOCT) to access the data base necessary for the investigations and criminal pursuance activity. The joint methodologies – technical rules for access the data base – are currently in process of being drawn up and a work-group for training the prosecutors who will have access to the data base will be carried out.

The technical department for analyze the information will be set out within the Centre for Operational Applications.

The organigram and the organizational chart for the Centre for Operational Applications of the prosecutors within DIOOCT are in process of being drawn up and will contain a module for training/specialize the prosecutors in the field of combating the trafficking in human beings.

### **3. Training the personnel**

Between August 2005 and January 2006, the International Organization for Migration – Bucharest has developed, in partnership with the Directorate for Protecting the Victims and for the Social Reintegration of the Offenders, within the Ministry of Justice and with the National Office for Preventing the Trafficking in Human Beings and Monitoring the Assistance provided to the Victims of the Traffic, a series of ten seminars grouped in three training sessions on the **Development and implementation of a system for the identification and referral of the victims of traffic, both Romanian and foreign citizens in Romania**. These seminars were attended by 480 experts: judges, prosecutors, reintegration counselors and police officers. The seminars took place within the *Improving the legal assistance provided to the victims of trafficking in Romania* Project, implemented by the I.O.M – Bucharest with the support of UNICEF Romania, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Embassy of Great Britain in Bucharest and the US Department of State.

Between 11-13 January, 2006 the Association for promoting juvenile justice „Jean Valjean”, in cooperation with the National Magistrature Institute and with the financial and logistic support of the Foundation „Terre des hommes- Lausanne” and „Terre des hommes – Romania” organized a seminar for training of trainers for magistrates on „Judicial procedures in the fight against child trafficking and migration”.

The Programme „**Cooperation between the public – private sectors for preventing child trafficking and sexual exploitation in hotel industry and tourism**”, in partnership with the Federation of hotel industry and tourism in Romania, Save the Children Romania, Ministry of Transport, Constructions and Tourism, the National Authority for Child Rights Protection promoted the *Code of conduct for the protection of the children against sexual exploitation in tourism*. This Code represents an international project, launched by ECPAT - End Child Prostitution and Trafficking and supported by UNICEF and Tourism World Organization. So far, this Code was signed by two hotel networks. A manual for training the personnel within the hotel industry was finalized and presented in a seminar in January 2006. Moreover, within the same programme, on May 22, 2006 a representative of the National Agency for Preventing the Trafficking in Human Beings and for Monitoring the Assistance provided to the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings participated in a round table organized in Bucharest by the organization Save the children on the *Code of conduct for the protection of the children against sexual exploitation in tourism*. In the second faze of the project *Code of conduct* there will be organized sessions for professional training of the personnel within the tourism industry.

On March 14-15, 2006 the first course developed within the project of Romanian-Dutch bilateral cooperation “Countering the trafficking in human beings/the illegal migration” on “Overview of the phenomenon” took place and 19 officials from the General Directorate for Combating the Organized Crime, 19 officials from the border police and 2 prosecutors attended.

During 16-18 of May, 2006, a representative of the National Agency for Preventing the Trafficking in Human Beings and for Monitoring the Assistance provided to the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings took part at the seminar “Trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation, global phenomenon and ways to decrease it at the regional level” organized by the “Centre Ratiu for Democracy Turda”. The objective of this seminar is to create a network of trafficking in human beings prevention formed by NGO-s and institutions from the counties of Bistrița, Maramureș, Bihor, Cluj, Alba, Sibiu, Covasna, Harghita.

At the international level, during the reference period the following courses and seminars took place:

- On December 4-6, 2005 in Thessalonica, Greece a seminar on countering the trafficking in human beings took place.
- The prosecutors from the DIOOCT participated in a training organized by the International Organization for Migration on countering the trafficking in human beings; police officials, judges and representatives of some NGO-s also attended this training. During February 28 and March 2, 2006 the prosecutors also participated in the regional seminar on “Cross border Cooperation in countering the trafficking in human beings” organized by the General Inspectorate of the Border Police and the Embassy of USA.
- On March 24-25, 2006 an international seminar organized by the National Agency for Preventing the Trafficking in Human Beings and Monitoring the Assistance Provided to the Victims of the Trafficking in Human Beings and the Ecumenical Association of the Churches from Romania (AIDRom) which aimed to prepare the anti-traffic campaign on the occasion of the Football World Cup

2006. In this campaign various prevention materials titled “Attention to the trafficking in human beings” (flies, posters) which will be distributed at the cross border points from the east part of country.

#### **4. Activities for preventing the trafficking in human beings and providing assistance to the victims of the traffic**

##### **a) Trafficking in human beings prevention**

For developing prevention projects, the former National Office for Preventing and Monitoring the Protection of Human Trafficking Victims signed various **collaboration protocols** in order to develop activities of informing and raising the awareness among the juveniles with respect to the human trafficking phenomenon. Out of the activities developed in the reference period there should be mentioned the “**Prevention of the trafficking in children**” project (which is carried out between September 2005 and September 2006). This project is carried out in partnership with the organization Red Cross – Romania and Red Cross – Denmark and aims to reduce the vulnerability to the traffic of the children in special situations like: street children, juveniles who abandoned school or who come from disadvantaged groups (Roma groups). The activities are developed by the proximity policemen, supported by the Red Cross volunteers. This project has been carried out in 10 cities with a total of 1200 participants in the 40 seminars.

**On December 5, 2005**, the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, together with the I.O.M. and the Ministry of Education and Research gave the awards of the poster contests for students "**The only way is the legal way**". The ceremony took place in the conference room of the Scholar Inspectorate of the Iasi County. The contest is a part of a prevention campaign against the illicit migration towards the countries of the European Union, especially towards the UK.

##### **b) Assistance provided to the victims of traffic**

###### **The situation of the centres of human trafficking victims’ assistance:**

There are 8 centres of assistance and protection to the victims of the trafficking in human beings which function within the county councils, created based on the Law no. 678/ 12.11.2001, out of which one centre was set up in 2005, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, as a result of a protocol concluded between the I.O.M. and the Ministry of Administration and Interior. This centre grants shelter and protection to the victims of the traffic repatriated by I.O.M. as well as to the victims identified by the police. The 8 centres function in the counties of Satu Mare, Arad, Timiș, Mehedinți, Botoșani, Iași, Galați and, respectively, Bucharest. In these centres the victims receive medical, psychological, social and legal assistance, being previously informed on the rights they have according to the Law 211 from 2004 regarding some measures for

ensuring the protection of the victims of the crimes. Other two centres will be created in the counties of Giurgiu and Ilfov.

As a result of the Programme of National Interest no. 415, there were set up, with governmental funds, 12 transit centres for the unaccompanied juveniles or victims of the trafficking in human beings in the following counties: Satu Mare, Arad, Bihor, Timis, Mehedinti, Giurgiu, Iasi, Neamt, Botosani, Suceava, Galati, Bucharest (district 2). These centres were created in 2004 and 2005 in order to exclusively provide protection and specialized assistance to the children and function within the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection. These centres have a total capacity of 133 places, out of which the transit centre from Bucharest has a capacity of 30 places.

As regards to the non-governmental centres, these centres provide long-term assistance services to the victims of the trafficking. Within these centres, the victims of the trafficking are assisted at least 6 months or until they solve their problems (medical, social, educational problems, development of independent life habits etc.). The assistance is provided in the shelters of the organizations or at home. The organizations with own shelters are: Reaching Out (Pitești), ADPARE (București), Generație Tânără (Timișoara), Mitropolia Banatului (Timișoara)

**Number of the victims that received assistance in a centre in the reference period**

<b>Governmental Centres (included the centre possessed in partnership with the IOM)</b>				<b>Non-governmental Centres</b>			
<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Total</b>
38	1	-	39	27	30	6	63