

PROGRESS REPORT

01 May - 30 June 2006

FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

1. Legislation

In the reference period the project for amending the Governmental Decision no. 1584/2005 concerning 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 Trafficking in Human Beings was drawn up in order to increase the number of employees, both in the central structure and in the territorial centers and to strengthen the role that the Agency is playing in coordinating the activities against trafficking in human beings.

Among the novelty elements, the following should be mentioned:

- Entitlement of the Agency for elaborating and managing the National Interest Programs (PIN) on preventing the trafficking in human beings and assisting the victims, with funds from the state budget;
- Entitlement of the Agency for contracting assistance services for the victims of trafficking in human beings with specialized NGOs;
- Increasing the number of the regional centers of the Agency from 8 to 15;
- Nominating the Agency as the institution for broadcasting official data on trafficking in human beings;

The project was finalized at the end of June 2006 and sent for the consultation to the other structures from the Ministry of Administration and Interior. It will be subsequently sent for approval to the other institutions involved, in order to be approved by the Government no later than August 2006.

In order to improve the inter-institutional coordination in the field of trafficking in human beings, the projects of the 2006-2010 National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings and of the 2006-2007 National Plan for implementing the Strategy were finalized.

These have been proposed for the public consultation on the Ministry of Administration and Interior web site, www.mai.gov.ro and on the web site of the nongovernmental organizations involved in the field of the prevention of the trafficking in human beings and for providing assistance to its victims, www.antitrafic.ro. Within the Interministerial Working Group, which took place on July 3, 2006, the final versions of the two projects were analyzed. These will be sent for approval to the responsible institutions and will be approved by a Government Decision no later than August 2006.

2. Institutional Development. Administrative Capacity

Between June 12-16, 2006, through an open and transparent process of selection there have been occupied three out of the four vacancies within the central structure of the Agency, respectively the positions for officers, specialized in psychology, project management and human resources. The position for a sociologist is still vacant, because none of the candidates has fulfilled the minimum conditions. Currently, out of the 34 positions within the central structure of the Agency, 19 positions have been occupied, out of which 14 in the operational services and 5 in the auxiliary departments. The announcement for occupying two positions in the central structure from external source has already been published, and the procedures for occupying 3 more positions from internal source have been initiated. Also, between July 5 and August 4, a new personnel selection will be organized for occupying 16 positions within the 8 territorial centers. At the same time, procedures for acquiring places for the territorial structures headquarters from 8 counties (Argeş, Cluj, Constanţa, Dolj, Galaţi, Iaşi, Timiş and Bucharest) were initiated.

In order to draw up the Agency's own budget, the necessary costs for the complete operationalisation of the Agency were assessed. The budget proposal, which includes the financial measures necessary for fulfilling the recommendations from the European Commission Monitoring Report from May 16, 2006, was approved by the MoAI

leadership and presented to the Ministry of Public Finances and will enter into force when the budget allocated to the MoAI is rectified, no later than October 2006.

In the view of the organization and functioning of the national centralized system for evidence of the victims of trafficking in human beings, which could allow the rapid providing of the necessary assistance to them, the procedures for the acquisition of IT equipments were initiated. The conditions of contract have been approved and the announcement for the organization of the public tender dossier was published in the Official Gazette from June 29, 2006. In order to streamline the providing of specialized assistance, the data base of the Agency with the institutions and organizations involved and their distribution in the territory was elaborated.

In consultation with the NGOs and the institutions involved, the procedures for identifying the assistance services necessary for the victims (medical, psychological, juridical etc.) and which cannot be provided adequately by the governmental institutions (mainly, due to a lack of qualified personnel and insufficient budget). A cost assessment and setting up of a program financed by the state budget and/or by other sources through which these services could be provided complementarily by NGOs, through a contract concluded with the Agency, is expected.

In order to make functional a free Help-line service within the Agency (Green number), the procedures for attracting the most important provider of such services and other potential sponsors have been initiated. The service will be operational no later than August 2006. The collaboration protocols of the Agency with CARITAS Organization and AIDRom are currently in the final stage and will be signed. Moreover, negotiations for concluding one protocol with the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees are being carried out.

3. Training of the personnel

In the reference period the following meetings and seminars took place:

- between 12 and 17 June 2006, within a multidisciplinary team, a representative of the Agency participated in a training of trainers for preventing and countering the

- trafficking in human beings, organized within the AGIS programme of the Council of Europe and financed by the International Organization for Migration. The multidisciplinary team (composed of judges, police officers, NGOs representatives) will disseminate the acquired information within seminars or courses which will subsequently take place in Romania and will be attended by representatives nominated by the institutions involved in the field of trafficking in human beings;
- on 20-21 June 2006 a representative of 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 representatives of the General Inspectorate of the Border Police, General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police – Directorate for Criminal Investigation, Prevention Service (General Directorate of the Police from Bucharest) and International Organization for Migration participated in a training session within the “Joint East West Multi Stakeholder Training on trafficking in children for sexual purposes in Europe” project, carried out by the “Save the Children” Organization, in partnership with Ecpat Law Enforcement Group. The training aimed to contribute to the improvement of the knowledge on prevention and countering the child sexual exploitation, as well as to increase the cooperation level between the institutions with competences in the field of the protection of the child-victim of human trafficking.

4. Activities of prevention of trafficking in human beings and providing assistance to the victims of trafficking

a) Prevention of the trafficking in human beings

- Within the SENS project, the Agency, in partnership with the AIDRom organization initiated and developed a regional campaign for preventing the trafficking in human beings during the Football World Cup from Germany 2006.

This campaign aimed to diminish the status of Romania as origin and transit country for the victims of trafficking.

The campaign consisted in:

- the training of the officers from the border points;
- the distribution of the materials at the cross border points with arrival from and departure to Germany as well as at the Henri Coanda and Aurel Vlaicu airports. These materials, entitled “Do not pass on human beings” (“Cu fiintele umane nu se paseaza”) inform the potential victims of trafficking in human beings on a few aspects of trafficking in human beings as well as of the telephone number they can call in special situations (08000111777). This number can be called in eight languages, including Romanian.
- there were also distributed 1500 pieces of informative-preventive materials at the cross border points and 800 at the airports.

The activities were monitored by the SOLWODI Organization, the main financer of the campaign.

After the last monitoring visit from 8 June 2006, the SOLWODI Organization decided to supplement the informative-preventive materials elaborated by AIDRom and the National Agency for Preventing the Trafficking in Human Beings and Monitoring the Assistance provided to the Victims of the Trafficking in Human Beings with 400 flyers and 50 posters.

- On 3 June 2006, at the MTV Romania Awards 2006 in Cluj, the materials produced within the MTV Exit international campaign (126 DVD MTV Exit, 1120 MTV Exit (ROM) brochures) and materials designed by the volunteers within the regional campaigns were distributed. This activity was attended by 50 volunteers (pupils aged between 15 and 18, from different counties: Argeş, Bacău, Bucureşti, Cluj, Dâmboviţa and Prahova) from the regional campaigns in the field of prevention of trafficking in human beings.

The Agency operated in partnership with the International Organization for Migration – Romania Mission; MTV Romania; ADPARE; CARITAS Bucharest; Ratiu Turda Foundation.

b) Assistance provided to the victims of trafficking

The situation of the centers for providing assistance to the victims of trafficking in human beings

In the reference period, the Agency assessed the operational capacities of the 8 governmental centers for providing assistance and protection to the victims of trafficking in human beings, situated in the counties of Satu Mare, Arad, Timiș, Mehedinți, Botoșani, Iași, Galați and Bucharest.

The findings indicated good accommodation conditions, but the quality of the assistance and social reintegration services of the victims should be improved.

As regards to the 9th governmental centre which must be operationalised according to the Law 678/2001, the decision of the Giurgiu County Council on allocating the necessary space for its functioning is expected.

There are 95 effective places available for the victims of trafficking in human beings in the governmental centers; there should be specified that the governmental centre from Timiș county is in process of renovation.

The number of the victims who received assistance in the reference period

Age Sex	TOTAL	Under 14 years	14-18 years	18-25 years	Over 25 years
Male	42	1	34	5	2
Female	88	1	48	29	10
TOTAL	130	2	82	34	12

Out of the total number of the assisted victims, 81 were assisted in the governmental centers and the other 49 were assisted in the nongovernmental centers. The total number of the victims (130) refers both to the victims who received assistance in the centers and to those who were assisted in other places (for example, at home).

The statistics presented in the table above were collected from the governmental centres and from the following non-governmental organizations: Reaching Out, ADPARE, Betania, Young Generation, Banat Mitropoly.

The International Organization for Migration assisted 5 cases of victims of trafficking in human beings from the Republic of Moldova in order to repatriate them to their origin country.

According to the provisions of the Emergency Ordinance 79/2005, the foreign citizens – victims of trafficking in human beings have the right to receive assistance and protection in the Authority for Aliens shelters as well as in the National Office for Refugees shelters. Within the reference period, there was no victim of trafficking in human beings registered in the 2 shelters of the Authority for Aliens (Otopeni and Arad) and neither in the 5 shelters of National Office for Refugees (Maramures, Timis, Galati, and other 2 in Bucharest).

In order to improve the monitoring system of the assistance provided to the victims of trafficking in human beings, the Agency has drawn up a victim evidence fiche project, which has been proposed for the consultation to the interested organizations and institutions and published on www.antitrafic.ro web site. Suggestions from the nongovernmental organizations have been received and will be analyzed and centralized in order to elaborate the final fiche.