



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

**NATIONAL PLAN FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN
BEINGS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2012 TO 2015**

Zagreb, 2012

INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in human beings is one of the cruellest examples of violation of human rights for reasons of achieving illegal profit, and it is so widely spread across the globe that no country in the world is spared of it. Victims' human rights are violated in that their freedom of movement is limited, their communication with their families and the environment is made impossible, and under such circumstances they are abused in various ways. Victims of trafficking are for the most part women, children and, more and more frequently, men.

In 2002, the Republic of Croatia started building the system for combating trafficking in human beings, and to this purpose it ratified the most important international documents in this area, such as: the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols Thereto: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Also, the Republic of Croatia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, as well as the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

The UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols Thereto represents an exceptionally important international document in this field, as it characterizes human trafficking as one of the most egregious violations of human rights. Furthermore, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children gives the internationally acknowledged definition of trafficking in human beings, which has been fully incorporated into the legislation of the Republic of Croatia (Article 175 of the Penal Code).

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings is also an important document, given that its provisions are focused on setting high standards in providing help and assistance to victims of human trafficking, and not just with respect to the criminal prosecution and sanctioning of perpetrators. An important document at the EU level is the Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (replacing the Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA). This Directive envisages, among other things, stricter sanctioning of the offence of trafficking in human beings, and the confiscation of the proceeds of crime from persons against whom a final conviction for trafficking in human beings has been pronounced.

The provisions of the aforementioned international documents are incorporated into the normative framework of the Republic of Croatia.

Also, in order to build an efficient system for combating trafficking in human beings, the Republic of Croatia has adopted a series of strategic and operative documents in the field of combating human trafficking, among which it is necessary to particularly emphasize the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of 2002, the National Program for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings from 2005 to 2008, with the pertaining operational plans, the National Plan for Combating Trafficking Children 2005-2007, and the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011.

After a decade of fighting against trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Croatia, an integral system has been developed, which covers all activities from the moment of identifying victims of human trafficking until their full integration into society. Within the system of combating trafficking, cooperation has been established between the competent authorities of state administration and civil society organizations.

However, it is of utmost importance that the system that has already been set up is constantly upgraded, and that it is adjusted to the latest trends with respect to the phenomenon of

trafficking in persons. In the previous three-year period of applying the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, for the period from 2009 to 2011, it was noted that the Republic of Croatia is increasingly becoming a country of origin and a country of destination for victims of human trafficking, particularly for victims from this region. Also, although most victims are still women and girls, it was noted that there is an increase in the number of male victims who are subject to labour exploitation. The competent institutions have responded to these trends by action focused on more efficient identification of victims of human trafficking.

After finalising the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the implementation results were evaluated. The new National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2012 to 2015 covers all areas of previous national documents that deal with the topic of combating human trafficking, and the proposed measures and activities are based on the operational experience of all competent bodies of state administration, civil society organizations and international organizations.

The new National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2012 to 2015 dedicates special attention to further strengthening of cooperation in criminal proceedings between the Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of the Interior in cases of human trafficking, and to advancing the methods aimed at identifying the victims of human trafficking and ensuring the protection of the best interests of human trafficking victims.

The areas covered by the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2012 to 2015 are the following:

1. The legislative framework
2. Identification of the victims of human trafficking
3. Detection, prosecution and sanctioning of perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings
4. Assistance and protection to the victims of human trafficking
5. Prevention
6. Education
7. International cooperation
8. Coordination of activities

THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

In the Republic of Croatia, there is a legislative framework, which makes it possible to prosecute and sanction perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings and provide assistance and protection to victims of trafficking. In attempts to continuously improve the set up system, it is necessary to correspondingly enhance the legislative framework. In the implementation period of the last National Plan, attention was dedicated to the strengthening of the legal framework and to procedures around the voluntary return of the victims of human trafficking and their social and economic integration/reintegration into society, so that accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Protocol on Integration/Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings. This resulted in adopting documents aimed at the economic and social empowerment of victims of trafficking in human beings. This National Plan dedicates special attention to developing documents on cooperation in criminal proceedings in cases of human trafficking between the Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of the Interior, aimed at strengthening the already existing cooperation between these institutions.

We would particularly like to emphasize that in the period of applying this National Plan, two Penal Codes will be applied. The currently effective Penal Code (Official Gazette „*Narodne novine*“ No. 110/97, 27/98-correction, 50/00, 129/00, 51/01, 111/03, 190/03, 105/04, 84/05, 71/06, 110/07, 152/08 and 57/11), which in its Article 175 defines the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings and slavery, and which is in force until the 31st December 2012. As of the 1st January 2013, the new Penal Code will come into force (Official Gazette No. 125/11), in which the current Article 175 is divided into two criminal offences: “Slavery” in Article 105 and “Trafficking in Human Beings” in Article 106.

Objective:

- 1. To improve the legislative framework with the aim of protecting the victims and detecting, prosecuting and the appropriate sanctioning of the perpetrators of the criminal offences of trafficking in human beings and slavery.**

Measure 1. Adopting the Amendments to the Standard Operative Procedures of the Ministry of the Interior in processes aimed at combating trafficking in human beings

Activity:

1. Developing the Amendments to the Standard Operative Procedures of the Ministry of the Interior in processes aimed at combating trafficking in human beings in cases of forced prostitution

Beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior

Deadline: 31 December 2013

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: drafted Amendments to the Standard Operative Procedures of the Ministry of the Interior in processes aimed at combating trafficking in human beings

Measure 2. Adopting a Rulebook on Awarding Scholarships to pupils in order to ensure education to victims of trafficking in human beings

Activity:

1. Developing a Rulebook on Awarding Pupils' and Students' Scholarships to Victims of Human Trafficking

Beneficiary: National Foundation for the Support of Pupil and Student Standards

Co-executors: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Deadline: 31 December 2013

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: the Rulebook on Awarding Pupils' and Students' Scholarships to Victims of Human Trafficking drafted and adopted

Measure 3. Adopting Criteria on the selection of civil society organisations for membership and participation in the work of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Activity:

1. Developing Criteria on the selection of civil society organizations for membership and participation in the work of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Deadline: 31 December 2014

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: Criteria on the selection of civil society organizations for membership and participation in the work of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings developed and adopted

IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Strengthening the proactive methods of identifying human trafficking victims is a basic requirement for the successful functioning of the entire system of combating trafficking in human beings. Bearing in mind the fact that the ways of recruiting and exploiting the victims are changing constantly, as well as the “routes” that the traffickers in human beings use, it is necessary to constantly upgrade the knowledge of police officers about this phenomenon.

The trends in this area are also changing constantly, and there has been an increase noted in the number of victims who are Croatian nationals, where the Republic of Croatia is increasingly becoming the country of origin and destination of the victims of trafficking in human beings. It is also important to emphasize that victims who are foreign nationals, and for whom the Republic of Croatia is the country of destination, increasingly come from the countries of this region.

All the competent institutions have identified these trends and have adjusted their work on combating trafficking in human beings to these trends. This National Plan dedicated special attention to discovering potential cases of trafficking in human beings during the tourism season and to the detection of recruitment of victims through the Internet. Also, with the aim of ensuring efficient identification of victims, the measures within this National Plan are also aimed at strengthening and training of mobile team members.

Objective:

1. Strengthening proactive human trafficking victim identification procedures

Measure 1. Perfecting the application of proactive methods of discovering and identifying human trafficking victims

Activity:

1. Application of standard operative procedures in processes aimed at combating human trafficking and application of a proactive approach according to the police work model guided by criminal intelligence information, for the purpose of improving the identification of human trafficking victims and discovering criminal offence perpetrators pursuant to Article 175 of the Penal Code (i.e. Article 105 and Article 106 of the new Penal Code)

Beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: consistently applied standard operative procedures in processes aimed at combating human trafficking

2. Strengthening the proactive work of police officers in discovering victim recruitment through the internet and other open sources

Beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior

Co-executor: Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: increased number of discovered and prosecuted cases of victim recruitment through the internet

3. Strengthening of the proactive work of police officers in detecting potential cases of human trafficking during the tourism season on the coast

Beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: increased number of detected cases of trafficking in human beings during the tourism season on the coast

Measure 2. Strengthening mobile teams

Activity:

1. Professional training of mobile team members in accordance with the Protocol on identifying, helping and protecting human trafficking victims
2. Organizing two annual two-day joint training sessions for mobile team members and for police officers working on organized crime

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Co-executor: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, Ministry of the Interior, Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: HRK 20,000.00

Implementation indicators: professionally trained mobile team members and police officers working on organized crime and professional trainings held

Measure 3. Continuation of cooperation with civil society organizations in connection with activities in the area of identifying human trafficking victims

Activity:

1. Regularly informing civil society organizations (members of the Operative Team) about the victims of human trafficking identified and on the forms of assistance and protection provided at meetings of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights and the Ministry of the Interior

Co-executor: civil society organizations i Croatian Red Cross

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: civil society organizations (members of the Operative Team) informed about the victims of human trafficking identified and the forms of assistance and protection provided

2. Regular updating the data on the calls received by the SOS line
3. Regular reporting to the members of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on activities resulting from information related to the calls to the SOS telephone line

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights and the Ministry of the Interior

Co-executor: civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: regular information of the members of the Operative Team about the calls to the SOS line and the activities undertaken by the Ministry of the Interior based on the information related to the calls to the SOS line

Objective:

2. **Regional and international cooperation in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and identification of victims**

Measure 1. Participation in the implementation of international and regional field operations and operational projects oriented at identifying victims and combating the crime of human trafficking (Interpol, Europol, SELEC, regional and international police cooperation based on bilateral agreements)

Activity:

1. Participation in field operations and operational projects

Beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior

Co-executor: Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: field operations conducted and reports created on the results of the executed field operations and operational projects

DISCOVERING, PROSECUTING AND SANCTIONING THE PERPETRATORS OF THE CRIMINAL OFFENCE OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Discovering, prosecuting and applying efficient legal sanctions against the perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings is a demanding process, and it is an exceptionally important part of this National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Precisely for this reason, it is important to improve the way data is collected on the prosecuted cases of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings. In order to ensure the best possible monitoring of the results achieved, this National Plan envisages measures aimed at developing new ways of collecting statistical data on prosecuting the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings and sanctioning of perpetrators. In this area, it is very important to achieve full cooperation between institutions involved in the process, from the moment of identifying the victim to prosecuting the perpetrators. Therefore, the measures from this National Plan are aimed at strengthening the already existing cooperation between police officers, judges and public prosecutors.

Objective:

- 1. Develop new methods of collecting statistical data on this phenomenon and its prosecution**

Measure 1. Creating a form for the statistical database on processed cases for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code (i.e. Articles 105 and 106 of the new Penal Code)

Activity:

1. Maintaining a data base on prosecuted cases for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code (i.e. Articles 105 and 106 of the new Penal Code)

Beneficiary: Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Justice

Co-executor: Ministry of the Interior

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: a data base developed on prosecuted cases for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code (i.e. Articles 105 and 106 of the new Penal Code)

2. Analysis of the number of cases, indictments and final convictions for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code (i.e. Articles 105 and 106 of the new Penal Code)

Beneficiary: Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia

Co-executor: Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: analysis conducted of the number of cases, indictments and final convictions for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code (i.e. Articles 105 and 106 of the new Penal Code)

3. Semi-annual reporting to the Operative Team on convictions for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code (i.e. Articles 105 and 106 of the new Penal Code)

Beneficiary: Ministry of Justice and the Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: Semi-annual reports received and processed on convictions for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code (i.e. Articles 105 and 106 of the new Penal Code)

Objective:

2. Strengthening of cooperation between police officers and public prosecutors so that the perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings and their accomplices are discovered and appropriately punished

Measure 1. Developing advanced methods of discovering the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings by strengthening investigation techniques, including financial investigations

Activity:

1. Systematically apply new investigation techniques in discovering the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior

Co-executor: Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: increased number of discovered and prosecuted perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings

ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Providing adequate assistance and protection to victims of human trafficking is central to the system of combating trafficking in human beings. The Republic of Croatia has set up a system that primarily takes the interests of victims of human trafficking into account. It is for this reason that all the activities of the competent institutions from the moment of identification are focused on providing adequate assistance and protection to victims of trafficking, which includes the work of two national shelters, providing health care, psychological, social and legal assistance and protection and ensuring safe and voluntary return to their country of origin.

Civil society organizations play the most important role precisely in the field of providing assistance and protection to victims. Due to the complexity of these topics and the traumatic experience that the victims are exposed to, the development of individual programs demands a high level of expertise and cooperation between the competent authorities and civil society organizations when working in this sensitive segment of the national system for combating trafficking in human beings. In the field of providing assistance and protection, this National Plan dedicates special attention to ensuring an individualized approach and to protecting the best interests of the victims of human trafficking.

Objective:

1. Ensure protection of the best interests of victims of human trafficking

Measure 1. Developing individualized assistance and protection programs for the identified victims of human trafficking, in accordance with the Protocol on identifying, helping and protecting human trafficking victims

Activity:

1. Developing, drafting and applying individualized assistance and protection programs after the recovery and reflection period

Beneficiary: Ministry of Social Policy and Youth

Co-executor: Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: individualized assistance and protection programs developed, drafted and applied

Measure 2. Ensure data confidentiality protection on victims of human trafficking

Activity:

1. Systematically apply the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Act with respect to victims of human trafficking

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth and the Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia

Co-executor: Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: identity and personal data protected for each identified victim of human trafficking

Measure 3. Ensure the continuous work of shelters for children and adult victims of trafficking in human beings

Activities:

1. Ensure financial resources for the operation of national shelters for victims of trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Ministry of Social Policy and Youth

Co-executor: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: HRK 474,000.00

Implementation indicator: successful continuation of the work of shelters for children and adults

Objective

- 2. Ensure recovery and integration/reintegration of victims of human trafficking into society**

Measure 1. Advance cooperation with health, social and educational institutions

Activity:

1. Coordination of activities in individual cases of trafficking in human beings between health, social welfare and educational institutions with the representatives of state administration, who are in charge of health protection and social welfare, and who are members of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth

Co-executor: Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: improved cooperation between health, social welfare and educational institutions with the representatives of state administration, who are in charge

of health protection and social welfare, and who are members of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Objective

3. Improve existing cooperation between state institutions and civil society organizations

Measure 1. Improve cooperation between civil society organizations that are engaged in combating trafficking in human beings and state administration bodies

Activity:

1. Organising annual tenders for financing projects and programs for civil society organisations that are engaged in combating trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Co-executor: civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: HRK 200,000.00

Implementation indicator: publication of a tender for financing projects and programs for civil society organisations that are engaged in combating trafficking in human beings and projects and programs of civil society organisations financed and implemented

2. Organising thematic sessions of county co-ordinating bodies for human rights on the issue of trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights in cooperation with county co-ordinating bodies for human rights

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: organised thematic sessions of country co-ordinating bodies for human rights

PREVENTION

Although the problem of trafficking in human beings has been recognized in the Republic of Croatia since 2002 and the relevant bodies and civil society organizations are active in an effort to suppress it, it is still necessary to dedicate a great deal of attention to measures aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings and raising public awareness of this problem. Preventive action, along with the education of target groups, is an exceptionally important link in the comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in human beings. The basic prerequisites for combating this phenomenon include availability of information and familiarity with the issues.

As well as at potential victims, preventive campaigns should be targeted to the broader public, but also to the state administration bodies that prepare the legislative framework, and that are engaged in identifying and providing assistance and protection to victims. Bearing all this in mind, this National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has dedicated special attention to the measures and activities aimed at conducting research on the issues of human trafficking and the latest trends in this field, and to implementing public campaigns on the issues related to trafficking in human beings, as preventive measures.

Objective:

1. Raise public awareness on the issues of trafficking in human beings

Measure 1. A campaign focused on raising public awareness of various forms of exploitation of victims of human trafficking

Activity:

1. Design and implement a public campaign on various forms of exploitation

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Co-executors: civil society organizations

Deadline: 31 December 2015

Funds needed: HRK 25,000.00

Implementation indicator: a public campaign organised and implemented

Objective:

2. Implementing research on the issues of trafficking in human beings and the latest trends

Measure 1. Identify latest trends in the field of trafficking in human beings

Activity:

1. Conduct research on the latest trends with respect to trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Co-executor: Ministry of the Interior and civil society organizations

Deadline: 31 December 2015

Funds needed: the funds will be ensured through the IPA Program IPA 2010 FPPRAC, total project value amounting to EUR 200,000.00

Implementation indicator: research parameters designed, research conducted and research results taken as parameters for further activities aimed at combating trafficking in human beings

2. Periodical broadcasting of short TV films produced within previous public campaigns for combating trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: broadcasting of short TV films produced within previous public campaigns for combating trafficking in human beings

EDUCATION

Along with prevention, education of target groups represents another important non-repressive aspect of the overall strategy of combating trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Croatia. Continuous educational activities are closely related to the prevention of trafficking in human beings and they contribute to the visibility of this phenomenon.

In the previous implementation period of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human beings for the period from 2009 to 2011, there was a systematic focus on educating all relevant groups in the Republic of Croatia, which included seminars organized by the competent state administration authorities and civil society organizations aimed at the following groups: police officers, members of the armed forces of the Republic of Croatia who are sent on peacekeeping missions, employees of the social welfare system, the staff of family centres, health workers, judges, public prosecutors, diplomatic and consular staff, journalist, students and civil society organizations.

Education of target groups is also envisaged in the measures and activities of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2015. The awareness of the issues of human trafficking of all relevant institutions and persons who are directly tasked in their professional capacity with combating trafficking in human beings is a significant precondition for creating and implementing measures aimed at suppressing it.

The plan is to continue educational measures for all target groups, where special attention is to be dedicated to the education of judicial staff (judges and public prosecutors). Continuous education of judicial staff is necessary both in order to achieve efficient prosecution of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings, but also in order to understand the psychological effects of the trauma of trafficking on victims as potential witnesses in court proceedings. This National Plan has introduced a new target group: the staff of the Croatian Employment Service as a very important group in the reintegration of victims, in line with the measures from the Protocol on Integration/Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings.

Objective:

- 1. Continue education of target groups on trafficking in human beings at national and international levels**

Measure 1. Further training of police officers, judges, staff of the Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia, and representatives of civil society organizations in working on cases of trafficking in human beings

Activity:

1. Organising a seminar for 25 police officers working on organized crime engaged in combating trafficking in human beings, 15 public prosecutors specialized in issues of human trafficking, 5 county court judges and representatives of civil society organizations

Beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior, Judicial Academy and the Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia

Co-executor: civil society organizations and the Croatian Red Cross

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: seminars held for 25 police officers working on organised crime tasked with the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings, 15 public prosecutors specialized in the issues of trafficking in human beings, 5 county court judges and members of civil society organizations

2. Organising seminars for 27 border police officers who are tasked with combating trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: meetings held with 27 border officers who are tasked with combating trafficking in human beings

Measure 2. Implementation of education for the members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia on topics of combating trafficking in human beings

Activity:

1. Topics related to combating trafficking in human beings covered in the preparation programs for the members of Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia

Beneficiary: Ministry of Defence

Co-executor: Ministry of the Interior, Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights and civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: expert topics in connection with combating trafficking in human beings addressed within preparation programs for the members of Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia

Measure 3. Continued joint education of family centre staff, the staff of social welfare centres and social welfare institutes, health care coordinators and the representatives of civil society organizations in the area of providing help and protection to human trafficking victims

Activity:

1. Implementation of joint seminars for the staff of family centres, county coordinators from the social welfare centres and social welfare institutes, health coordinators and mobile team members

Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: trained county coordinators, health coordinators, staff of family centres and mobile team members

Measure 4. Continuation of joint education for the staff of the Office for Victim and Witness Support and of civil society organizations aimed at providing assistance and protection to the victims of trafficking in human beings

Activity:

1. Organising of a joint seminar for the staff of the Office for Victim and Witness Support and for members of civil society organizations

Beneficiary: Ministry of Justice and the Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: seminar held for the staff of the Office for Victim and Witness Support and for the members of civil society organizations

Measure 5. Continue addressing the topic of combating trafficking in human beings within the regular education program carried out by the Judicial Academy and the Police Academy

Activity:

1. Organising a seminar for judges, public prosecutors and police officers within the Judicial Academy and the Police Academy

Beneficiary: Ministry of Justice, Judicial Academy and the Ministry of the Interior

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: seminars held for judges, public prosecutors and police officers within the Judicial and Police Academies

Measure 6. Continue implementing the education program of diplomatic and consular staff and Diplomatic Academy participants regarding combating trafficking in human beings

Activity:

1. Continue educating diplomatic and consular staff about combating human trafficking within the regular education programs of the Diplomatic Academy –one-year and two-month diplomatic courses
2. Continue education about combating human trafficking within the preparation program of the diplomatic and consular staff before leaving for duty, especially heading into countries identified as countries of origin and destination countries of human trafficking victims

Beneficiary: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Co-executor: civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: training implemented of diplomatic and consular staff within regular education programs of the Diplomatic Academy, and within their preparation programs before leaving for duty

Measure 7. Education of Croatian Employment Service staff

Activity:

1. Organising seminars for Croatian Employment Service staff related to access to the labour market for victims of human trafficking

Beneficiary: Croatian Employment Service and the Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: education implemented for the Croatian Employment Service staff related to access to the labour market for victims of human trafficking

Measure 8. Education of tourism workers and workers in other service industries on the topic of trafficking in human beings

Activity:

1. Organising seminars for tourism workers on the issues of human trafficking and ways to combat it

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Co-executor: Ministry of Tourism

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: seminars and educational activities implemented for tourism workers

Measure 9. Continue education of persons employed in the field of education and students about combating trafficking in human beings

Activity:

1. Holding seminars for children, youth and teachers in pre-schools, primary and secondary schools.

Beneficiary: Education and Teacher Training Agency

Co-executor: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights, Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: seminars held for pre-school, primary and secondary school teachers.

Measure 10. Education of staff, children and young adults in homes for children without appropriate parental care and in homes for children with behavioural disorders

Activity:

1. Holding seminars for staff, children and young adults in homes for children without appropriate parental care and in homes for children with behavioural disorders

Beneficiary: Ministry of Social Policy and Youth

Co-executor: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: seminars held for the staff, children and young adults in homes for children without appropriate parental care and in homes for children with behavioural disorders

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Despite the fact that the system for combating human trafficking established in the Republic of Croatia is in accordance with the most recent trends and the European standards in this field, all relevant institutions have shown willingness to continue working on improving the established system for combating human trafficking. With this in mind, the active participation of all competent institutions in regional and international initiatives for suppressing trafficking in human beings and further improvements of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation already established are exceptionally important.

The new National Plan envisages the continued systematic cooperation of the Republic of Croatia with other countries and international organizations and the participation of state administration representatives and civil society organization representatives in international initiatives in the area of combating trafficking in human beings.

Objective:

- 1. Systematic cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and other countries and international organizations in the area of combating trafficking in human beings**

Measure 1. Continue the active participation of state administration representatives in regional and international projects and initiatives to combat trafficking in human beings

Activity:

1. Attendance and participation of state administration representatives in regional and international initiatives for combating trafficking in human beings
2. Participation of state administration representatives in international projects in the area of combating trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: reports on participation in activities of international bodies and organisations in the field of combating trafficking in human beings

3. Informing representatives of civil society organisations about regional and international initiatives for combating trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: participation of representatives of civil society organisations in regional and international initiatives for combating trafficking in human beings

COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES

The Republic of Croatia has set up a system for combating trafficking in human beings, which involves a large number of institutions and civil society organisations. Bearing in mind the complexity of the issues related to human trafficking, the participation of institutions from different fields of competence and expertise is necessary to combat this problem efficiently. Their mutual cooperation is of utmost importance. In order to make their work as efficient as possible, it is necessary to coordinate their activities towards a common goal.

The Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, as the national coordinating authority for combating trafficking in human beings, plays an important role in this respect. The National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2012 to 2015 strengthens the already established successful coordination of activities, because it develops regular cooperation with institutions and civil society organisations in the field of combating human trafficking. Informing all participants, and particularly the national coordination authority, about all cases of trafficking in human beings and the help and protection offered to victims, is extremely important for further work on improving the system.

Objective:

1. Further development of cooperation between the representatives of the state administration bodies and NGOs and the national coordinators in order to improve the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human beings for the period from 2012 to 2015

Measure 1. Holding regular sessions of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Activity:

1. Regularly convening and organising sessions of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Co-executor: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, Ministry of Justice, Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia, USKOK, Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: sessions of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings convened and held

Measure 2. Inform the national coordinator on all activities implemented in the field of combating human trafficking

Activity:

1. Reporting to the national coordinator on all activities implemented in the field of combating human trafficking

Beneficiary: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, Ministry of Justice and the Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia

Co-executors: Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicator: the national coordinator informed about all implemented activities in the field of combating human trafficking

Measure 3. Submit regular annual reports to the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2012-2015

Activities:

1. Gathering data on the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2012 to 2015

2. Preparing annual reports on the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2012 to 2015

3. Sending annual reports to the Government of the Republic of Croatia for adoption

Beneficiary: Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights

Deadline: continuous

Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: report on the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2012 to 2015 adopted