

FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

FINAL

3. Drawing up and implementing a coherent multi-annual strategy for fighting against organized crime, including concrete actions to limit the Romania's status of origin, transit and destination country for the victims of trafficking

The main guidelines of the *National Strategy against trafficking in persons 2006-2010* are: the creation of the national integrated system for monitoring and evaluating the trafficking in persons phenomenon, the improvement of the inter-institutional coordination, the prevention of the trafficking in persons, the protection, assistance and social reinsertion of the victims, the combat, investigation and criminal pursuit of the traffickers and the strengthening of the international cooperation.

The National Action Plan 2006-2007 for implementing the National Strategy against trafficking in persons 2006-2010 contains 6 chapters, with 9 strategic objectives, such as: improving the dimensions, characteristics and trends of trafficking in persons knowledge level in Romania, making more effective the institutional response in the field of trafficking in persons, reducing the extent of trafficking in persons by strengthening the self defence capacity of the citizens and society against this phenomenon's threat, implementing in 2006 a national integrated system for identifying and referring the victims of trafficking to effective assistance services, aimed to the social reinsertion of the victims of trafficking in persons, making more effective the activities of assisting the victims of trafficking in persons, strengthening the institutional mechanism for combating trafficking in persons, reducing the capacity of financing the trafficking in persons crimes, increasing the participation level of the victims/witnesses in the investigation and prosecution process of trafficking in persons, strengthening the Romania's status as reliable partner in the global effort to reduce trafficking in persons phenomenon.

Out of the 8 specific objectives stipulated in the National Action Plan, that are to be finalized by the end of 2006, 3 of the 5 objectives for which the Agency is responsible have already been accomplished until 15 November 2006, as follows:

- creation of the centralized database on trafficking in persons, which should include the active NGOs and the anti-trafficking projects/measures, by providing technical and human resources for managing the database and by developing a specialized software for the database
- development of common indicators for collecting the data
- concluding and implementing a collaboration protocol between the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons and the National Authority for the Child Rights Protection on considering by priority the aspects of trafficking in persons whose victims are children, coordinating their efforts on preventing this type of trafficking and providing assistance to the victims in accordance with the rights stipulated in the national legislation and the international conventions.

For implementing the *National Strategy against trafficking in persons 2006-2010*, the Agency has concluded a series of collaboration protocols with the responsible institutions (the National Authority for the Child Rights Protection, General Inspectorate of the Romanian Gendarmerie, The National Agency for Equal Opportunities among Men and Women) and by the end of the first semester of 2007 protocols with the National Agency for the Roma population, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, the Office for Labour Migration, the National Authority for Disabled Persons are to be concluded.

The National strategy on protecting and promoting the child rights 2006-2013 and its *National Action Plan*, in which the children victims of trafficking in persons are included as a special interest target group, are in progress of approval by the involved ministries and it is expected that these documents would be approved by government decisions by the end of the year. The main objectives of the National Action Plan are the increase of the population and professionals' awareness level in order to prevent the phenomenon and immediately signal the cases of neglecting, abuse, exploitation, child trafficking and illegal migration as well as the effectiveness' increase of the specialized interventions for ensuring the observance of the child rights for the children victims' physical and psychical state of health recovery and social reinsertion and in order to provide an unitary institutional frame for preventing and combating the abuse, neglecting and exploitation of the child, including the child trafficking, illegal migration, torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments and other violence forms towards the children.

The Working Methodology for preventing and fighting against trafficking in persons was revised and approved by the management of the General Inspectorate of Border Police (GIBP) and it was disseminated for implementation to the territorial structures of the GIBP.

The Agency organized and developed together with the AIDRom Organization the "Community Action against Trafficking in Persons" seminar which was attended by priests, social workers and NGO representatives. The seminar intended to elaborate an action plan for trafficking in persons' prevention at the level of local communities in 4 counties (Argeş, Vâlcea, Giurgiu, Teleorman) and in Bucharest.

On 3 July 2006 a meeting of the Inter-ministerial Working Group on coordinating and evaluating the activity of preventing and countering the trafficking in persons, set up by the Law no. 678/2001, took place. The discussions were based on the projects of the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons 2006-2010 and the National Action Plan 2006-2007 for implementing the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons, the responsibilities of the institutions involved in the field and the deadlines of the objectives.

On 18-20 October 2006 the 3rd *National Meeting of the Police Officers working in the field of combating the trafficking in human beings and the illegal migration* took place in Pitesti. The meeting was attended by 30 representatives of the General Directorate for Countering Organized Crime (GDCOC) and representatives of the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police, the Public Ministry, Ministry of Justice, NGOs and liaison officers in Bucharest. This event

represented at the same time the 2nd Meeting of the Reflex Department members at the national level (officers from the General Directorate for Countering Organized Crime, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police, the General Directorate for Intelligence and Internal Protection).

The main conclusions of this meeting on the trafficking in persons' evolution were the following:

- trafficking in persons phenomenon is decreasing;
- the risk of trafficking in organs is extremely low, taking into account the regulations in this field in Romania

Within the meeting, the officers working in trafficking in persons were given the **Law Enforcement Best Practice Manual for anti-trafficking in human beings**, produced by ICMPD Austria and UNDP.

On 23-25 October 2006, at the Europol headquarters in Hague the *Experts on trafficking in Human Beings Conference* took place; Romania was represented by a GDCOC representative. The conference was attended by representatives of the member and candidates states, international organizations and Europol. Within the meeting anti-trafficking operations and reports of UNODC and SIOD were presented. The representatives of UNICRI, SECI, OSCE, Interpol Lyon, ILO, ICMPD, Frontex provided the other participants with data on their activity area and the existing relation with the prevention and combating trafficking in human beings, as well as projects ongoing in this area.

COUNTERING THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

With regard to the progress registered in the fight against trafficking in persons between 1 June and 15 November 2006, there should be specified the fact that the monitoring results of the countering of trafficking in human beings within the institutions in charge of implementing it correspond to the third quarter of 2006 but for the authorities with competences in investigation they correspond to the period 1 June – 31 October 2006. The existing differences in the evaluation period are caused by the fact that the current system for collecting the data is quarterly in the case of some institutions involved in the criminal pursuit and judging the criminal causes.

The activities in the countering trafficking in persons field have been carried out in accordance with the objectives of the Action Plan for implementing the Strategy for the modernization of the Romanian Police – updated for 2004-2007, of the national strategies for countering organized crime, trafficking in persons, trafficking in children, and the Plan of priority measures for acceding to the European Union.

Since 1 June the “Fata Morgana” operation has been started at the national level with the aim to prevent and counter the internal and international trafficking in persons, the prostitution and pimping. In the operation, various structures of the Romanian Police are involved, as well as DIOCTO and the Romanian Intelligence Service.

In the period June-October 2006, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police has registered 71 causes; 187 Romanian victims of trafficking have been identified (63 men, 88 women, 36 minors), following complaints/information (32) and investigations (155). Regarding the type of exploitation, 86 out of the total number of victims have been exploited for labour, 86 have been sexually exploited, 12 for begging and 3 in other ways.

The General Inspectorate of the Border Police has identified 163 traffickers, out of which 3 have been convicted with 1-5 year punishments.

At the level of GDCOC during the same period (June-October 2006) 239 criminal causes have been registered, 458 traffickers have been identified (10 foreign citizens) out of which 293 men, 92 women and 73 minors. 629 victims of trafficking have been identified, out of which 113 men, 419 women and 97 minors. Regarding the way of exploitation, the situation is as follows: sexual exploitation: 471 cases, labour exploitation: 105, begging: 51, other forms: 2. The victims were identified following complaints/information (84) and investigations (545).

Between 1 June-30 September 2006, at the national level, the DIOCTO registered 409 files on trafficking in persons in accordance with the Law no. 678/2001 on preventing and combating trafficking in persons and 181 have been solved, out of which 62 through indictment. In the mentioned period, 206 victims of trafficking in persons crimes have been registered, out of which 46 have received assistance. Regarding the nationality and age of the 206 victims, the distribution is as follows:

Nationality		Age				
Romanian	Foreign	10-13 years male	14-17 years female	18-25 years female	>25 years	
					male	female
192	14	2	61	88	19	36

At the national level, during the third quarter of 2006 the courts solved 42 cases on trafficking in persons, with 107 accused persons. 85 persons have been convicted, out of which 30 definitely convicted (19 men and 11 women). In the reference period, out of the 107 accused persons, 60 persons have been judged under preventive arrest and 47 at large.

In the reference period, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police has continued the “one time action” activities, in cooperation with the Hungarian and Austrian authorities, with the main objective to combat the illegal migration and trafficking in persons as forms of “tourism”; within these activities, at the Contact Point from the Artand Hungarian border point, all the events performed at the joint border are daily centralized and analyzed.

In June 2006, representatives of the General Inspectorate of the Border Police participated in the activities developed in cooperation with officers from the General Directorate for Countering Organized Crime, in working meetings organized by Dutch experts on countering trafficking in persons and illegal migration.

Between July and September 2006, 4 officers from the General Inspectorate of the Border Police performed 2 missions as liaison officers of the MoAI at the Hungarian-Austrian border (Hegyeshalom-Nickelsdorf Cross Border Point), respectively at the French-Spanish border (La Jonquera Border Point), providing support to the authorities of these states for carrying out the border control in the 2nd line, and for performing an operative exchange of data and information regarding the Romanian citizens who travel within the Schengen space. The mission at the Hungarian-Austrian border has been extended for a 3 month period, starting from 23 October 2006.

On 4 September 2006 the working meeting of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, whose issue was “Countering trafficking in persons and illegal

migration, trafficking in weapons of mass destruction”, took place in Sochi (Russia). Romania was represented by officers for the GIBP.

On 27-28 September 2006, a General Inspectorate of the Border Police delegation took part, in Ukraine, in a working meeting on developing the cooperation between the border institutions of Romania and Ukraine in 2006. The activity consisted in an experience exchange between the representatives of both countries, in order to identify the ways of improving the data and information exchange with the view of countering the illegal migration and trafficking in persons.

On 7 November 2006, a meeting between representatives of the Romanian Border Police and officials from the UK Embassy and from the British Ministry of the Exterior took place at the General Inspectorate of the Border Police headquarters. Within the meeting proposals for carrying out missions such those above mentioned at the Calais-Dover French-British cross border and in the Heathrow International Airport have been put forward, in order to combat the illegal migration and the crossborder crime of the Romanian citizens in the United Kingdom.

13. Significantly strengthening the fight against trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, by implementing all the necessary measures, in accordance with the established deadlines, including those stipulated in the Action Plan for fighting against trafficking in human beings and the National Plan for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Children

- **The Law no. 300 from 11 July 2006**, for ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, adopted on 3 May 2005, opened for signature and signed by Romania in Warsaw on 16 May 2005, was adopted. The law was published in the Official Gazette no. 622 from 19 July 2006.
- **The Government Decision no. 1083 from 16 August 2006** for amending and supplementing the Government Decision no. 1584/2005 on setting up, organizing and functioning of the National Agency for Preventing Trafficking in Persons and Monitoring the Assistance provided to the Victims of Trafficking in Persons was drawn up and adopted. The Decision was published in the Official Gazette no. 727 from 25 August 2006. The main amendments mainly aim to increase the number of the personnel, both in the central and in the territorial structures and to strengthen the role that the Agency is playing in coordinating the activities developed against trafficking in persons, according to the recommendations of the EU Monitoring Report from May 2006. Thus:
 - The new name of the Agency is the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons
 - The number of the regional centres of the Agency has been increased from 8 to 15, which will be placed in the counties where Courts of Appeal function; this will ensure a better collaboration with the law enforcement agencies (police, border police), whose coordination structures function in the same counties, in order to take and refer the victims with maximum promptness to the specialized assistance services existing at the local and regional level;

- The organizational chart of the Agency includes 100 positions, out of which 55 in the central structure and 45 in the regional centres;
- The Agency is entitled to initiate and draw up National Programs on preventing the trafficking in persons and assisting the victims, with funds from the state budget
- The Agency is entitled to manage or, when appropriate, to monitor the management of the allocated funds for financing the programs in its activity field. Thus, based on the national programs approved, the agency may contract the assistance services for the victims of trafficking in persons with specialized NGOs; by ensuring stable funds for the NGOs, their positive relevant experience on preventing trafficking in persons and assisting the victims of trafficking will be made accessible for a larger number of persons, including those who are provided with assistance in the specialized state shelters;
- The Agency is nominated as the authorized institution for broadcasting official data on trafficking persons.
- **The Order no. 219 from 15 June 2006** on the identification, intervention and monitoring activities of the children whose parents work abroad, issued by the National Authority for the Child Rights Protection, as an important measure for preventing risks among children, was adopted and published in the Official Gazette no. 544 from 23 June 2006;
- **The Order no. 288 from 6 July 2006** for approving the Minimum Compulsory Standards on the management of case in the area of the child rights protection, issued by the National Authority for the Child Rights Protection was adopted and published in the Official Gazette no. 637 from 24 July 2006;
- **The Order no. 286 from 6 July 2006** for approving the Methodological Rules on drawing up the Service Plan and the Methodological Rules on drawing up the tailored Plan for protection, issued by the National Authority for the Child Rights Protection was adopted and published in the Official Gazette no. 656 from 28 July 2006

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

a. The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons' development

On 15 November 2006, out of the 50 positions scheduled in the G.D. no. 1584/2005 for the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, 41 have been staffed, respectively 27 positions at the central level and 14 at the regional level, in the 8 centres scheduled in the initial version of the G.D. no. 1584/2005, thus: Bucharest Regional Centre: 2 positions, Constanta Regional Centre: 2 positions, Timisoara Regional Centre: 2 positions, Iasi Regional Centre: 2 positions, Galati Regional Centre: 2 positions, Cluj Regional Centre: 2 positions, Craiova Regional Centre: 1 position, Pitesti Regional Centre: 1 position (1 position in the Craiova and another position in the Pitesti Regional Centre are still vacant, in spite of the fact that the selection process has been organized three times, none of the candidates having complied with the necessary requirements for passing the exam). Between 22 and 30 November 2006 contests for staffing 3 vacancies within the central structure of the Agency will take place.

Starting from January 2007, the procedures for staffing the supplementary vacancies, in accordance with the amendments stipulated in the G.D. no. 1083/2006, respectively 21 positions in the central structure of the agency and 29 positions in the regional centres, will be initiated.

The necessary equipment for the activity developed by the central structure and the regional centres has been purchased with the budget allocated to the agency, so that by the end of 2006 the operationalisation of at least 8 regional centres is ensured; the other 7 centres are to be operationalised no later than the first quarter of 2007.

The budget allocated to the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons

In accordance with the recommendations from the EU Monitoring Report from May 2006, an income and expenses total budget of 1.467.000 RON (approximately 420.000 EURO) was allocated to the Agency; out of this budget, the amount of 350.000 RON (approximately 100.000 EURO) is destined to activities for preventing trafficking in persons and for assisting the victims of trafficking. The budget of the Agency is operational starting from August 2006. Previously to the operationalisation of the Agency's own budget, all the expenses were covered by the Ministry of Administration and Interior budget.

Victim evidence fiche

In order to improve the system for monitoring the assistance provided to the victims of trafficking in persons by providing coherent and unitary statistics, the Agency has drawn up a victim evidence fiche proposal. The fiche includes 80 indicators related to citizenship, the environment where the victims come from, civil status, previous social and economic situation, trafficking period (way of recruitment and transportation, motive of the victim's departure, type of exploitation, abuses suffered, violation of the person's rights, if she/he was accused of any offence related to the trafficking situation, if she/he collaborated with the judiciary from the destination country), if the victim was assisted in the destination country, the assistance period (by whom was she/he referred, evaluation of the person's needs, types of assistance offered, types of assistance accepted and received by the person, medical status, period of provided assistance), post-assistance period (if she/he was re-trafficked, social and professional status, if she/he is maintaining contact with the assistance centre, if she/he was involved in activities related to the exploitation period, monitoring reports). The fiche has been sent and negotiated with the partner institutions and the NGOs involved and it was agreed that each institution/organization would transmit the data in accordance with its responsibilities. The data from the fiche will be introduced in the IT centralized database for the evidence of the victims. This fiche will be operational no later than the last quarter of 2006; the reports of the regional centres are already being performed on the basis of the evidence fiche and the established indicators.

The integrated system for identifying and referring the victims

In order to operationalise the IT national system for the evidence of the victims of trafficking in persons, as a basic component of the integrated system for identifying and referring the victims, so that the victims could receive the necessary assistance in time, procedures for finalizing the first version of the specialized software for the national database, which is based on the victim evidence fiche indicators, are being carried out within the Agency. Thus, by the end of the year, the database will be operational.

According to the schedule, by the end of the year, the centres will be connected to the central structure of the Agency.

HelpLine

On 19 August 2006, the HelpLine within the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons became operational. The interested persons may call 0 800 800 678 and find information on the risks associated to trafficking in persons and the possibilities to decrease these risks, information regarding local authorities and NGOs which provide assistance to victims of trafficking, travel agencies and employment companies providing jobs abroad for which the caller may have doubts, conditions for obtaining a visa for working abroad, territorial structures for countering trafficking in persons etc.

Between 19 September and 10 November 2006, 79 calls have been received, out of which:

- 6 calls informing about disappeared persons, presumed to be trafficked; following the information received, the General Directorate for Countering Organized Crime has been informed in order to initiate the investigations;
- 1 call from a person with risk to be trafficked – The Bucharest Regional Centre personnel is in contact with this person in order to prevent the trafficking;
- 27 calls with questions related to the conditions for travelling abroad;
- 12 calls with questions related to the conditions for obtaining a work permit abroad;
- 7 calls with questions related to the conditions for marrying foreign citizens;
- 8 calls with requests for checking labor recruitment firms;
- 5 calls with questions related to the conditions for travelling with minors abroad;
- 8 calls informing about the infringement of the legal regulations on migration in Europe and requesting information regarding the possibility of travelling again to those countries;
- 1 calls regarding other situation (illegal migration risk)
- 4 false calls.

b. Within the National Authority for the Child Rights Protection a specialized department, including the Technical Secretariat of the Subgroup for coordinating the activities on trafficking in children, the Specialized Unit for the Child Labour, the general problems on the child abuse, neglecting and exploitation, the migration in risk situations and the issues of the violence towards children, has been set up.

INTERINSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

In the reference period, the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons concluded collaboration protocols with:

- The CARITAS Association, in order to implement in partnership a project for strengthening the cooperation in the area of trafficking in persons, between Romania and Bulgaria.
- The National Agency for Equal Opportunities among Men and Women, with the view of reciprocal information and organization of joint activities (scientific events, seminars, symposiums etc).

- The Ecumenical Association of the Churches from Romania (AIDRom), for reciprocal consultation and support in developing projects aimed to raise awareness and decrease the trafficking in persons phenomenon and violence, as well as to ensure the necessary framework for observing the human rights to dignity and personal integrity; following the partnership convention concluded, a working group for drawing up proposals and comments regarding the “More information, less risk” best practices Guide for preventing trafficking, which will be published by the end of the year, was created; the first meeting of the working group, in which representatives of the Agency and Bucharest Regional Centre participated, took place in Sinaia, on 23-24 October 2006. The Guide targets the institutions with responsibilities in the area of preventing trafficking in persons, representatives of the Romanian Church and NGOs with attributions in the area of trafficking in persons.
- The National Authority for the Child Rights Protection (NACRP), in order to develop an active and effective institutional partnership in the framework of drawing up and applying the policies in the area of trafficking in persons, with the view of progressively diminish the trafficking in children phenomenon and ensuring the observance of the children-victims or potential victims of trafficking’ rights to protection and assistance.
- The General Inspectorate of the Romanian Gendarmerie, in order to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
- The Social Alternatives Association, in order to implement the project “Social Alternatives Association- a stronger NGO, a stronger partner” in the Constanța, Călărași, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Teleorman, Olt, Dolj, Mehedinți counties;
- Save the Children Organization – Romania, for mutual consultation and support in developing projects aimed to raise awareness and diminish the phenomenon of abuse, exploitation and trafficking in children and to ensure the necessary framework for observing the children’ rights to dignity and personal integrity.
- The Agency submitted the draft cooperation protocols on reducing trafficking in persons to the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police (GIRP) and to the Department for Working Abroad within the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family (MLSSF).
- The Agency has signed a partnership declaration for the implementation of the project “Victim protection between law and practice”, which will be carried out together with “Connections” Deva (a local NGO) and the Brigade for Countering Organized Crime in Alba-Iulia; the area of implementation consists of Hunedoara, Alba and Sibiu counties, and the target group is made out of professionals who work or have contact with victims of trafficking, either within public institutions or NGOs. The project’s objective is to create a regional multidisciplinary network composed of all these professionals as well as to elaborate a guide on victim’s rights.
- The Agency has initiated proceedings for concluding a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNCHR Romania; the draft document is now pending internal approval within Ministry of Administration and Interior (MoAI).

Between 24-26 August 2006 representatives of the Agency, Police Inspectorates, Ministry of Justice and the General Directorate for Child Social Assistance and Protection-Vaslui, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Romania and various

NGOs organized a working group on the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking in persons.

The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons has signed a partnership statement for implementing the *Operational Networking and Co-operation and Joint Multidisciplinary Training Process for Judicial, Law Enforcement, NGOs and IO Specialists in Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings* project within the AGIS 2006 programme, together with the International Organization for Migration and the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police. The implementing period of the project is 15 months, starting from 1 November 2006 until 31 August 2008. The objective of the project is to contribute to the fight against organized crime by promoting and strengthening the cooperation, the exchange and dissemination of the best practices in EU, between the old and new member states, the states in process of accession and the neighbour countries, in the field of preventing and combating trafficking in persons.

By implementing the PHARE 03/IB/ JH – 07 TL project, for developing the capacity to collect and analyze data on trafficking in persons, by the *Resource Centre for Countering Trafficking in Human Beings* – General Directorate for Countering Organized Crime (GDCOC), in partnership with Austria, the proceedings regarding the uniformization of the collecting tools of statistical data, at the level of all institutions with attributions in the field, were finalized. The results of this project were materialized in the *Cooperation Protocol for making operational the database regarding the cases in the field of trafficking in persons and migrants*, drawn up in accordance with the institutions with attributions in countering trafficking in persons or in field related to this one. The technological and conceptual bases for the database on countering the trafficking in persons, which will be implemented in 2007, were set up, and at the logistical level, this project allowed the endowment of the territorial departments for countering organized crime with IT equipment, which will represent the structure of the informatic system for data collection for monitoring trafficking in persons. The Agency sent its suggestions regarding the draft cooperation protocol; the suggestions and proposals deal with the indicators included in the database which will be organized within the Resource Centre for Countering Organized Crime, within GIRP. The protocol has as objectives a better knowledge of human and migrant trafficking at national and international level, and aims to increase efficiency in the prevention of trafficking, to better utilize informational resources in allocating and valuing the current potential in the field of countering trafficking in persons and migrants, and to ensure that the evaluation and analysis of intelligence on trafficking are conducted at international standards.

Save the Children-Romania in cooperation with the Agency and Ministry of Tourism organized the seminar “Public-private partnership on prevention of child trafficking in sexual exploitation in the tourism industry”, which was held on 14 September 2006. The seminar targeted representatives of the hotel industry and was aimed to promote a code of ethics for the prevention of child trafficking in sexual exploitation in tourism industry.

A representative of the Agency participated at the meeting between Roma representatives in Tecuci and the local authorities which was facilitated by Democratic Changes

Foundation and “Echilibre” Organization for raising awareness on the danger that trafficking in persons represents for the community.

Within the project “Social Litigation Services” implemented by the Democratic Changes Foundation, basic notions on trafficking in persons were introduced in the practical guide for social litigators, edited by FSD.

The staff of Agency’s regional centres started their activity since September, 2006. The main areas of activity refer to:

- the coordination, evaluation and monitoring at the regional level of the implementation of the policies by the public institutions in the field of trafficking in persons and by those from the field of protection and assistance provided to victims;
- identifying at the regional level the groups and places vulnerable to traffic; facilitating the local and regional collaboration between the institutions involved in the anti-trafficking fight;
- collecting, processing and reporting to the Agency the data on the dynamics of the phenomenon, the prevention measures taken and the situation on the assistance provided to victims;
- assisting the victims during the hearings (immediately after identification);
- monitoring the reinsertion of the victims for a 6 month period;
- monitoring and evaluating the activity of the shelters destined to the victims of trafficking in persons;
- informing the identified victims on their rights and the available assistance services;
- referring the victims to shelters or other forms of necessary assistance;
- ensuring the victims participation in the trial;
- supporting the victims in obtaining identity documents;
- establishing contacts between the victims and the services of professional reinsertion or re-inclusion in the educational system.

During the reference period the staff of the regional centres initiated contacts with the public institutions and NGOs in their areas of responsibility, in order to conclude collaboration and partnership protocols.

The Constanta Regional Centre participated in the working group on sexual exploitation of women organized by the American Resource and Information Center with the sponsorship of US Embassy.

The Iasi Regional Centre attended a seminar on child trafficking organized by UNICEF and the General Directorate for Child Social Assistance and Protection - Vaslui, and elaborated together with Social Alternatives Association an information guide on trafficking in persons.

In their monitoring activities, the staff in regional centres cooperated with representatives of the Romanian Gendarmerie, the regional brigades for countering organized crime, the General Directorates for Child Social Assistance and Protection at each county level, school inspectorates and NGOs (Artemis – Cluj County, Young Generation – Timis County).

In the reference period, officers within GIBP participated at the meetings of the inter-ministerial working groups on migration, and the cooperation with the General Directorate for Consular Affaires continued (through a prompt data and information exchange on an international network of illegal migration, in which are involved both Romanian and Turkish citizens).

On 13-15 November 2006, the National Institute of Magistracy organized in Timisoara a seminar on „Trafficking and minor migration – criminal aspects”, attended by 11 judges and 11 prosecutors. During this seminar, themes like *Trafficking in persons. Peculiarities of trafficking in children – criminal aspect*, *The involvement of NGOs in trafficking in persons issue – theoretical and practical aspects*, *Procedural aspects in Law no. 678/2001 on preventing and countering trafficking in persons*, *the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, *the Procedural rights recognized to the victims of trafficking in persons – minors in the national legislation*, *during the judicial procedures*, etc, were approached.

The necessity of an inter-institutional approach for obtaining a concrete judicial finality was materialized in information exchange, joint actions or task forces on issues identified as being priority, as follows:

- the 13th meeting of **Mirage** task force on trafficking in persons;
- Phare 2003 „Procedural and institutional compatibility and training with EU similar agencies ” working reunion;
- Further implementation of the **TASK FORCE** working system, as it was defined within the **Reflex** project.

The GDCOC, in cooperation with the other relevant structures, participated in the implementation of the National Plan on countering migration and of the Action Plan for preventing and countering the domestic and international trafficking in persons for begging.

TRAINING OF THE PERSONNEL

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

- On 12-17 June 2006, a representative of the Agency participated, within a multi-disciplinary team, at a training of trainers course for preventing and countering trafficking in persons, organized within the AGIS program of the Council of Europe and financed by the International Organization for Migration. The multi-disciplinary team (judges, police officers, NGO representatives) will disseminate the information acquired during various seminars or courses which will be subsequently developed in Romania and which will be attended by representatives of the institutions with attributions in the field of trafficking in persons;
- On 20-21 June 2006, a representative of the Agency, together with representatives of the GIBP, GIRP – Directorate for Criminal Investigations, Prevention Service and of the 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, developed by the „Save the Children” Organization, in partnership with Ecpat Law Enforcement Group. The purpose of the training was to increase the level of knowledge in the field of prevention and countering the sexual exploitation of

children, as well as to raise the level of cooperation among the institutions with attributions in the field of protection of the children – victims of trafficking in persons.

- on 4-8 September 2006, the program for training the personnel staffed on 1 September in the regional centers of Bucharest, Pitesti, Galati, Iasi, Constanta, Timisoara, Craiova, Cluj, was developed.

- one representative from the regional centres against trafficking in persons in Craiova, Iasi and Galati participated on 10-12 October 2006 in training of trainers session, on preventing trafficking in children, within the „Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Unaccompanied Minors” project, implemented in Romania in Dolj, Galati and Iasi counties by the International Organization for Migration – Romanian Mission.

- within an activity developed by the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons in cooperation with the Foundation for Democratic Changes, the training of 20 social mediators in the field of trafficking in persons, who develop their activity in the Roma communities in Tecuci, Galati county, was developed.

- one representative of the Agency participated in the International Course CEPOL „Trafficking in persons and Illegal Migration”, which took place in Brasov, on 16-19 October 2006. Representatives of the GIRP, GIBP and experts from Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Letonia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden also participated.

- within a PHARE project under implementation between December 2005-June 2007, the public educational Campaign on child rights – „Child rights are law” continued; thus, on 12-19 July 2006, a training of trainers session was organized at the central level, for 30 trainers and 6 manuals for 6 professional categories (police personnel, judges and prosecutors, social workers, teachers, medical personnel, priests) were finalized; between 30 October and 3 November, the first training of trainers, took place in Slanic Moldova, where 24 people from 6 counties were trained.

- within the Phare Twinning Light 2003 „Improving the efficiency of the Romanian probation system in supporting the social rehabilitation of offenders” project, developed within the Ministry of Justice (The Probation Directorate), whose aims are, among others, to specialize the personnel in the field of protecting and providing assistance to victims of offences, 8 trainers among the probation counselors took part at the „Support and Assistance for Victims of Offences” seminar, on 19-23 June 2006, in Amara.

- Officers from the GIRP (GDCOC) participated in the following training seminars:

- seminars developed within the 2004 Phare project – *Resource Center on countering trafficking in human beings*, comprising the strategy, legislation, IT training and cooperation with mass-media module.
- Training meetings on various fields (mass-media, strategy, legislation, IT), attended by various guests from structures of the Ministry of Administration and Interior (the GIBP being one of them) and from other structures: the Superior Council of Magistrature, the Directorate for Investigating the Organized Crime and Terrorism Offences, Authority for Aliens, the Anti-corruption General Directorate, the National Office for Refugees.
- Training on the relationship between the National Rapporteur on trafficking in persons and mass-media (Austria), as well as on countering the trafficking in persons (Italy).

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS PREVENTION

Within the SENS project, the Agency, in partnership with the AIDRom organization, initiated and developed a regional campaign for preventing the trafficking in persons during the 2006 FIFA World Cup – Germany. The purpose of this campaign was to decrease the status of Romania as a country of origin and transit for victims of trafficking. The development of the campaign comprised:

- training the officers from the border crossing points;
- disseminating materials at the entrance and exit border crossing points with destination Germany, as well as in Henri Coanda and Aurel Vlaicu airports. These materials, carrying the message „You don't pass with human beings” inform the potential victims of trafficking in persons about few elements regarding the trafficking in persons, as well as about the telephone number they can dial in special situations (08000111777). The operators respond in 8 languages, including Romanian.

There were disseminated 1500 prevention materials at the cross-border points and 800 in the 2 airports. The activities developed were monitored by the SOLWODI Organization, the main financer of the campaign. During the last monitoring visit, on 08 July 2006, the SOLWODI Organization supplemented the prevention materials designed by AIDRom and the Agency with 400 leaflets and 50 posters.

On 3 June 2006, on the occasion of MTV Romanian Awards 2006, in Cluj, materials designed in the MTV Exit international campaign (126 DVD MTV Exit; 1120 leaflets MTV Exit (ROM)), as well as materials designed by volunteers during the regional campaigns were disseminated. 50 volunteers (students aged 15-18, from various regions of the country: Arges, Bacau, Bucuresti, Cluj, Dambovita and Prahova) from the regional project on preventing trafficking in persons participated in this activity. The Agency had the following partners: International Organization for Migration – Romanian Mission, MTV Romania, ADPARE, CARITAS Bucharest, Ratiu Foundation – Turda.

On 19-20 August 2006, the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, in partnership with ADPARE Organization and with the financial support of MTV United Kingdom, organized the EXIT prevention campaign in Costinesti (a summer resort especially for young people), on the Black Sea Coast. During the campaign, 500 T-shirts with an anti-trafficking message were distributed and approximately 5000 brochures supplied by MTV United Kingdom, as well as 2000 leaflets promoting the free phone number of HelpLine **0 800 800 678**. 20 volunteers participated in this activity.

Between 26 June and 14 July 2006, at the level of the territorial labor inspectorates the National Campaign for assessing the way in which agents of the employing the labor force comply with the provisions of Law 156/2000 on protecting the Romanian citizens working abroad, for preventing the trafficking for purposes of labor exploitation.

The Regional Centres against trafficking in persons have developed the following activities for preventing trafficking in persons:

- The **Bucharest Regional Centre against trafficking in persons** – participation in “Prevention projects Fair”, a meeting with the leadership of an Industrial School with mechanical skills for developing future prevention activities;
- The **Cluj-Napoca Regional Centre against trafficking in persons** – participation on “Criminality Prevention week”, participation in a “Trafficking in persons and refugees” training seminar organized at the Cluj-Napoca Technical College;
- The **Constanta Regional Centre against trafficking in persons** – participation in technical seminar on the cooperation between public and private institutions for preventing trafficking and child sexual exploitation in hotel and tourism industry, organized by Red Cross Romania, and in various prevention activities developed in Agricol Castelu School;
- The **Craiova Regional Centre against trafficking in persons** – activities for identifying disadvantaged areas and vulnerable persons to trafficking in persons, documentation activities for drawing up a project for the developing of a regional prevention campaign;
- The **Galati Regional Centre against trafficking in persons** – meetings with the staff from School no.13 and “P.P.Nevanu” School, Galati, for developing future projects on preventing trafficking in persons, a collaboration with “Save the Children” Organization for training the volunteers to develop preventing activities in educational institutions, participation in a seminar organized by the County Centre for Psycho-pedagogical Assistance, Galati, in order to restart a trafficking in persons preventing campaign in schools and high-schools;
- The **Iasi Regional Centre against trafficking in persons** – participation on National Week of Prevention, participation in the activities developed by the Regional Network for preventing and countering trafficking in persons coordinated by “Social Alternatives” Association, participation in an international conference organised by Al.I.Cuza University concerning “Child protection and violence prevention devices. Experience exchanges in the perspective of EU integration”, prevention activities organised and developed in two schools from Iasi and Tibanesti.
- The **Timisoara Regional Centre against trafficking in persons** – prevention activities in cooperation with American Corner in Leanu High-school, Timisoara, and in Rudolf-Walter children village, Timisoara, participation in „Us and Ours” – a radio show on a local station.

Furthermore, procedures have been initiated in order to develop a trafficking in persons national prevention campaign, starting with December 2006. Therefore, in order to promote the campaign, the announcement for media services public acquisition has been launched.

At the beginning of every year, the educational inspector from the Ministry of Education and Research, in collaboration with educational activities coordinators from each school unit, County Police Directorate- Prevention Department, Educational Resource Centre, County Public Health Directorate and civil society representatives with activities in the field of trafficking in persons prevention, draws up a strategy for preventing trafficking in persons, which includes a calendar with all the activities that are going to be developed in

schools. Those kinds of strategies have been drawn up in September 2006 and a part of the scheduled activities already have been developed.

The Ministry of Education and Research has sent in the territory a note concerning the activities of presenting and debating the provisions of *Law no. 272 from 21 June 2004, concerning child rights protection and promotion*, at the level of the County School Inspectorates/ Bucharest School Inspectorate and the schools. An indirect prevention of trafficking in pupils is realized by the observance of the provisions of *Law no. 272 from 21 June 2004*, with the obligation of the teachers to point out the child abuse, neglect or bad treatments to social assistance public service or to the General Directorate for Child Social Assistance and Protection.

Debates, practical exercises concerning the identification of potential victims, round tables, photo or picture gallery, caricature contests, script contests, video preview, information materials distribution during sport and artistic events have been organized at the beginning of 2006-2007 school year.

Other activities carried out by the Ministry of Education and Research with the view of preventing trafficking in persons:

- including, with compulsory character, the trafficking in persons issue during the general education classes for pupils in the 8th grade, 10th grade and the second year of professional school and including, with optional character, the issue during the classes of the pupils in the 7th, 9th, 11th and 12th grade;

- carrying out counseling activities within the school and inter-school offices for psycho-pedagogical assistance with the view of preventing trafficking in persons phenomenon among pupils;

- organizing, during classes or outside the school different activities with the view to draw the attention of the pupils and parents on the risks of trafficking and on the signs which may lead to the identification of potential traffickers: case studies, research, expert meetings, debates; a special attention is paid to this issue in counties where the adult population works abroad, and the minors are taken care of by other persons;

- carrying out the national programme *Education for Health within the Romanian school*, which contains chapters designed for developing a healthy life style and for taking responsibilities for ensuring the individual and social well-being;

- carrying out the national programme *Education for democratic citizenship* which aims directly at the trafficking in persons phenomenon, through distinct chapters, during the entire pre-university educational system;

- through the personnel of the county centres for psycho-pedagogical assistance, programmes for preventing trafficking in persons were carried out through activities designed for pupils and teachers with the view of identifying the vulnerable groups.

With the view of preventing trafficking in persons and informing the migrant workers, the Department for Working Abroad and the Office for Migrant Labor Force organized the seminar and press conference with the title: „Informative campaign on illegal migration”; also, materials regarding the risks of illegal migration are constantly being drawn-up and advertised in the media and on the sites of the departments mentioned above. Brochures regarding the legal ways of working abroad and a guide for foreign citizens who work in Romania were published and disseminated within the central and territorial offices of the departments above.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The situation of the centers for assisting the victims of trafficking in persons

In the reference period, the Agency has assessed the operational capacities of the 8 state centers for providing assistance and protection to the victims of trafficking in persons, in Satu Mare, Arad, Timis, Mehedinti, Botosani, Iasi, Galati and Bucharest. There were found out good accomodation conditions, but the quality of the assistance services and social reintegration of victims still needs improvement. With respect to the 9th center, which must be operationalized according to Law no 678/2001, a decision of the County Council of Giurgiu for allocating the necessary space for functioning is expected.

The number of actual places in the state centers available for victims is 95, with the statement that the center in Timis is under rearranging.

Number of victims who were provided assistance between 1 June – 10 November 2006

In the moment of their identification and registration by the authorities, the victims are provided with primary assistance, being informed on their rights and the assistance services available, and they have the option to be accommodated in shelters or not. The distribution by age and sex of the assisted victims in the reference period is the following

Age Sex	TOTAL	Under 14	14-17	18-25	>25
Male	4		2	2	
Female	182	5	53	90	34
TOTAL	186	5	55	92	34

Out of the total number of assisted victims, 35 were assisted in the state centers, and the rest of 151 in the non-governmental centers. The total number of victims represents both victims who benefited from assistance in centers, as well as those who were assisted in other location (for example home based assistance). The data presented above were collected from the state centers and from the following NGOs: Reaching Out (Arges), ADPARE (Bucharest), Betania (Bacau), Generatie Tanara (Timis) and Mitropolia Banatului (Timis). With respect to the type of trafficking, most of the cases were external trafficking, for sexual exploitation.

In the Centre for Assistance and Transit of the IOM, 29 victims were assisted; 16 victims benefited from assistance in transit and 15 victims needed long term assistance.

According to the provisions of the Emergency Ordonance no. 79/2005, foreign citizens, victims of trafficking in persons have the right to assistance and protection in the centers

of Authority for Aliens and those belonging to the National Office for Refugees. In the reference period, in these centers there was no victim of trafficking in persons recorded.

The Centre for providing assistance and protection to victims in Satu Mare assisted 6 cases of potential victims of trafficking in person, of Moldavian citizenship, with risk of being trafficked, who benefited from medical and social assistance and psychological and judicial counselling.

Also, the Centre for providing assistance and protection to victims in Arad assisted 130 unaccompanied children at the border, number which was not included in the table above.

Within the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons there are almost finalized the minimum standards for providing assistance to the victims of trafficking; these are to be analyzed and discussed by the implementation partners by the middle of December 2006.

The National Authority for the Child Rights Protection (NACRP) continued to develop, in partnership with ILO-IPEC and “Save the Children” organization, the project *The Improvement of the services offered to the children victims of trafficking in persons in Bucharest and in Iasi, Botosani and Giurgiu Counties*, which has been extended till 31 December 2006. The project aim is to rehabilitate and reintegrate the children victims of trafficking by improving the quality of the services offered to them in Bucharest and in Iasi, Botosani and Giurgiu Counties.

The project “Creating the opportunities of employment for vulnerable children and youth from Bucharest and for the adults in their families” developed by The National Authority for the Child Rights Protection in partnership with other public institutions and NGOs was extended till the end of 2006. The aim of this project is to reduce the children – youth vulnerability to trafficking through the employment promotion of youth and adults from marginalized communities in Bucharest.

NACRP developed a project financed and technically assisted by UNICEF, whose objective was to draw up various methodological documents regarding the problematic of trafficking in children: compulsory minimum standards concerning the center for protecting and assisting children victims of trafficking in persons, a methodological guide for implementing the standards, an inter – institutional working methodology for trafficking in children cases and procedures for monitoring and reporting the trafficking in children cases. These methodological documents will be sanctioned by the NACRP and the NAATIP, and approved through a GD.

On 3 August 2006, the President of The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons received the visit of the USA Ambassador in Bucharest. Within the discussions there was identified a number of collaboration possibilities; one of these has been put into practice by initiating the project *Victims Witness Coordination* which is to be developed by The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons in partnership with The Directorate for Investigating the Organized Crime and Terrorism Offences, The Directorate for Countering Organized Crime and Ministry of Justice; the purpose of this project is to improve victims’ involvement in the case trial, the referral to specialized assistance and the observance of the victims’ rights.

14. Increasing the efforts towards the social reinsertion of the victims of trafficking in human beings

The Regional Centres against trafficking in persons monitor the assistance provided to a number of 48 victims/ potential victims of trafficking in persons, assisted in shelters or in their homes; out of the 48, 5 are aged below 14, 27 aged 14-17, 12 aged 18-25 and 4 above 25 years old; 12 victims were males and 36 females. With respect to the type of trafficking, 22 were victims of the external trafficking, 15 were victims of internal trafficking and 11 were attempts to trafficking in persons crime; 25 were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 2 were trafficked for labour exploitation, 6 were trafficked for begging, 3 for committing various crimes and 1 person suffered from double exploitation, both sexual and for labour purposes.

The Agency has drawn up and submitted the „*Improving the institutional capacity of the agencies involved in preventing the trafficking in persons, in line with the European standards and the current best practices*” PHARE Project Fiche, the general objective being the reduction of the trafficking in persons phenomenon dimensions at the national and regional level by preventing and improving the integrated system for assistance and social reintegration of the victim. Among the expected results, there are:

- improvement of the IT integrated system;
- endowment of the Research and Public Informing Center with the necessary equipment and personnel training for conducting national studies regarding the trafficking in persons phenomenon, for elaborating materials for various national and local campaigns, for carrying on the training sessions on preventing and countering trafficking in persons;
- a national study regarding trafficking in children;
- local authorities representatives training for victim identification and referral and for inter-institutional cooperation;
- a national campaign against women discrimination and marginalization and rising awareness regarding women exploitation, as main category of trafficked persons;
- rising the capacity of intervention of the actors involved in the victim identification, referral and assistance, by offering multidisciplinary qualitative services.

The Fiche was submitted to the Ministry of Public Finances, the Management Authority for Communitarian Support Framework, where the opportunity for its financing from saving Phare funds is analyzed.

Following the visit in Romania of an UNODC delegation, on 12-16 June, 2006, an evaluation report was drawn up, and based on the proposals of MoAI and the European Commission, the project of a Joint Action Program regarding the Consolidation of the State Law in Romania was developed. UNODC expresses its intention to support the Romanian authorities in the following fields: creating a national system for victim identification and referral, the development of minimum standards provided to victims of trafficking, the development of a national awareness and prevention campaign on

trafficking in persons, elaborating trafficking trends and strategic analysis, improving criminal justice procedures in relation to child witnesses and victims of trafficking, and training non-specialist police officers in recognizing and responding to trafficking in persons. The Romanian authorities were invited to express their point of view on the document, which is going to be submitted to UNODC on diplomatic channel.

A project of national programme has been drawn up by the Agency and will be submitted for approval to the Ministry's leadership on the basis of the Law no. 350/2005 on the regime of the non-reimbursable financing from public funds allocated for nonprofit activities of general interest. This programme aims to increase the quality of the services for the victims of trafficking in persons by contracting from budget funds NGOs specialized in providing assistance.

A collaboration protocol between the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, Caritas Bucharest Association and the Directorate for Social Assistance – Giurgiu was concluded in order to organize and implement a 6 month-pilot project, "Casa Meris". The project aims to reduce the risk by creating means of support and safety for the persons with risk in the Giurgiu County and in the southern region of Romania. Among the expected results there should be mentioned the setting up of the centre for assistance and protection for persons in difficult situations, including the victims of trafficking in persons, the supply of psychological, medical and legal assistance to the persons with risk and providing assistance for the social and professional reintegration of the victims assisted and of other persons with risk.

The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons elaborated and submitted to the Embassy of the Netherlands the *Improvement of the assistance and protection services for female victims of traffic and raising the efficiency of preventing trafficking in women* project fiche. The purpose of the project is to decrease trafficking in women in the Western states of EU through prevention and assistance services aimed at reintegrating the victims in society and family, among the expected results being the guide for implementing the national standards in victims' assistance and an information campaign against trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation in the Netherlands. At the moment, the opportunity of financing this campaign is analyzed in Haga, and an answer is expected by the end of November.

On 20 July 2006, the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family launched the „*Developing Social Services*” open Call for project proposals within the „Economic and Social Cohesion – Non-refundable financing scheme for developing social services” PHARE Program 2004-2006. Among the eligible activities, there are integrated/specialized services like hosting, caring, recovery, social rehabilitation and reinsertion for victims of domestic violence or trafficking in human beings.

Within the project *Programme to Support the Development of Transnational Referral Mechanisms for Trafficked Persons in South-Eastern Europe* developed by the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMDP) there has been signed, on 25 September 2006, the cooperation agreement between the Ministry of

Administration and Interior and ICMPD. The purpose of the agreement is to define the cooperation framework for implementing the transnational referral mechanism, which aims to contribute to combating and reducing trafficking in persons in South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, F.Y.R. of Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Kosovo), as well as to provide the trafficked persons with the possibility to restart a new life and to become aware of the rights and role they have during the trial proceedings.

On 4-6 October 2006 a working meeting on providing concrete measures for identifying, protecting and reintegrating the victims of trafficking in persons was organized in Ruse (Bulgaria) by the Caritas - Bucharest Association in cooperation with Caritas - Ruse; the meeting was attended from the Romanian side by representatives of the General Inspectorate of Border Police and a representative of the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons.