

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALBANIA'S NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
January – December 2006



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
Ministry of Interior
Deputy Minister
National Anti-trafficking Coordinator

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1. SUMMARY

The Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings is the focal point of the coordination of anti-trafficking activities in Albania. It prepares periodic reports on the situation of trafficking in human beings in Albania. This is the third report prepared by the Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings. This report is an official document which is used by all domestic and foreign actors to see the results and identify any problems related to the fight against trafficking in human beings in Albania; thus, the report is a useful instrument for improving activities performed by state and independent institutions and for increasing awareness among domestic and foreign actors about the reality of trafficking in human beings. The report focuses on three main areas defined by the National Strategy for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings 2005 – 2007: prevention of trafficking, criminal investigation and prosecution, and protection and assistance to victims.

In the course of the year, the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator monitors the activity of the state institutions involved in the fight against trafficking. The monitoring is carried out through meetings organized with specialist representatives of state and independent institutions. In performing its function, the Office periodically officially asks for information from the relevant institutions regarding the fulfillment of the objectives defined in the National Strategy for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and statistical data on arrests, detentions, sentences and the victims protected and assisted in accommodation centers.

The Office receives information from: the Sector for the Fight against Illegal Trafficking in the Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Justice – Directorate of the Organization of Judiciary; General Prosecutor's Office – Directorate for the Fight against Organized Crime; Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; Ministry of Education and Science; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Health; State Intelligence Service; Ministry of Defense; National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking (NRCVT) and other Shelters managed by NGOs. The information collected is categorized on the basis of the three main areas listed above and is then analyzed.

Situation of Trafficking in human beings in 2006

The number of trafficked persons in Albania has decreased considerably. This is illustrated by the results of the comparative analysis of statistics on trafficking carried out over several years. Based on estimates and periodic assessments by international organizations, Albania is no longer a country of transit or destination, but it still remains a country of origin of trafficking in human beings.

In 2006, the most common methods of trafficking in Albania were the trafficking of children and women for the purpose of their exploitation in the West, mostly in Greece, Italy and other EU countries. The most common methods of exploitation were prostitution and forced labor. A new trend, which has not been observed only in 2006, is internal trafficking, primarily of children for forced labour or other forced services, including begging.

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An issue of concern related to trafficking is the smuggling of human beings and illegal border crossings. Even though people involved in these activities can not technically be classified as victims of trafficking in human beings, they are irregular migrants who remain vulnerable to the activities of criminal groups. They are susceptible to trafficking both during their transit to the countries of destination and during their final accommodation in those countries. As this problem arose in Albania in part due to the lack of a proper legal framework to address it, an amendment to the Penal Code was proposed by the Office of the National Coordinator to criminalize smuggling of human beings. This initiative was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in May 2006; it was approved by the Parliament with the law no. 9686, dated 26.02.2007, together with the package of changes to the Penal Code.

In carrying out our activity, our belief has been that an accurate assessment of these new trends gives us the task of leading the activity of state institutions towards addressing them. Among the intense efforts of the responsible structures to investigate and prosecute traffickers and protect and assist victims in order to integrate them into society, special attention should be paid to the prevention of the phenomenon of trafficking. In this regard, it is the duty of all the agencies, such as local government, social services, directorates of education, etc, who can contribute in this area, to take preventive initiatives vis-à-vis trafficking in human beings. But we are also aware about the need to consolidate the investigation and criminal prosecution of the crime of trafficking and the witness protection scheme.

Main actors in the fight against trafficking in human beings

The main state institutions involved in the prevention of and fight against trafficking in human beings are the police, the prosecutor's office and social services as they are the state institutions that deal with the protection, criminal prosecution and assistance to victims of trafficking in humans. The indicators of the assessment of performance of these institutions are the objectives that these bodies intend to achieve, such as: the establishment of national referral structures for victims of trafficking, both at a central and local level ensuring that they work efficiently; better control of the country's borders and the prevention of illegal migration; preventing the internal trafficking of women and children which has emerged as the latest type of trafficking; enhancing the identification and protection standards for victims; increasing prevention activities; and increasing awareness of people who work in the assistance services for victims.

a) Police

The police structures have been dedicated to successfully perform their duties in the area of protection of victims of trafficking and increase the number of arrests of traffickers.

To improve the identification process of victims of trafficking during the process of interviewing INAD¹ and deported persons who return to border checkpoints from countries of destination, some bylaws have been approved. Following the proposal by the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator, the General Director of Police issued Order no. 714, on 03. 11. 2006, which sets out clear procedures to be followed in relation to Albanian and foreign

¹ Inadmissible persons – people detected on the border without identity documents

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citizens returned from other countries and clearly identifies specific duties that officers from the Border and Migration Police and the Sector of Fight against Illegal Trafficking have to perform when they receive and handle returned persons who it is suspected are victims of trafficking. The order also sets out the measures that must be taken during the reception, interviewing, verification, transport and accommodation of victims of trafficking in special facilities, in cooperation with the State Social Services and various NGOs. In this context, however, problems have been observed with regard to the activation of some of the 16 transit reception centers established in the main Albanian border checkpoints and their smooth running, concerning, namely, the creation of separate facilities for interviewing returned women and children. Likewise, improvements to follow up procedures for their identification and proper protection are required. In this area, closer cooperation between the border and migration police and anti-trafficking police, and the involvement of other state actors, such as the State Social Services, is needed when victims are interviewed.

The coordination of structures in the country has been good, but closer cooperation is required. To assist strengthening cooperation and to create a functional and consolidated network of cooperation, the Responsible Authority for the National Referral Mechanism has been established upon a joint order of the Minister of Interior, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. It will coordinate the process of referral for initial assistance and protection and long-term rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in close cooperation with the above ministries, other involved institutions and centers that shelter victims of trafficking. Communication lines have been established between the members of this Authority and communication and exchange of information has begun between the parties. The functioning of this Authority is expected to be consolidated in the future. All the actors involved in the Authority perform a critical role and have equal responsibilities in view of the contribution that they give.

With regard to police activity, on the basis of the results from 2006, the creation of a harmonized and unified information network, which produces reliable and verifiable figures on trafficking in human beings has been considered necessary as it enables the analysis of the above information and leads to a clear picture of the levels of trafficking in the country, allowing timely detection of the trends and dynamics of trafficking and, accordingly, a quick and efficient response by the responsible structures. Work is in progress both in the Ministry of Interior and OSCE to finalise the establishment and activation of a database for victims of trafficking that have been referred and placed under the protection of the Responsible Authority. This system will enable the representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities to record all cases of victims that have been returned, referred, handled and protected in Albania.

Cooperation with foreign police forces, primarily Italian, Montenegrin, Macedonian, Greek and British in the area of investigation and prosecution of traffickers has been productive. As mentioned above, the number of victims of trafficking has decreased considerably. This is testament to the efficient performance of the Albanian police in this area, although improvements are still necessary in the areas of identification and referral of victims of trafficking, which have to be clearly determined and rigorously implemented by all the State Police structures. In 2007, the Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings will hold meetings with Albanian border police officers in

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every region and bilateral meetings in border areas, focusing on the identification, referral and protection of victims of trafficking and the detection of traffickers.

Witness protection and the rigorous implementation of the law “On Protection of Witnesses and Collaborators of Justice” remain challenges to be addressed during the forthcoming year.

a) Social Services

The social service organs focus on the victims of trafficking. The tasks of the social services are the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims. This year social services, in cooperation with domestic and foreign partners, have endeavored to offer real chances for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking. In the legal sector, an important step undertaken by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in conjunction with domestic and foreign partners, has been the standardisation of services provided by shelters to victims of trafficking. Such shelters offer victims of trafficking shelter, physical security, psychological assistance, training and legal assistance in court cases. This standardisation of services is designed to inform the victims about the services available to them, the methods of provision of such services and the responsible personnel who offer such services. The long-term rehabilitation of has proved to be difficult in practice.

The National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking (NRCVI), the only state-run centre for the reception of victims of trafficking, has demonstrated commitment and professionalism in protecting and assisting victims of trafficking in humans.

It should be pointed out that:

1. Not all the women sheltered in the centre are victims of trafficking; some of them are women who have been exploited for prostitution and have been returned.
2. The number of women who cooperate with police is still low.
3. Their long-term rehabilitation has proved difficult in practice.

b) Diplomatic missions

The Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diplomatic Academy intends to prepare and complete, within the first half of 2007, some training modules on proper consular and counseling services for victims and persons at risk who are abroad. Such modules are intended for officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tirana and Albanian embassies and consulates in the main destination countries.

During 2006, our purpose was to prepare, with the assistance of NGOs and international organisations, leaflets or bulletins to be distributed in Albania and abroad, with information about the status, rights, services for family reunion and the repatriation process of victims or persons at risk of trafficking. A manual of best practice has been drawn up for state agencies, including consular missions, which will be used as a support material for training. Our aim is to fully complete this project by the end of 2007.

c) Prevention efforts

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In order to prevent trafficking in humans initiatives were undertaken in 2006 to improve the relevant Albanian legislation. The Penal Code was amended to criminalise smuggling of human beings and a proposal has been made to combat the phenomenon of exploitation of children for forced labour in relation to which we have completed the preliminary stage of a national awareness campaign to prevent the phenomenon. The campaign to protect children and remove them from the streets has been delegated to the Regional Committees of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings. It aims to: 1. Condemn the phenomenon and the parents or guardians who are complicit in it; 2. Protect vulnerable children by sending them to school (this measure is also implemented in the context of the project “Second Chance” of the Ministry of Education); 3. Assist parents with social assistance and provide them with employment opportunities. The project “Second Chance”, which undertakes to persuade education authorities to readmit children who have dropped out of school as a result of their family situation or their lack of personal skills, is in process.

With regard to the control of child trafficking in the country, a positive development has been the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and the OSCE Presence in Albania, for the promotion and implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism. The parties to this Memorandum undertake to fulfill a series of obligations, such as: the inclusion of the Global Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct for Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism in the Regulation of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, regarding procedures of granting or removing licenses and the rules on qualification/standardisation of services provided by tourist operators in Albania.

The establishment and operation of a countrywide toll-free telephone line for the denunciation of cases of trafficking and to provide information to interested people about regular migration was introduced as a result of close cooperation between the Ministry of Interior, IOM and UNODC. This telephone line operates for the benefit of the whole society to prevent trafficking in human beings. It became operational in early November 2006.

In the context of prevention of trafficking and re-trafficking, meetings have been organised with pupils of primary and high schools to discuss the methods, consequences and dangers of trafficking. Such meetings have taken place in most of the cities of the districts. Such meetings will also continue in the large communes throughout 2007.

Other preventive structures are the Regional Committees of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings. An outline of their activities is contained in Chapter 4 of this Report.

2. THE FULFILLMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF ALBANIA'S NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The achievements in the three main areas of the fight against trafficking in human beings in accordance with the Albanian National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005 – 2007 are set out in detail in the following pages of this report. This section also includes problems observed in the context of the implementation of the Action Plan.

2.1. INVESTIGATION AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF THE CRIME OF TRAFFICKING

One of the chief objectives of the fight against trafficking in human beings is to increase the number of criminal prosecutions and subsequent convictions of traffickers in proportion to arrests and cases investigated in this area. This has been achieved thanks to the cooperation between the police, the prosecutor's office and other law-enforcement organs. All the cases investigated by the police, which have been referred to the prosecutor's office, together with investigation and referrals to the court for reaching a verdict on the conviction of traffickers, are provided in the Statistical Annex.

With regard to the investigation and criminal prosecution of the crime of trafficking, a series of measures has also been envisaged, as shown below, which albeit not being directly connected to this issue, are of special importance for the investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking cases.

As mentioned in the introduction, an example of a legislative amendment to strengthen the legal framework in this area was the adoption by the Parliament of an amendment to Article 298 of the Penal Code (law no. 9686, dated 26.02.2007), which criminalises smuggling of human beings across non Albanian borders. In addition, a new provision prohibiting the exploitation of children for forced labour purposes will be added to the Penal Code; it will be accompanied by a new social-educational package for assisting such children and their families in employment, education and other areas.

A positive development in the fight against organised crime in general and trafficking in human beings in particular has been the law "On moratorium for motor-powered boats in the Republic of Albania". This law prohibits the use of small boats in Albanian territorial waters {especially the route towards Italy} for three-years, in order to combat illegal trafficking. The operation "Deti i Qetë" ("Calm Sea") was launched under this provision.

In the same vein, the Council of Europe Convention "On Measures against Trafficking in Human Beings" was approved and ratified by the Parliament pursuant to Law no. 9642, dated 20. 11. 2006.

Transparent procedures to be followed by the State Police during criminal prosecutions have been devised by the General Prosecutor's Office together with the Serious Crimes' Prosecutor's Office and international partners. In the context of strengthening the judiciary, an important step has been to equip the Serious Crimes' Court with the required technical elements for protection and provide the necessary infrastructure for victims of trafficking who testify at trial via a videoconference system. Following this process, steps will be taken

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to improve the legal and physical protection and protection of the personal identity of all victims / witnesses in court cases and to review the compensation scheme for such victims from forfeited assets of the traffickers.

It is expected that the TIMS system will be fully operational throughout the entire country by the end of 2007. It is currently operational in the Ministry of Interior, the regional police directorates of Tirana, Durres, Vlore, and in the border checkpoints of Rinas Airport, Kapshtice, Kakavije, the Port of Durres, Qafe Thane, Han i Hotit, Morine and the Port of Vlore. In the same context, based also on investments carried out by IOM in several facilities in the border checkpoints of Rinas Airport, Kapshtice, Kakavije, in order to improve the conditions of reception for eventual victims of trafficking, the Directorate of Border and Migration Police is working to activate these reception centers. These buildings have been wired to install the TIMS system in order that interviews can be conducted in the facilities, and four terminals have been provided in each building; the border police units in these border checkpoints have been given vans to facilitate the deportation of all relevant people from the border checkpoints. This structure has already been completed in Rinas and work is in progress to train the police personnel who will conduct interviews, to ensure that the interviewing team functions according to the referral mechanism and guaranteeing the presence of anti-trafficking specialists. It is expected that the border checkpoints of Bllate, Gorice, Tre Urat, Qafe Bote and the Port of Sarande will be linked to the TIMS system this year.

Female police officers have been assigned to the border checkpoints of Vlore and Rinas. In order to identify potential victims of trafficking, border police currently conduct interviews with deported persons in all the border checkpoints where they have been returned. In addition in the places where the TIMS system exists (Rinas, Durres, Vlore, Kakavije, Kapshtice, Hani i Hotit, Murriqan, Morine, Qafe Thane, and Tushemisht), data obtained from interviewees is inserted into the system. Work is in progress to increase cooperation between border police and other specialized structures, such as regional anti-trafficking offices, during the process of identification, referral and assistance to victims of trafficking. The Duty Order no. 714, dated 03. 11. 2006, of the General Director of Police "On procedures carried out with Albanian and foreign citizens returned from other countries", outlines the duties of officers from Border and Migration Police and the Sector for the Fight against Illegal Trafficking in handling returned persons, identified as victims of trafficking, and the measures to be taken. Measures have been envisaged for the reception, interviewing, verification, transport and accommodation of victims of trafficking in special facilities, in cooperation with the State Social Service and NGOs. Unmarked cars are used for their reception and, wherever possible, the interviews are conducted by officers of Border and Migration Police in plain clothes. Based on the above-mentioned orders, contact points at a regional level between Border and Migration Police, on the one hand, and State Social Service and NGOs, on the other, have been assigned, with the purpose of notifying the latter in a timely fashion and to ensure their presence when victims or suspected victims are identified.

In the context of inter-institutional coordination, in cooperation with the relevant structures, the state police have managed to gather evidence and arrest in flagrante several members of the police who were involved in criminal acts related to trafficking in human beings. These

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violations mostly consist of the acts of abuse of office or counterfeiting, the latter having occurred in the passports' issuance sector, by issuing travel documents to people who are wanted for serious crimes etc. 175 criminal files for 244 police officers have been filed at the prosecutor's office, among whom 15 are high ranking officers, 87 are mid ranking, and 142 are low ranking. Out of the total of 244, 71 officers have been arrested. The Internal Control Service has detected 5 cases of police assistance to individuals attempting illegal border crossings; 4 police officers were arrested in flagrante and expelled from the police and the case files of 11 police officers were sent to the prosecutor's office for further investigation.

The Minister of Interior's order no. 282 date 13. 02. 2006 "On Installation of Toll-free Phone Numbers for Denouncing Corruption and the Procedures for Carrying out this Activity in the Structures of Ministry of Interior for the Directorate of Internal Control provides the grounds for functioning at a maximum level of the Legal Information Centre of this service and an increase of efficiency in combating corruption, detecting and preventing it throughout the structures of State Police.

In the area of statistics, the Ministry of Justice has assembled statistics for 2006 which are attached to this report in the statistics table. It should be stressed that there have been no dismissals, disciplinary / administrative sanctions or criminal prosecutions/ convictions of Court or Ministry of Justice officials for involvement in trafficking of human beings.

An important element regarding the investigations and criminal prosecutions, has been the cooperation with international partners on the extradition of people accused of trafficking in human beings. During 2006, 13 extraditions were carried out in relation to the offence of trafficking in human beings.

In the context of conducting the activities of the Continuous Training Program in 2006, the Magistrates' School, in cooperation with domestic and international partners, has trained judges and prosecutors during the period of February – June 2006 by means of training sessions on the operational impact of the current reform of criminal justice, the cooperation between persons for committing criminal acts; financial investigations; criminal acts against the person; crimes against life; criminal acts against the state, and the protection of witnesses and collaborators of justice. In the training program for 2006 – 2009 lectures on transnational and organized crime have been given, including two days specifically on trafficking in human beings.

It is important to highlight that a special curriculum regarding trafficking of human beings has been included in the Police Academy program. Training on anti-trafficking issues has been carried out in the country and abroad, as well as at regional and international meetings, in conjunction with the police, the Prosecutor's Office and the courts.

During 2006 training has been carried out for police officers in the field of legal and psychological assistance to child victims, witnesses or individuals who are at risk of being trafficked. Joint meetings have been organized with the police, the prosecution and the courts on victims of trafficking in order to improve their awareness of the special nature and specialized assistance needed by victims of trafficking.

Further consolidation of the inter-institutional, international and regional cooperation is required in the fields of legislation, law enforcement and justice against trafficking and traffickers of human beings in order to improve the results in the area of prosecution.

2.2. SUPPORT AND PROTECTION TO VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

In addition to the prosecution of the crime of trafficking, special attention has been paid to the protection and support to victims of trafficking and witnesses or collaborators of justice in accordance with the Law on Protection of Witnesses. In 2006, special protective measures, based on a proposal by the General Prosecutor, were applied for one victim of trafficking who was a key witness at the trial. The witness cooperated with the criminal authorities in the investigation of the criminal act of trafficking. As a result of her testimony, four traffickers were charged and convicted by the court, each receiving a prison sentence of 9 years.

The establishment of the national structures for the referral of victims of trafficking, both at a central and local level was one of the priorities of 2006. Based on the Joint Order no. 1192, dated 19. 05. 2006 by the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the Responsible Authority, which serves as a coordinator of the National Referral Mechanism, was established. The order establishing the Responsible Authority defines the general and specific duties of the Responsible Authority. It is made up of two representatives from the responsible state structures of the three above-mentioned ministries. The members of the Responsible Authority from the Ministry of Interior serve as representatives of the leading institution in this regard. The members of the Responsible Authority are expected to meet regularly and at least once a month, and as necessary for business reasons, and on a quarterly basis, meeting with all the government and non-government parties of the National Referral Mechanism. The Responsible Authority aims to coordinate and carry out the referral process for assistance, protection and long-term rehabilitation for all the victims of trafficking, in close cooperation with all the other partners such as MoI, MOLSAEO and MOFA who are playing a leading role.

Also, in the context of the activity of the Responsible Authority, following the interview of victims or suspected victims of trafficking, an example of good practice of its functioning is the interviewing of victims deported from the UK every Thursday at Rinas Airport, where representatives of the border police structures, anti-trafficking structures and social workers have been present in all the cases that came to the attention of the police commissariat of the airport.

Most of the people interviewed do not have sufficient information about the process of regular migration, but it has been observed that there is interest and the will to know more about how to legally migrate. At the conclusion of the interviews social workers from the NCFVT gave information about how to legally migrate and other useful information.

Great efforts are being made within the structures of the Ministry of Interior and OSCE, the main supporting partner of this project, to finalise the establishment of, and activation of the

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database that will operate within the Responsible Authority. This system will enable representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Centers for Protection of Victims of Trafficking to record cases of victims returned, referred, handled and protected in Albania. This database will be integrated in the TMS system and the statistics contained in it will be subject to data protection legislation and only the Responsible Authority and the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator will have access to this data.

It should be stressed that the reporting process and exchange of information between the members of Responsible Authority has already begun, based on forms that have been devised for the database. The Ministry of Labour reports periodically to the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator in the Ministry of Interior about identified cases or referrals made on account of Albanian or third country nationals who are sheltered in centers. The Directorate of Social Service Policies in the Ministry of Labour records cases of returned victims of trafficking residing in centers for the reception of victims of trafficking. Reporting focuses on the identification of victims of trafficking; the referral of these cases; treatment of these cases and their constant follow-up; and the reintegration of victims of trafficking.

An important achievement in 2006 was the signature by the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of Republic of Albania of the Agreement on Protection and Assistance to Child Victims of Trafficking, which was finalised in February 2006. This agreement was ratified by the Albanian Parliament in May 2006 in its ratification by the Greek Parliament is expected during the first quarter of 2007. Whilst the agreement is in the process of being ratified by the Greek Parliament, continuous contact has been maintained with the Greek authorities through meetings at the Greek Embassy in Tirana and meetings that the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator had in Athens. These meetings are in preparation for the organisation of meetings between the responsible authorities in both countries who will supervise the implementation of this agreement and will discuss the concrete steps to be taken after it comes into force.

In consideration of the paramount objective of providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings and their families, the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with IOM and UNODC, established a toll-free help line (08001212), over the whole country. This telephone line serves to receive denunciations of cases of trafficking by persons at risk, their relatives or other citizens, and provide information on issues related to trafficking and safe migration by specialised structures.

To date, the Albanian Government has financed the National Reception Centre directly due to its importance. However, a new strategy is under way in order to transfer the role of financing these new community based services to local government in order to guarantee their sustainability. . The National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking (NRCVT) carries out reintegration programs which include counseling, health, education, professional courses and training on life skills. Currently, a mini-project sponsored and financed by the ILO/MIGRANT Project has delivered professional courses in hairdressing for 6 victimized women. In light of the increasing number of women being housed in the Centre and their desire to improve their professional qualifications the Centre will carry on working with various donors in order to implement other projects for the benefit of this target group.

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Among other things, this centre delivers courses on English and Albanian language, sewing, computers, hairdressing etc. It offers quality services for three target groups:

- Trafficked women and girls or those at risk of being trafficked
- Unaccompanied children or those at risk of being trafficked
- Irregular migrants.

The services provided are:

- Food, clothing, temporary shelter and all the other needs of the individual.
- Psycho-social assistance (provided by qualified staff of social workers and the Legal Clinic for Minors)
- Medical assistance (offered by the Centre, IOM, Public Health Institute, "Mother Theresa" Hospital Centre etc.)
- Legal assistance (given by legally trained staff, for example, the Legal Clinic for Minors.)
- Guaranteed security and protection for witnesses (provided by the Ministry of Interior, State Police)
- Rehabilitation and integration activities
- Referral for integration.
- Return and reunion with the family.
- Follow-up of the victims after they leave the Centre (whenever possible)

All the above services are offered by multi-disciplined professional staff.

NCRVT also cooperates with donors for specific needs, such as technical and financial assistance, training etc, among which are IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, OSCE, USAID, SOROS Foundation etc. Despite the above services and the recent developments more investment is needed for this centre.

In NCRVT, which is an institution under the auspices of Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, measures have been taken to encourage victims of trafficking to report their traffickers to the police. Moreover, victims of trafficking are provided with the necessary information about how to protect themselves if their lives are at risk. This Centre enables cooperation between police officers, prosecutors, and victims of trafficking, who are sheltered and protected in the Centre. The Centre continues to assist victims of trafficking who have reported their traffickers to the police and may need protection after the conclusion of the trial, in accordance with the Law on Protection of Witnesses and Collaborators of Justice. In this context, in May 2006, the Centre prepared and distributed a bilingual leaflet (in Albanian and English) titled "Help yourself and prize the future! We always come to people in need!" NGOs have also prepared and are distributing bilingual leaflets with assistance from donors.

The NRCVT staff cooperates with all the structures that refer victims, such as border checkpoints, police commissariats etc to accommodate victims. The standard procedure of interviewing the victim and assessing their needs is always followed. A standard questionnaire has been developed along the lines of NRM and periodic checks have been conducted in the main border checkpoints of Durres, Vlore and Rinas. At present border police conduct interviews in order to identify and protect victims and suspected victims of trafficking at all border checkpoints where deported persons have been returned. In

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addition, data obtained from such interviews is entered into the TIMS system at the border checkpoints where the system has been implemented i.e. Rinas, Durres, Vlore, Kakavije, Kapshtice, Hani i Hotit, Murriqan, Morine, Qafe Thane and Tushemisht.

In light of the importance of capacity building for professional training, through: i) the development of the system of public professional training centers; ii) the promotion, support and cooperation with interested non-governmental actors and employers; iii) employment subsidies, with which the state supports employers who create new jobs for the unemployed referred by employment offices, in accordance with the Order no. 782, dated 04. 04. 2006 "On Tariffs of Professional Formation System", free courses are provided in public professional training centers to groups in need, such as the Roma community, trafficked women and girls, people who have been released from jail, orphans and people with learning difficulties. According to this Order, certain groups of people, including trafficked women and girls, are exempt from paying registration tariffs to attend professional training courses for unemployed jobseekers registered in employment offices. During the period January – June 2006, 13 unemployed female jobseekers who were victims of trafficking, benefited from this free service.

In respect of professional training, nine public professional centers are currently operating in the major cities including Vlore, Shkoder, Tirana, Durres, Elbasan, Korçe, Tepelene and Fier and 130 licensed organisations operate in this field throughout the country. The Order no. 394 dated 23. 02. 2004 by MOLSAEO "On Tariffs of Professional Formation" provides for free courses in public professional formation centers for trafficked women and girls. In this context, the "Vatra Centre" has offered professional courses to 10 individuals from vulnerable groups who are at risk of being trafficked, and for 15 individuals involved in reintegration programmes, in order to prevent the likelihood of re-trafficking. MOLSAEO is implementing programs for the promotion of employment of female unemployed jobseekers, in which priority is given to the employment of trafficked women. Updated information on employment opportunities can be found on MOLSAEO's website: – www.mpcs.gov.al.

To assist victims of trafficking, the development and approval of a package of Government initiatives to promote legal migration and prevent trafficking and re-trafficking of young women, girls and children has been agreed. Such initiatives include offering small loans, reduced taxes and micro finance credit schemes to support new, small and medium-sized businesses, which focus on truant children and those groups in regions most at risk. The package also includes funds to subsidise activities undertaken by shelters and employers who cooperate with such businesses, in order to create new jobs and assist re-integration of victims of trafficking. The implementation of the second stage of the regional ILO-Migrant project "*Opportunities of employment, professional formation, and measures of migratory policies for preventing and curbing of women in Albania, Moldova and Ukraine*" is an ongoing process. This project allocates, amongst other things, micro-loans to start private businesses to female victims of trafficking. The aim is to re-integrate such individuals back into the community and to create new employment possibilities for them. It also aims to prevent individuals at risk from becoming victims of trafficking. To this end two workshops took place on 23. 11. 2006 and 07. 12. 2006. The workshops focused on preventing trafficking of women by training those at risk on issues of legal migration, trafficking and smuggling of persons. Manuals with information on the legal framework and government policies in relation to

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migration and immigration, private employment agencies and trafficking and smuggling of persons were also distributed. Representatives of Regional and Local Employment Offices, employers, trade unions and private employment agencies participated in these workshops.

In the context of support and protection offered to victims of trafficking, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has maintained close contact and cooperated with the Ministry of Interior by providing advice and assisting in the production of leaflets in Albanian and English to be distributed in Albania and abroad. The leaflets contain information on the status, rights and services offered to victims of trafficking in order to reunite them with their families and the repatriation process.

Albania has signed a bilateral cooperation with Greece on matters of support and protection to victims of trafficking. It is hoped that additional agreements will be made with Italy, Belgium and France. To this end preliminary contacts have already been made with the Italian Embassy in Tirana.

Contacts have been established with counterpart structures for the protection of Albanian children in destination countries, especially where there are considerable numbers. For example, there is a contact officer in the Albanian Embassy in Athens who cooperates with counterpart state structures, Albanian NGOs and those from the country of destination.

The training of members of the Albanian consular service on matters of data verification, methods of issuing documents and arranging travel for Albanian children who are to be repatriated is in progress.

It is worth mentioning, that various international organisations involved in the effort against trafficking in human beings, are working to build the capacities of local shelters, such as Vatra, Tjeter Vizion, D&E etc, to accommodate, identify and refer victims of trafficking.

Problems encountered

- The Serious Crimes Court facility is not properly equipped to protect witnesses. However, work is in progress with OPDAT to equip the Serious Crimes Court with the necessary technology to provide security for witnesses.
- A state-sponsored compensation scheme has to be devised for the compensation and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking; it will be based, among other things, on the confiscation of assets belonging to traffickers. Free legal assistance should be given to victims in order to enable them to access compensation through this scheme, regardless of whether they are part of the Witness Protection Program. Efforts are currently in progress with the Ministry of Finance to devise such a legal compensation scheme that is financially viable.
- The network of international or regional cooperation agreements in the field of justice should be enlarged to include the issues of protection and temporary relocation of witnesses; reciprocal legal assistance; reciprocal recognition of court decisions; and extradition.
- The negotiation of new or improved bilateral agreements with neighboring countries or other destination or transit countries regarding reciprocal notification, safe

- accommodation and regular and coordinated return of child victims of trafficking through processes and procedures that respect the rights and interests of children and their prospects for social re-integration should be commenced.
- Due to a lack of funds, an information system for emigration for employment was not set up. It had been intended that such a system would be set up when the website www.migrantinfo.gov.al was launched.
 - The progress in the instruction and training of the Albanian consular personnel to apply recognized international procedures on protection and notification to competent organs for trafficked Albanian children, or those at risk of being exploited in destination countries has been slow.

2.3. PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING AND RE-TRAFFICKING

In 2006 the objective in the area of prevention and coordination has been to develop new Government-sponsored media publicity campaigns to raise public awareness. Such campaigns should educate the public on the dangers of trafficking in human beings, its causes and other social issues related to it (including domestic and sexual violence false promises of employment or marriage, gender and race discrimination and sexual health).

The state initiatives to prevent trafficking of human beings are supported by national and international NGOs. The organisations that have had more impact in this area are the "Vatra" Centre (supported financially and technically by the project "Promotion of Regular Migration and Prevention of Trafficking of Human Beings in Albania"), Tjeter Vizion, Different and Equal, Sherbimi Social Nderkombetar (*International Social Service*), Terre des Hommes, Ndihe per Femijet (*Help for Children*), Qendra Komunitare Ballsh (*Community Centre of Ballsh*), Komisioni Nderkombetar Katolik per Migracionin (*International Catholic Commission for Migration*), Save the Children, Klinika Ligjore per te Miturit (*Legal Clinic for Minors*), Sherbimi Social Nderkombetar (*International Social Service*), Ne dobi te gruas (*For the benefit of women*), Strehezat (*Shelters*), Organizata nderkombetare per migracionin (*IOM*), Linja e keshillimit per gra dhe vajza (*Counselling line for women and girls*), Qendra Shqiptare per mbrojtjen e te drejtave te femijeve (*Albanian centre for protection of child rights*), the coalition of NGOs "Bashke kunder trafikimit te femijeve" (*Together against child trafficking – BKTF*). Pursuant to the Council of Ministers' Decision no. 564, dated 12. 08. 2005, "On Licensing Social Service Providers", the process of licensing other NGOs who provide social services for those in need is in progress. To date, about 30 NGOs which provide such services have been licensed. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities is cooperating with NGOs to provide prevention services, support, and rehabilitation and reintegration assistance.

a) Measures for promoting the education of potential child victims of trafficking

This section will describe the efforts being made by the responsible institutions with regard to the education of those at risk of trafficking and in implementation of the Guideline no. 34, dated 08. 12. 2004 "On Implementation of Project 'Second Chance'" in relation to children who do not attend school or who are house bound due to blood feuds . 61 classes have been opened, employing 34 full-time and 5 part-time teachers; 7 classes have been

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opened for pupils confined at home due to blood feuds with 1 full-time and 3 part-time teachers. The process of running classes for all the above categories of children, with a special curriculum of basic education, and attracting truant children or those who do not attend school, such as Roma, Gypsy and street children has begun. Efforts are being made to introduce a psychiatric service in all cities and large rural areas. At present 140 psychologists are working in secondary education. In addition, work is in progress to review legislation in the area of special needs, in the context of the inter-ministerial group for drafting the integral law on persons with learning disabilities. The Ministry of Education and Science has issued Guideline no.6, dated 29.03.2006 "On registration of Roma children at school who do not have birth certificates". Classes have been opened in Korçe, Elbasan and Berat and courses have been set up in: Tirane, Durrës, Shkoder, Lushnje, Berat and Vlore.

b) Measures to help women and girls who are victims of trafficking or potential victims of trafficking to find employment.

In Order no. 645 dated 20.03.2006 "On Priorities of Employment Promotion Programme for 2006", as regards the delivery of funds, 50 % of the funds of these programs are only for the implementation of the program according to the Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 632 "On the employment of the job-seeking unemployed women". Under this programme, female jobseekers are employed and priority is given to trafficked girls, unemployed women above 35, unemployed Roma women, women with learning disabilities, single mothers, divorced women and women with social problems.

In cooperation with international organisations, such as IOM, work is in progress to increase the capacities of state structures represented in the National Employment Offices to provide information on legal methods of migration, establish activities to prevent trafficking and establish services for the return and re-integration for returned migrants (including victims of trafficking). The training of employment office staff in 6 selected districts: Shkoder, Kukes, Peshkopi, Durrës, Elbasan and Vlore is in progress. A Memorandum of Understanding between IOM and the National Employment Service is planned. The National Employment Service and Regional Employment Offices provide information, guidance and intermediation for employment for registered unemployed jobseekers. NGOs that provide training courses and social businesses cooperate with these offices.

In the first phase of project "Distribution of social services in community", financed by the World Bank, community-based daily services were provided to children, youths, people with learning disabilities, women in need and people of an advanced age in four pilot regions (Tirana, Durrës, Shkoder dhe Vlore) and in the second phase to four other regions (Elbasan, Fier, Lezhe, Gjirokaster). 44 cooperation agreements have been signed with NGOs and local government units to provide services for children, young people, women and old aged pensioners. All the sub-projects are financed by the World Bank, local government and the state budget. After the completion of the project, the responsibility for running the services will be taken over by local government. The model of daily services will cover a greater number of beneficiaries, will guarantee new types of services, and will cover 2/3 of the country's territory. Municipalities/communes will take over all the responsibilities for their

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establishment, administration and continuity. These services are provided by NGOs which make cooperation contracts with municipalities/communes for their financing.

There are currently 9 public centers for professional training in the country's largest cities such as Vlore, Shkoder, Tirane, Durres, Elbasan, Korce, Tepelene dhe Fier, as well as some 130 licensed private organisations throughout Albania.

Short courses are organised in public professional training centers (from 6-7 weeks to 4 months in public centers and from 1 week to 2 years in private ones). Based on data from 2006, 70% of the qualifications obtained by the students were in computing and foreign languages, and the remainder in 17 other professions. 5450 trainees were certified in public centers. The students at the professional training courses in public centers are predominantly individuals under 24 years of age and about 50% of participants are unemployed. During 2006, funds from the state budget were allocated to strengthen professional training centers in the cities of Fier, Durres and Tirana. A new centre is expected to open in Gjirokastr. With support from the CARDS Project, the centers of Korçe, Vlore and Elbasan will be financed, in order to meet modern standards. 7908 people have been trained in private centers, among whom 4843 are women that have been trained not only in traditional female occupations, such as hairdressing and tailoring, but also in English and other foreign languages. In the majority of the courses, the majority of the participants are individuals under 24 years of age, who have completed 8 years of education. In total 2688 people have attended 24 professional courses offered by these centers.

In pursuance of the Law no. 9034 dated 20.03.2003, "On Emigration of Albanian Citizens for Motives of Employment", the Directorate of Migration in MOLSAEO has sent a request to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of Italy to start negotiations to draft a new agreement in the framework of employment, which aims to:

- widen the legal channels of migration and prevent irregular migration; in accordance with the National Migration Strategy, a pilot project has been developed to continue cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies; it has been sent for approval to the Italian party and their reply is expected.
- Improve intermediation services for employment abroad for jobs offered to jobseekers by private operators, and strengthen cooperation with private employment agencies (PEA's). Therefore, a meeting has been organised between representatives of PEA's, MOLSAEO and NES (*National Employment Service*), with the purpose to organise the PEA's in a union and to draw up a code of ethics for them, thereby assisting in the improvement of standards of employment that PEA's offer both in the country and abroad.

In this context, on 18. 12. 2006, the new law "On Emigration of Albanian Citizens for Motives of Employment", was approved. Several articles of this law deal with the prevention of trafficking in human beings and facilitate re-integration in the employment market Articles 1.2(d), 21. 4 (d).16, 19 and 40.

c) Measures undertaken to assist the Roma community

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The progress of the objectives of the National Strategy for Roma people is being monitored by the Strategy Monitoring Sector, within the State Social Service, in the Ministry of Labour. The sector has established relations and periodically exchanges information at two levels: at a central level, - with all the ministries that have direct responsibility for the Roma community, such as the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication, Ministry of Interior; and at a local level, with local government at a regional, municipal/communal level. The Strategy Monitoring Sector regularly contacts and exchanges information with civil society organisations and NGOs that support individuals in need and provide direct services for the Roma community, street children, and child victims of trafficking or those at risk of being trafficked and with other associations that protect the interests of Roma and Gypsy communities. Information on their location and the scope of their activities has been gathered by NGOs that focus on assisting Roma. The Directorate of Social Policies in the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has a list with 30 active Roma NGOs with which it cooperates and supports for the benefit of the Roma community. Some of these NGOs are licensed.

In 2006, the Strategy Monitoring Unit within the State Social Service organised round tables in country's 12 regions. They focused on the progress made in achieving the objectives of the National Strategy in order to (i) highlight the problems that the Roma community faces in various regions; (ii) enable contacts between the representatives of this community and the responsible institutions tasked with the implementation of the Strategy; (iii) enable the implementation of projects offered by donors for the Roma Community and (iv) enable local government to familiarize itself with the Strategy.

In the context of this Strategy, and other anti-trafficking strategies, MOLSAEO has undertaken the following steps:

• ***For social protection of the Roma community***

Support for the establishment of day centers for children between 1 and 6 years old has been planned with domestic and foreign organisations. In accordance with Law no. 9355, dated 10.03.2005, the information process for the Roma community by social administrators in municipalities/communes has begun and assistance is being given to complete the relevant documents to obtain economic aid, to pay people with learning disabilities, to identify the needs of the population for different services. In addition, secondary legislation has been passed guaranteeing non-discriminatory treatment of the Roma and Gypsy communities in the provision of economic aid and access to services offered by NGOs.

• ***In the area of employment of Roma people***

It has been planned that the Roma population should be given priority for employment via:

- Public works programs
- Programs for the promotion of employment opportunities to unemployed people
- Promotion of employment through professional training.

Measures have been taken with regard to:

- a. Study of the labour market, encouraging the Roma population in this market, identifying traditional Roma businesses and cooperating with them and financing organisations to assist in the management process.
- b. For the implementation of the program, according to the Council of Ministers' Decision no. 632, dated 18. 09. 2003 "On Employing Female Unemployed Jobseekers", 50% of the funds have been foreseen to be allocated for the employment of women and girls, where special groups from the Roma community are included. The government financially assists employers who employ individuals from the Roma community by subsidizing the minimum wage and 70% of social insurance contributions for over 4 months a year.
- c. Inclusion in the employment promotion programs of special groups, including Roma people, which will make not less than 20% of the number of people employed within these programs.

- ***In the area of professional training***

Albania has legislation in place which provides for free training and professional education for Roma youths. These programs will be extended to support the establishment of businesses and traditional activities of this community.

According to Order No. 782, dated 04.04.2006 "On Tariffs of Professional Education System", the participation without fees in professional education, courses offered by Regional Directorates of Professional Education of members of Roma community has been foreseen.

d) Awareness campaigns to prevent trafficking in human beings

In order to raise awareness of trafficking, state institutions and NGOs that work with vulnerable groups, including families with social problems, poor educational records and Roma families, organise seminars and provide relevant information. The Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings, in cooperation with IOM, has completed the preparatory work for a national awareness campaign. On May 15th 2006, MOLSAEO organised a round table discussion focusing on parental responsibilities and child welfare, at which NGOs who provide services in these fields presented reports on the progress made in education, health, social protection, public order and local government.

In 2006 it was the aim to inform the public on other alternatives to prevent trafficking, such as increasing the awareness of mandatory education and strengthening the sanctions for parents who fail to send their children to school. Also projects have been carried out to identify problematic areas and those with high rates of children that have abandoned school.

With support from UNICEF within the Directorate of Social Service Policies in MOLSAEO the Child Unit has been established. It has organised round table meetings and conferences which focused on child protection. It also offers training to public and private service providers, local government bodies etc. on the implementation of standards of service for

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children. Seminars and round table meetings have been held with involved actors to increase public awareness about the structures which protect children. They have focused on issues related to children from Roma and Gypsy communities, street children, child workers, the family and its responsibilities for child welfare etc. The Training Sector within the State Social Services has been created; it will periodically train all the employees of public and private services at a central and local level on issues related to children.

Training has taken place for officials of the anti-trafficking border police, customs, education personnel and social services personnel. It is intended that teachers who work with children and groups at risk of being trafficked will also be trained.

The Ministry of Education and Science, as an important actor in the fight against human trafficking, has attempted to raise awareness on trafficking issues in all school subjects that relate to gender awareness and social education at all pre-university school levels. For this purpose, the Ministry of Education and Science, in cooperation with other interested actors, has sponsored TV programs about trafficking on national and local TV channels. It has published articles in the newspaper "Mësuesi" (*The Teacher*) and other daily papers. The high school curriculum has been modified to include relevant topics, in the courses on civic education, biology and health education. The local education institutions have begun to identify and create a database of children who do not attend school and have begun to build, at prefecture level, the necessary administrative and legal structures to enforce the law in this area.

Manuals and leaflets for pupils and teachers of primary schools have been published. The joint training program between MoES and IOM to train teachers on child trafficking and its consequences is in progress. There has been training and support for teachers in 10 pilot schools which organise extra-curricula activities, in order to prevent children falling prey to traffickers.

Teachers have been provided with reference materials on human and child rights, gender-based violence, trafficking in human beings and migration. Participating schools have been provided with televisions, video recorders and documentaries. Contests have been organised for teachers to draw up teaching plans within the subjects of the curriculum with topics for which they were trained.

The signature of a cooperation agreement between IOM and MoES is intended, covering the following areas:

- the establishment of contact people in MoES to coordinate the project activities,
- the establishment of selection criteria for the 10 pilot schools,
- the development of a package with combined educational tools,
- capacity building in schools via the teacher training,
- equipping the pilot schools with TV and video recorders and film materials/documentaries.

Visits and meetings between officials from the ministries of education in the local level have taken place for this purpose. An evaluation mechanism has been created to measure the

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efficiency and impact of the methods used. This agreement will lead to the consolidation of successful models of preventing trafficking in the schools of the region. Also, 10 teachers from 10 schools from the districts of Fier, Berat, Korçe, Elbasan and Shkoder dhe Kukes were selected by the Regional Education Directorate – according to criteria set earlier by IOM and MoES – and were trained based on a module developed by IOM and the Institute of Curricula and Standards in Albania. 6 NGOs which work with truant children and those at risk of being trafficked or exploited were also involved to these training sessions. Exchange programs have been organised between the representatives of MoES and IOM in Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo.

Problems Encountered

- There must be better cooperation between Employment Agencies and Employment Offices in the exchange of information about available jobs and the needs of employers.
- More should be done to develop and approve a package of government initiatives for promoting professional alternatives, to fight illegal migration, trafficking and re-trafficking of young women, girls and children, by offering small loans, lower taxes and micro-economic programs in order to support new, small and medium sized businesses, which keep under their focus children who have abandoned school and groups in the regions with a higher incidence of trafficking; and by subsidizing job creation and reintegration activities carried out by shelters and employers who cooperate with them .

3. FULFILLMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND PROTECTION OF CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

As explained above, special attention has been paid by the Albanian government to measures in the fight against child trafficking as children are a very vulnerable group of society.

3.1. PREVENTION

It is recognized that education is an important tool in the fight against trafficking in human beings. As a result the Ministry of Education and Science has taken a series of steps to protect children who are vulnerable to trafficking:

- Issuance of the instruction to begin the new academic year, including educational activities, in which planning and following up activities against child trafficking, fight against narcotics, prostitution etc, are stressed.
- The new curricula of pre-university education include problems related to the awareness of pupils for the prevention of trafficking.
- Publications, manuals related to trafficking, gender problems (manuals for teachers, students of the pre-university education system)
- Special topics have been introduced in civic education classes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades of High School.
- Manuals, posters and leaflets have been published for pupils and teachers of the primary school.
- Qualification of teachers to enable them to work with children at risk of trafficking, especially in areas with socio-economic problems.
- The Support Program in the Security Reform is being implemented in 88 schools throughout Tirana, Vlore, Lezhe, Shkoder and Kukes through the cooperation of schools and police. A series of competitions has been organised, with poetry, essays, concerts, exhibitions, meetings, conversations, short theatrical pieces, with specialists of the area, to highlight the need for cooperation between schools and the police.
- Training and support materials about human and child rights, gender-based violence and trafficking in human beings have been produced for teachers in 10 pilot schools which provide preventive programs for children through extra curricula activities that target truant children. In this context, a competition will be organised for participating teachers to draw up teaching plans within the subjects of the curriculum about the topics for which they were trained.
- TV and video recorders and documentary films have been provided to pilot schools for use in training children.
- The identification and creation of a database of truant children has been completed and measures to reduce this phenomenon have been taken.
- 4 training sessions, each with 25 teachers have taken place in the districts of Korçe, Elbasan, Berat and Fier.
- 100 teachers who work with problem children in 4 regions have been trained.
- In light of Instruction no. 34, dated 08. 12. 2004 for the implementation of the project "Second Chance", the education of children who have left school early and those who are confined at home due to blood feuds is taking place using a special curriculum. Classes have been conducted in Korçe, Elbasan and Berat.

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- The “CEFA” Project, for alternative education of advanced-age children who have abandoned school.
- A psychiatry service has been introduced in schools.
- High pedagogical schools have been opened. There are currently 23 such schools, in which 73% of the students are girls.
- Teachers and parents have been trained on gender issues.
- Courses have been set up for hairdressing and sewing, in the context of RMZA project (*Increasing Chances for Development of Abilities*) in Tirana, Durrës, Shkoder, Lushnje, Berat and Vlore.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities perform an important role in the protection of children. The Directorate of Social Service Policies and the State Social Service, with support of the Children Project, has carried out several visits, meetings and training activities with social sector workers in Shkoder, Korçe and Lezhe, on issues of child protection, services for children in need and on the reform of the social services. Such meetings will also take place also in 4 further regions in June. The process of increasing awareness of state institutions to protect children and the public through seminars and round table meetings, which have focused on the issues of children from Roma and Gypsy communities, street children, working children, the family and its responsibilities for child welfare, has begun. NRCVT is conducting re-integration programs which offer counseling and life skills, health and education services, and the opportunity to study for professional qualifications.

Among the steps MOLSAEO has taken we should mention:

- The types of social services for children from Roma community have been identified. More cooperation contracts have been agreed with NGOs that provide services for children with social problems in residential and day centers, part of whom belong to the Roma community.
- Efforts are in progress to increase the Roma community's awareness about the education and health of their children in order to prevent trafficking. There are NGOs who support Roma families in need with food aid, education support for their children (such as buying their schoolbooks), literacy courses, and inclusion of Roma youths in professional training courses.
- In 2006, the process of establishing 18 community services began, 9 of which focus on children. The inclusion of Roma children in these services is a priority.
- By the same token, for the period 2006–2007 – the process of establishing 25 other community services has begun; 1/3 of them will provide services for children. Funding for these projects is being provided predominantly by the World Bank. Municipalities will also cover part of the operational expenses. In addition to the priority to include Roma children, there will be also exclusive services for Roma children, such as in the case of Fier.
- The issue of the Council of Ministers' Decision “On Admissions in Universities and Superior Education Schools, 2007 – 2007, in the Full Time System and Determination of Education Tariff”, Point 5.

- The issue of the Council of Ministers' Decision "On Exclusion from Special Education Tariff, in the Secondary Quotas for the Full Time System of Blind, Invalid, Paraplegic and Tetraplegic Students".
- Support for pupils and students who come from orphanages and the Institute of Hearing-impaired and Vision-impaired Children.
- Candidates applying for university places for the academic year 2006 – 2007, who are visually-impaired, or paraplegic or tetraplegic, or individuals who were formerly persecuted by the communist regime or the children of police officers who fell or were injured in the line of duty, will only pay 50% of the education tariffs.
- For those students who are blind, disabled, paraplegic or tetraplegic, and have been registered in the secondary quota of admissions in university faculties and other higher education institutions, the education tariff is reduced to 12.000 leke a year.
- The Standards of Service for Children in Residential Institutions were approved by the Council of Ministers' Decision no. 659, dated 17. 10. 2005. The standards were published with support from UNICEF in April 2006. Training for service providers over the whole country has already begun, in order to start applying them for inspection of services. Guidelines will be developed to orient service providers towards good-quality services and in accordance with the needs of children. The standards of service provide for elements that are related to the respect of child rights, their involvement, respect to their will and opinions, such as:
 - a) information for children and "translation" of the standards in child friendly language;
 - b) participation of children, their involvement in decisions that are taken concerning the everyday life, such as decisions about what they eat, the purchase of personal items, improving the environment they live in, their free time, etc.

3.2. PROTECTION OF VICTIMS

Special attention is paid to the protection of children from violence and mistreatment, amongst which the following should be mentioned:

- On September 20th 2006, the Cooperation Agreement of the Joint Technical Team "On Child Rights" was signed between representatives of the state institutions (Ministry of Interior, MOLSAEO, Ministry of Education and Science, People's Advocate), NGOs and donors who are committed to the protection and respect of child rights. It reaffirmed the commitment to continue efforts to better protect children's rights. In this context, all the parties to the agreement will cooperate in order to fulfill the mission of guaranteeing respect and protection of child rights.
- The Technical Secretariat for Children was established within MOLSAEO as an institution which will monitor and coordinate the implementation of the National Child Strategy. The secretariat is made up of 2 people working in the Directorate of Equal Opportunities. The duty of the technical secretariat is to cooperate with the institutions and actors who operate in the area of protection and enforcement of child rights; monitor the implementation of the National Child Strategy (NCS) and gather information and data from institutions which the Strategy has tasked to perform relevant duties; establish and maintain contacts with the Ministry of

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- Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Finance, other central institutions, regional structures, municipalities, communes, organisations and providers of child services etc.; compile quarterly and annual progress reports on the implementation of the objectives of National Child Strategy; organise meetings of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Child Rights and support it; orient support from domestic and international donors towards the implementation of the objectives of the National Child Strategy; arrange research and analysis about the situation of children in Albania, on particular problems, etc.
- Work is in progress to re-establish the Inter-ministerial Committee for Child Rights within the Council of Ministers as a consulting organ for policies and programs on children. A proposal has been made for the Committee to be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and to be made up of the following members: Minister of Education and Science; Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; Minister of Health; Minister of Interior; Minister of Justice; Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and Minister of Finance. The committee will also include 2 organisations that deal with children. The Committee will promote the fulfillment of legislative, administrative and executive obligations that emanate from the Child Strategy. The Committee will be supported by the Technical Secretariat, already in existence within MOLSAEO. At a local level, it is working to establish social sectors in the regions, municipalities and communes and build their capacities in order to handle problems related to children. In the regional offices of the State Social Service, in 4 pilot regions (Tirana, Durres, Shkoder, Vlore), a social worker deals with problems related to children. Child specialists have been identified in all the structures of the State Social Service, both at a central and local level; contact people have also been identified in the regions and communes. Work is in progress to identify the duties that child specialists in all the structures of State Social Service will perform, both at a central and local level, and the contact people in the regions and communes.
 - A telephone helpline for children is being established in all the 12 regions, but so far it is only operational in the 4 pilot regions (Tirana, Durres, Shkoder, Vlore), where a social worker deals with problems faced by children. Work is in progress to assign relevant individuals in 8 other regions, who will follow up problems faced by children as above.
 - At present, the department of Child Rights has been established and is operational in the Municipality of Tirana. It focuses on child care and protection, gathers statistical data on children, plans interventions in cases of emergency and when there are children in need, has created a complete referral system for services which are offered to children. A Child Protection Sector has also been created in the Municipality of Kukes, with support from UNICEF.
 - The Directorate of Migration Policies in MOLSAEO participated in the organisation of an awareness raising scheme for children of the primary school in Kamez, on Emigrants' Day, on 18. 12. 2006. ILO and IOM cooperated in this event; and trafficking prevention materials were distributed in schools.

The Child Labour Elimination Programme is being implemented in MOLSAEO.

- The Child Labour Unit was established in MOLSAEO in February 2002, to implement its programme with ILO-IPEC (*International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour*). This unit operates as a national focal point for coordinating activities, projects and programmes undertaken in the field of child labour, informs and promotes public awareness about the phenomenon of child labour and its progressive elimination. Some of its main activities are:
 - In close cooperation with the State Inspectorate of Labour, it has organised controls nation wide to highlight the situation of child labour and have undertaken concrete measures including criminal prosecution and fines for employers who fail to adhere to the relevant legislation.
 - It is working to increase the identification and monitoring capacities for child labour by training labour inspectors and other actors dealing with child labour, both at a central and local level.
 - The “Monitoring System of Child Labour” is being implemented as a pilot project in the regions of Tirane, Korçe and Berat.
- The National Steering Committee “On Elimination of Child Labour” has been established to operate at an inter-institutional level; it is chaired by the Minister of Labour and serves as a coordinating body for implementing the Programme of Elimination of Child Labour nationally.
- The new standards for children in residential institutions are currently being implemented. They ensure: information for children and the “translation” of standards in a language they can understand; participation and involvement in decisions that are taken regarding the day to day running of the institution such as decisions about food, the purchase of personal items, when to tidy the institution , how to spend their free time etc. 12 workshops will be organised in 2007 to explain in detail the general standards to children

Other important measures with regards to child protection, have been the signature of the Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the Protection and Assistance to Child Victims of Trafficking, and the establishment of the Responsible Authority (mentioned above), in which contacts will be established between counterpart structures for the protection of Albanian children who have been trafficked abroad. Through organisations participating in the BKTF coalition and Terre des Hommes, we have contacted Greek NGOs who operate in the field of child trafficking, such as “ARSIS”.

The Regional Anti-trafficking Committees, operating at a local level and composed of main local actors, are also a very positive development, as they offer important support and protection to children.

Other structures established both at a central and local level should be mentioned, because they particularly focus on assistance and protection of children. In this context, Local Committees for Monitoring Child Labour have been established, which are part of the project “Monitoring System of Child Labour”; this project has been launched as a pilot project in the municipalities of Tirana, Korçe and Berat. These committees serve as the basis of the functional system for referring cases to agencies that implement programmes and provide services in the region, offering alternatives and undertaking concrete action for

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identified cases. The implementation of this project is a very important way to enhance awareness amongst central and local structures about how to treat the worrying phenomenon of working children. In the majority of cases children who work have a poor record of school attendance, and eventually many drop out of school creating serious and long lasting social problems.

The main purpose of the state agencies is to guarantee accommodation in reception centers and shelters for initial referral of child victims of trafficking and those detected during the process of trafficking in order to prepare them for their return to their families or other alternative protective environments if it is not possible for them to return to their families.

The National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking follows established rules for the reception, interview, accommodation and transfer of child victims of trafficking or those at risk, to their families or others. It is envisaged that the return of these children will be followed up in every case. A register of the individual files of every victim has been created in the centre. Each file contains all the relevant documents, plans and information regarding the victim. It also contains an analysis of the main reasons why the individual has been trafficked enabling an assessment of the situation, which is officially recorded. The social worker at the centre determines whether there are grounds to believe that the child is a victim of trafficking. These rules are being improved in order to eventually unify them with those applied by other reception and reintegration centers for victims of trafficking. Specialized teams and separate facilities have been created for different age groups within NRCVT. A special facility to accommodate, educate and entertain children has been created in the Centre. Minors and children, divided in age groups, are mostly involved in the following activities:

- Informing and educational
- Developmental
- Entertainment.

All the activities carried out in the centers are run in the best interests of the child and in adherence with the established standards of care for child victims of trafficking.

Everything carried out is reflected through:

- Documentation: preliminary interview, assessment of immediate needs, rehabilitation and reintegration plan.
- Creation of a warm and familiar environment in order to preserve and strengthen the concept of family relations and love.
- Development of draft proposals to improve and enhance the quality of services, facilities and auxiliary materials needed for the activities that are offered.

Efforts are being made in the Centre to improve the quality of services and to increase the number of creative activities both inside and outside the Centre, by means of qualifications. One of the ways in which this is being done is the attempt to improve the professional qualifications of the social workers and other staff at the Centre who are responsible for the child victims by providing training programs on issues including the reception and interview of the children, their psycho-social treatment, the role of guardianship, etc. For example,

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through D&E, IOM organised a 2-day training event for NRCVT social workers. The training focused on issues relating to the integration process for victims of trafficking.

It should be stressed that is forbidden in the NRCVT rules to release any information that may reveal the child or his family's identity, confidentiality being very important. This also serves to enhance the security of personnel and confidentiality of the Institution. Disclosure of information or identification of a client is strictly forbidden. If child victims become witnesses in court cases their confidentiality is protected in cooperation with other institutions such as the prosecutor's office and the police.

The UNICEF funded project "On Strengthening the Components of Protection of Child Rights in NRCVT" is being implemented in this centre. Its purpose is to improve the quality of services provided to children by means of staff qualifications, improving filing system and conditions of accommodation for the children, and enriching the educational and recreational activities and follow up support for children who have left the Centre. All these activities have led to the improvement of the accommodation for the children and the quality of the services provided which is in the best interests of the children. In May, the staff members prepared a brochure setting out details of their work and their 3 years of experience assisting child victims of trafficking. The topics covered are interesting and varied. These efforts mark the first steps in the transformation of NRCVT from a reception and rehabilitation centre to a reception, rehabilitation and reintegration centre.

In 2006 the Working Group in charge of drawing up the standards of social services for victims of trafficking was established. Domestic and international NGOs who provide services for victims of trafficking or persons at risk, contributed to this group. The standards of service for victims of trafficking will be sent to the Council of Ministers for approval next year. On 06.12.2006, the Council of Ministers issued Decision no. 822 on standards of social services for children with learning disabilities.

With regard to the development of programmes by reception centers for children who are resident there for long periods of time, the registration of a 3-year-old child was finalised. This was achieved as a result of the persistent efforts of the "Legal Clinic for Minors". The child, together with his mother, had been accommodated in NRCVT in Tirana since 2004. His stay at the reception centre became very difficult due to the protracted nature and unexpected delays in the prosecution of the consort who was charged with trafficking in minors. This delay aggravated the psychological state of the mother and child. Through cooperation and support by partners who are involved in the field of assistance, the best and most viable alternatives are being assessed and identified the best alternatives, so that the child be reintegrated together with the mother and be not abandoned as in the past, in which the mother was involved.

One of the most important issues that was dealt with in 2006 was the temporary or permanent service of guardianship for trafficked children or those at the risk of trafficking, in cases when parents have lost their parental capability, temporarily or permanently.

A working group to draw up a Strategy of Guardianship, as an alternative to the guardianship service, has been established with the assistance of UNICEF. Associations which provide guardianship services, such as "Every Child", "SOS Village", "Hope and

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Home for Children”, etc, are also included. During 2007, this strategy will be sent to the Council of Ministers for approval. The implementation of the guardianship service will offer an alternative service for children in need. Training has already begun for service providers across the whole country in order to begin to apply the standards and activate service inspectors.

Guardianship will be a new alternative service that will improve the quality of service for orphaned children. This service will be offered by caretaker families or relatives that are caring for this category of children. This year, guardianship will be enlarged for all children with limited abilities, for whom KMCAP has decided to assign a paid caretaker.

In Albania, the monitoring and follow up of cases of adoption, guardianship and reintegration is conducted by the Committee of Adoptions, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice. MOLSAEO has a representative in this committee, who presents concerns related to residential and non-residential child institutions to the structures of the Ministry, in order that they can take relevant measures. Most of the concerns are related to matters of completing documents which accompany the child in the adoption process, and to the institutions compliance with the relevant legislation.

In this area, in parallel with the decentralisation process and the de-institutionalisation of orphanages, the Social Services' Strategy foresees the enlargement of the guardianship service for children. This will institutionalise the new relationships between beneficiaries and providers by identifying duties for local units, which, in cooperation with NGOs, will select, train, support and assess caretaker families and the service they provide to children they care for.

In the context of promoting, supporting and standardising the guardianship service provided by NGO's, children without parental care and in need are placed under the temporary or permanent guardianship of families who are able to undertake such a service. The NGOs that have been involved in providing this service for several years are the Association “Every Child”, SOS Village, “Hope and Home for Children” etc. MOLSAEO cooperates with such NGOs including the Association “Every Child”, which is licensed by this Ministry, and SOS Village which supports children at risk of being abandoned by their biological families through programmes that aim to strengthen families in their community.

At present the most common form of guardianship in Albania is the placement of children under the care of their relatives, in the absence of parents. This is part of the good traditions of the Albanian family which should be promoted and continued.

The draft Standards of Service for Victims of Trafficking, contain provisions related to the protection of child security. These standards include the protection of any information which may lead to the disclosure of the identity of victims of trafficking or persons at risk including children.

In the area of protection and reintegration of child victims or potential victims of trafficking who are orphans, or who, for other reasons cannot return to their families, we observe that:

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- In the law no. 9355, dated 10. 03. 2005 “On Social Assistance and Services”, the municipalities have the authority to finance NGO services with revenues from the central budget. The service funds will be transferred to municipalities/communes at the beginning of the year, and on grounds of priority, municipalities will finance NGO activities.
- The State Social Service, both at a central and regional level, operates as an intermediary institution between the policy-making level (MOLSAEO) and the implementing level – the local government: (i) it assesses poverty and provides funds for NE and PAK and social services (ii) monitors and inspects the utilisation of funds and the implementation of quality and minimal standards (iii) answers for the enforcement of legislation (iv) trains the staff, etc.
- The staff training unit has been created within the structure of State Social Service to train members of personnel who operate in the field of social services at a central and local level.
- The staff of social services at a regional/municipal/communal level dealing with children and the structures of relevant ministries that have special roles in providing services for these groups in need, will undergo training in order to guarantee an improvement of the quality of life for the beneficiaries of the services.
- The necessary capacities are being built for such a purpose and training is in process.

The Directorate of Social Service Policies in MOLSAEO and the State Social Service, with support from the Child Project, have programmed and are conducting 8 workshops in 8 regions of the country in which problems related to the standards of child services, the inspection of these standards, the decentralisation of services and the new responsibilities of local government and civil society, are analysed. Specialists dealing with children, operating at a regional/municipal/communal level, NGOs which provide services for children and social workers from regional directorates of State Social Service, prefectures and municipalities, have participated in these meetings.

MOLSAEO is cooperating with the Faculty of Social Sciences to facilitate internships of social work students in MOLSAEO, in structures under this Ministry, in service centers and care institutions.

Some of the new services that are being provided for the protection and reintegration of actual or potential victims of trafficking, by public and non-public social service institutions, assisted by NGOs, international organisations and donors, are:

- In accordance with the Prime Minister's Order no. 139, dated 19. 06. 2006, the Regional Committees and technical regional round tables for combating trafficking in human beings at a regional level were established. The Regional Committees will perform an important role in the prevention of trafficking at a local level for groups at risk, which include members of the Roma community, children, and trafficked women. The Regional Committees are led by the Prefect and are made up of representatives of the regional police directorate, regional education and health directorates, representatives of local government, the directorate of state social services, the State Information Service and other actors from civil society and international organisations who are also involved in the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings in the region.

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- The Committees of Planning Community Care Services (a model suggested by the World Bank), are made up of representatives from: the regional office of State Social Service, directorates of education, health, a representative of the region and 2 – 3 participants from the municipality. The committees' duty is to assess needs, draw up a map of existing services and plan interventions. This committee meets once every 5 – 6 months.
- The Social Service Structures at a regional and local level have cooperated with NGOs to assist and support cases of trafficked children or those at the risk of trafficking. A prominent case to mention is the "Anti-trafficking Technical Table" organised by the Regional Office of State Social Service of Elbasan in June 2004, with the purpose of creating a cooperation system between the regional and local units of social services and NGOs in order to solve satisfactorily the problems of children at risk of being trafficked.
- Child protection structures are being created within local government units. They are made up of representatives from the areas of health, education, social services, police, prosecutor's office, local employees, and representatives of the non-government sector who are responsible for the coordination and implementation of policies and activities of child protection and prevention of trafficking.
- Within the structure of MOLSAEO, the training unit for the personnel operating in the area of social services at a central and local government level has been established. The increase of capacity represents a challenge in completing and consolidating all the components of reforming the social services system.

In order to improve the capacities of the above-mentioned structures, both at a central and local level training has taken place for more than 2.000 local employees in municipalities/communes, regions and local structures under relevant ministries who have special roles in providing services to social groups in need in order to improve the quality of life of the beneficiaries of services.

Other child services

- Currently, services for orphaned children and those in need are provided in 9 residential public centers. Residential services have also been established by NGOs with funding from donors. The decentralisation process of social services has already begun. 8 child residential services will be transferred this year to the municipalities of Shkoder, Durres, Tirana, Vlore and Korçe. According to a Government decision, all the facilities where these services are based have been transferred to the ownership of the communes.
- The SOS village provides a caretaking service to prevent the involvement of children in residential institutions and supports children who are at the risk of being abandoned by their biological family by means of programmes that aim to assist the family in their communities.
- The association "Every Child" supports families and children in need and children with no parental care.
- The new services that are being created based on World Bank projects such as foster families, support for families in need, daily centers and guardianship occupy most of the community services. By the same token, government organisations currently give

- a great amount of assistance in providing these services. Round table discussions and seminars focusing on problems related to children in need and with no parental care have been organised.
- The process of de-institutionalisation of services has already begun. The association “Hope and Homes for Children” has created two new services in Durres orphanage. This association has been working for the last two years on a project to de-institutionalise children and forment their relationship with their biological parents and relatives. This process will continue provided there are sufficient state and donor funds. The aim is that there will be such a model of service in every region.

3.3. INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD-EXPLOITING TRAFFICKERS

A new provision against child exploitation for forced labour has been added to the Penal Code. It will be accompanied by a new socio – educational package for assistance to these children and their families in the form of employment, education and other kinds of assistance.

Training activities have been organised for police officers in the provision of legal and psychological assistance to minor victims, witnesses or other persons at the risk of trafficking. Joint meetings have been organised with police officers, prosecutors and court officials about victims of trafficking in order to enhance their awareness about the special profile and specialised help that victims of trafficking need.

In the area of nationwide and local cooperation between the structures of social service, protection, public order, law enforcement and specialised NGOs in terms of exchange of information, whenever there are suspicions that a child is trafficked or at the risk of trafficking, the social service structures cooperate with the above-mentioned structures to prevent trafficking and support children at risk.

3.4. VOLUNTARY RETURN OF MINOR VICTIMS

In the context of negotiation of new or improved bilateral agreements with neighboring countries or other countries of destination or transit, especially Greece and Italy, on reciprocal notification, safe accommodation, regular and coordinated return of child victims of trafficking, via processes and procedures that respect the rights and interests of children and their prospects for social reintegration, an important achievement in 2006 was the signature on 27. 02. 2006 of the bilateral agreement “On Protection and Assistance to Child Victims of Trafficking” between the Government of Hellenic Republic and the Council of Ministers of Republic of Albania.

Relevant ministries will perform an important role in offering their expertise to working groups which will develop and negotiate other agreements of the same nature with other destination countries, such as Italy.

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In order to implement this and other future agreements efficiently it is necessary to develop standards for the repatriation of child victims of trafficking through their voluntary assisted return, according to the best interests of the child, with their right to choose whether or not to return to their family, their country of origin, and also in accordance with international standards of repatriation (the UN Convention on Child Rights). To achieve this objective, the Working Group of the development of standards of social services for victims of trafficking was established in 2006. Its members included domestic and international NGOs who provide services for actual or potential victims of trafficking. The working group has produced the final draft of the Standards of Social Care Services for Victims of Trafficking, including child victims. To ensure the proper implementation of these standards, which will be approved by the Government by the beginning of the year, training will take place to increase the capacity of workers in shelters.

Also, along the lines of this agreement, in order to create a centrally-based structure which will handle the problems of protection and voluntary assisted return of child victims of trafficking, the Responsible Authority was created upon the Joint Order no. 1192, dated 19. 05. 2006, issued by the Minister of Interior, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Labour. The Responsible Authority serves as a coordinator of the National Referral Mechanism, i.e. it coordinates and conducts the referral process for assistance, protection and long-term rehabilitation for all child victims of trafficking, in close cooperation with all other involved partners, among which MoI, MoLSAEO and MoFA perform the leading role. In due course, contacts will be made with counterpart structures abroad for the protection of Albanian children trafficked there.

The establishment of the Responsible Authority has led to improved cooperation between organs involved in the identification of victims of trafficking and service providers. MoLSAEO has successfully cooperated with institutions under its auspices, such as State Social Service and the Linza Centre and there will be further cooperation with NGOs such as Terre des Hommes, Ndihme per Femijet (*Assistance to Children*), Arsis etc.

NRCVT and other service providers for victims of trafficking have prepared and distributed leaflets with the support of donors, such as UNICEF and IOM on the status, situation, rights and services provided to children for reunion with their families and the repatriation process.

3.5. COORDINATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING PARTNERS FOR CHILD PROTECTION

In order to establish a child protection structure both at a central and local level for coordinating and supervising national and local activities of education, health and social services, police, penal prosecution, local government structures and for cooperating with relevant organisations and NGOs to implement duties that come out from the Work Plan, the Technical Secretariat for children has been established within MoLSAEO. It is an institution which will monitor and coordinate the implementation of the National Child Strategy (NCS), which is mentioned in detail above.

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Currently, efforts are being made to re-establish the Inter-ministerial Committee for Child Rights within the Council of Ministers, as an advisory body for child policies and programmes.

At the local level, based on the Law no. 9355 “On Social Assistance and Services”, MOLSAEO is working to establish social sectors in the regions, municipalities and communes and build their capacities for handling problems related to children. Child Protection sectors have also been created in Fier, Korce, Pogradec, Elbasan and Gjirokastr, with the support of Terre des Hommes and UNICEF.

There have been a number of developments in 2006 in the field of inter-institutional cooperation, in order to assist and counsel victims and families, and coordinate, at a national level, state services with services provided by NGOs, international organisations, shelters and other protection institutions. These include:

- Upon the Prime Minister's Order no. 139, dated 19. 06. 2006, the Regional Committees and specialized working group for combating trafficking in human beings were established. As mentioned above, the Regional Committees will play an important role in the prevention, assessment of socially and economically vulnerable categories, identification of cases of potential victims of trafficking, and in the fight against this phenomenon at a local level.
- Negotiations have begun in establishing memoranda of understanding between ministries and institutions engaged in the fight against child trafficking, its prevention and protection; these memoranda will regulate and designate the rights and responsibilities of the parties, in the name of transparency and will guarantee reciprocal legal protection of beneficiaries and those who assist them.
- Promotion of cross-border and international cooperation between NGOs which deal with the prevention and the fight against child trafficking and other relevant institutions in Albania, with their counterparts in neighboring and destination countries, in order to implement planned policies and measures, especially those related to voluntary assisted return; MOLSAEO has identified the NGOs which operate in the area of trafficking in human beings and implement anti-trafficking policies and measures. Some of them have been licensed or are in the process of re-licensing. On 20.03.2006, the cooperation agreement between MOLSAEO and Terre des Hommes – Mission in Albania, “On Implementation of Transnational Action against Child Trafficking” (TACT), was renewed for its third phase - May 2006 – June 2009.
- Creation of a comprehensive and coordinated system to collect, analyse and distribute information (data) on child trafficking, based on a methodology approved by all the state partners, NGOs and international organisations.

4. THE EFFORTS OF REGIONAL COMMITTEES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS DURING JUNE – JULY 2006

The Albanian Government, aspiring not only to increase the number of investigations and criminal prosecutions of cases of trafficking in humans, but also to prevent the phenomenon of trafficking by combating its causes, has considered it necessary to establish comprehensive structures at a local level, which will serve as local partners and contact points for the Responsible Authority. As a result, upon the Prime Minister's Order no. 139, dated 19.06.2006 "On Establishment of Regional Committees of Fight against Trafficking in Humans", regional committees were established in all 12 regions of the country. These committees are autonomous structures in terms of the actions they take. Their objective is to report on the trafficking situation at joint round table discussions, and to discuss and examine solutions to problems which relate to trafficking in human beings, namely: truancy among children, unemployment, families with serious social problems, lack of information about trafficking in humans etc. The solutions proposed should be specific rather than general, focusing on particular issues. The expansion of these structures at a local level will provide direction, supervision, coordination and assistance to the activities of state, institutional and non-government parties.

a) Composition of Regional Committees in the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings

The Regional Anti-trafficking Committees are made up of the Regional Prefect, the Mayor of the capital city of the Region, the Director of the Regional Social Service Office, the Regional Director of Employment, the Regional Police Director, the Regional Director of State Intelligence Service, the Regional Director of Education and the Director of Regional Public Health Directorate. The District's Prosecutor and local representatives of civil society are also invited to participate.

The structures which have been selected to participate in the Committee are structures which already have an action-plan and are tasked to follow up these problems in their day-to-day activities. The establishment of these committees focuses and enables the activation of all the resources to solve problems related to trafficking in human beings.

The most important structure within the Regional Committee is the Anti-trafficking working group, made up of experts in the field, such as a representative of the Regional Directorate of State Social Service, a representative of the Regional Directorate of Employment, a representative of social care offices in the municipality/commune, the chief of the Anti-trafficking Sector of the regional police, a representative of the Regional Directorate of State Intelligence Service, a representative of the Regional Directorate of Education, a representative of the Inspectorate of Reproductive Health, a representative of the District's Prosecutor's Office and a representative of the NGOs. The task of this working group is chiefly to identify priorities of local action. The information gathered during the meeting is communicated to the regional committee any time upon request.

b) How do the Committees work?

The Regional Prefect is the chairman of the regional committee. He assigns responsibilities, organises the Regional Committee to collect information that the committee can use to reach solutions. His duty is to report on behalf of the Committee to the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings. He nominates a person from his office to be responsible for providing administrative and logistical support for the activities of the Regional Committee and also performs the duty of technical secretary. This individual acts as a coordinator between the members of the Regional Committee, both in terms of communicating to the Responsible Authority and the Office of National Coordinator the results of the Regional Anti-trafficking Committee's activity and data on cases, and of collecting and exchanging documents and information at a regional level concerning anti-trafficking duties. He also has the duty of managing data on trafficking cases handled by the regional working group. The working table meets at least once a month. Members of the working group discuss the progress of activities and assign duties to be fulfilled. Considering that the Committees are at the initial phase of their activity, it will be important to consolidate the work process of the Regional Committees which are in their first working states.

c). What have the Regional Committees done?

The Regional Committees identify the priorities of local action which stem from National Anti-trafficking Strategies, the instructions of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings, and are based on the assessment of needs in accordance with the specifics of the region. The priorities are arrived at by analysing the previous patterns of trafficking and the situation of vulnerable groups.

Some of the activities carried out by Local Committees:

- The analysis of the situation of trafficking in the past at a regional level and the assignment of duties among the members of the Committee has been completed.
- The identification of preventive measures, to avert the likelihood of trafficking has begun.
- The identification of vulnerable social and economic groups in the region has been carried out.
- The identification of truant children at a regional level has been completed.
- Causes of truancy have been identified.
- Work has begun to develop a plan for the integration of children from families with social problems and providing aid not only for the children but also for their parents especially through employment opportunities, whenever this is possible.
- Regional Committees have cooperated with Roma associations to identify employment possibilities for members of the Roma community.

- Identification of NGOs, religious charities, businesses, and of the number of people they assist and the assistance they provide.

d). Successful committees

The Regional Committees are new structures with important responsibilities. There has been continuous communication and exchange of information between the Committees and the Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings. From reports that the Committees themselves have sent and from direct contacts with them, we deem that their performance has been satisfactory. The commitment of the working groups has been positive, but more results are required in the future. We list some of the activities carried out by the Regional Committees of the border regions below. The situation is more sensitive in these regions and the attention paid and the response towards the phenomenon of trafficking should be more proactive.

Regional Committee of Diber

A thorough assessment of the situation of trafficking in the past has been made. This assessment has made possible the identification of affected areas, countries of destination, the characteristics of the victims, the method of recruitment and routes of trafficking. NGOs and other organisations which can cooperate in the fields of prevention, protection and assistance to victims of trafficking in the region have also been identified.

Regional Committee of Durres

A decision has been made for the Regional Directorate of Education in Durres, in cooperation with the Regional Police Directorate of this city, to develop joint plans for the prevention of trafficking in humans, by organising meetings in schools. In our opinion this is an important preventive measure. The Regional Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs has identified families in need and is taking the necessary measures for their employment and integration in society. The Regional Employment Office is making attempts to attract various projects which promote employment and mitigate the social problems of families affected by trafficking.

Regional Committee of Vlore

In cooperation with the Directorate of Employment in this city and the Professional Formation Centre, professional courses for victims of trafficking have been prepared. Research is being carried out by the State Social Service to obtain more detailed information about the NGOs that have been identified in Vlore, in order to bring them to the Anti-trafficking working group. The projects of distribution of social services will be streamlined.

Regional Committee of Korçe

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The association *Gruaja Korçare (Women of Korçe)*, in cooperation with the police, has prevented the trafficking of more than 5 young Roma girls and has cooperated with the Regional Employment Office to find employment for them.

Komiteti Rajonal Kukes

A region-wide work programme has been developed. It identifies duties with deadlines for state institutions and NGOs. In the beginning of 2006 the Regional Office of State Social Service, in cooperation with the association “Victims of Mines and Arms”, trained the administrators of 10 local government units from the remote areas of the districts of Kukes, Has and Tropoje. This initiative was supported by the Project “Enhancing the community responsibilities against trafficking in the remote areas of Kukes, Has and Tropoje”. The Regional Employment Office is implementing two employment promotion projects in which priority is being given to individuals who may fall prey to the criminal activity of traffickers. In addition, special priority in this region is being given to the prevention of irregular migration by informing young people about the risks of irregular migration, and increasing social support for families in need.

e) Future priorities for action, as proposed by the Office of National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings

- Continue to identify vulnerable groups.
- Protect children by integrating them into schools and providing support for their families.
- Develop preventive programs in cooperation with NGOs.
- Bring the police and prosecutor's office closer to other state structures.
- Provide a safer environment for citizens.
- Regional Committees should have closer and better cooperation with the Office of National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings.

5. SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES - 2007

Based on the main achievements of 2006, the following objectives have been identified for the first half of 2007 as regards anti-trafficking priorities:

1. Developing the Responsible Authority as a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for cases of victims of trafficking at a national level and ensuring their protection in cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MOLSAEO, and with shelters for victims of trafficking.
2. Establishing contacts between the Albanian Responsible Authority and Responsible Authorities in neighboring countries, e.g. Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and destination countries including Italy, Germany and Great Britain.
3. Finalizing the database of cases of victims of trafficking returned, referred, handled and protected in Albania.
4. In the context of Regional Anti-trafficking Committees, preventive measures will be taken and campaigns will be launched at a local level to take children off the streets, register them in schools and fight against prostitution etc, in cooperation with police, prosecutor's office, social services who are represented in these committees.
5. Following the ratification of the Agreement with Greece on Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking by the Greek Parliament, further steps should be taken to implement it i.e. beginning to identify and return to Albania Albanian children located in Greece.
6. Preparing new agreements on the protection of victims of trafficking with other countries in the region, broadening the field of activities, not only for children but also for other vulnerable groups, and with countries of destination in EU (e.g. Italy, Germany, Great Britain, etc.).
7. Regulation by law of the provision to provide foreign victims of trafficking with temporary residence permits, in the framework of the development and approval of the new Albanian law on foreign residents, fully complying with international standards.
8. Establishing direct contacts between representatives of the regional committees in the border regions of Albania and representatives of border regions of neighboring countries, in order to exchange information in a timely fashion about Albanian children exploited as beggars and Albanian women exploited across the border. This will expedite the adoption of timely measures on both sides of the border;
9. Introduction by the Border Police and Anti-trafficking Sector of a screening procedure at the border for returned, INAD and deported persons from third countries, and activation of reception centers for returned individuals at all border checkpoints, to detect victims or potential victims of trafficking, which is an ongoing process, in order to comply with required international standards.
10. Finalizing the Integrated Border Management Strategy, for combining the activities of Border Police, transport authorities and customs services.
11. The promotion of a campaign in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism to draw up a joint operational regulation for tourist agencies, which prohibits sexual exploitation of women and children in hotel premises. A joint agreement has been signed by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Interior and the OSCE presence in Albania on "Promotion and Implementation of Code of Conduct for Prevention of Child Exploitation in Tourism".

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12. Signature of an agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science on inclusion in the school curricula of a cycle of subjects on trafficking in human beings and opening special classes for children who have not attended school or truant children.
13. Creation of standards of legal and physical protection of victims of trafficking/witnesses of justice during criminal trials through the introduction of video and teleconference systems and other technology to protect witness security.
14. Compensate victims from the confiscated and unlawful assets of traffickers, and drafting a government decision on the handling of criminal proceeds confiscated from organised criminal groups. A commission comprised of representatives from different agencies will be established to decide on this.
15. Continue with TV awareness campaigns to inform and teach citizens, especially the young, about the risks, likelihood and causes of trafficking in human beings and the publication of brochures to be distributed by foreign and Albanian consular personnel informing individuals about the risks of trafficking and the assistance available abroad and in Albania.
16. Raise funds for professional training and create employment opportunities for victims of trafficking with the assistance of local committees, employment offices and local businesses etc.
17. Prepare and finalise standard coordinated cooperation agreements between the Ministry of Interior (Responsible Authority) and NGOs as well as international organizations that are involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings, identifying obligations and responsibilities for every party, especially with regard to sharing information and coordinated reporting.

In addition to the objectives listed above, all relevant institutions, ministries, independent state institutions and other actors are obliged to take concrete anti-trafficking measures according to specific objectives as set out in the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005-2007, and report periodically on achievements and problems encountered during implementation, to the office of National Anti-trafficking Coordinator.

The above objectives are based on what we consider as priorities. Their achievement depends on the commitment of all involved and on close and strict monitoring from above. The issue of trafficking in humans will only be properly addressed if all government agencies make social problems their concern. Support by the Government and the Office of National Anti-trafficking Coordinator in this area is total and unconditional.

6. STATISTICS

The Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings is very interested in receiving reliable statistics, which provide an accurate picture of trafficking in human beings situation in the country. The office gathers statistical information from many sources as this enables a more accurate analysis of the situation. However, it should be noted that different bodies adopt different approaches to collecting and reporting statistical information. The latter in particular has created some discrepancies in the figures.

There were 25 victims of trafficking reported by the Sector for the Fight against Illegal Trafficking recorded in the 2006 statistics. This figure included the victims reported by the police. The statistics produced by the shelters included individuals from vulnerable groups who were “*perceived*” by these shelters as victims of trafficking. However, in reality such individuals are not necessarily actual victims of trafficking in humans. This situation will change when the database has been established as it will clearly determine the standard definitions according to which the statistical reporting will be conducted.

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6. 1. STATISTICS ON ARRESTS, PROSECUTIONS, CHARGES AND CONVICTIONS FOR TIP AND TIP-RELATED OFFENCES: 2006

A) TIP OFFENCES²

(i) Numbers of cases and persons arrested and charged³

Penal Code Article	Number of cases referred by police to prosecutor's office	Number of cases accepted by prosecutor's office	Number of persons detained by court order	Number of persons sent for trial
110/ai		3		
114/bii	25	14	9	12
128/biii	2	5	3	5

(ii) Prosecutions⁴

Penal Code Article	Number of persons tried	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons found not guilty	Number of persons still in court process
110/a	2	2		5
114/b	14	12	2	16
128/b	6	6		2

² In the given figures, regarding convictions and trials, there are included ongoing cases from previous years, and it should also be taken in consideration that a certain case might start under a certain article and during the investigations it might be the case that the criminal offence is pursued under a different article.

³ The information is taken by the Sector Combating Illicit Trafficking and the General Prosecutor's Office

⁴ The information is taken by the Ministry of Justice and the General Prosecutor's Office

(iii) Convictions and Sentences⁵

Penal Code article	Number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment	Terms of imprisonment					Number of persons fined
		Up to 2 years	2 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	Over 10 years	Life imprisonment	
110/a	2	2					
114/b	12			7	5		
128/b	6				6		

⁵ The information is taken by the Ministry of Justice

B) TIP-RELATED OFFENCES: AGGRAVATED EXPLOITATION⁶

(i) Numbers of cases and persons arrested and charged⁷

Penal Code Article	Number of cases referred by police to prosecutor's office	Number of cases accepted by prosecutor's office	Number of persons detained by court order	Number of persons sent for trial
114/a ^{iv}	24	43	22	26

(ii) Prosecutions⁸

Penal Code article	Number of persons tried	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons found not guilty	Number of persons still in court process
114/a	40	37	1	22

(iii) Convictions and sentences⁹

Penal Code article	Number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment	Terms of imprisonment					Number of persons fined
		Up to 2 years	2 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	Over 10 years	Life imprisonment	
114/a	37	1	6	18	10		2

⁶ In the given figures, regarding convictions and trials, there are included ongoing cases from previous years, and it should also be taken in consideration that a certain case might start under a certain article and during the investigations it might be the case that the criminal offence is pursued under a different article.

⁷ The information is taken by the Sector Combating Illicit Trafficking and the General Prosecutor's Office

⁸ The information is taken by the Ministry of Justice and the General Prosecutor's Office

⁹ The information is taken by the Ministry of Justice

C) TIP-RELATED OFFENCES: ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING, ETC¹⁰.

(i) Numbers of cases and persons arrested and charged¹¹

Penal Code Article	Number of cases referred by police to prosecutor's office	Number of cases accepted by prosecutor's office	Number of persons detained by court order	Number of persons sent for trial
297 ^v	67	96	2	116
298 ^{vi}	132	158	82	125

(ii) Prosecutions¹²

Penal Code article	Number of persons tried	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons found not guilty	Number of persons still in court process
297	97	96	1	30
298	71	66	5	51

(iii) Convictions and sentences¹³

Penal Code article	Number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment	Terms of imprisonment					Number of persons fined
		Up to 2 years	2 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	Over 10 years	Life imprisonment	
297/1/2	96	22					74
298	66	36	13	1			16

¹⁰ In the given figures, regarding convictions and trials, there are included ongoing cases from previous years, and it should also be taken in consideration that a certain case might start under a certain article and during the investigations it might be the case that the criminal offence is pursued under a different article.

¹¹ information is taken by the Sector Combating Illicit Trafficking and the General Prosecutor's Office

¹² The information is taken by the Ministry of Justice and the General Prosecutor's Office

¹³ The information is taken by the Ministry of Justice

D) TIP-RELATED OFFENCES: PROSTITUTION, VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON, ETC¹⁴.

(i) Numbers of cases and persons arrested and charged¹⁵

Penal Code Article	Number of cases referred by police to prosecutor's office	Number of cases accepted by prosecutor's office	Number of persons detained by court order	Number of persons sent for trial
113^{vii}	28	36	20	32
114^{viii}	11	21	11	5
115^{ix}	7	1	1	3

(ii) Prosecutions¹⁶

Penal Code article	Number of persons tried	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons found not guilty	Number of persons still in court process
113	11	11		16
114	6	6		6
115	2	1	1	2

(iii) Convictions and sentences¹⁷

¹⁴ In the given figures, regarding convictions and trials, there are included ongoing cases from previous years, and it should also be taken in consideration that a certain case might start under a certain article and during the investigations it might be the case that the criminal offence is pursued under a different article.

¹⁵ information is taken by the Sector Combating Illicit Trafficking and the General Prosecutor's Office

¹⁶ The information is taken from Ministry of Justice and the General Prosecutor's Office.

¹⁷ The information is taken from Ministry of Justice.

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Penal Code article	Number of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment	Terms of imprisonment					Number of persons fined
		Up to 2 years	2 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	Over 10 years	Life imprisonment	
113	11	9					2
114	6	1	4	1			
115	1	1					

6. 2. STATISTICS ON TIP VICTIM RETURNEE IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL: 2006

		Number of returnee victims identified by police	Number of returnee victims referred to shelters by the police ¹⁸	Number of returnee victims referred to shelters by other parties (NGOs, families, etc.)	Accommodation in shelter ¹⁹					Number of foreign victims returned to their country of origin
					QKPVT	IOM	VATRA	Tjetër Vizion	Others	
Albanian	Women	25	154	46	32	15	104	2		
	Children	2	13	2	19	0	8			
Foreign	Women		2	6	7	1	1			2
	Children			1	1					

¹⁸ The number reported by the shelter includes individuals from vulnerable groups, not necessarily trafficking victims

¹⁹ The number reported by the shelter includes individuals from vulnerable groups, not necessarily trafficking victims

6.3. STATISTICS ON VICTIMS/WITNESS PROTECTION IN TIP CASES IN

		No. of victims identified by police	No of victims that have made denunciations	No of victims that have not made denunciations	No of cases referred to the prosecutor's office	No of criminal proceedings started	Referred to shelter as victims	No. of cases for which evidence has been obtained	No of victims that have testified under protection	No of victims in witness protection program	No of victims that have testified from abroad
Albanian	Women	1	24	225	20	19	82	23	15		
	Children			47			30				
Foreign	Women		1	6			5				
	Children						1				

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

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

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

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

When the act causes the death of the trafficked person *(Not less than 20 years imprisonment or life imprisonment, plus fine from 7 – 10 million lek)*.

When the penal act is perpetrated by abusing the state function or public service *(Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth)*.

ⁱⁱ Article 114/b: **Trafficking in Women**: Recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of women through threat or use of force or other forms of compulsion, deception, abduction, abuse of office, or taking advantage from the social, physical or psychological state, or the giving or receipt of payment or other benefits to obtain the consent of a person who controls another person, for the purpose of exploitation for prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, work or compelled services, slavery or others forms similar to slavery, making use of or transplanting organs, as well as other forms of exploitation *(7-15 years imprisonment, plus fine from 3-6 million lek)*.

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

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

When the act causes the death of the victim *(Not less than 20 years or life imprisonment, plus fine from 7 – 10 million lek)*.

When the penal act is perpetrated by abusing the state function or public service *(Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth)*.

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

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

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

When the act causes the death of the child *(Not less than 20 years or life imprisonment, plus a fine from 8-10 million lek)*.

When the penal act is perpetrated by abusing the state function or public service *(Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth)*.

^{iv} Article 114/a: **Aggravated exploitation of prostitution**

Exploitation of prostitution perpetrated:

1. with minors
2. against several persons
3. with persons with whom there are close family, marital, guardianship relations, or benefiting from official relations
4. with deception, compulsion, force or taking advantage of the physical or mental inability of the person
5. against a person who is induced or coerced to practice prostitution outside the territory of the Republic of Albania
6. in collusion with others or repeatedly, or by persons charged with state and public functions (*7 – 15 years of imprisonment*)

^v Article 297: **Illegal Crossing of the Border**: The illegal crossing of the border constitutes a penal offence (*Fine of imprisonment of up to 2 years.*)

^{vi} Article 298: **Assistance to Illegal Crossing of the Border**: Sheltering, accompanying, making available or using vessels, aircraft or other means of transportation, or any other type of assistance with the purpose of assisting in the illegal crossing of the border of Republic of Albania, or assisting the illegal entry of a person into another state, whilst not being a citizen thereof, or not having a residence permit therein, constitutes a penal act (*1-4 years imprisonment, plus fine from 3-6 million lek*)

When assistance is given for purposes of profit (*3-7 years imprisonment, plus fine from 4-8 million lek*).

When this act is perpetrated in collusion with others, or repeatedly, or causing serious harm (*5-10 years imprisonment, plus fine from 6-8 million lek*).

When the act causes the death of the person (*Not less than 15 years imprisonment or life imprisonment, plus fine from 8-10 million lek*).

When the penal act is perpetrated by abusing the state function or public service (*Imprisonment and fine increased by one fourth*)

^{vii} Article 113: **Prostitution**: Practicing prostitution (*fine or up to 3 years imprisonment*)

^{viii} Article 114: **Exploitation of prostitution**: Inducement, intermediation or recompensing in practicing prostitution (*fine or up to 5 years imprisonment*)

^{ix} Article 115: **Possession of Facilities for Prostitution**: Possession, exploitation, financing or renting facilities for practicing prostitution (*fine or up to 10 years imprisonment*)