



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN
HUMAN BEINGS

**2008 NATIONAL PROGRAM
FOR PREVENTION AND COUNTERACTION OF
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND PROTECTION OF THE VICTIMS**

Worldwide trafficking in human beings is recognised as a serious violation of human rights. Human trafficking impairs the honour and the dignity of the victims and in some cases – their right to life. As a form of an organised crime, trafficking in human beings undermines the basic principles of the law order and democratic standards within the society. The transnational character of the phenomenon requires joint efforts of all institutions working against human trafficking on national, regional and international levels.

The National Program for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of the Victims for 2008 is adopted in regard of the implementation of the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act. The National Program corresponds to the international standards and the obligations of Republic of Bulgaria regarding the membership of the European Union.

SECTION I

“INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES”

MAIN GOAL: Build the administrative structures provided for in the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act on a national and local level and ensure their effective functioning.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Development of the activity of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHB) in Varna, Burgas, Pazardjik and Sliven.

Responsible institution: National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB), Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHB);

Partners: Regional units of the institutions represented in the NCCTHB; International Organization for Migration (IOM) and non-governmental organizations;

Funding: From the budget of the NCCTHB and funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2008.

2. Creation and structuring of at least two Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHB) in the risk municipalities of Montana, Vratsa, Vidin, Dobrich, Veliko Tarnovo, Blagoevgrad and Haskovo.

Responsible institution: National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB), mayors of the respective municipalities;

Partners: Regional units of the institutions represented on the NCCTHB; IOM and non-governmental organisations;

Funding: From the budget of the NCCTHB; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2008.

3. Creation of a Shelter for temporary accommodation and Centres for protection and support of victims of trafficking in human beings within the Local commissions under item 1.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB, LCCTHB;

Partners: Respective municipalities, IOM and NGO;

Funding: From the budget of the NCCTHB and funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2008.

4. Creation of a Crisis centre for temporarily accommodation of children victims of trafficking in human beings in Sofia.

Responsible institution: Sofia Municipality;

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social Support, NCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency and IOM;

Funding: Sofia Municipality;

Deadline: August 2008.

5. Creation of an organization of research, analysis and reporting for statistical data in relation to trafficking in human beings with the NCCTHB.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, NGO;

Funding: Funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: Permanent.

6. Development of a National referral mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection, NGO;

Funding: Funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2008.

SECTION II **“PREVENTION”**

MAIN GOAL: Raise public awareness of the problems of trafficking in human beings and develop mechanisms for its limitation, and create public intolerance to this phenomenon.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Embrace the risk groups of the population (women, children and representatives of ethnic minorities) and inform them about the risks and the consequences of human trafficking.

1.1. Expand the training on human rights and children's rights in secondary school and in pre-school preparation, by using the opportunities offered by the general schooling, additional and out-of-school activities.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Education and Science;

Partners: LCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Regional Inspectorates of Education, IOM;

Funding: From the budgets of the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: Permanent.

1.2. Develop, disseminate and popularize educational modules and models of local and school policies, information materials and tools for teachers, secretaries and members of the LCCTHB, students and parents in relation to the topics of sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Education and Science;

Partners: Regional Inspectorates of Education, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, NCCTHB, LCCTHB, Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, IOM, NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Ministry of Interior; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: Permanent.

1.3. Explanatory activities on the rights of victims of human traffic and the opportunities for assistance and protection among representatives of vulnerable groups, especially among ethnic minorities.

Responsible institution: LCCTHB;

Partners: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, IOM and NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of the respective institutions and funds under projects and programs of partner organizations;

Deadline: Permanent.

2. Conduct studies and organize information campaigns.

2.1. Develop two reference books (including on an electronic form): one with information about the national and international legislation and the institutional framework of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings and one with internet addresses of state and non-governmental organizations that provide information about the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and the opportunities for action in the event of presumed trafficking, as well as information on provided health services and care to the victims of human trafficking.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: All institutions represented in the NCCTHB, IOM and NGO;

Funding: From the budget of the NCCTHB; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: July 2008.

2.2. Popularize the specialized websites of the State Agency for Child Protection (www.stopech.sacp.government.bg), NCCTHB (www.antitraffic.government.bg) and of the Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education and Science;

Funding: From the budgets of NCCTHB, State Agency for Child Protection and Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2008.

2.3. Conduct an information campaign for raising society's awareness on the problem of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, LCCTHB, National Employment Agency, IOM, international organisations, NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of the respective institutions, funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2008.

2.4. Conduct an information campaign for raising the awareness among the vulnerable groups of the problem of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, LCCTHB, National Employment Agency, IOM, international organisations, NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of the respective institutions; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2008.

2.5. Conduct joint initiatives with the media to cover the problems related to trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: All institutions represented in the NCCTHB and NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of NCCTHB and partner organizations;

Deadline: Permanent.

SECTION III

“TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”

MAIN GOAL: Initial training of the staff in the newly-created structures under the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act and improve the qualification of the staff within the institutions working on the problems of trafficking. Build the capacity of NCCTHB for application and participation in European projects.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Training of NCCTHB and LCCTHB employees as well as of the experts from the Permanent working group with the NCCTHB.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: Institutions represented in the NCCTHB; IOM, NGO and international donors;

Funding: NCCTHB budget and funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2008.

2. Training of magistrates in the area of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Justice, National Institute of Justice;

Funding: From the budgets of the Ministry of Justice and National Institute of Justice; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: Permanent.

3. Improvement of the qualification of the Ministry of Interior staff working on cases of trafficking in human beings, staff of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior and its centres for specialization and professional preparation.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Interior;

Deadline: Permanent.

4. Training of investigation organs on the methodologies of investigation of crimes related to trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, National Investigation Service, Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation;

Funding: Budget of the Ministry of Interior;

Deadline: Permanent.

5. Include training module "Human trafficking: root causes, identification and protection of victims" in the curriculum of the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Deadline: Permanent.

6. Organize and conduct training for journalists on the issues of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, NGO.

Funding: NCCTHB, funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: Permanent.

7. Organize and conduct training for social workers and specialists working on the Hot line for children, victims of violence and human traffic.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social support, NGO.

Funding: NCCTHB, funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2008.

8. Acquainting organs of investigation with the “Manual of good practices for police officers, preliminary investigators and investigators when carrying out procedural activities with children who are victims of sexual exploitation”.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Interior;

Deadline: Permanent.

SECTION IV

“PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”

MAIN GOAL: Assistance and support to the victims of trafficking in human beings and protection of their rights. Overcoming the consequences of trafficking in human beings and reintegration of the victims in society.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Update the Coordination mechanism for referral, care and protection of repatriated Bulgarian UAM and children victims of trafficking returning from abroad.

Responsible institution: State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Agency for Social Support, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, State Agency for National Security;

Partners: NCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, IOM, International Labour Organization, International Social Service, NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of the respective institutions; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: May 2008.

2. Develop measures to limit and prevent the use of the Internet to recruit potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security;

Partners: NCCTHB, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection, NGO, Ministry of Defence, internet providers;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Interior;

Deadline: October 2008.

3. Ensure a mechanism to provide medical and psychological assistance in the Centres for protection of victims of trafficking with the LCCTHB.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: Ministry of Health, LCCTHB;

Funding: From the budget of NCCTHB;

Deadline: Permanent.

4. Inclusion of the victims of trafficking in appropriate forms of training and qualification.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, National Employment Agency and respective municipalities;

Partners: LCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of the Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the National Employment Agency, funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: Permanent.

5. Support the participation of victims of human trafficking in projects, programs and measures under the terms and procedures of the Encouragement of Employment Act.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Employment Agency;

Partners: NCCTHB and LCCTHB;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Employment Agency; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: Permanent.

SECTION V

“INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION”

MAIN GOAL: Widen the international activities of the NCCTHB; develop the international cooperation and exchange of best practices in the field of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Establish bilateral contacts and exchange experience and best practices between the NCCTHB and similar structures and state institutions working on the issues of combating and preventing trafficking in human beings in European Union member states, member states of the Council of Europe and third countries.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: All institutions and organizations represented on the NCCTHB, IOM and NGO;

Funding: From the budget of the NCCTHB; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: Permanent.

2. Present the Bulgarian legislation and practice in combating trafficking in human beings under the bilateral relations and in accordance with the multilateral cooperation.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: All institutions and organizations represented in the NCCTHB;

Funding: From the NCCTHB budget; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: Permanent.

3. Conduct international round table with the purpose of sharing experience and best practices in the counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: All institutions represented in the NCCTHB;

Funding: From the NCCTHB budget; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: October 2008.

4. Establishment of a network of sustainable partners on international level for cooperation, assistance and coordination in the field of service provision for victims of trafficking.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: International and non-governmental organizations;

Funding: From the NCCTHB budget; funds under projects and programs,

Deadline: Permanent.

SECTION VI:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

ACTIVITIES:

1. Prepare a proposal for amendment and complement to the Penalty Code concerning the execution of Bulgaria's obligations to Art.19 from the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings for criminalisation of the intentional use of services from victims of human trafficking.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Justice;

Expert assistance: Supreme Court of Cassation;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Justice;

Deadline: December 2008.

2. Formulation of a request to Supreme Court of Cassation for issuing of an interpretative decision on the contradictory court practices related to criminal cases of human trafficking and specifically the contradiction between Art.159a (3) and Art.182b of the Penalty Code.

Responsible institution: Supreme Court of Cassation;

Expert assistance: Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office;

Funding: Not needed;

Deadline: September 2008.

ANNEX

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

IOM	International Organization for Migration
LCCTHB	Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
NCCTHB	National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
NGO	Nongovernmental organizations