

**Report on the work of Intergovernmental  
Working Group on the Fight against Trafficking  
in Human Beings for 2007**

**Ljubljana, May 2008**

**Contents:**

- Summary** 3
- I. Legislative framework** 5
- II. Prevention** 6
  - Raising public awareness 6
  - Raising target public awareness 7
  - Raising expert public awareness - education 7
  - Research 10
- III. Prosecution of criminal offences connected to trafficking in human beings** 11
  - Activities of the Police 11
  - Activities of the State Prosecution’s office 12
- IV. Assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings** 14
  - Project “Care of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings“ 14
  - Project “PATS” 15
  - Project for reintegration “EQUAL” 16
- v. Support activities** 17
  - Coordination of the IWG work 17
  - Cooperation within the framework of regional and international organisations 18
- VI. Areas connected to the human trafficking issue** 21
  - Child pornography on the Internet 21
  - Illegal migrations 22
  - Monitoring the phenomenon by means of employing foreign citizens 22



## Summary

In accordance with the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia No. 240-05/2003-1 dated 18 December 2003, the Intergovernmental Working Group for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter referred to as the IWG) prepared a report on the work for 2007.

The IWG met five times in 2007 and considered different matters connected to the design of measures against human trafficking and the solving of current open issues. The decisions of the discussions are registered in the minutes which were submitted to the IWG members after every session.

In the first half of the year, the IWG activities were directed at the preparation of the Action Plan for 2008-2009 which was adopted by the Government of the RS at its regular session of 12 July 2007 (Decision Nr. 23100-2/2007/6).

One of the tasks defined in the Action Plan was the preparation of a tender for the project 'Care of victims of trafficking in human beings', this time for the period of two years.

### **Legislative framework**

The IWG took note of the proposal for the new Penal Code prepared by the Ministry of Justice. At the beginning of 2007, the Act ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into force. This brought about the new form of supervision of places of residence of those who have been deprived of liberty (prisons, places for police detention, detention facilities, military posts, hospitals, old people's homes, asylum centres, etc.) The supervision according to the above protocol falls under the domain of the Ombudsman, in cooperation with members of non-governmental and humanitarian organisations chosen in a public tender.

### **Prevention**

Prevention activities in 2007 include raising public awareness, raising target population awareness (potential victims of human trafficking), and education and training of experts in this field. The prevention also encompasses research activities and other forms of monitoring this phenomenon, including surveillance mechanisms of the competent institutions. Aside from different forms of raising awareness and education, the following research needs to be put forward: "Setting up and monitoring internationally comparable indicators on trafficking in human beings" authored by the Slovenian Peace Institute, namely on the basis of the 2007 Action Plan and provision of funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Prosecution of criminal offences connected to trafficking in human beings**

In line with the standard practice, the human trafficking phenomenon in the Republic of Slovenia is monitored on the basis of measurable data from the Police and State Prosecutor's office for criminal offences of human trafficking in accordance with Article 387a of the Penal Code, placing in a slavery position in accordance with Article 387 Penal Code and abuse of prostitution in accordance with Article 185 of the Penal Code. Due to well-known reasons regarding the derogation and harmonisation of statistical data, these are recorded separately for the Police and the State Prosecutor's office. Indirect indicators of non-governmental organisations are also presented, above all with regard to considering the victims of human trafficking.

In 2007, the Police dealt with 16 cases (11 criminal complaints at the District State Prosecutor's office and 5 reports at the DSPo) involving 15 suspects, and registered 9 victims of human trafficking. In 2007, the State Prosecutor's office dealt with 9 criminal complaints in connection with human trafficking against 13 suspects.

### **Assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings**

The project 'Care of victims of trafficking in human beings' continued to be implemented. The tender commissions of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry for Labour, Family and Social Affairs chose, on the basis of public tenders, the contractors for 2007: the Slovenian Caritas for crisis accommodation and the society Ključ for accommodation in shelters. In the reporting period, the Slovenian Caritas provided three persons with crisis accommodation while three persons were placed in shelters by the society Ključ. Both cases referred to separate matters.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been financing the project "Introducing the mechanism for recognition, assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings and/or sexual violence in asylum procedures in Slovenia (PATS)" for four years, and the project is carried out by the non-governmental organisation Ključ in the Asylum Home of the Ministry of the Interior. The project acquired a regional dimension, having been expanded to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. From January to December 2007, 50 PATS interviews were conducted.

### **Support activities**

This chapter indicates the activities of the members of the IWG, designed especially to coordinate work, mutually coordinate and prepare documents and cooperate in the activities of regional and international organisations. The participation of representatives of the RS provided for a constant and active presence at such international forums.

### **Areas connected to the human trafficking issue**

The last chapter of the report presents some areas directly connected to the human trafficking phenomenon. The problems of the statistical recording of different forms of human trafficking are one of the main reasons for the presentation in this chapter of measures in the field of preventing child pornography on the Internet and of illegal migrations. Based on the IWG assessment, these two criminal offences belong to the wider circle of human trafficking. From an expert point of view, these offences must be dealt with separately. On the other hand, their interweavement is the reason why this problem needs to be presented as a whole. Due to a similar reason, this chapter also presents the monitoring of the human trafficking phenomenon by means of employing foreigners, namely as one of the potential indicators of this problem.

## I. Legislative framework

In 2007, the initiative regarding the procedure for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings continued. However, it is still in procedure due to required amendments of the Penal Code.

The Convention was adopted at the extraordinary session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 3 May 2005 in Strasbourg and was open for signatures at the Third Summit of the Council of Europe in Warsaw between 16 and 17 May 2005. Slovenia signed the Convention on 3 April 2006. The representatives of the IWG actively participated at the sessions of the Council of Europe Committee in the preparation of the Convention and supported its adoption. The EU Plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings<sup>1</sup> requires EU Member States to sign and ratify by the end of 2007 the Council of Europe Convention on Action against trafficking in Human Beings.

Due to the provisions of the Convention, small changes or amendments will have to be implemented into the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Act in the Republic of Slovenia; the ratification procedure is therefore expected to be completed in 2009.

The Ministry of Justice prepared the proposal for (a new) Penal Code (abb. PC-1), which has been under consideration in the National Assembly of RS since 2008. In the proposal of the mentioned Code, the most relevant criminal offences so far in the areas of human trafficking (Articles 387 and 387a of the Penal Code from 1994, with amendments up to 2004) are transferred within Article 112 (placing in slavery position) in Article 113 (trafficking in human beings). Elements of criminal offences are essentially the same with regard to the current Penal Code.

In 2006, the Republic of Slovenia ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The legal proposal for the Government of the Republic of Slovenia was prepared by the Ministry of Justice. The Act ratifying the Optional Protocol came into force on 1 January 2007. By means of this Act, the Republic of Slovenia introduced a new form of surveillance places of residence of those who were deprived of liberty. Among these are above all prisons, police detention facilities, detention facilities, military posts, hospitals, old people's homes, asylum homes and the like. The supervision according to the mentioned protocol falls under the domain of the Ombudsman, in cooperation with members of certain non-governmental and humanitarian organisations that were chosen in a public tender. The members of the mentioned organisations, in cooperation with the Ombudsman, monitor interaction with person deprived of liberty; they act according to the Ombudsman's orders and are obliged to protect the acquired data. It is their cooperation that enhances the legitimacy of the monitoring and strengthens the multidisciplinary of the monitoring. The new form of monitoring began to be implemented in December 2007.

Within the framework of the monitoring of interaction with those deprived of liberty or persons with limited freedom of movement, violations of human rights in terms of treatment of those people can be monitored (dignity and other personal rights), and in this way potential victims of human trafficking can be found.

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<sup>1</sup> Published on 9 December 2005, Official Gazette C 311, page 0001-0012

## II. Prevention

Prevention is one of the most important activities in combating trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Slovenia. It helps us in our aspirations to prevent one of the worst forms of fundamental human rights violation and mitigate its consequences.

The prevention activities involve raising public awareness, education and training of experts in the field concerned, raising target groups awareness - potential victims of trafficking in human beings, research activities, monitoring of the phenomenon, and strengthening of monitoring mechanisms within the framework of investigation and prosecution bodies as well as within the framework of other institutions whose work extends to the area of fighting against trafficking in human beings.

### **Raising public awareness**

The Government Communication Office held several meetings regarding "raising awareness and informing the public on the human trafficking issue". In line with the IWG decision, an informal working group was set up consisting of IWG members that prepared starting points for the communication activities for the Action Plan 2008-2009. The group also prepared a review of all the activities in the area of raising awareness and informing the public concluded so far, as a basis for planning further activities.

The Government Communication Office provided the funds for the logo and the slogan "Actions against trafficking in human beings"; it will contribute to the visual recognisability of the activities intended to fight human trafficking. The logo shall be used at more important events and in the documents of the IWG and other materials on this subject; at the same time, it may be used by IWG member organisations.

In 2007, the Government Communication Office updated the web site presenting the human trafficking issue.

The Internet address [http://www.vlada.si/delo\\_vlade/projekti/boj\\_trgovina\\_z\\_ljudmi/](http://www.vlada.si/delo_vlade/projekti/boj_trgovina_z_ljudmi/) is linked to the website of the Ministry of the Interior. On this website, users can access information on IWG activities and basic documents prepared by the IWG, and other materials and international documents in this area. Users can also link to the Council of Europe webpage – Trafficking in human beings. The statistics show that the number of visits on the website is increasing. Statistical data regarding the hits of the Slovenian page in 2007: January – 3,166, February 4,626, March – 7,329, April – 5,909, May – 4,213, June – 0, July – 1,223, August – 3,774, September – 4,032, October – 5,868, November – 6,588, December – 3,850.

On 15 November 2007, the Slovenian Student Association of Defence Studies, together with the USA Embassy, organised a consultation on human trafficking, with active participation of the national coordinator and some IWG members.

According to available data, the Slovenian media published over 40 features on trafficking in human beings. Some articles/radio or television features witnessed the cooperation of the national coordinator and IWG members. The Slovenian Police was actively involved in raising public awareness and expert public awareness through media and it also took part in expert consultations.

The magazine *Jana* published an interview with some IWG members on the issues of child begging in Slovenia, in connection to human trafficking. The article presented the role and work of the governmental coordinating body with regard to the issue of child begging as one of the forms of human trafficking.

In July 2007, the national coordinator visited the radio station Radio Ognjišče and talked about human trafficking in Slovenia; in November 2007, and in its programme "Aktualno" on the issue of human trafficking, the radio station Val 202 hosted the president of the society Ključ and the national coordinator.

The supplement Nika of the newspaper *Dnevnik* published an editorial and a more extensive article "Nobody should be for sale", and in the "Objektiv" section of the newspaper, an extensive interview with the Member of European Parliament Christa Prets, the author of the Report on trafficking in women and children, was published. More extensive articles were also published in the newspapers *Delo*, *Štajerski tednik*, *Družina* and in the magazine *Mag*.

The issue of human trafficking was also the main theme in the Slovenian national television broadcast *Polnočni klub* which hosted members of the Ključ society and the Slovenian Caritas along with an IWG member from the General Police Administration.

The society Ključ also took part in other radio and television broadcasts, in the preparation of a whole-page newspaper advertisement, in the creation of a radio advertisement, and the reissue of prevention materials in the form of postcards and in their distribution in bars and coffee shops. It also took part in the joint campaign of five organisations at the occasion of the Day of the Fight Against Violence Against Women; it printed newspaper supplements and issued three publications within the Equal project. The content preparation of a whole-page advertisement for the magazine *O Osebnosti* was concluded, as well as the preparation of an advertisement for the *Salomonov oglasnik*, intended to raise awareness of prostitutes, sexual services users and prostitution organisers, all regarding the issue of human trafficking.

### **Raising target public awareness**

In 2007, the non-governmental organisation Ključ implemented three preventive programmes for the target population:

- Vijolica – how to avoid the traps of human trafficking, intended for around 400 minors and their parents and for school personnel. The programme was financed by the society Ključ;
- CAP – against child abuse; intended for around 250 children and their parents and for school personnel. The programme was financed by the society Ključ;
- PATS – 50 interviews were held. The project was expanded also to the Aliens Centre. In line with the IWG Action Plan, the project was financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A radio advertisement was prepared on the situational examples of talking with a person in a crisis situation when they call the help line for victims of trafficking in human beings.

The Slovenian Caritas published two expert articles on the issue of human trafficking, namely in the Caritas newsletter "Žarek dobrote" and organised seminars in Celje (12 and 13 October 2007, in Postojna (19 and 20 October 2007), and in Veržej (26 and 27 2007), where the project Care of victims of trafficking in human beings was presented.

### **Raising expert public awareness - education**

On 5 March 2007, the Office of the State Prosecutor General of the RS organised a seminar for prosecutors and judges on the human trafficking issues. The members of the IWG also took part. The Office of the State Prosecutor General organised a one-day educational seminar in cooperation with the US Embassy. The lecturers were the American prosecutors and the representatives of the US Department of Justice.



Between 19 and 21 March 2007, the Training and Education Centre Gotenica hosted a three-day seminar organised by the General Police Directorate, in accordance with the Action Plan. Participants of the seminar were criminal investigators of Police Directorates, representatives of the Croatian Criminal Police and representatives of the non-governmental organisations the Slovenian Caritas and the society Ključ. The latter two participated in the preparation of the lecture contents and informative materials, in the content preparation of simulating roles, and in the analysis of simulations with the role players, and later with all the training participants. The seminar which takes place all year is intended for operative cooperation and the exchange of experiences. In this way, the police officers in charge of this problem and the non-governmental organisations members have a chance to get to know one another.

Within the framework of implementing the annual training plan for the Police in 2007, 8 training courses for 165 policemen were carried out.

On 12 July 2007, the Office of the Government of the RS for Religious Communities organised a one-day consultation on human trafficking. The consultation was intended for the representatives of all religious communities in Slovenia. The issue of human trafficking and the legal basis for combating this phenomenon in Slovenia were presented.

Between 17 and 19 September 2007 in Jable, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised training for consular personnel of diplomatic missions and consular posts of the RS. The seminar dealt inter alia with human trafficking. The role of consular personnel is very important for the identification of human trafficking victims which are very often discovered outside the country of origin. The training was designed to raise awareness and improve the knowledge of the potential possibilities of trafficking in human beings in procedures of issuing visas and of the early detection of human trafficking. The national coordinator and the IWG members for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the General Police Administration, the Office of the State Prosecutor General of the RS and the non-governmental organisation Ključ took part in the consultation.

On 10 October 2007, the representative of the Ministry of Justice, a member of the IWG, carried out training on human rights and fundamental freedoms for the newly employed officials at the Ministry of Defence. Within this training, the area of fight and prevention of human trafficking from the criminal law point of view was presented.

The Action Plan of the Intergovernmental Working Group for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for the year 2007 specified the "Inclusion of the issue of human trafficking in the school curriculum" which became the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Sport and the National Education Institute of the RS. The trafficking in human beings issue is included in the curriculum of Civil Education and Ethics, above all within the thematic set: HUMAN RIGHTS – CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, both in the 7th and 8th grade of elementary school. The theme is recommended to be adapted to the development stage of the children, also through a cross-curriculum approach (the theme of classes, projects, activity days in schools), from the 1st through 9th grades and intra-subject approach from the 1st through 9th grades. The representatives and professionals of the National Education Institute of the RS discussed this theme at the School Council, within the framework of advisory services, and at seminars within the framework of the themes encompassing human rights and their violations, and living in communities with an emphasis on modern problems of the human population. This theme is becoming more relevant every day and teachers lack the professional knowledge for a quality considerations and activities in this area. This theme will also be included in further training for teachers, which will be organised by the National Education Institute. The programme of the catalogue of the National Education Institute of RS for further education and training of teachers includes, within the contents of the seminar *Knowledge is the way – also in the area of sexual*

*education*, a thematic set on sexual violence and human trafficking. Similarly, in the school year 2006/2007, all students in secondary education received the brochure "I can easily become a victim of sex trade", and the National Education Institute distributed a newsletter on this subject to teachers. Two counsellors in the area of civic education and health education helped the National Education Institute through the meaningful inclusion of the contents.

The society Ključ conducted, within the programme CAP, educational training for elementary school teachers, while educational training for the Croatian partners was carried out within the programme PATS. Three seminars on human trafficking and the reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings were carried out, along with courses and a workshop on the topic "communication with sexual abuse victims" for counsellors operating help hotlines; a meeting with the director of the Legal Information Centre (LIC) of non-governmental organisations took place and also a short lecture for LIC employees on human trafficking, traumatic experience and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for the experts of the Legal Information Centre of non-governmental organisations.

Members of the Ključ society took part in the educational seminars for police officers departing to the international peace mission UNMIK in Kosovo. Experts and volunteers from the elementary school Velika Nedelja learned about the society Ključ, human trafficking and its traps for people, about human rights and different forms of help.

In addition to all this, in 2007 the society Ključ was present at: the educational seminar *Mediation – resolving conflicts for less violence* organised by the Concordia Mediation Institute, a one-day seminar *Handling difficult users* organised by the Social Chamber of Slovenia, and an educational training of the society Ključ co-workers in Spain on the theme *Working with minors and children – aliens without escort* organised by the partner organisation BEMBEA within the framework of the programme Community Initiative EQUAL; the educational seminar on the theme *Structural Analysis of the social behaviour – the SAVS Model*; a three-day training for the possibility of the CAP project (Child Assault Prevention) implementation; a three-day Congress of the social work in Maribor, a regional educational seminar *Combating Child Sexual Exploitation* organised by the British Embassy and CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) which was held in Bucharest from 12 to 16 November 2007, a two-day education for workers in safe houses, shelters, maternity homes and associated organisations and for social workers in Social Work Centres and associated organisations.

On 25 November, at the occasion of the International Day Against Violence Against Women, the non-governmental organisation active in the field of prevention of violence against women, domestic violence and trafficking in human beings, prepared the educational and informative supplement of the newspaper *Delo* bearing the title *Violence! What can I do?*

On 2 and 3 December 2007, the Slovenian Caritas, to round up the preventive activities of the whole year, organised a preventive seminar *Pastoral on the street – Integral care for the human trafficking victims*, held in Celje and Ljubljana. The seminar was designed as an internal awareness raising and sensitivisation of representatives of the parochial Caritas organisations (above all those that are adjacent to the Schengen border), of nuns, priests and all those who accept the activities in this area as their calling. The seminar hosted experts in the field of human trafficking and Caritas representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Caritas Serbia. There were 45 participants. The interested guests and participants of the preventive seminar learned about the Clinic for persons without basic health insurance in Ljubljana, the founder of which is also Caritas. The Slovenian Caritas works well with the clinic. By educating the clinic's personnel about the human trafficking issue, and by educating the society at large about the Clinic for persons without basic health insurance, we are raising awareness and enhancing the possibilities for rapid actions in case

of detection of human trafficking and health problems of the victims of trafficking in human beings.

The training for Education for volunteers was carried out in Bertoki, and the volunteers also learned about the problems of the parochial Caritas organisations' representatives. The above presentations are extremely important, because the sensitivisation of people from adjacent parishes in regard to human trafficking and victim identification is crucial for the detection of this phenomenon. Correct response in case of a suspicion of human trafficking and proper handling with regard to victims' identification are very important.

The Slovenian Caritas organised a number of expert trainings in the area of work with people in distress. Trainings for a wider group of expert workers for the project "Care of victims of trafficking in human beings", expert workers of the Maternity Home and expert workers of the Institute Pelikan - Caritas (Unit for Addicts) were also carried out.

## **Research**

In line with the Action Plan of the Intergovernmental Working Group for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for the year 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs financed the study "Setting up and monitoring internationally comparable indicators on trafficking in human beings" authored by the Peace Institute of Slovenia. The bases for the study are specified in the "Resolution on the national programme on equal opportunities for men and women 2005-2013". The study analyses the existing practices and politics for the prevention of human trafficking and sexual exploitation arising from prostitution and pornography. It presents legal mechanisms in the field of human trafficking and prostitution, the relationship between human trafficking and prostitution in national legislations, and the indicators for monitoring the activities in the area of preventing trafficking in human beings. It suggests some improvements for individual areas of human trafficking in Slovenia. The study was presented in one of the IWG sessions.

### III. Prosecution of criminal offences connected to trafficking in human beings

#### Activities of the Police

In 2007, the Police predominantly directed their activities towards the fight against human trafficking and prostitution in uncovering the individuals and criminal groups committing criminal offence in this field.

New forms of human trafficking in Slovenia were observed, among which begging is especially worth mentioning. It has been established that those from the most vulnerable groups, i.e. children and the disabled, have been forced to take up begging. A form of servant exploitation was also observed – the exploitation of house maids.

Coming to the surface are also new trends in recruiting victims that arrive above all from the new EU Members States such as Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia. However, most of the uncovered and potential victims of human trafficking still come from Eastern European countries: the Ukraine, Moldavia, the Russian Federation, and the Caribbean countries, the Dominican Republic and Thailand. Forms of human trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation were discovered above all in night clubs.

**Article 387a of the Penal Code – Trafficking in Human Beings:** in 2007, the Police handled 2 criminal offences of human trafficking, and submitted three reports to the competent state prosecution. Two criminal complaints have been filed against two suspects. One victim received help.

**Article 387 – Placing in Slavery Position:** Five criminal offences were handled. 2 reports were submitted to the competent state prosecution. Criminal complaints were filed against six persons and five victims were identified.

**Article 185 of the Penal Code – Abuse of prostitution:** Four criminal offences were handled. Seven persons were charged and three victims received help.

*Table 1: Criminal offences handled by the Police in connection to trafficking in human beings in 2007*

Criminal Offence	Number of criminal complaints at the District Prosecutor's Office	Number of reports to the District Prosecutor's Office	Number of suspects	Criminal offence resulting from organised crime	Number of victims
<b>Trafficking in Human Beings Article 387a of the Penal Code</b>	2	3	2		1
<b>Placing in Slavery Position Article 387 of the Penal Code</b>	5	2	6		5
<b>Abuse of Prostitution Article 185 of the Penal Code</b>	4		7		3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>9</b>

## **Activities of the State Prosecutor**

Considering the fact that the method of work regarding criminal offences in the area of human trafficking proved to be efficient in the past years, work in this area did not change in 2007: in all district prosecutor's offices, state prosecutors were designated to handle criminal offences in this area, and their work was coordinated, monitored and directed by the supreme state prosecutor. District state prosecutors continued to report on criminal matters, leading pre-trial criminal procedures or handling criminal procedures. The supreme state prosecutor contributed to the creation of a common prosecution politics in this area by coordinating and monitoring their activities.

The statistical aspect and a short illustrative content reveal the main problem connected to the criminal offence of human trafficking in accordance with Article 387a of the Penal Code. The monitoring of individual criminal matters during a longer time period, with the emphasis on 2007, again showed that different types of offences can not be specified as criminal offences of human trafficking according to Article 387a of the Penal Code, but rather as associated criminal offences, and most often criminal offences regarding the abuse of prostitution according to Article 185 of the Penal Code, for which in 2007 the district prosecutor's offices and the Group received three criminal complaints against five persons.

In 2007, the state prosecutors received four criminal complaints against six persons for the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings according to Article 387a of the Penal Code. In one case, the criminal offence from the complaint that was originally filed for the criminal offence of placing in a slavery position according to Article 387 of the Penal Code, was reformed into a criminal offence of human trafficking according to Article 387a of the Penal Code; a request for investigation was filed for both persons charged. A criminal complaint against three persons was dropped, and in one case an extensive supplementation of the criminal complaint was requested; however, it was still undergoing treatment in the reporting period. With regard to cases that originated in the previous periods, a criminal charge was filed against two persons after the investigation with both persons in detention during the criminal investigation.

In 2007, on the grounds of placing in a slavery position according to Article 387 of the Penal Code, two new criminal complaints were filed against two persons, a criminal charge was filed against one person, and in one criminal matter the complaint is still being supplemented. In cases that originated from previous periods, the court acquitted one accused person. The state prosecutor filed an appeal against the sentence; the appeal is still undergoing treatment. In one case the prosecutors requested detention on the grounds of Article 201(1)(1) of the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA), for it was obvious that the defendant was hiding. Based on the request for an investigation that was filed in 2001, the court, on the proposal from the prosecutor, issued a decision on investigation in 2007 without interrogating the defendant. As mentioned above, one the prosecutor's offices received a complaint regarding the criminal offence of placing in a slavery position according to Article 387 of the Penal Code. Originally, a request for investigation was filed for this criminal offence, but the prosecutor, after examining the file, decided to change the request and charged the defendants with the criminal offence of human trafficking according to Article 387a, paragraph 2 in connection to paragraph 1 of the Penal Code. The subject matter of the case was the purchase of a minor girl with a false promise of marriage. She was brought to Slovenia where she was placed in a Roma family in a slavery-like position: she had to serve as a house maid, and one of the family members beat her every day and kept telling her that she was his slave: Her movement was also restricted. She also received threats that they would kill her family in case she fled.

At the beginning of this report, we indicated that the criminal offences of placing in a slavery position according to Article 387 of the Penal Code and the abuse of prostitution according to Article 185 of the Penal Code were interwoven, and this was clearly demonstrated in the

criminal matter that was mentioned in the previous year's report. This criminal matter was *res judicata* concluded in the reporting period. In 2006, a criminal procedure involving seven defendants ended with a judgment sentencing with three defendants charged with *inter alia* placing in a slavery position according to Article 387 of the Penal Code, abuse of prostitution according to Article 185(1) of the Penal Code, and prohibited crossing of the state border according to Article 311 (2) and (3) of the Penal Code. Another 4 defendants were found guilty of the criminal offence of abuse of prostitution according to Article 185(1) of the Penal Code or of assisting in this criminal offence. At the end of 2007, the Higher Court rendered a judgment of acquittal for criminal offence according to Article 387 of the Penal Code for two defendants due to lack of evidence. Given the above decision of the court, the third defendant accused of accessory to the mentioned criminal offence was also acquitted. The court emphasized that the circumstances in which the victims arrived in Slovenia and later lived were not such as to enable the existence of a slavery or slavery-like position. Two defendants were *res judicata* sentenced for the criminal offence of abuse of prostitution according to Article 185(1) of the Penal Code, while the other two defendants were sentenced for accessory to the criminal offence.

The main and common feature of the considered criminal offences is the difficulty of providing evidence. In case of human trafficking, the victims often do not feel victimised and do not report the criminal offence, and very often they are being intimidated by the perpetrators or their existence depends on them, therefore they will not risk charging the perpetrators with their testimonies. That is why it is important to raise the awareness of victims and the population and use discreet investigation measures. All the above proved correct in a criminal matter of one of the prosecutor's offices, where in the reporting year an indictment was filed against two persons on grounds of criminal offences of human trafficking according to Article 387(1) and (2) of the Penal Code and abuse of prostitution according to Article 185(1) of the Penal Code. The victims (nationals of Moldavia and Columbia) denied in the investigation any restriction of movement or forcing into prostitution on the part of the defendants. The criminal offence was reported by a regular customer of the night club who had an affair with one of the victims. In the pre-trial criminal procedure, the discreet investigation measures of secret operation and secret observation were used. This way it was possible to obtain enough evidence for an indictment, although the victims wouldn't speak up.

*Table 2: Criminal offences handled by the District State Prosecutors in connection with trafficking in human beings, persons in 2007*

<b>Criminal offence</b>	<b>Number of criminal complaints/reports</b>	<b>Number of people dealt with in criminal complaints/reports</b>	<b>Criminal complaints dropped (number of persons)</b>	<b>Investigations commenced (number of persons)</b>	<b>Indictments filed (number of persons)</b>	<b>Judgments rendered (number of persons)</b>
<b>Trafficking in Human Beings Article 387a of the Penal Code</b>	4	6	3	2	2*	
<b>Placing in Slavery Position Article 387 of the Penal Code</b>	2	2			1	
<b>Abuse of Prostitution Article 185 of the Penal Code</b>	3	5				2*
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2* + 1</b>	<b>2*</b>

\* treated cases from previous years

## **IV. Assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings**

### **Project “Care of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings”**

In January and February 2007, the IWG Commission and the Commission of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs intensively worked to conclude the procedure of two harmonised public tenders for the project “Care of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings”. The basis for the publication of both tenders of 22 December 2006 is given in the IWG Action Plan. The final activities were directed above all at reviewing the offers, requests for the supplementation of offers, the revision of offers and selection of the contractor. These activities were documented in the records of the tender commissions, the rendered decisions and information on the selection. The IWG tender commission eliminated two tenderers due to incomplete offers, and on this basis the society Ključ was chosen as the contractor for one part of the project for it fulfilled all the conditions. The tender commission of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, also due to incomplete offers, eliminated two tenderers and chose the Slovenian Caritas as the contractor for the remainder of the project; the Slovenian Caritas also fulfilled all the conditions. The contracting parties (Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs) concluded with both organisations a contract on financing in 2007 in the indicative amount of EUR 35,000.00 for the project of safe accommodation and EUR 33,000.00 for the project of crisis accommodation.

In the reporting period the society Ključ accommodated three persons in a safe place. Prior to this, these persons were in a crisis accommodation. On 20 November 2007, a meeting regarding the identification of a concrete case of human trafficking victims took place. Based on the available data and the condition of the human trafficking victim and her son at that time, both were included in the program of “Care of Victims” financed by the Ministry of the Interior. The third person remained in the “Care of Victims” programme, however the costs of the accommodation in a safe place was taken over by the Municipality of Ljubljana. In 2007, the society Ključ received EUR 15,181.25 for the care of the human trafficking victims – safe accommodation.

In the reporting period, the Slovenian Caritas arranged for additional locations that would enable the accommodation of a larger number of persons in the crisis accommodation programme. It rented apartments at a new location, furnished them, provided for extra security and improved the standard of the premises. In this period, round-the-clock telephone standby and the presence of an expert for counselling and practical assistance were provided for. Crisis accommodation was provided to three men, who were disabled foreign nationals who joined the programme with the help of the Police.

Beside sleeping accommodations and food, the crisis accommodation also provided for: medical first aid (diabetes), initial psychosocial help, counselling and informing, advocacy, empowerment, interpreting services, preparations for testimony, aid with hygiene and creative work activities. An agreement for their reception and integration into the reintegration programme (IOM Slovakia) was concluded with competent persons in the country of origin. In 2007, one female concluded the reintegration programme, two females were able to return to their home countries (the Dominican Republic and China), three males (mentioned above) were provided with crisis accommodation and seven interviews were conducted. In 2007, the Slovenian Caritas received EUR 24,340.89 for the care of human trafficking victims.

In line with a standard procedure, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs prepared and published on 22 November 2007 two separate public tenders for the project “Care of victims of trafficking in human beings for the period 2008-

2009” which differs from other previous public tenders because it refers to a two-year period. The selection procedure was concluded in January 2008.

### **Project “PATS”**

In 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the fourth time in a row and in line with the Action Plan of the Intergovernmental Working Group for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2007, financed the project “Introduction of mechanisms for recognition, aid and protection to victims of trafficking in human beings and/or sexual violence in asylum procedures in Slovenia” (PATS), in the amount of EUR 20,800.00. This way, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides for the transfer of knowledge developed by Slovenian non-governmental organisations within the scope of the PATS project. The project also acquired a regional dimension, having been expanded to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and received a regional dimension. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project is carried out by the organization Bosansko hercegovska iniciativa žena (Bosnian and Herzegovinian Women’s Initiative), and in Croatia the organization Crveni križ RH (Red Cross of the Republic of Croatia).

From January to December 2007, 50 PATS interviews were conducted.

The interviews were conducted with all minors without escort and women who in 2007 requested asylum in the Republic in Slovenia. On 1 September 2007, the project PATS also began to be implemented in the Aliens Centre in Postojna. Due to this fact, the number of interviews in 2007 is higher than in 2006. The included risk groups are the same as in the Asylum Home. In the Asylum Home, 37 interviews were conducted, and in the Aliens Centre 13 interviews.

The interviews included 50 persons, 31 of which were men (65 % of the entire PATS population), and 19 women (38 % of all PATS users).

Out of all 50 PATS users, minors accounted for 86 % of the whole population in 2007; only 3 of them were girls (Macedonia, Sierra Leone, Serbia), the rest were boys from Kosovo (12), Albania (10), Afghanistan (3), Cameroon (1) Sierra Leone (1), Turkey (1), Nigeria (1) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (1).

Adults comprised 14 % of all users of the PATS project in 2007. As a rule, adult men are not included in the PATS project.

The predominant countries of origin are: Kosovo, which is considered an autonomous entity due to its ethno-political specific position, Albania and Serbia. Considering the fact that the male users of the PATS project in 2007 are exclusively minors without escort, we can conclude that underage boys of Albanian nationality (from Kosovo and Albania) account for the largest user group in 2007, i.e. 44 %.

In 2007, two female users of the PATS project came under the auspices of the “Care of Victims” project. One victim was determined to have fallen victim to human trafficking, and the other was included in the project because it was established that she had fallen victim to a close family member. Both were first additionally interviewed within the PATS project. Two minors were additionally interviewed because of a suspicion that they were victims of sexual abuse in the Asylum Home. They were both given information on how to receive help and who can help them. They were told that they will receive the appropriate protection and help if they wanted.



After the first quarter of 2007, a decision was made that the PATS project needed to be expanded due to a significant decrease in the number of interviews. On 15 May 2007, a meeting was held in the Asylum Home regarding the expansion of the PATS project to the Aliens Centre (AC) in Postojna. Representatives of the Asylum Home, Aliens Centre, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the society Ključ took part in the meeting. Unanimously they concluded that the PATS project would start begin implementation in the AC; the details are to be agreed with the management of the AC and the uniformed police. On 14 August 2007, the AC hosted a working consultation, attended by four representatives of the AC and two representatives of the society Ključ. The work and cooperation methods were agreed on, and the contact persons on both sides were designated, along with the date of the commencement of the PATS project in the AC (1 September 2007). By the end of 2007, 13 interviews had been conducted in the AC. The cooperation with the AC so far can be considered as satisfactory.

#### Regionalisation of the project PATS

In November, the representatives of the society Ključ, the holder of the project, following the request from the Croatian Red Cross, educated two of their workers. The CRC has been implementing the PATS project in their Asylum Home since 2006. The knowledge was acquired within the regionalisation of the PATS project which was implemented in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina under the auspices of the society Ključ.

#### **Project for reintegration "EQUAL"**

In October 2007, Slovenia concluded the implementation of the projects within the framework of the Community Initiative EQUAL for the period 2004-2006. EUR 6.4 Million from the European Social Fund and EUR 2.1 Million of national funds have been earmarked for the performance of the initiative. The reintegration programme included four persons. One of the female users required social reintegration. The final project conference on the subject of the stereotypes regarding human trafficking victims, vulnerable population, traumatic events and post-traumatic stress disorder, experience and responses of the victims was carried out, and the contributions of the invited speakers were presented at the conference.

## **V. Support activities**

### **Co-ordination of the IWG's work**

The IWG met five times in 2007, on 19 February 2007 (Minutes of the 17th meeting of the IWF Nr. 900-11/2005/33); on 5 April (Minutes of the 18th meeting of the IWG Nr. 900-11/2005/41); on 13 June 2007 (Minutes of the 19th meeting of the IWG Nr. 900-11/2005/43); on 28 September 2007 (Minutes of the 20th meeting of the IWG Nr. 900-11/2005/47), and on 11 December (Minutes of the 21st meeting of the IWG Nr. 900-11/2005/ 49).

On 6 March 2007, a meeting was held at the Ministry of Education and Sport. The theme of the meeting was the inclusion of the human trafficking issue in the school curriculum. Participating in the meeting were the representatives of the National Education Institute and the representatives of the IWG. They concluded that the themes connected to the prevention of human trafficking can be included in the teachers' education programme (consultations and seminars). But first, the view of the Ministry of Education and Sport had to be acquired and the Education Development Office had to be informed about the content of the meeting.

At the beginning of the year, the envisaged activities for the Slovenian EU presidency were considered. It was concluded that one of the future IWG meetings should host a representative of the criminal police administration that cooperates in the EU Council working body responsible for the human trafficking issue. This way, the IWG representatives learned about the developments and open dossiers regarding the human trafficking issue in the EU. It was concluded that a direct transfer of information on current events in the area of human trafficking should be established, with the emphasis on the open dossiers during the period of the Slovenian EU presidency.

On 12 April 2007 at its regular session, the Government of the RS considered and adopted the periodic report of the IWG for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2007 (Decision No. 01201-5/2007/4). At the same time, the IWG was entailed with the preparation of the Action Plan for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2008-2009. On this basis and in cooperation with the Public Relations Office, the Ministry of the Interior held a press conference on 24 April 2007. The participants, around ten journalists, published a feature in the newspaper Delo and on national television.

On 13 April 2007, the national coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings, together with a state secretary from the Ministry of the Interior, took part at the session of the Human Rights Commission of the Slovenian National Assembly. They discussed the ECTI report and the US State Department report on the human rights situation in the Republic of Slovenia.

The supplemented answers to the questionnaire on the implementation of the UN Protocol on the fight against trafficking in human beings, namely women and children, that supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, were sent to the UNDOC.

The main theme of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IWG for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings was the harmonisation of the Action Plan for 2008-2009. Additional harmonisation with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs on 28 June referred to the project "Care of victims of trafficking in human beings" which is the subject matter of the common harmonised public tenders.

## **Cooperation within the framework of regional and international organisations**

In 2007, the representatives of the IWG participated in the framework of their organizations and/or as members of joint delegations at numerous international events in the field of fight against trafficking in human beings, namely:

within the framework of the project "ILAEIRA" which is an international cross-border police co-operation in the field of combating human trafficking, coordinated by the Greek police with answers to an extensive questionnaire serving as a basis for further measures in this area sent on 16 January.

Between 18 and 20 April 2007, the national coordinator took part in the seminar on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings, held in Berlin. At this seminar he presented the arrangement of the situation regarding aid to victims and how their status in the Republic of Slovenia is arranged.

On 17 May, a regular meeting took place with the Ambassador of Kingdom of Belgium, Mr. Jean Louis Mignot on the issue of human trafficking in Slovenia. The exchange of views is a standard practice, above all due to the sensitivity of this problem in Belgium.

On 21 May 2007, the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the national coordinator participated at the OSCE international conference in Vienna. The conference was dedicated to the introduction of the national rapporteurs' mechanism. Participating at the conference was also the Slovenian Ambassador with OSCE organisation in Vienna. The High Level Conference emphasized the role of national rapporteurs in the fight against human trafficking and in the search for mechanisms that would assist countries to establish or enhance such or similar reporting mechanisms in the field of trafficking in human beings. It is expected that, due to specific internal legal arrangements of this problem in individual Member States, the differences in the assessment of the role and importance of national rapporteurs will continue to exist, and the OSCE organisation will need to take a stronger position regarding the establishment of a reporting mechanism in those Member States that have so far not done so.

From 24 till 26 May Slovenia hosted a delegation of governmental and non-governmental representatives of Serbia and Montenegro, who are active in the field of human trafficking. On behalf of the IWG, the representatives of the Police, Office of the State Prosecutor General and the national coordinator presented the activities of relevant institutions in Slovenia. The non-governmental organisations society Ključ and the Slovenian Caritas also presented their activities.

The national coordinator took part at the 2nd meeting of the ILAEIRA project, held in Athens on 29 and 30 May. The initiative for the project came from the Greek side who hosted and co-organised the event. The project was dedicated to cross-border police co-operation in the field of trafficking in human beings. It includes countries in Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and some EU Member States. The meeting was of an operative nature, therefore it is reasonable that the Police representative responsible for the human trafficking issue be included in the project.

Following a special invitation, the national coordinator participated at an international conference Vienna Migration Group where he presented the activities in the area of trafficking in human beings in Slovenia. The conference was organised by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The theme of the conference was "Trafficking in human beings – trends and challenges".

On 10 and 11 September 2007, the Office of the OSCE Special representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Eve Biaudet organised the 7th Alliance against

Trafficking in Persons Conference in Vienna: "Assistance to Trafficked Persons: We Can Do Better" attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Assembly and the Slovenian Caritas. The conference emphasized the question of victim identification, their protection and provision of assistance.

Between 7 and 10 October 2007 in Porto, Portugal, the international conference "Trafficking in Human Beings and Gender" took place, where our national coordinator presented the activities in the field of assistance to human trafficking victims in Slovenia. Two IWG members also took part at this conference, namely the representatives of the Office for Equal Opportunities and the society Ključ. At this conference, the so-called Porto Declaration was adopted.

On 18 October 2007 in Brussels, the European Commission organised an EU international conference "Anti-Trafficking Day – Time for Action" where the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the national coordinator took part. The conference presented the "Recommendations on national mechanisms for the identification and assistance to human trafficking victims". The 18th of October was pronounced Anti-Trafficking Day. Celebrating this day means stepping forward towards the EC commitment in combating trafficking in human beings and is intended to raise the awareness of the broader public regarding this phenomenon as a special form of violence against human rights, and it also represents strenuous efforts for the improvement of the results of human trafficking fight.

On 8 and 9 November in Strasbourg, the EU Council Conference on the monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings was held, where the national coordinator took part.

In the framework of international cooperation, the Police cooperated in international police organisations Interpol, Europol and especially with the SECI Center.

The representatives of the society Ključ participated at the international round table entitled »Working with victims of trafficking in human beings: Standards of assistance and alternative measures". The round table took place in Belgrade under the auspices of the OSCE organisation and the local non-governmental organisation Astra.

The representatives of the Slovenian Caritas and the society Ključ were invited by the CARE International, North-West Balkans, and took part in the 3rd Regional Conference on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings which was held in Brioni between 17 and 20 May 2007 and included the NW Balkan states. Beside new information on the legal arrangement of combating trafficking in human beings and the state of play in Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, new contacts were made with organisations that work with the victims (Astra, Petra etc.)

On 25 May 2007, the Slovenian Caritas hosted the delegations of representatives of non-governmental organizations from Serbia and Montenegro and their representatives of Care International. The Secretary General of the Slovenian Caritas and the representatives of the expert team presented the activities of the Caritas in Slovenia and the inclusion of the "Care of victims of trafficking in human beings" programme in all the programmes carried out by the Slovenian Caritas in the past (for example assisting migrants, free clinic for persons without health insurance, legal counselling) and which serve as support programmes of the "Care of victims of trafficking in human beings" programme.

The Slovenian caritas is very active in Coatnet (Christian Organisations Against Trafficking in Human Beings). Their website ([www.coatnet.org](http://www.coatnet.org)) presents data on Slovenia with regard to human trafficking. The representative of the Slovenian Caritas expert group participated at the annual meeting of Coatnet held in Lebanon between 11 and 13 October 2007.

The expert workers of the Slovenian Caritas took part at the Regional Conference Caritas BiH held in Sarajevo on 23 and 24 November 2007. Participating at the conference were also the representatives from Caritas Romania, Caritas Croatia, Caritas Serbia, Caritas Kosovo and Caritas BiH. The current state in the SE region and the activity of the mentioned Caritas organisations in the field of human trafficking and care of the victims were presented. One of the final proposals of the participants was the establishment of the Caritas network SEEN (SE European Network). The follow-up to the regional conference is foreseen in six months in Romania.

## VI. Areas connected to the human trafficking issue

### Child pornography on the Internet

Child pornography on the Internet is not human trafficking as such, however it is seen as behaviour that could be connected to trafficking in human beings, children to be exact. In this case the child is always the object of the individual who is abusing him/her, but the child can also be the object of a purchase or a sale with the intent to produce pornographic material.

In the Penal Code the child pornography on the Internet is defined as a criminal offence regarding the presentation, production, holding and forwarding of pornographic material according to Article 187(2) and (3) of the Penal Code.

In 2007, 11 criminal complaints against 21 persons were filed in this regard, inter alia against four minors, and two reports on two persons were prepared. Eleven requests for investigation, four requests for pre-trial procedures and two charges were filed. One complaint was dropped, and in three cases the district state prosecutors are still gathering information and evidence. Compared to previous years the number of such criminal offences is still rising; 11 criminal complaints against 21 persons were filed, while in 2006 seven complaints against nine persons were filed.

Due to existing deficiencies in legislation under which the possession of pornographic material depicting minors does not constitute a criminal offence, the prosecutors are forced to drop the charges in cases where it cannot be proved that the perpetrators intended to distribute the porn material. The solution in the current Penal Code is not harmonised with the Convention on Cybernetic Crime that was ratified by the Republic of Slovenia.

Of all the considered cases in the reporting year one case is especially worth mentioning. It involved five adults and four minors accused of a criminal offence according to Article 187(3) of the Penal Code. A request for investigation was filed against all the accused persons. A pre-trial procedure was requested for the minors. In this case, the persons involved photographed and touched the breasts and sexual organs of an intoxicated and drugged girl, less than 15 years old. The photographs then appeared on the Internet and later, also in the media.

*Table 3: Criminal offences according to Article 187(2) of the Penal Code, dealt with by the state prosecution in 2007*

<b>Criminal Offence</b>	Number of criminal complaints/reports	Number of people dealt with in criminal complaints/reports	Dropped criminal complaints (number of people)	Investigation commenced (number of persons)	Charges filed (against number of people)	Judgement rendered (number of people)
<b>Presentation, production, holding and forwarding of Pornographic Material Article 187/2 of the Penal Code</b>	11 (4 minors) 2 reports	21 / 2	1	11	2	

In 2007, the police registered and handled 52 reports of presentation, production, holding and forwarding pornographic material under Article 187 of the Penal Code. Twenty-one criminal complaints regarding criminal offences were filed with the district prosecutor's offices. The number of handled cases in 2007 is comparable to the situation in 2006.

Most of the reports of criminal offences (36) and criminal complaints (19) refer to Article 187(3). In most cases the suspects distributed child pornography material by means of the Internet, and most of the reports came from foreign security authorities. Under Article 187(1) seven criminal complaints were filed with the district prosecutor's offices. In these cases it was established that the suspects showed or provided access to pornographic material or content to children under the age of 14. Four criminal complaints under paragraph 2 refer to the abuse of children under the age of 18 with the intent to produce pornographic material. Most of the cases under Article 187(1) and (2) refer to the criminal offence of sexual assault on a person younger than 14 years.

*Table 4: Criminal offence under Article 187 of the Penal Code, handled by the Police in 2007*

<b>Criminal Offence</b>	Number of reports of criminal offences	Criminal complaints	Reports filed with district prosecutor's offices	Undergoing criminal matters
<b>Article 187(1) of the Penal Code</b>	9	7	2	-
<b>Article 187(2) of the Penal Code</b>	7	4	2	1
<b>Article 187(3) of the Penal Code</b>	36	10	8	18
<b>Total</b>	52	21	12	19

### **Illegal migrations**

As in the case with child pornography on the Internet, the IWG also monitored criminal offences regarding illegal migrations, specifically "Prohibited crossing of the state border or state territory" under Article 311 of the Penal Code. One hundred and ninety-five criminal offences were registered and 296 persons were charged. Thirty-one reports were submitted to the competent state prosecution.

When handling illegal migrations, the police paid special attention to the possible smuggling of human trafficking victims. Such cases were not observed, however it was observed that minors aged 16 to 18 were smuggled to Italy where they were to be received by their parents or relatives.

### **Monitoring the phenomenon of human trafficking by means of employing foreign citizens**

In 2007, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a Regulation laying down the work permit quota for 2007 to limit the number of aliens in the labour market (Official Gazette of the RS no. 08/2007). Due to exceptional economic growth and the decrease in the number of unemployed in 2007, the Government of the RS increased the quota by 24,500 work permits in June, and an additional 29,500 in November. In 2007, the number of the work permits used from the quota was 29,089.

On 31 December 2007, 69,531 foreign nationals were active in the Slovenian labour market. They were either employed or were providing services, which accounted for 15,970 more than in December 2006. There were 3,984 EU nationals (2,711 employed and 1,273 providing services). There were 65,547 third country nationals, predominantly from the former Yugoslav republics: 62,742 (61,331 employed and 1,411 providing services).

The issued work permits which were the subject of a broader form of human trafficking consideration, were work permits for bar dancers and workers in the catering industry – above all for Chinese nationals and construction.

At the end of 2007, there were 572 valid work permits or registered available jobs for bar dancers, which accounted for 38 more than in December 2006. Of 572 bar dancers, 28 were nationals of EU Member States (seven from the Czech Republic and 11 from Romania). Most of the considered women were nationals of Ukraine (336), followed by nationals of the Dominican Republic (93), Moldavia (61) and the Russia Federation (19). All the issued permits and registered employments in 2007 amounted to 988, meaning that the employers hire these foreign nationals for a period shorter than one year.

At the end of 2007, 375 valid work permits were issued for Chinese nationals employed predominantly in the catering industry, accounting for 70 more than in 2006.

In the construction season, the number of seasonal construction workers and the number of foreign nationals in the construction industry were as follows:

Year 2007	Seasonal construction workers	All foreign nationals employed in the construction industry
end of March	3,754	25,978
end of June	5,616	29,199
end of September	6,246	31,720
end of December	5,120	33,235



## Conclusion

The Republic of Slovenia became more actively involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings in 2001 with the establishment and set-up of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) and the designation of the national coordinator. Due to the developments and the increasing range of tasks, this role is directed towards an active, harmonised and coordinated action of all national actors active in this area within the framework of their competences.

By establishing such a coordination mechanism the Government of the RS confirmed the readiness and the political will for a systematic and efficient action against human trafficking. This was also the basis for the preparation, adoption, implementation and monitoring of the action plans which were supplemented and upgraded throughout the year.

Beside numerous envisaged activities of the governmental sector, the most important are the financially evaluated projects carried out by non-governmental organisations chosen in public tenders. These organisations play a crucial role in the prevention programmes and in the programmes of assistance to human trafficking victims. Worth mentioning is the good cooperation of the governmental and the non-governmental sectors, both on the operative level as well as in the field of planning and designing common measures and activities. Noticeable is also the presence of Slovenian experts at international forums, conferences and seminars.

This progress in the field of combating human trafficking in Slovenia was noticed and recognised by international organisations and other institutions which monitor and assess the efforts of different countries in the fight against human trafficking. In 2007, the US State Department for the very first time placed Slovenia in the highest category, i.e. in the category of countries that provide appropriate standards in the field of fight against trafficking in human beings. This progress is above all, a reflection of a continuing work of many years and a correct approach to planning, directing and implementing the activities in this area.