



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
**COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATING  
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

**REPORT**  
**ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATING**  
**TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR 2006**

The National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was established by virtue of the Law on Combating the Illegal Trafficking in Human Beings (promulgated State Gazette No. 46, 2003; amended SG, No. 86, 2005.). The Regulation for the Organization and Activity of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was approved by Government Decree No. 40 of the Council of Ministers of March 01, 2004 ( State Gazette No. 19, March 09, 2004).

By Decisions No. 860 of the Council of Ministers from November 4, 2005 Mr. Daniel Valtchev, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Sciences, was appointed as Chairman of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. By order of the Chairman of December 20, 2005, the operative membership of the commission was appointed.

For the period March 01, 2006 to June 30, 2006, Secretary of the Commission was Liubomira Dimitrova. For the period December 14, 2006 to April 14, 2007 Secretary of the Commission was Monika Kopcheva.

The first session of the Commission and its new members took place on May 05, 2006. At this session the Commission adopted a project proposal for the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of the Victims of Trafficking for 2006. The Programme was approved by the Council of Ministers on July 20, 2006.

The Commission supported the suggestion of the Ministry of the Interior for development of a legal framework that will provide funds from the budget for supporting the return from abroad of Bulgarian citizens who have become victims of human traffic with the purpose of overcoming the crisis situation with Bulgarian children used for criminal offences in Austria.

The Commission took a principle decision for the participation of international and non-government organizations in the sessions of the Commission and approved a questionnaire for admitting these organizations to participation. The questionnaire was prepared in accordance with Art. 12, Para. 1, item 4 of the Regulations for the Organization and Activity of the National Commission for Combating

Trafficking in Human Beings. The task to develop the criteria for selection for participation of international and non-governmental organizations was delegated to the secretariat of the Commission. The measures assigned to the ministries and the institutions, included in the structure of the Commission for executing the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of the Victims of Trafficking for 2006, have been implemented as described below:

## **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **SECTION III „TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”**

**Item 6: Training of young diplomats and consular staff on handling cases of trafficking in human beings (during their preparation to work abroad).**

In their training programmes for consular employees who are going to work abroad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has included information on Bulgarian legislation and the resulting from it tasks for execution abroad connected to assisting Bulgarian citizens who have become victims of human traffic.

### **SECTION IV „PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”**

**Item 1: Popularize and update the Coordination mechanism to refer and handle cases of unattended Bulgarian children and children victims of human trafficking who have returned from abroad.**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has instructed the diplomatic and consular delegations of Republic of Bulgaria abroad for the repatriation of children-victims of human traffic, with respect to the implementation of the activities of the Coordination mechanism.

**Item 3: Create a mechanism for financial support for Bulgarian citizens-victims of human trafficking until and during their repatriation to Republic of Bulgaria**

A project for the Financial Support for Bulgarian Citizens Abroad in Times of Need Act that also encompasses the persons-victims of human trafficking is being finalized.

According to the data received from the diplomatic and consular delegations of Republic of Bulgaria, victims of human trafficking from the following countries have asked for help and received such in 2006: Austria - 17, the Netherlands - 4 (according to data from non-governmental organizations - 37), Slovenia - 8, Turkey - 4, Croatia - 1, Germany -1, Slovakia -1 and Kosovo - 1.

The diplomatic and consular missions assist Bulgarian citizens who are victims of human trafficking by issuing temporary passports that substitute their stolen or forcedly taken away identity documents. At the same time, they lend financial support by buying airplane tickets, providing shelter and financial support to the victims until they return back home. The care for these victims is provided by non-governmental organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other organizations like the „Netherlands Foundation Against Trafficking in Women”, the „Centre for Rehabilitation of the Victims of Torture and Violence” in Thessaloniki, the „Association for Social Support of the Youth” – ARSIS, Thessaloniki, and the Austrian non-governmental organization LEFO.

There is a tendency that the persons who claim to be victims of human trafficking look for cooperation from local non-governmental organizations and some of them declare they do not want to return to Bulgaria.

## **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

Human trafficking refers to all activities connected to the gathering and transportation of people within the borders of a given country or outside them with the purpose of providing services accompanied by a great amount of abuse and threat for abuse, humiliation, money subjection, fraud or other forms of restriction. Affiliation of newborn children by foreigners or persons with double citizenship could also be referred to as trafficking of “affiliated children” outside the country. According to Art. 36, par.1 from the Family Code “Affiliation shall be made personally by writing a declaration to this effect in the presence of a civil status registrar or by filing a declaration with a notarised signature with the civil status registrar. This declaration may also be forwarded through the manager of the establishment where the child was born.”

With respect to the implementation of duties with the US State Department Strategy for Counteraction of Human Traffic for 2004 – 2005, the Ministry of Health collects information from the maternity wards in the country for foreign citizens or persons with double citizenship who have affiliated newborn children. The Ministry of Health regularly submits this information to the Ministry of the Interior. The indicators for individualizing persons are the following:

- Persons who have affiliated children – names, unified civil number, citizenship, date of birth, national passport, temporary residence permission, address;
- Mother of the child – names, unified civil number, date of birth, number of identity card, address;
- Information about the child – date of birth, gender, names, unified civil number, maternity ward, where the child was born.

In 2006 the following information about cases of affiliating children was sent:

- 26.01.2006 – 6 affiliated children;
- 09.03.2006 – 5 affiliated children;
- 09.05.2006 – 20 affiliated children;
- 14.07.2006 – 13 affiliated children;
- 02.10.2006 – 16 affiliated children;
- 19.12.2006 - 14 affiliated children;

There are no other activities of the Ministry of Health for 2006.

## **NATIONAL INVESTIGATION SERVICE**

In 2006 after the new Criminal Procedure Code entered into force, investigators work only on cases connected with international traffic (crimes committed abroad).

In 2006, in Specialized department 06 of the National Investigation Service there were 80 cases investigated, 23 of them concluded with the view for handling the accused to court. Most of these cases were against organized crime groups that acted countries mainly from the EU.

Traditionally high is the number of investigation orders executed by requests for legal help. Twentny two were the requests handled in 2006, which constitutes 15% of all investigation orders. This is only one order less than those for drugs smuggling.

Methodology for investigating trafficking in human beings was developed and printed in the National Investigation Service. This methodology was provided to the Ministry of Interior, the Academy of Ministry of Interior, the National Institute for Justice and all interested organizations.

The National Investigation Service independently and together with other organizations developed serious activity in training investigators and magistrates, police preliminary investigators and officers.

The trainers and other experts from the National Investigation Service were lecturers in the organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) seminars for North Bulgaria, in the city of Varna from April 10 – 14, 2006, and for South Bulgaria – from May 29 – June 02, 2006 in Hisarja. The trainings of police and other officers from the justice field were financed by the US Embassy.

Lecturers on the topic “Trafficking in human beings” participated also as teachers in the forms of education of the National Institute for Justice related to junior judges, prosecutors and investigators as well as in the forms of post-graduate qualification.

The National Investigation Service is a main partner of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the European Commission (EC) for the project “AGIS-2005”. In its second phase in 2006, there was an organized training in Hungary from March 26 to April 01, 2006.

Regarding trafficking in human beings, the National Investigation Service participated in numerous projects of IOM and EC such as the international seminar on “Trafficking in human beings” in Ohrid, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (January 17-21, 2006) and the international seminar in Brussels (July 11-13, 2006).

After appointing a Secretary of the Commission, we have had numerous offers to help and cooperate. Moreover, the premises in the building of the Central Institute for Scientific and Technical Information are in a very close proximity to the headquarters of the National Investigation Service on 42 G.M. Dimitrov Blvd, 1797 Sofia. We could also be helpful in various directions, including development of an IT system for the needs of the Commission. The centralized information system of the investigation service at the moment is the only working unit of the Integrative system for counteracting crime though built with least funds. We consider that our experience could be useful.

## **MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

For executing the tasks given to the Minister of Justice connected to the 2006 National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of the Victims of Trafficking, within the frame of its functions for coordination, the Ministry of Justice conducted a training for magistrates and other state officers on the application of the special section in the Penalty Code and the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act. Representatives of the team, which made the legislative acts on trafficking in human beings, also participated in information campaigns for the purpose of raising society’s awareness on the problem of human trafficking and explaining the nature of the stipulated mechanisms for counteraction of this kind of crimes. For executing the specific stipulated activities in the 2006 National Programme in the sphere of prevention, the Ministry conducted the following:

### **SECTION II "PREVENTION"**

**Item 2.1: Conduct a study and analysis of the risk factors with a view to identifying the prerequisites and conditions for the arising of crimes related to trafficking in human beings, on the grounds of verdicts entered into force under Art. 159a-159c and Art. 278-280 of the Penalty code.**

- Until now, the Council for Criminological Research (CCR) subordinated to the Ministry of Justice has accomplished the following activities:

- Analysis of statistical data from the police and court for the registered offences and criminals and the sentenced persons under Art. 159a – 159c from the Penalty code for the period 2002 - 2005 and under Art. 279 – 280 from the Penalty code for 2005. The conclusion from this analysis was used for developing the methodology and procedure of the study;

- Development of methodology and procedure of the study, including instrument apparatus and a method for registering the information from the quantitative study (a Questionnaire for a document study of the verdicts entered into force under Art. 159a – 159c and Art. 279 – 280 from the Penalty code with 203 variables and a Survey card for conducting a face-to-face interview with magistrates, lawyers and officers in the judiciary organs on the problems of trafficking in human beings with 256 variables);

- Conducting a pilot study for testing the instrument apparatus of the study:
  - For the Questionnaire on document study on 10 cases under Art. 159a – 159c from the Penalty Code and with decisions on them from the Supreme Court of Cassation;
  - For the Survey card for the interview – with 21 representatives of the judiciary, bar and police.

As a result of the pilot survey, changes in the instrument apparatus were made.

- Development of organization for receiving copies of verdicts and the motives attached to them for all penalty cases from general character under Art. 159a – 159c and Art. 279 – 280 from the Penalty Code in the respective regions.

It is expected to receive the materials from the regional courts so that they can be processed via the developed instrument apparatus and respective computer processing. In a one-month period after the last document is received, final analytical and graphical reports on the Study with concrete suggestions for measures shall be prepared and presented.

## **SECTION V “INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION”**

The measures in this section have the purpose of improving international cooperation and exchange of best practices in the sphere of counteracting trafficking in human beings via presentation of Bulgarian legislation and practices in the counteraction of human trafficking in the frames of bilateral and multilateral collaboration, information on legislations and good practices for combating trafficking in human beings.

For the realization of these purposes by representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the following activities were undertaken:

- Systemizing the legislation for legal protection of witness and victims of trafficking in human beings for the purposes of the partner check-up from the European Commission under Chapter 24 “Judiciary and Interior” in the period February 20-24, 2006;
- Participation in discussions on the topic of trafficking in human beings in Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the context of Bulgarian-American cooperation together with representatives of National Investigation Service, Chief Directorate “Combating Organized Crime”, magistrates, etc. (February 2006);
- Participation in a training team together with representatives of other institutions for discussing practical questions at Chief Directorate “Combating Organized Crime”, connected to counteraction of trafficking in human beings by the US Embassy initiative (January 2006);
- Participation of officers-operative workers in the Academy of Ministry of Interior in trainings on the topic “Bulgarian legislation in the sphere of trafficking in human beings” (May 2006);
- Participation in the realization of an NGO project in the sphere of trafficking and re-trafficking of human beings financed by Democracy Commission Small Grants Programme – US Embassy in Bulgaria – presentation of Bulgarian legal framework – as a member of a working (in the towns of Rousse and Pleven – June and July 2006);
- Participation in a work meeting on the problems of human trafficking with representatives of international donor organizations, non-governmental organizations, Prosecutor General’s Office, Chief Directorate “Combating Organized Crime”, border police organs, etc. – by an invitation from the Department of Justice and “Public Relations” Department at the US Embassy in Bulgaria (June 2006);
- Participation in a meeting with Mrs. Megan Hall – an analyst of programmes related to trafficking in human beings with the US Department of State – by an invitation from the Political/Economics Affairs Section with the US Embassy in Bulgaria (October 2006);
- Participation in a regional seminar „Actions against trafficking in human beings: prevention, protection and prosecution” (April 4-5, Bucharest), organized by Council of Europe Chief Directorate on Human Rights with cooperation from the Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior, in the frame of the campaign of Council of Europe on combating trafficking in human beings. Presenting the undertaken measures on a national level for counteraction of human trafficking, protection of the victims and prosecution of traffickers and their accomplice.

## **SECTION VI “LEGISLATIVE MEASURES”**

In the implementation of the measures in this section, the Ministry of Justice participates in developing acts, which concretized and complemented the already existing legislative regulation system in the field of trafficking in human beings, aiming first of all at improvement of the legal regime of protection of the witnesses and victims of trafficking in human beings. The general regime for protection of the witnesses consists in the Penal Code and in Protection of Persons, threatened in relation with the criminal jurisdiction Act. Specific order for Protection of Victims consists in the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act, which provides for two regimes of protection depending on the decision of the victims of trafficking for participating as witnesses in the penalty process – special and general defence.

In the new Penalty Code, (promulgated State Gazette No. 86 from November 28, 2005), which is in force since April 28, 2006, the procedural regulations for protection of witnesses has improved and extended by range.

The Protection of persons, threatened in relation with the criminal jurisdiction (in force since May 25, 2005), settles the conditions and the order of ensuring of special defence from the country for persons threatened in relation with the criminal jurisdiction and protection of persons directly connected with them, who can not be protected by the means of the Penal Code.

About the concrete measures included in the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of the Victims of Trafficking for 2006 the following activities were undertaken by the Ministry of Justice:

**Item 1: Ratification of the Convention of the Council of Europe for Combating Trafficking in human beings, ready for signing on May 15, 2005.**

- The Convention of the Council of Europe for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was signed on November 22, 2006 by the sitting representative of Republic of Bulgaria in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

- On February 02, 2007 a decision of the Council of Ministers for ratification of the Convention of the Council of Europe for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was accepted.

**Item 2: Accept the National Strategy for improving the status and assistance to the victims of crimes in implementation of the frame decision of the Council of the European Union regarding legal status of the victims of crimes in the Penalty process from March 15, 2001.**

- The National Strategy for support and compensation of the victims of crimes is accepted by the Council of Ministers on July 27, 2006.

**Item 3: Prepare a proposal for an Act for Assistance of the Victims of Crimes, settling the national strategy for compensation of the victims of violent crimes.**



- The Work Group of the Ministry of Justice prepared a project on a special Law for Assistance of the Victims of Crimes. The same was approved by decision of the Council of Ministers No. 703 from November 05, 2006 and introduced to the National Assembly. On December 18, 2006 the National Assembly accepted the Law for Assisting and Financial Support of the Victims of Crimes (promulgated State Gazette No. 105 from December 22, 2006), in force since January 01, 2007.

**Item 4: Prepare a proposal for amendment and complement to the Penalty Code concerning the criminalizing of trafficking in human beings aiming adoption or hiding an adoption (trafficking in pregnant women and newly-born children) as well preparing for trafficking , „confiscation of the part or whole property” in the corpus delicti under Art. 159a and Art. 159b and improving the regulations of the corpus delicti under Art. 155 from the Penalty Code.**

- With the Law for Amendment and Complement to the Penalty Code, promulgated in State Gazette No. 75 from 2006, Art.159a a new par 3 is created which settles trafficking in human beings towards pregnant women having intention to sell their children. The statutable punishment for this is imprisonment from three to ten years and penalty from five to ten thousand leva.

Regarding the improvement of the legal regulation system under Art. 155 from the Penalty Code (procuring) – on January 31, 2007 the Legal Affairs Committee with the National Assembly accepted on first reading four bills for amendment and complement of this text in the Penal Code, introduced from deputies of the National Assembly. The main goal of this bills is to improve the editing of the legal regulation regarding the procuring.

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE**

### **SECTION I „PREVENTION”**

**Item 1.1: Expand the basis of training on human rights and children’s rights in the initial and secondary school stages of secondary school education and in pre-school preparation by using the opportunities offered by the general schooling, additional and out-of-school activities.**

Opportunities for education and prevention of trafficking in human beings gives state educational requirements of civil education and all subjects from cultural educational are „Public Sciences, Civil Education and Religion”. In school programmes in „History and Civilization”, „Geography and Economics”, „Ethics and Law”, „World and Personality” as well as in the modules of profiling training „Social Psychology of Communication” and “Socio-political Philosophy and Law” as a part of the competencies which the young people have to assume as a result of their education the

following is stipulated: being acquainted with the global problems of modern society such as poverty, migration, technological revolution, global market of labour, demographic problems, etc.

Education in human rights which is included in secondary school extends to the topic of the international legal order, the work of national and international institutions for human rights as well as the work of civil organizations in this field.

The problems of equal gender rights and sexual exploitation, which are part of the educational programme in 10<sup>th</sup> grade under “Ethics and Law”, have a specific relation to the topic of human trafficking.

Forthcoming:

Enlargement of the range of topics in secondary school and junior high school education with the implementation of the new educational programmes for every following class. During the 2006/2007 school year, the new school programme was implemented for fifth grade. Their implementation for sixth grade is forthcoming in the 2007/2008 academic year.

**Item 1.2: Disseminate and popularize educational modules and modules of school politics, informational materials and tools for teachers and parents relating to the topics of sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings.**

**Item 1.3: Explanatory activities in relation to the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings and the possibilities of assistance and protection among representatives of risk groups especially among ethnic minorities.**

The Ministry of Education and Sciences supported projects, developed from legal entities with non-profit purposes, which enlarged the opportunities for raising awareness among young people in schools and in homes for raising and educating children deprived of parental care. The work was in the following main directions:

- Prevention of students and children from homes for raising and educating children deprived of parental care.
- Raising the social competency of young people in the homes for raising and educating children deprived of parental care .
- Prevention of violence and developing skills for recognizing and managing with violence for teachers and the pedagogical staff at the homes for raising and educating children deprived of parental care.
- Ensuring opportunities for professional orientation and consultation as an important moment in the training of children from homes for raising and educating children deprived of parental care and their inclusion in the labour market and adaptation to living on their own.

- Disseminate informational materials – leaflets, posters, stickers, etc. – and also disseminate an educational school politics.

- Training of young people and educational staff in working with the problems of trafficking in human beings.

Forthcoming:

Enlarging the ranges of the educational modules for children from homes for raising and educating children deprived of parental care and distribution of specialized handbook for developing skills for living alone, including problems of trafficking in human beings.

**Item 1.4: Popularize the specialized website of the State Agency for Child Protection in all kinds of schools, kindergartens, homes for raising and educating children deprived of parental care, social schools, boarding houses, reformatories and children’s correctional facilities with the Ministry of Justice.**

- The website of the State Agency for Child Protection is being popularized constantly by organizing different initiatives targeting children from schools, homes for raising and educating children deprived of parental care, social schools, boarding houses and reformatories. This practice will continue next year.

## **MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**

In 2006, the specialized service from the Ministry of Interior has determined and rendered assistance to 183 victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and 13 victims of trafficking of pregnant women who wanted to sell their newly born children.

According to information from the International Organization of Migration, 82 victims of human trafficking were supported during 2006.

### **SECTION I „INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES”**

Tree crisis centres are built in the village of Balvan, municipality of Veliko Tarnovo, Pazardjik and Dragoman. The City Council took a decision for constructing a crisis centre in Sofia. The crisis centres will be financed by the „Social Support Fund” of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and for Sofia from the International Organization of Migration.

### **SECTION III „TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”**

Representatives from the Ministry of Interior took part in different training courses as follows:

- „Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation” organized by the liaison officer of the Newtherlands, October 2006.

- „Money laundering from trafficking in human beings” organized by the US Embassy in Sofia in October 2006.

- International educational seminar for employees from the police authorities, working on the issues of trafficking in human beings conducted by the International Organization of Migration – Vienna, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of Austria and financed by the European Commission under the AGIS 2005 programme, Hague;

- Conference on the topic „Trafficking in human beings aiming labor exploitation and, forced labour and slavery – criminal prosecution of the perpetrators, justice for victims”, November 2006 by the OSCE , Vienna , Austria;

- Presentation of the project „ILAYRA” – Cross-border Action Plan for combating trafficking in human beings, by the initiative of Greece and supported by the European Commission;

- Working meeting of experts under the project of the International Centre for Development of Migration Policy „Create transnational mechanism for refereeing victims of trafficking in Southeast Europe”, December 12, 2006, Sofia. The Ministry of Interior participates in the project with a statute of junior partner which means that Bulgaria disposes of constructed capacity and working legislative and institutional mechanism in the area of trafficking in human beings;

- Seminar on the topic „Coordination and cooperation between the police services and the International Organization of Migration in their work with victims of trafficking in human beings”, organized by General Direction „Counteraction of Crime, Security of Public Order and Prevention” – Ministry of Interior and International Organization of Migration.

- In cooperation with the US Department of Justice and the US Embassy in Bulgaria, a training of magistrates and employees from the police structures;

Trainings for improving the qualification on the topic „Countering trafficking in human beings” for employees working on this problem are being conducted at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior. Lecturers of this courses are employees of the General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime, General Directorate Cross-border Police, Direction „Migration”, the Institute of Psychology of the Ministry of Interior, International Organization of Migration, Ministry of Justice, representatives of Centre „Nadia” Foundation. The subject „Countering trafficking in human beings” lied down in the educational discipline „Countering of the Cross-boarder Organized Crime”, which is a part of the initial educational programme and qualification of police employees. Education in Master Degree for the students of the Academy to the Ministry of Interior on the subject „Countering of the Organized Crime” is stipulated education on the issues of trafficking in human beings. The specialized training of the

employees of the Ministry of Interior in combating trafficking in human beings. The specialized training of the employees of the Ministry of Interior in countering trafficking in human beings is conducted in the frame of the bilateral relations (with Germany, USA, etc.) and in cooperation with international and non-governmental organizations. As a result of the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Interior in specialized training modules for combating trafficking in human beings, organized by the Pact of Stability and the ICMPD, in the Academy of the Ministry of Interior is implemented a whole educational programme for countering trafficking in human beings and developed handbooks for best practices in this field.

#### **SECTION IV „PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”**

The finalized Coordination Mechanism for Referral, Care and Protection of Repatriated Bulgarian UAM and Children Victims of Human Trafficking Returning from Abroad is being popularized at a national and international level through presentations of the activities of the Ministry of Interior.

The consolidation of the joint activity and coordination among the state institutions and non-governmental organizations, concerning the problem of trafficking in human beings, especially in the field of prevention, protection of the victims of trafficking and their motivation for cooperation in revealing and exposing this kind of crime.

#### **SECTION V „INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION”**

Improvement of the international cooperation and exchange of best practices in the field of counteraction of trafficking in human beings by presenting the Bulgarian legislation and practice in combating trafficking in human beings under the bilateral relations and in accordance with the multilateral cooperation.

The specialized services to the Ministry of Interior implemented operative coactivity and intensive exchange of information with common police services from countries of the European Commission, Interpol and Europol in conducting coactive investigations and operations related to trafficking in human beings.

There is coordination in the work of liaison officers at the embassies and diplomatic missions of the countries from the European Union in Bulgaria and liaison officers from the Ministry of Interior on particular cases of trafficking in human beings. A practice was accepted for long-term commissioning of the employees from the European countries (Austria, France, etc.) for cooperative work on combating

trafficking in human beings aiming sexual exploitation. A positive example for cooperation is ensuring witnesses on cases of trafficking in human beings.

## **SECTION VI „LEGISLATIVE MEASURES”**

In October 2006, the Convention of the Council of Europe for Counteracting Trafficking in Human Beings was signed and adopted on May 15, 2005. It's ratification is imminent. The Convention is a global international document, admitting that trafficking in human beings is a violation on human personality and is aimed for protection of the victims and their human rights. The document has wide field of implementation in all forms of trafficking in human beings.

A law for supporting and financing of the victims of crimes is accepted. It settles the national system for compensation of the victims of violent crimes.

## **SUPREME PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF CASSATION**

In the National Programme for 2006, the only assigned task for the Prosecutor's Office is in Section VI „Legislative measures”, p. 4 – „Prepare a proposal for amendment and complement to the Criminal Code concerning the criminalization of trafficking in human beings with the intention of adoption or hiding of adoption (trafficking in pregnant women and newly born), as preparing for trafficking in human being , the statutable punishment is „part or whole property confiscation” in corpus delicti under Art. 159a-159c and improvement of the regulation system of the corpus delicti under Art. 155 from the Criminal Code.

In March 2006, in relation to the received information for preparation for the suggestion for change in the Penal Code – Art.155, Mrs. Nedialka Popova, prosecutor at the Regional Police -Pazardjik warned the Supreme Court of Cassation for the prepared changes and problems, which could arise with the decriminalization of the punishments, under Art.155 from Penal Code and the actual decriminalization of particular cases (administration of Art.76 from Penal Code). At the same time, with a view of multiplying cases of trafficking in pregnant women intending to sell their newborn children abroad and the different interpretation of Art.159a-159 from the Penal Code, if this is a form of trafficking in human beings (with the aim of „holding in forced submission” to the sense of Art.159a from Penal Code), then the idea of suggestion for change in Art.159a-159v from the Penal Code arises, these cases have to be equalled to trafficking in human beings cases in the legislation. A group of lawyers and with participation of prosecutors (E. Dikov, N. Popova, employees of the Ministry of Interior – S. Georgiev and S.Tanev, E. Karakasheva from the Ministry of Justice) was developed a

proposal to the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and presented to the attention of Mrs. Gergana Grancharova in her capacity of Vice Chairman of the Commission. Ultimately, part of the suggestion was accepted with a change in the Penal Code (State Gazette No. 75 from 2006 in force since October 13, 2006). At the same time, the rest of the suggestions for change in Art.155 from the Penal Code were accepted and the initial suggestion of the Council of Ministers (known as change „Vanco 1”) was accepted.

For most of the activities included in the National Programme of the Commission, as responsible institutions or partners are appointed in general: „all institutions and organizations represented in the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings” or „organs of the judicial power” as circumstantial endorsement of the Prosecutor’s Office. Regarding activities under section II („Prevention”), under section III („Training and qualification of staff”), section V („International cooperation”) and especially section VI („Legislative measures”).

The following activities are executed:

#### **SECTION I „PREVENTION”**

**Item 2.5: Approval of the developed informational materials from international and non-government organizations regarding the phenomenon trafficking in human beings and their distribution among the people of their concern, risk groups, cross-border points and in the Bulgarian diplomatic and consular representatives abroad.**

The financing and preparation of such kind of materials has been taken by the Bulgarian Mission at the International Organization of Migration to the Organization of the United Nations and some of the Bulgarian non-governmental organizations. This kind of materials were prepared and distributed to Regional Police Departments, to Regional Directorates of the Ministry of Interior in the country, to National Investigation Services, to the Border Crossing points, etc.

#### **SECTION IV „PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”**

**Item 2: Disseminate 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 and methodologies of investigation of crimes related to trafficking in human beings.**

The issued materials are distributed to all Regional Police Departments, Regional Direction of Interior, General Directorates of the Ministry of Interior and Regional and National Investigation Services. Having in mind the acceptance of the new Criminal Code and the changes in the Penal Code

in Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation with the cooperation of the representatives of the US Department of Justice in Sofia (organized and financed its editing) a new manual was made (Methodical instructions) for investigating the crime „trafficking in human beings”, which is delivered for printing. At the first national conference of magistrates, November 2006, one of the subject was „Combating trafficking in human beings and drugs”.

## **SECTION V „INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION”**

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

Prosecutor from the Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation – E. Dikov participated in the Bulgarian-Macedonian-Albanian meeting on the problems of trafficking in human beings (Ohrid, 2006) and in Bulgarian-Serbian-Macedonian meeting (together with a prosecutor from the Prosecutor's Office in Plovdiv – Al. Drdov) on the problems of the organized crimes and trafficking in human beings (Belgrade, July 2006). Prosecutors from the Department “International Legal Cooperation” participate in the work of „SEKI-centre” – Bucharest, where problems on trafficking in human beings were also discussed.

## **SECTION IV „LEGISLATIVE MEASURES”**

### **Item 1: Ratification of the Convention of the Council of Europe for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.**

At the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007, the Supreme Court of Cassation was asked for an expert opinion. This was offered by prosecutor Mashev - Department „International Legal Cooperation”, E. Dikov - Department 01 to Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation and was finished by Mr. P. Raymundov.

## **STATE AGENCY FOR CHILD PROTECTION**

Activities realized by the State Agency for Child Protection in relation to the implementation of the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of the Victims of Trafficking for 2006.

## **SECTION I „INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES”**



**Item 3: Create three crisis centres for temporarily accommodation of children victims of trafficking in human beings.**

- The Chairman of the State Agency for Child Protection continues to work hard for realization of the idea for creating crisis centres for temporarily accommodation of children-victims of trafficking in human beings and participated in the opening of the first of them in village of Balvan on September 21, 2006.

- Representatives of the State Agency for Child Protection made a presentation at a seminar which took part in Sofia in June, in which Mr. Chaipeck presented the Austrian practices.

- Experts from the State Agency for Child Protection regularly participates in developing criteria for the crisis centres.

**SECTION II “PREVENTION”**

**Item 1.1: Expand the basis of training on human rights and children’s rights in the initial and secondary school stages of secondary school education and in pr-school preparation by using the opportunities offered by the general schooling, additional and out-of-school activities.**

- Activities connected with the project “Counteraction sexual exploitation and violence against children“ January 2006.

A concluding meeting was conducted on the project with the cooperation of the State Agency for Child Protection on which 11 school programmes for prevention of violence in the frames of the school projects in the tree pilots towns of Momchilgrad, Kiustendil and Pernik were present; created from children miniature of "Machine for reconcile" (Pernik); results from questionnaire from children to children; school newspaper (Momchilgrad); results from competition in writing an essay, picture, school web site on the topic, a movie made from children from Kiustendil.

- Developed assignment from the experts from the State Agency for Child Protection “Research on the reasons for the aggressive behaviour of children and violence in school”, with main sections: defining of the problem; purposes of the research; basic requirements for candidates and terms of implementation. The assignment has to be finalized with the representatives of UNICEF – Bulgaria.

**Organizing trainings for different groups of specialists, working with children:** social workers, preschool pedagogues, school nurses, pedagogical advisors and psychologists.

**Participation of experts from the State Agency for Child Protection as lecturers;**

The Programme of the Diplomatic Institute to the Ministry of Interior under topic „Unaccompanied Minors and Juvenile–coordinated Activities for the Best of the Child”;

- At the Academy of the Ministry of Interior on the topic “System of Child Protection”.

**Training of pedagogical advisors, psychologists and teachers from schools from Sofia** for work with the hand book for prevention of violence at school level.

**Item 1.2: Disseminate and popularize educational modules of school politics, information materials and tools for teachers, students and parents in relation to the topics of sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings.**

**Informational materials:**

- **The manual for prevention of violence at school level** developed by the experts from the State Agency for Child Protection in April, 2006 made for teachers, pedagogical advisors, psychologists and medical specialists. There are presented the methods of identification of physical and behaviour indicators for violence and measures for referring them to the organs for child protection. The manual was issued with the financial support of UNICEF in circulation of 3000 copies, its distributed in the whole educational system and publication on the web site of the State Agency for Child Protection.

**Modules of school politics**

In relation with the project “*Countering of Sexual Exploitation and Violence Against Children*” the Chairman of the State Agency for Child Protection made a suggestion to the Minister of Education and Science for:

- Developing a special educational module for qualification of people working in the field of education connected with skills for managing with the aggression and violence;
- Obligatory developing for schools an annual programmes for prevention of violence with the active participation of children and parents.

**Item 2.3: Popularize the specialized website of the State Agency for Child Protection <http://www.stopech.sacp.government.bg/> in all kinds of schools, kindergartens, homes for raising and educating children deprived of parental care, social schools, boarding houses, reformatories and children’s correctional facilities with the Ministry of Justice.**

**During the whole of 2006:**

- The website is popularized and presented as an example of “good practice” in all participations of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the experts in all national and international forums;

- **The website is updating** by including the latest documents and measures in the field of protection from violence, sexual and labour exploitation;
- **All received signals in Stopech, generally 217,** are registered in State Agency for Child Protection system;
- **Opportunely with competence the respective institutions was referred about the signals, thoroughly concerning the problems of violence** (physical, psychically, sexual), negligence, illegal and dangerous contents on the Internet.

**Item 2.4: Build a concept for a hot phone line with national coverage for children (including children who are victims of trafficking in human beings).**

**Co-relatable political documents:** National Programme for Child Protection 2006 and 2007; National Action Plan 2006-2009.

Conceptual frame: The hot phone line will be with national coverage, easy to access and covering wide range of consumers – direct access to children, looking for help and consultation as well the obligation and cooperation of everyone who knows that a child is in trouble and needs protection.

Partnership: The work of the experts from the State Agency for Child Protection on the hot telephone line was supported from the representatives of UNICEF – Bulgaria, who ensured the financial support for the project by other international partners

Purpose of the hot telephone line: Ensure prevention of the risk and popularize the System for Child Protection.

#### **Proceedings of the work group about starting the line during 2006:**

- Create a conceptual frame about the main characteristics of the HTL;
- Analysis of the received information on the HTL;
- Formulate the requirements to the international consultants, having experience in creating telephone lines for children;
- Sending invitations for participation to specialists from France, Italy, Great Britain and Switzerland;
- Conduct a series of work events, aiming to clarify the possibilities for cooperation and sharing experience among the representatives from Communications Regulation Commission, Bulgaria Telecom, the Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents, the hot telephone line for illegal and harmful contents on the Internet, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and non-governmental organizations, which are offering the service” telephone line for children” in the frames of their projects;

- Familiarize representatives of non-governmental organizations, interested in developing the service with the principles of the functioning of the French telephone line 119 – showing a documentary movie;
- Designate the preliminary researches, which are necessary for successful start and stability of the service.

**Formulating of the forthcoming researches in 2007:**

**1. Representative national research for the attitudes on the functioning of the hot telephone line for children and families and planning informational campaign for its popularizing.**

**Purpose:** Identification of the expectations and attitude on the functioning of the hot telephone line, also the range, purposes and messages of the informational campaign for popularizing the hot telephone line, having in mind the correct planning of the resources – human, financial, technical and communicational.

**Result:**

In 2006, experts from the State Agency for Child Protection formulated the requirements and the expected results from the sociological agency which is going to provide the research.

**2. Research on all structures (government and non-government), related to granting services for children and families, also identification of the distributors and their services.**

**Purpose:** Build an “electronic card” (informational database) of services for children and families on the territory of the country with opportunities for periodical updating.

**Result:**

Technical assignment for researching is implemented and sent for approval by UNICEF – Bulgaria.

**Main difficulty:** Uncertainty of the budget funds with which the State Agency for Child Protection will have to ensure the stability of the existence for children with national coverage.

**Item 2.6.: Raise the public awareness of the problems of trafficking in human beings by conducting informational campaigns.**

- *About project “Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Violence against Children”*

- Briefing on the international participations of experts from the agency aiming at the presentation of good practices – presentation concerning working visit in Bordeaux, France.
- Meeting of the representatives from the State Agency for Child Protection and CARE International Bulgaria for a presentation of a movie made from children from the town of Kustendil in

relation to a project for the experts from the State Agency for Child Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science, UNICEF, CARE International Bulgaria and medias.

- Participation of the State Agency for Child Protection in an exhibition on the topic of violence in the museum of the Ministry of Interior – presentation of informational materials (posters, brochures, leaflets), designed for the representatives of the tourist industry in 4 languages (Bulgarian, English, French and Russian).

### **SECTION III „TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”**

**Item 6: Organize and hold trainings for journalists on the issues of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.**

The State Agency for Child Protection works hard in cooperation with print and electronic medias concerning the issues of sexual exploitation and trafficking in children.

- The Chairman, the Vice Chairman and experts from the State Agency for Child Protection took part in several **interviews on the radio, on newspapers and on TV broadcasts** on the issues of trafficking in children.

- The most active medias presented in conducting an informational campaign on the project “The Child in The Net” (under the slogan: *“You don t know who is standing on the other side”*), **were presented with certificates “Our message became obvious through you”**.

### **SECTION IV “PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”**

**Item 4.1. Popularizing and updating the Coordination Mechanism for Referral, Care and Protection of Repatriated Bulgarian UAM and Children Victims of Trafficking Returning from Abroad.**

Activities concerning the implementation of the Coordination Mechanism in the State Agency for Child Protection are realized by Directorate “Programmes , European Integration and International Cooperation”.

In the process of implementation of the Coordination Mechanism for referral, care and protection of repatriated Bulgarian UAM and children victims of trafficking returning from abroad, adopted in November, 2005, the State Agency for Child Protection has coordination functions. The purpose is undertaking measures for child protection in cases of different forms of exploitation of minors, beggars , petty crimes during their stay abroad.

**With the Coordination Mechanism for referral, care and protection of repatriated Bulgarian UAM and children –victims of trafficking, returning from abroad, the approach of**

**Bulgarian institutions for undertaking coordinated actions and clear delimitation of responsibilities was unified with the purpose of efficient application of legislation for combating trafficking in human beings, in particular of children.**

Unifying the practices and standards for working on cases of unaccompanied children as well as co-operation and due signalling among the institutions, the multidisciplinary approach for integration of the children, involved in activities under Art. 11, par. 3 from the Child Protection Act, brought a sharp increase in the number of referred cases.

Statistics for 2006:

- State Agency for Child Protection has worked on 170 cases of unaccompanied children abroad (compared to 60 cases for the period of 2003-2005);
- The State Agency for Child Protection coordinates repatriation and care for 35 children victims of trafficking from the protection system, involved in activities under Art. 11, par.3 from Child Protection Act, protection measures have been applied to these children;
- The countries where children usually stay are: Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, Greece; followed by France, Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Czech Republic, Great Britain; in the second half of the year there are registered cases in Turkey and Sweden.

**Measures against involvement of children for a second time in activities under Art. 11, par. 3 from the Child Protection Act:**

In the execution of the Instructions for Implementation of the Measures under Art. 76a, par.1 from the Bulgarian Identity Documents Act (State Gazette, March 07, 2006), the Chairperson of the State Agency for Child Protection after studying the facts and the circumstances provided by the Minister of Interior **motivated suggestions for imposing administrative measures to 111 children.**

**The sharp increase in the number of referred cases is due to:**

- Improved coordination in implementation of the multidiscipline approach;
- Collaborative activities of all responsible institutions – State Agency for Child Protection works in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Agency for Social Support and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;
- Successful cooperation with the non-governmental sector – the International Organization of Migration, ISS.

The State Agency for Child Protection will continue to support the implementation of the **multidisciplinary and inter-institutional approach in working for prevention, protection and reintegration** of children victims of trafficking in human beings. The Agency also shows willingness for **sharing of “good practices”** and participation in the implementation of the Coordination

Mechanism in accordance with the new situation and also **participation in developing of transnational reference mechanism.**

**Item 4.3: Create a mechanism for financial support of the victims of trafficking in human beings and their repatriation in Republic of Bulgaria.**

The State Agency for Child Protection represented by the Chiar made suggestions for:

- **Securitization of the repatriated Bulgarian children victims of trafficking from the state budget** related to the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of the Victims for 2006. The suggestion was made by letter to the Depute Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and to the Minister of Labor and Social Policy;

- **Ensuring sources from the budget for the diplomatic and consular representatives of Republic of Bulgaria for publishing information about disappeared children** in the frames of Regulation for Conditions and Order for Granting Financial Support to Bulgarian citizens who are in trouble being temporarily abroad.

**Item 4.4: Development of measures for limiting and counteracting the use of the Internet for involving potential victims of trafficking in human beings.**

- *Project for a national hot telephone line for combating the harmful and illegal contents of the Internet, as a part of the international association of the hot lines INHOPE*

The project, supported by the State Agency for Child Protection, was executed by the Foundation „Practical Researches and Communications”. The project was financially supported by the Programme of the European Commission “Safer Internet” for the period 2005-2006.

**Purpose:** Support of the automatic on-line mechanism for inputting signals, their processing, generalizing tracing as well as raising the public awareness of the risks in using the Internet.

- Created a hot telephone line for combating the harmful and illegal contents of the Internet – <http://web112.net>;

- Established a Public Council for combating the harmful and illegal contents of the Internet (April 14, 2006) – an example of public-private partnership aiming coordination of the functioning if the Hot telephone line for combating the illegal and harmful contents of the Bulgarian Internet space and raising the public awareness on these problems. The Chairman of the State Agency for Child Protection is elected for honour member of the Council;

- Conducted a national informational campaign for combating the illegal and dangerous contents of the Internet;

- Printed and distributed advertising materials – posters and brochures;
- Adopted an Annual Report for 2006 (November 28, 2006).

- Project „*The Child in The Net*” (under the slogan: “*You don t know who is standing on the other side*”), realized by the State Agency for Child Protection in cooperation with Foundation „Partners – Bulgaria” and with the financial support of the British Embassy.

**Main goal:** Counteraction of involvement of children in sexual and labour exploitation – protection of children from possible threats, connected with the use of the Internet, meaning insecure relations with unknown persons, giving personal information, etc.

- National official research among the children regarding their knowledge of the dangers, which hides Internet and the methods of protection;

- Press conferences where a research on the sources of mass information was presented. Representatives of the executive and legislative power were present.

- Inquiry through an on-line questionnaire “*Tell your opinion about surfing in the net*”, in order to study the attitudes of the children on surfing the Net.

- Conducted an informational campaign under the slogan “*You never know who is standing on the other side*” – TV clip, billboards, posters for metro and bus stations, posters for schools all over the country and brochure with rules for safe surfing the Internet.

- Concluding conference with the participation of Mrs. Shirin Mestan – Chairwoman of the State Agency for Child Protection, Mr. Jeremy Hill – Ambassador of Great Britain in Bulgaria and Mrs. Daniela Kolarova - Director of the Foundation “Partners – Bulgaria” as well as representatives of state institutions, non-governmental organizations and business partners.

- Analyzed data on the value of organizing informational campaigns in the period May - September 2006 – presented by thy the National Centre for Studying the Public Opinion Regarding the project.

## MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY

### SECTION I „INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES”

**Item 3: Create three crisis centres for temporary accommodation of children–victims of trafficking in human beings.**

At hand is the building of three crisis centres for temporary accommodation of children-victims of trafficking in human beings. There are three functioning crisis centres for children-victims of



trafficking in human beings. One of them is in the village of Balvan, municipality of Veliko Tarnovo. The second one is in the town of Pazardjik, municipality of Sofia and the third one is in the town of Dragoman, municipality of Sofia. In two of the centres, there are children accommodated after their repatriation, receiving assistance for better social adaptation.

## **SECTION II „PREVENTION”**

In connection to the implementation of the project „Counteraction of Sexual Exploitation and Violence against Children” in January, 2006, a concluding meeting on the project was conducted with the cooperation of the State Agency for Child Protection. Eleven school programmes on prevention of violence against children were presented in the frames of educational projects in the three pilot towns of Momchilgrad, Kiustendil and Pernik.

An assignment was developed for „Research on the Reasons for the Aggressive Behaviour of Children and the Violence in Schools”. Trainings were organized for different groups of specialists, working with children: social workers from the departments for child protection, preschools teachers, school nurses, pedagogical advisors and psychologists.

In relation to the project „Counteraction of Sexual Exploitation and Violence against Children”, suggestions were made to the Minister of Education and Science for:

- Developing a special educational seminar for qualification of staff working in the sphere of education related to skills for managing aggression and violence.
- Obligatory development of annual programmes of schools for prevention of violence and with the active participation of children and parents.

Many informational materials were issued.

A manual for prevention of violence at school level was developed in April, 2006. It was made for teachers, pedagogical advisors, psychologists and medical specialists. The manual presents the methods for identification of physical and behaviour indicators for violence and measures for referring the children to the organs for child protection. The material is in circulation of 3000 copies with the financial support of UNICEF and is distributed to the whole educational system and will be published in the specialized web site of the State Agency for Child Protection.

The web site on the topic „Sexual Exploitation and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children” ([www.stopech.sacp.government.bg](http://www.stopech.sacp.government.bg)) is devoted to the protection from violence, sexual and labour exploitation. In 2006, the website was promoted and presented as an example of "good practice" on different national and international forums. During the same year, Stopech received a total of 217 signals. The related competent institutions were informed in a timely manner about the signals, mainly

concerning the problems of violence (physical, psychological and sexual), negligence, illegal and harmful contents on the Internet.

The idea behind the phone hotline for children, including children-victims of human trafficking, is to have national coverage, easy access and a wide range of users. Direct access to children looking for help and consultation is necessary. Everyone who finds out that a child is in trouble and needs to be protected must have access to this hotline. The ultimate purpose is to ensure prevention of the risk and popularization of the system for child protection.

For 2007 a few researches should be mentioned:

1. Official National Research Study on the attitudes on the functioning of the hot phone line for children and planning of an informational campaign for its popularization.
2. Studying of all structures (government and non-government), related to granting services for children and families and identification of the distributors and their services.

### **SECTION III "TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF"**

**Item 6: Organize and hold trainings for journalists on the issues of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.**

- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy works actively with the printed and electronic media on the issues of **sexual exploitation and trafficking in children**. The main activities are related to participating in several interviews on the radio, in newspapers and on TV programmes on the issues of trafficking in human beings.

The most active medias presented themselves by conducting an informational campaign on the project "**The Child in The Net**", under the slogan "*You don't know who is standing on the other side*". They were awarded with certificates "**Our message became obvious through you**".

### **UNDER SECTION IV "PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS"**

**Item 1: Popularize and update the Coordination mechanism to refer and handle cases of unattended Bulgarian children and children who are victims of trafficking who have come back from abroad.**

- Under the Coordination Mechanism, a system of inter-institutional referral of particular cases has been developed. At central level, the system includes: the Ministry of Interior, the State Agency for Child Protection, the Agency for Social Support, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the International Organization of Migration and the International Organization of Labor. At local level,

multidisciplinary teams on child protection are being created. They include Regional Police Departments, Regional Healthcare Centres, National Employment Agency, non-governmental organizations and distributors of social services.

- The cases of unaccompanied Bulgarian persons abroad and children victims of trafficking are received by Bulgarian or foreign organs of competence.

For the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006, 43 children have been repatriated from the following European countries:

Austria - 15 children	Spain - 3 children	Croatia - 2 children	Belgium - 2 children
Greece - 7 children	Slovakia - 2 children	Romania - 1 child	Turkey - 2 children
Germany - 4 children	Netherlands - 1 child	Czech Republic - 3 children	Poland - 1 child
Slovakia - 1 child			

The repatriated children are from Roma families. Most of them are illiterate and have graduated only first class.

Depending on the valuation of 23 children, measures for protection in family environment were taken. Sixteen children have been accommodated in specialized institutions or Crisis Centres. Initially, measures were undertaken for 4 children: accommodation in an institution, but subsequently the measure was not confirmed by the Regional Court and the children have been returned to their biological families. For one of the children, the undertaken measure is family environment and after new valuation the child is accommodated in a Crisis Centre. One of the repatriated children was taken out of the country for a second time even though measures were taken under Art.76a from the Law on Bulgarian Documents for Identification. After its second repatriation, the child was accommodated in a crisis centre. A system for social support of particular cases has been developed.

**Item 7: Include the victims of trafficking in appropriate forms of training and qualification.**

**Item 9: Include the victims of human trafficking in projects, programmes and measures under the terms and procedure of the Encouragement of Employment Act.**

- In implementation of the National Action Plan of Employment in 2006, the policy of regarding the labour market with priority directed to a few targets of population: unemployed young people with low degrees of education or without specialty and profession, discouraged people,

unemployed persons for a long time, unemployed people with damages and unemployed persons over 50 years of age.

The activities of employment policy during last year were oriented towards the following priority directions:

- Raising the suitability for employment of the working force and improving investments in human capital;
- Effective social integration and encouragement of the unemployed persons for active behaviour in the labour market.

In the realization of the activities of the labour market, a special accent was made on professional orientation, consultation and education. Aiming the active encouragement of behaviour through the persons in non-equivalent position was applied a differentiated approach according the specific needs of each separate group. The access to these services is ensured to all of the unemployed persons, including those of them who are victims of trafficking in human beings.

The main accent in the employment policy is the training of the working force and having the necessary qualifications. Professional education is directed to increasing the chances of the unemployed persons for labour realization. All unemployed persons have the right to education and professional qualification, registered in the "Bureau of Labour" Directorate, including those who are victims of trafficking in human beings.

In 2006, projects and educational programmes for employment were executed in which there was priority for persons from the defined priority groups.

According to the Law for Encouragement of Employment, the measures for encouragement are applied in relation to particular groups of unemployed persons: unemployed young people, people in pre-retirement age, people with disabilities, single parents with children under 3 years-of-age, etc. The support for labour realization of the victims of trafficking in human beings through encouragement measures could be realized in the frames of normatively defined target population.

According to the annual information of the Federal Crime Service of the Federal Republic of Germany it is obvious that during 2005 in Germany 642 victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation have been registered, 9.7% from them are Bulgarian citizens.