

# **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

# REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF TRAFFICING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND ILLEGAL IMIGRATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA IN 2006

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Pursuant to Article VI clauses 3 and 4 of the Decision on Procedures and Manner of Coordination of the Activities for Combating Trafficking in People and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Establishment of the Function of the State Coordinator ("Bosnia and Herzegovina", no. 24/03 and 37/04), the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in People and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, submits to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina the following:

## REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF TRAFFICING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND ILLEGAL IMI-GRATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**AND** 

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA IN 2006

#### **I Introduction**

With a view to implementing strategic goals set forth in the 2005-2007 State Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: the Action Plan), in 2006 extensive measures and actions were taken in all segments of the comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in human beings: prevention, protection of victims and victim witnesses, prosecution and international cooperation, which additionally enhances the entire process of coordination and the system of combating trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The three-year Action Plan is being implemented by the relevant institutions that are included in the coordinating structure established in the previous years. Having in mind the complexity of the matter of trafficking in human beings and interconnectedness of the various factors which influence, maintain and increase the phenomenon, the coordinating structure which incorporates multi-sectoral approach based on cooperation of all relevant actors was established. As in the previous years, the Action Plan has been implemented through the activities set forth in the annual operational plans, that is to say, the Operational Plan for 2006, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The implementation of the Operational Plan for 2006 has resulted in concrete activities, information exchange and joint monitoring of the implementation of Action Plan through regular meetings of the State Group, working groups, liaison officers, referral and other meetings as required and all with the aim to effectuate the activities.

For the purpose of establishing a centralised system of data collection on trafficking in human beings, in cooperation with the Strike Force, the Instruction on Data Collection on Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration was drafted and a database established within the State Investigation and Protection Agency. The data collection and analysis are based on the uniformed tables for used by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With a view of informing the public about trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, a web site of the Office of State Coordinate was designed to incorporate relevant documents, announcement of forthcoming events and updates in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

In implementing the Action Plan during 2006 in area of prevention of trafficking in human beings, beside numerous prevention activities which were organised and carried out in cooperation with governmental, non-governmental and international organisations, the State Group worked on raising the public awareness about this issue through participating in a variety of events and active cooperation with the media. One of the important activities was drafting of a standardised handbook titled "Prevention with the Aim of Raising Awareness of the Dangers of Trafficking in Human Beings" for teachers in primary and secondary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Printing and distribution of the material is envisaged for early 2007 to be followed by the training of teachers and pedagogues in delivering the topic to students.

In the area of protection of victims and victim-witnesses of trafficking in human beings, it is particularly important to note that the Rules for Protection of Local Victims and Victim-Witnesses of Human Trafficking who are Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: the Rules), which will be presented to entity and cantonal ministries in charge of social welfare and health services in early 2007, were drafted. After consultations with the relevant ministries, the Rules will be forwarded to the Council of Ministers for adoption. The adoption of the Rules would equalise, and to a certain degree, extend the system of protection of local victims in comparison to treatment afforded to foreign victims of trafficking in human beings. On the basis of analysis of collected data, although slight, the upward trend of the total number of identified victims was noted, especially among Bosnia and Herzegovina nationals, with a consistent downward trend in the number of identified foreign victims and the constant rising trend in the number of identified victims who are nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With regards to prosecution of perpetrators of criminal offences involving trafficking in human beings, the number of investigations, indictments raised and the number of convictions increased in comparison to the past years, which is the result of intensified and more effective activities of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the courts. In 2006, the trend towards stricter penal policy is noticeable through pronouncement of higher sentences, albeit in a small number of cases, while in majority of cases sentences remained lenient. In 2006, it was encouraging that besides prison sentence, for the first time in a human trafficking case, the proceeds of crime acquired through criminal activities were confiscated, although the question of utilisation of these resources for aid and assistance to victims and victim-witnesses of trafficking in human beings remains unsolved.

In 2006, the trend of using the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a transit route for illegal migrations to Western European countries continued. It is noticeable that achievements on prevention of this sort of illegal activities in 2006 significantly increased, viewed through the number of persons prevented from illegally crossing the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the number of successful investigations, indictments raised and number of convictions in cases of smuggling in persons.

As in the previous years, international monitoring mechanisms and governments of other countries besides series of positive assessments on efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in combating trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration, directed most criticisms in connection with effective prosecution of trafficking in human beings. The European Commission Progress Report for 2006 states that, although the 2005-2007 State Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina is being implemented in practice, there are still problems concerning effective prosecution of these criminal offences owing to inconsistencies between the laws at state and entity levels and lenient penal policy. The report states that only a small number of cases of trafficking in human beings were prosecuted. The European Commission recommended that Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has the necessary legal framework for protection of witnesses and victims of trafficking in human beings, allocates more financial resources so that protection of witnesses becomes sustainable and meets international standards. Although six victims of trafficking in human beings were included in the witness protection programme so far, it is concerning that measures of victim protection are in effect only for as long as they have the status of witness at court, after which they are again exposed to the risk.

Besides many positive comments, most criticisms of the US Government in their Trafficking in Persons Report for 2006 were also directed at the kind and level of punishments. Although the number of prosecutions increased and capacities of the law enforcement agencies were strengthened through specialised training and investigations, sentences pronounced for this category of criminal offences were still lenient or suspended, most frequently as a result of plea bargain agreements. In spite of greater number of convictions, the sentences received are not sufficient to have a deterrent effect. Thus, the main recommendations were targeted at more aggressive prosecution of trafficking in human beings and stricter penal policy. The report praises the outstanding cooperation of the State Coordinator and partner governmental and non-governmental organisations in assessment of prevention and the protection afforded to victims of trafficking in human beings.

At the eighty eighth session<sup>1</sup> of the Human Rights Committee, in concluding observations, Bosnia and Herzegovina was asked to ensure effective prosecution of perpetrators of criminal offences involving trafficking in people; to provide training of judges, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies in the implementation of standards for combating trafficking in people and corruption; to ensure sufficient resources in the Budget for programmes of assistance to victims and support to witnesses; and to take effective actions to combat child exploitation, of Roma children and children of other national minorities in particular, such as street begging and other forms of forced labour.

More detailed recommendations to Bosnia and Herzegovina were provided in the final report of the UN General Secretary Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, Ms Sigma Huda, at the 62nd session of the UN Commission for Human Rights, prepared on the basis of a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period between 21 and 28 February 2005, which containing a number of recommendations to the government, civil society and international community with a view to supporting their work against trafficking in human beings. The recommendations in respect of coordination, legislative reform, law enforcement, identification and assistance to victims, protection of victim-witnesses and prevention of trafficking in children are enclosed in the Annex I of this report.

For a successful fight against human trafficking, it is necessary to invest continuous efforts, to enhance and adapt instruments and mechanisms to the new forms of this criminal offence, which is done through constant collection and analysis of data, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Action Plan. The report which follows presents the activities in the implementation of 2006 Operational Plan for combating trafficking in human beings carried out by institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, non-governmental and international organisations which additionally improved the entire process of coordination and activities on suppression and prevention of trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration.

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<sup>1</sup> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Consideration of reports submitted by the Parties under article 40. of the Covenant, Geneva, 16. Oct.- 03 Nov. 2006

#### **II Supporting Framework**

#### Legal and Regulatory Framework

In 2006 Bosnia and Herzegovina improved the legal and regulatory framework governing trafficking in human beings and illegal immigrations. This was done by Bosnia and Herzegovina becoming a party to international conventions, signing of the treaties relevant to combating trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration, amending of the laws and by-laws and commencing of activities on creation of the adequate regulatory framework for assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings who are nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina the implementation of various strategies and plans is under way in different ministerial portfolios which relate to: combating organised crime and corruption, fight against HIV/AIDS, combating violence against children, juvenile delinquency, Roma issues, Gender Action Plan; which all also contain activities aimed at combating trafficking in human beings. All of the mentioned strategies also include measures which relate to trafficking in human beings with a special focus on vulnerable categories in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Given that these strategies are predominantly based on the implementation of the international standards which Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted, one of the key measures is multidisciplinary linking of activities and better coordination among different sectors so that the measures planned in the strategies are complementing each other.

# Acceding of Bosnia and Herzegovina to international conventions and ratification of treaties relevant to fight against human trafficking

- 1. The **UN Convention against Corruption**, which had been signed earlier, was ratified. Having in mind that trafficking in human beings is often connected with corruption, the implementation of this Convention will largely help in combating trafficking in human beings, primarily through Bosnia and Herzegovina's obligation to develop, implement and maintain an effective, coordinated policy of corruption prevention, which promotes community participation and sustains the principles of rule of law, good management of public services and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability. A number of provisions in the Convention are closely linked to combating trafficking in human beings, particularly those relevant to: the code of conduct of civil servants; measures relating to judges and prosecutors; measures for prevention of money laundering; freezing, seizure and confiscation; protection of witnesses, experts and victims; protection of individuals filing charges; international cooperation; extradition; international legal assistance.
- 2. The Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime, which had been signed earlier, was ratified. Taking into account the fact, that as a general rule, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of persons are linked to laundering of money gained through this form of organised crime; the implementation of this Convention will significantly improve the legal framework for effective combating trafficking in human beings and smuggling of persons. In ratifying this Convention, Bosnia and Herzegovina has undertaken an obligation to carry out legislative and other measures that will enable confiscation of proceeds of crime or illegally gained income or assets to the amount corresponding to the value of proceeds of crime. Besides, obligation was undertaken to create legislative and other measures necessary to enable identification and detection of the property liable for confiscation and to prevent any form of trafficking in, transfer or disposal of such property.
- 3. The Council of Europe Convention on Money Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism was signed. The ratification processed of the convention commenced which will additionally improve the legal framework for combating all forms of organised crime, including trafficking in human beings and smuggling in persons.
- 4. The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings was signed. The procedure of ratification is under way, which will improve the legal framework for combating trafficking in human beings by bringing it in line with provisions of the Convention in prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims and prevention.

- 5. The South Eastern Police Cooperation Convention was signed. After the ratification of the Convention, which is under way, and coming into effect in countries of South East Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania, Romania and Moldova), an adequate legal framework will be created which will enable law enforcement agencies to have quick and effective cooperation in information exchange, exchange of liaison officers, establishment of joint investigative teams and conducting of joint investigation through the use of special investigative measures such as surveillance, controlled delivery and other special investigative methods, in the implementation of witness protection programmes in individual cases and other forms of cooperation, which all will inevitably have a great impact on effective investigations in cases of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of persons.
- 6. **The Revised European Social Charter** was signed in 2005 and consequently ratified in late 2006. The importance of this Convention lies in the fact that it requires the Parties to harmonise the frameworks for social and health protection in the country. Given that social and health protection fall within jurisdiction of the entities, the Convention affords new possibilities for more effective coordination of activities on harmonisation of legal framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the areas of social and health protection, which would introduce uniform standard throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 7. In 2006 Bosnia and Herzegovina concluded **15 international bilateral agreements on police cooperation or readmission agreements**, which have established an adequate legal framework for effective international cooperation of police and immigration authorities in combating all kinds of crimes, especially organised crime and trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration. In 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina also initiated conclusion of additional 35 such agreements and started activities on their conclusion. More detailed information on concluded agreements and activities to conclude new agreements are given in chapter International Cooperation.

#### **Legislative Framework**

At the end of 2005 a two-year regional CARDS project «Establishment of Legislative, Regulatory and Institutional Framework in the Field of Migrations, Asylum and Visas, Harmonised with EU Standards», in which all institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina in charge of visas, migration and asylum participated, was completed. Within the project, the European legal framework and best European practices in the mentioned areas were presented and final document titled «Road Map for Harmonising Legislative, Regulatory and Institutional Framework in the Field of Migrations, Asylum and Visas for Countries of South East Europe» was created. Following conclusion of the project, the Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina established a inter-disciplinary working group tasked to draft amendments to the Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum so that through these amendments the Law would to the greatest possible extent become compliant with the European Union law and best European practices. During 2006, the working group agreed on a majority of amendments of the law and will attempt to complete this task in shortest possible period after which the draft Law will be forwarded to the Council of Ministers and Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina for deliberation.

Ministry of Security has during 2006 improved the legal framework by amending the following bylaws to the Law on Stay and Movement of Aliens:

- Instruction on Amendments to the Instruction on Rules of Keeping and Using Official Records on Certain Categories of Aliens. In these amendments Bosnia and Herzegovina took additional steps towards fulfilment of requirements set forth in UN Resolution 1617 from 2005 in regards to the aliens on the Consolidated list and who are international offenders or pose threat to public peace and security of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Instruction on Amendments to the Instruction on Procedures for Expulsion, Detention, and Tributaries for Expenses of Detention and Expulsion of Aliens from Bosnia and Herzegovina. These amendments created possibilities for Ministry of Security to also use, besides the Immigration Centre, the capacities of non-governmental organisations, in accordance with the signed Protocols on Cooperation, and certain premises of the Ministry of Security and agencies or services within the Ministry for detention of aliens.

In 2006 the State Border Service of Bosnia and Herzegovina finished activities on the establishment and improvement of the legal framework implementing the Law on Surveillance and Control of the Crossing of the State Border, through enactment of the following by-laws:

- Book of Rules on the Manner of Performance of Border Crossing Control,
- Book of Rules on the Manner of and Deadlines for Issuance of Border Crossing Permit, the Format of the Form of Request for Permit, Supervision and Recording of Statistics on the Issuance of Border Crossing Permits
- Book of Rules on the Format, Content and Manner of Posting Statutory Signs and Signalisation on Border Crossings and along the Border Line
- Book of Rules on Posting and Use of the Technical Equipment and Photographing, Filming and Video Surveillance on Border Crossings along the Border Line
- Book of Rules on the Manner of Recording Information about Entering and Exiting the Country, about Prevention from Entering the Country and Other Information in the Documents Prescribed for Crossing the Border
- Book of Rules on the Circumstances and Manner of Designation and Issuance of Decision on the Border Crossing Area
- Book of Rules on Designation of Border Crossings at which the Individuals who are by the nature of their economic activity in the border crossing area obliged to wear Border Passes, as well as the Look, Form and Procedure for Issuance of the Border Pass.

#### **Regulatory Framework**

The enactment of Rules on Protection of Local Victims and Victim Witness of Trafficking in Human Beings Who Are Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a long-time coming due to problems in identifying the best possible approach in regards to the problem of social welfare and health care provisions relating to local victims of trafficking. Unlike foreign victims of trafficking which fall under the competency of a single ministry, Ministry of Security, the assistance to local victims is dependant on competent entity, and therefore cantonal and Brčko District institutions in areas of health and social affairs.

On the other hand, taking into account that one third of victims are BiH nationals (which is insufficient to warrant a trafficking law), amending entity and cantonal legislation seems unfeasible solution in the short term, considering that all cantons have not even passed legislation as yet in the areas of health protection and social welfare. An additional potentially complicating issue is the territorial jurisdiction of competent institutions providing relevant assistance, considering that victims are often identified in municipalities other than where they are registered, and they often do not wish to return to their former place of residence.

The Rules will represent a document which includes application of standards contained in majority of international conventions and protocols which have been ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina. Considering that there is no specific legislation regulating trafficking in human beings, the Rules will establish binding professional standards for protection of victims and victims-witnesses of trafficking in human beings.

Besides key definitions and basic principles, the Rules envisage provisions respecting criminal charges for trafficking in human beings, rights of victims, the role of and procedure by various institutions (police, prosecutors, centres of social welfare, medical institutions, diplomatic and consular offices) during the referral process, measures of secondary prevention and funding. Furthermore, the intention is to establish a separate fund for rehabilitation and re-socialisation of victims in cases when they do not qualify for social and health protection.

The consultations with representatives from the relevant ministries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, entities and Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, non-governmental and international sector, about the Rules, which were drafted by thematic working group for protection of victims and witnesses, are planned for early 2007, after which they will be forwarded to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina for adoption and then published in the Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### **Coordinating Structures**

In order to effectively implement the State Action Plan, that is the operational plans in the three-year period (2005 - 2007), a coordinating structure was established to direct the work of all the actors involved in combating trafficking in human beings.

As in the past years, with a view to analysing the situation and monitoring the general trends in trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina, representatives of the State Group attended meetings of the Strike Force and the State Coordinator held meetings with the anti-trafficking liaison officers. Through the regular meetings of the State Group a continuous revision, monitoring and evaluation of the State Action Plan and the operational plan as well as the activities set forth within them, were carried out.

With the aim to implementing activities set forth in the operational plan, apart from the monthly meetings of the State Coordinator and the State Group, regular meetings of working groups for prosecution, protection of victims and victim witnesses and prevention were held. Transparent coordination and planning of activities among the Office of State Coordinator, non-governmental and international organisations was ensured through the quarterly referral meetings of the State Group and partner governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The State Coordinator is also a member and attends the monthly meetings of the supervisory board for the implementation of a four-year project for combating trafficking in human beings titled "Trafficking in Persons: Prevention and Protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina" funded by USAID and implemented by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and seventeen partner organisations.

#### Information Management and Research

With regard to the information management, throughout 2006 continuous information exchange was carried out through the various meetings listed in chapter Coordinating Structures, the annual report of the State Coordinator that was published and distributed in 3000 copies and quarterly newsletters of the Office of State Coordinator. In 2006 the web site of the Office of State Coordinator, <a href="www.anti-trafficking.gov.ba">www.anti-trafficking.gov.ba</a>, was launched and contains some of the key laws and regulations relevant to trafficking in human beings, manuals, governmental reports and news about trafficking in human beings, announcement of conferences, training and other activities. For the purpose of precise indicators about trafficking in human beings, a database for trafficking in human beings was completed within the State Investigation and Protection Agency.

# Shelters Assessment for Victims of trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina

When it comes to research, the USAID Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina commissioned a research by an independent consultant who assessed and analysed the current situation of the existing shelters for victims of trafficking in human beings on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a view to formulate recommendations for improvement of assistance framework in the future.

Although the referral mechanism was assessed as effective, it was ascertained that the assistance package in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including safe accommodation, food, clothing and medical care, which was available in all shelters, was designed primarily for foreign victims of trafficking in human beings. In most of the shelters, the assistance provided to BiH citizens is primarily the same as that provided to foreign victims, with the result that BiH victims are not being provided with the kinds of services needed for their successful reintegration.

However, although all shelters provide adequate facilities, the standards are not equal, they range from those that are older, have had significant use and need refurbishing. Also, services provided in the

shelters varied. Some shelters put a significant focus on psycho-social protection, some on education<sup>2</sup> (juvenile victims), but it was noted that the shelters did not put significant stress on vocational training courses<sup>3</sup> and employment. All shelters provided victims of trafficking in human beings with medical care.<sup>4</sup> Currently, most of the NGOs are being reimbursed for medical expenses by an international donor. If this were to end, many of them would have a difficult time continuing to fund such services. All shelters have some modicum of security – walled compounds, locked doors, and agreements with the police to come when called.<sup>5</sup> Although some shelters employ staff qualified to provide legal aid, it is primarily provided by non-governmental organisation Vaša prava.<sup>6</sup>

On the basis of research and conclusions this report contains twenty seven specific recommendations relating to improvement of the framework of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings by the governmental institutions and non-governmental organisations in the areas of health care (also psycho-social support and drug-addiction rehabilitation), reintegration and alternative accommodation (including education, training and employment, income generation, recreation), the issue of juveniles and mixed population in the shelters, the issue of safety – open versus closed shelters, repatriation, the number of required shelters, financial sustainability, identification of victims of trafficking in human beings and monitoring.

Although it was recommended that new shelters should not be established because the existing capacities met the needs of victims of trafficking in human beings, there is a need for reintegration programmes across the country. All shelters in Bosnia and Herzegovina are closed type. However, it was recommended that open shelters should be established to house low security risk victims and enable their better reintegration. Shelters of the closed type would provide a higher level of protection to victims, if there are security concerns. It is necessary to invest more effort to create recreation opportunities, additional and regular education, employment and income generation projects. In order to assess the quality of services provided to victims of trafficking in human beings and the referral system, it is necessary to establish a monitoring mechanism for the network of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings.

With regard to return of victims of trafficking in human beings to countries of origin, the Ministry of Security and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) signed the Agreement on the Repatriation Process of Foreign Victims Accommodated in the Shelters. The Agreement defines the role and responsibilities of the Parties, including security of information exchange. The Ministry of Security issues the request for repatriation only if certain preconditions are met, such as a confirmation of the BiH Prosecutor's Office that the individual is not involved in criminal proceedings. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) prepares the support for repatriation, transport, and referral of victims to the IOM Mission in the receiving country and a set amount of financial support to the vic-

<sup>2</sup> Some NGOs have made arrangements so that BiH minors can attend school while staying at the shelter while in some other shelter the minors did not attend school during the period when they were residing there. In some cases, for security reasons and in order to give girls time to recover, arrangements with educational authorities in the place where the girl came from were made so that the girl might be absent from school and excused to return to the school without problems when she returned home.

<sup>3</sup> Only one NGO has provided a certificate course on hairdressing for some of their foreign VOTs. Other shelters offer vocational-style courses for therapeutic purposes, which do not result in recognised certificates.

<sup>4</sup> In most cases, the shelter out-sources medical services to private doctors and psychiatrists. In the case of BiH citizens, if the citizen has medical insurance, they are provided medical care free of charge; if not, the NGO must pay a fee for all services.

<sup>5</sup> Research in other parts of the world has also indicated that such security measures are generally sufficient; however, if the shelter houses high-risk cases, there may be the need for twenty - four-hour private security or police protection. Only one shelter has such a high level of security, with a fully fenced compound and a twenty - four-hour police presence.

<sup>6</sup> NGO 37Vaša prava37 ensures that victims are informed of their rights and have legal representation at all meetings with prosecutors or during their hearings in court. Vasa Prava also provides legal assistance for civil cases if the victim needs it – for child custody cases, asylum requests, and the like. 'Vasa Prava' has also begun making claims for damages for those victims who wish to pursue it. However, they have only had two such cases to date, neither of which has yet been decided.

tim. However, the non-governmental organisations seem to have limited knowledge about the process of repatriation or assistance that is provided to victims after their return.

A summary of recommendations of this assessment are contained in the Annex II of this report.

#### Risk Factors leading to trafficking in Children

In April 2006 Save the Children Norway started a qualitative research into risk factors which led to trafficking in children and into life context of some risk groups, whose findings will help to adequate planning activities at the national and regional level and more effective planning and improvement of preventive activities. The finalisation of the research and presentation of findings and recommendations are planned for May 2007.

#### Capacity Building

Pursuant to the Law on Foreigners' Affairs Service, the Foreigners' Affairs Service (hereinafter: the Service) was established and became operational in 2006. The Council of Ministers appointed the management of the Service which carried out the procedure of taking over staff from the former Departments for Foreigners within the ministries of interior of entities and cantons and who met requirements set forth in the Rule Book on Internal Structure of the Service. On the basis of the relevant protocols signed between Ministry of Security and ministries of interior about the manner of taking over of the staff, documentation, equipment, material and technical resources and premises for the needs of the establishment of the Foreigners' Affairs Service, the Foreigners' Affairs Service took over, beside the staff, also the premises and equipment that had been used in dealing with foreigners' affairs, which enabled fast and effective taking over of competences in this area and commencement of operation by the Foreigners' Affairs Service. From becoming operational, the Foreigners' Affairs Service became responsible for the implementation of a majority of the Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum, including a number of provisions directly linked to combating trafficking in human beings and illegal immigrations. The centralised approach, which will be in place in the future in the implementation of the above mentioned Law, instead of insufficiently coordinated and supervised work so far, will certainly contribute to increased efficiency and better results in suppressing trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration.

In 2006, the Ministry of Security carried out a number of activities related to construction and establishment of the Immigration Centre. Besides the work on finalising the relevant paperwork, a great majority of construction works and equipping of the Centre were finalised so it is expected that it will become operational in early 2007. The Centre, which is located in Lukavica, will create necessary conditions for the implementation of the Law on Stay and Movement of Aliens and Asylum, which was not possible due to non-existence of the centre where illegal immigrants would be detained until their voluntary return or forced removal to their countries of origin or habitual residence. The Ministry of Security has besides other activities, submitted the required project documentation to the Delegation of European Commission which allocated EUR 1 million from the 2006 CARDS funds for the continuation of construction and establishment of the Immigration Centre. Through the mentioned project, whose implementation will begin in 2007, the existing Centre will be significantly extended and enhanced so that it meets the required level of conditions in accordance with the EU standards.

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH, in cooperation with the NGO La Strada BiH, organised a training seminar entitled "Investigating Human Trafficking without Relying on Victims: a multi-agency training programme", which was held in Sarajevo, in the period 8 - 26 May 2006. The aim of the course is building capacities of professionals involved in the fight against human trafficking and strengthening the cooperation between the main actors. Its main objective is to improve the quality of investigations and to increase the successful prosecution of traffickers in human beings.

<sup>7</sup> Despite their making enquiries about services required for repatriation and giving the information to IOM offices in countries where the victims come from, they do not provide staff in non-governmental organisations or victims with the information about the assistance that will be available upon their return to the country of origin. The victims receive only basic information about travel arrangements on the day of departure or a day before.

The main beneficiaries of the training were entity prosecutors, police officers, trainers from the police academies and a representative of the non-governmental sector. The training program, a first of this kind conducted in BiH, was prepared by OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit. It was organised as a two week simulation of a multi - agency investigation (for 18 participants) followed by a one week "train the trainers" module (for 13 participants). Efforts by BiH police in fighting human trafficking in recent years have been commendable. However, as victims do not often volunteer to provide information to the police, due to, most frequently, fear of reprisal, there is a need to use alternative investigation methods, sufficient to convict traffickers, which do not rely on compelling the victims to testify before the courts. This training is new in its substance and composition, utilising methodology which departs from traditional training methods. Participants had an opportunity to learn by doing, i.e. establishing a multi-agency team, simulating an investigation in real time, using their own skills, knowledge, equipment and the existing legislation in solving a hypothetical case. As part of the two-week long training in conducting a multi-agency investigation into THB, representatives from law enforcement agencies had an opportunity to familiarize themselves with modern education methodologies and to identify gaps in the specialised skills courses offered by their institutions. During an additional week of training 13 police officers were successfully trained on the student centred learning methodology as part of the Train the Trainers course.

As part of coordinated efforts in combating trafficking in human beings, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUPM and La Strada NGO organised three seminars titled "Application of International Mechanisms in Prosecution of Trafficking Cases", which were held in Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Mostar in the period between 13 and 15. September 2006. These seminars were conducted in cooperation with the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH with the objective to strengthen capacities for prosecution of human trafficking cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Therefore, prosecutors from all over BiH gathered to receive relevant and useful information related to the use of international mechanisms in combating organised trafficking in human beings. The goal of the seminars was to provide the BiH prosecutors with a better understanding of instruments of international co-operation and by doing so increase the effectiveness of prosecution of human trafficking cases. The Liaison Officer from Bosnia and Herzegovina presented possibilities of the South East European Cooperation Initiative (hereafter: SECI) Centre and information about specific anti-trafficking cases, thereby encouraging the prosecutors to use this centre to its full capacity. These seminars were implemented due to efforts and involvement of the members of Strike Group, especially prosecutors of the Federal Prosecutor's Office of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Public Prosecutor's Office of Brčko District. The seminars placed special emphasis on the aspect of international cooperation as an essential requirement for successful combating trafficking in human beings. In that context, a significant contribution was given by the Liaison Officer of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the SECI Centre, which resulted in specific activities in conducting investigations of international character. At the begging of 2006, for the second time in a case of trafficking in human beings that the opportunity of cooperation with the SECI Centre was used, when a Romanian girl gave testimony before the Court in Gradačac.

The training – fifth in the series of seven pilot trainings in the Western Balkan project areas – was held from May 8-12, 2006 at the Vraca Police Academy in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in the framework of EC CARDS Regional Police Project (CARPO). It was co-hosted by the Director and Deputy Director of the Academy together with the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The training was organised in close cooperation with IOM Sarajevo Office, dealing with two separate topics: trafficking in human beings and smuggling of persons. Trainers in both training courses emphasised their objectives to achieve the enhancement of participants' skills in investigative procedures to combat illegal migration and trafficking, focusing in particular on gathering intelligence and evidence. As part of the course on Combating Trafficking in Persons, best practices in interviewing trafficked persons who may become witnesses were also highlighted. The course on Combating Illegal Migration and Smuggling of Migrants was to enhance participants' skills concerning evidence gathering, which they achieved also with the help of two prominent prosecutors who attended the training as guest lecturers.

State Coordinator for Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in cooperation with Save The Children Norway SEE Regional Office, started with realisation of activities under frame-

work «Regional program for suppression of trafficking in children in BiH» in January 2006. It is a regional project which will, beside BiH, be simultaneously implemented in Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, Romania and Bulgaria. Funding for this project is provided by Save the Children Office in Albania. The idea for a regional approach to the problem of trafficking in children, since it is in fact a regional and cross-border problem, arose from activists of Save the Children Alliance in the region, who initiated at the national level, implementation of specific activities in cooperation with local governmental and non - governmental organisations. Consequently, the cooperation with the Office of the State Coordinator resulted in drafting of two documents which are today essential in terms of prevention of trafficking in children as well as in terms of protection of rights of victims. These two documents are »Overview and analysis of a state mechanism with the aim to prevent trafficking in human beings in BiH-Trafficking in Children for the purpose of exploitation» and «Overview of activities of the relevant institutions for protection of children, victims of trafficking—the Referral mechanism». Members of the State group for combating trafficking in human beings, Subgroup for combating trafficking in children and external experts, took part in the drafting of both of these documents. The document »Overview and analysis of a state mechanism with the aim to prevent trafficking in human beings in BiH- Trafficking in Children for the purpose of exploitation» lists all existing services which deal with trafficking in children, identifies shortcomings and problems as well as recommendations for improvement of the system with the aim of better and more efficient protection from trafficking for children falling into high risk groups. The other document, «Overview of activities of the relevant institutions for protection of children, victims of trafficking—the Referral mechanism» lists and identifies problems and shortcomings of institutions in regards to protection of children's rights. Findings of both documents indicate a series of activities which need to be undertaken in BiH both in prevention and protection areas. One of the key findings is a need for capacity building of professionals who on a daily basis face potential or actual victims of trafficking. That is why in the framework of the mentioned cooperation, the work on drafting a manual for professionals (social workers, police officers, SBS, health care officials, judiciary and prosecutors) in regards to the problem of trafficking in children, children's rights, protection of children, and mechanism for identification. In 2006, preparation of six training sessions for social workers, health workers and police started, which would be held in the period between July 2006 and March 2007 in the both entities and Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a with the goal of strengthening capacities in order to efficiently and actively encompass all risk groups of children so that their rights are respected and that they are afforded the necessary service and standards of care as guaranteed by these rights. The first training session was held in Neum in mid-July, the second in September in Banja Luka, in Tuzla and in December in Zenica in November. Each of these sessions was attended by approximately the same number of participants: 14 social workers, 3 health workers and three police officers. The two remaining trainings will be held in February 2007 in Brčko District and Sarajevo.

In the period between 4 - 6 May 2006 the final seminar of the project 'Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacities for Fighting Human Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe' took place in Bucharest. The project, financially supported by the Dutch and Swiss governments, was jointly implemented by ICMPD and UNDP Romania. The final seminar was attended by national delegations comprising representatives of police forces, police training institutes, prosecutor's offices and NGOs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and the UN administered territory of Kosovo. During the seminar participants finalised anti-trafficking training manual that was developed within the project. Furthermore, they used the opportunity to exchange experiences on sustainable anti-trafficking training and to discuss efficient law enforcement cooperation at the regional level.

Within the project «Trafficking in Persons: Prevention and Protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina», which was implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) with funds granted by USAID, the Training Board, in whose work Thematic Group for Prevention and Economic Empowerment participates, was established on 29 November 2006. The activities of the Board are implemented with the aim to coordinate different types of training in order to avoid overlapping and promote accountability of local partners. The work of the Training Committee is also oriented towards sustainability and effectiveness of results of combating trafficking in human beings. For that purpose, the Training Committee consists of representatives of authorities, non-governmental sector, faculties and international organisations. Members of the Training Committee jointly plan the content and im-

plementation of training curriculum about trafficking in human beings, whose aim is training of a number of individuals from targeted groups so that they, after successfully completing the training, can become trainers in combating trafficking in human beings. The targeted groups are judges, prosecutors, labour inspectors, health workers, educators/pedagogues and social workers and staff working in the safe houses and all other institutions involved in combating trafficking in human beings.

# Mobilisation of resources

The implementation of activities in 2006 were made possible through funds secured from the Budget of Joint Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina from extra budgetary fund for the State Coordinator for Combating Human Beings and Illegal Migration to the amount of 100,000 BAM for the work of State Group. Through the State Budget, from the budget of the Ministry of Security funds to the amount of 100,000 BAM were also secured for support to non-governmental organisations which provide direct assistance to victims of trafficking staying in the safe houses.

Support in organisation of the seminars, training and other activities set forth in the Operational plan was also provided by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) through donation of USAID, Save the Children Norway, OSCE and La Strada. Besides financial resources, the OSCE provided funds for employment of an adviser to the State Coordinator. Save the Children Norway, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and ICMPD also provided funds for professional associates from their organisation working in the Office of State Coordinator who are in charge for the implementation of joint projects.

#### **III Prevention**

## Awareness raising about human trafficking

In September 2006 a survey was conducted within the first part of the information campaign "Prevention and Awareness Raising Campaign about Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (PARC II), financially supported by USAID and implemented by International Organisation for Migration (IOM), with a view to identify the level of awareness about trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in order to prepare the information campaign in the most efficient manner. In total, 1734 persons were interviewed and divided into three age groups – women between 16-36 years of age, men between 23-46 years of age and men between 16-22 years of age with the following results:

- 98, 8% of the interviewees were exposed to information about trafficking in human beings and 71, 1% believed it was a serious problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Only 13% believed that trafficking in human beings was going on in their vicinity, which could be an indicator that the information available to them was not sufficient to enable them to identify a case of trafficking in human beings.
- 74% of the interviewees would accept a job offered by a relative without detailed inquiries about the job, which was an indicator of the need for more information that about traffickers who use relatives and friends to lure potential victims.
- 36% of the interviewees 15% men between 23-46 years old; 47% women between 16-36 years old and 55% men between 16-22 years old would ask for their parents' opinion if they had a chance of taking a job abroad, if they were not sure that the offer was legitimate; which indicated the importance of development of specific strategies for men and women between 40–55 years old, as that age group could be considered as potential parents of the interviewed persons.

Following the results of survey, informational and educational materials (brochures, posters, and diaries), newspaper announcements and production of TV clips and radio jingles for the information campaign PARC II, which was conducted by way of two strategies, were prepared. One strategy is focussed on awareness raising about trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina amongst the young people through the educational system and the second strategy is directed at the most efficient training of the particularly vulnerable group of unemployed young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who wish to improve their standard of living by looking for jobs abroad.

Within the project "Trafficking in Human Beings: Prevention and Protection" funded by USAID, on 11 December 2006 the International Organization for Migrations (IOM) launched the first stage of the second part of information campaign "Public Awareness Raising Campaign about Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (PARC II). This stage involves printing materials (illustrated brochures for children and the youth in primary and secondary schools, students, posters with the slogan "DO NOT TRADE YOUR LIFE", diaries, mobile phone chains), broadcasting of the slogan on the radio, TV and in the press. All materials designed and produced for this campaign were presented with a focus on two groups that had approved them. All informational and educational materials were distributed to non-governmental partners to use them during workshops for men, students of primary and secondary schools, their parents, staff and vulnerable groups such as Roma. Since then, 559 individuals have been sensitized through these workshops throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, 31 psycho-social workshops were held to empower young people without parental care which encompassed 232 individuals.

The efficiency of the public awareness campaign in Bosnia and Herzegovina can also be assessed on the basis of the SOS telephone as the number of received telephone calls increased significantly, by 37 % in the month while the campaign was broadcasted on the radio and TV. In 2006 on SOS line 904 individuals received information about trafficking in human beings and some kind of assistance was

provided to 71 potential trafficked victims in accordance with their needs.<sup>8</sup> The assistance in these cases might include psychological assistance or counselling to victims, not necessarily staying in safe houses.

Taking into account the continuous increase in local and primarily minor victims of trafficking in human beings, the approval from all the relevant ministries of education and pedagogical institutes to include a thematic unit about human trafficking in the curricula of primary and secondary education a great progress was achieved in the area of prevention. The printing of the manual for teachers and pedagogues in 4500 copies in the three official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the beginning of 2007 and their subsequent distribution are planned in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Discussion of the phenomenon on the basis of a uniform textbook during lessons on general education in primary and secondary schools with the beginning of the academic year for 2007/2008 will ensure awareness raising of the youth and thereby the prevention in a uniform fashion throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following finalisation of the teacher's manual, the plan is to produce students' manual which would to a great extent be brought in line with the teacher's manual.

As a member of the Steering Committee on the Project against Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (PATS), the State Coordinator supports NGO Foundation BiH Women's Initiative (BHWI) in the work with asylum seekers who stay in asylum centres as a particularly vulnerable group of potential victims of trafficking in human beings. The Project has been implemented in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2004. Only in the period between February and September 2006, PATS implementing agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina held 103 informative sessions, 46% with women and 54% with men. It is indicative that out of the total number of sessions in the three countries of the Region, 51% asylum seekers were not aware of terms trafficking in human beings and gender-based violence.

With a view to establishing a school network to exchange experience; implementing capacity building trans-national workshops; producing supplementary materials to be used in schools a pilot counter trafficking regional educational projected was implemented in partnership with Lara in Bijelina and Women BiH in Mostar. The methodology to educate vulnerable groups that for different reasons do not attend schools, more precisely Roma living in Bijeljina area and refugees living in the refugee camp Salakovac were developed and tested. An evaluation survey was implemented in all participating schools around the region and a Best Practices Manual was finalised and published in September.

In the area of prevention of trafficking in people and public awareness raising in general, the NGOs play a very important role. In 2006 NGOs implemented a great number of projects and trainings which are elaborated in more detail in the Annex III of this report.

#### Economical Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups

The capacities relevant institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina for economic empowerment of the vulnerable groups remain very limited and modest due to the unstable political and economic situation and a great proportion of people in need of social assistance.

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<sup>8</sup> This information was provided by IOM, which covers the costs of the free SOS line.

#### **IV Protection of Victims and Witnesses**

# Drafting and Adoption of the Rules for Protection of Victims and Victim Witnesses of Trafficking in Human Brings Who Are Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The number of local victims of trafficking has been increasing and requires an efficient referral system for victims who are nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2006 the thematic group for protection of victims and victim-witnesses worked on drafting of the text of "The Rules for Protection of Victims and Victim Witnesses of Trafficking in Human Brings Who Are Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina", which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina for adoption after consultations with the relevant ministries of entities, cantons and Brčko District.

The Rules envisage a multi-sectoral approach and the possibilities of rehabilitation and reintegration of victims through the protocols of cooperation with the NGOs. They emphasise the need to secure financial resources through a specialised state fund for reintegration programme of national victims since the major problem in protection of female victims of trafficking is related to the lack of funds for the implementation of reintegration programmes.

#### Monitoring of Trafficking in Children

The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees as part of its regular activities, undertakes measures for a better and more efficient protection of individual rights of various population groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina such as people with disabilities, families of missing people, war victims, displaced persons and refugees, members of minorities, old and poor people and especially children and women victims of various forms of violence who are most often the victims of trafficking. The Ministry has competence to provide protection only in those cases where the protection is sought by individuals, groups, NGOs or competent institutions.

With regards to intensified protection of children, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees was actively involved in cases where the centres of social welfare sought professional assistance and in those situations when such protection was sought by individuals in person or through a legal representative.

On the basis of assistance provided and monitoring of the cases while working on them, the Department for Protection of Human Rights identified forms and manners of exploitation of children that were mainly connected to under-age marriages and child adoption.

Several cases, at least three, involved suspicious adoption of children that were born out of wedlock, with subsequent paternity confirmation and attempt to mistreat the girls. Apart from these cases, cases of abuse of children with disabilities by close relatives or foster families were also reported. It was established that in most cases, at least five cases which involve Roma, all reported individuals were girls between 14-17 years old and were related arranged marriages that were only common law marriages in reality since centres for social welfare did not play a role of intermediary,

# Involvement of the Council for Children of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Protection of Children from Trafficking

The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, and the Council for Children of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is administratively and technically supported by Human Rights Department of the Ministry, undertook a number of activities relevant to protection of children which in the first instance focused on creation of the necessary legal framework and better interaction between appropriate structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the aim to prevent all kinds of violence against children and implement measures for awareness raising and education, to take care and provide assistance to children and to raising of funds and operational resources for the implementation of plans and programmes for improvement of child protection from violence in every day life.

The basis for implementation of these activities is the 2002 – 2010 Action Plan for Children of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2002 when the Council for Children of Bosnia and Herzegovina was established with the mandate to monitor the implementation of the Plan, the Conventions and the Protocols, and especially to coordinate the work of the key actors in charge of the child protection. This plan contains special measures directed towards prevention of violence against children, including measures for prevention of trafficking in children.

The plans are implemented by a number of ministries with various portfolios and agencies such as police, social welfare authorities, courts, NGOs and international organisations, which in the last year realised several activities relevant to education of social workers, police and designated officers from other relevant ministries of entities and Brčko District.

It is very important to mention the 2007-2010 Strategy for Combating Violence against Children, which is aimed at reduction of all kinds of exposure of children to violence and includes measures for protection of children from trafficking in human beings. The priority concern about provision of welfare to children victims will be separately elaborated and drafting of documents which will complement the Rules on Protection of Victims and Victim Witnesses of Trafficking in Human Beings of Bosnia and Herzegovina Nationals is envisaged.

The Council for Children established, within the Working Group for Protection of Children, an initial mechanism for monitoring the cases of children who were victims of violence with the intention to harmonise its work with that of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in People and Illegal Immigration.

As a result of adoption of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and the Family Laws in entities in pursuance of Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Protocols the standard of child protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina has improved. It should be stressed that standards for treatment of child victim are still inadequate and imprecise to guarantee effective protection of children from violence and thereby from trafficking in human beings and other kinds of exploitation, so it is necessary to further develop the legislative framework, the laws governing health care and social welfare of child victims in particular, where the provisions respecting rights of children identified as victims of any violence and especially of trafficking should be amended.

Accordingly, the Council for Children of Bosnia and Herzegovina developed a model for connecting of activities through establishing of thematic working groups (the Working Group for Protection of Children) with the aim to plan and implement measures aimed at protection of children exposed to violence or risks of trafficking.

As part of the presented activities the goal is that all relevant ministries and agencies adopt policies and procedures for information exchange and networking of agencies and individuals dealing with child victims so that an effective continuation of care and protection is ensured.

#### Protection of Women and Elimination of Discrimination against Women

A number of activities in respect of education and awareness raising of civil servants at state and entity level and networking of the agencies are being carried out continuously with a view to further developing cooperation and improving coordination on issues of gender discrimination related issues.

All these activities helped to establish a network of Gender focal points from state and entity ministries whose duty is collection of data and information in relation to the implementation of the Convention and Protocol on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Gender Equality Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina and development of plans and programmes of the implementation, which must include suppression of violence against women.

The Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina continuously undertakes actions that are aimed at prevention and protection of BiH women and girls – victims of trafficking and prevention of other kinds of violence against women by organising trainings, workshops and joint meetings so that all actions can include Gender approach and a great number of women experts.

Through the mentioned activities continuous cooperation is established with national and international organisations through direct participation in conferences and seminars with a view to presenting actions taken and promoting programmes and plans to be implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to improve protection of children and women in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is important to note that, in the treaty reports Bosnia and Herzegovina prepares, a separate section gives and analyses the information related to combating trafficking in human beings, which results in inclusion of information gathered by the Office of the State Coordinator in other state reports prepared by governmental and non-governmental organisation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### **Risk Groups**

Working with women of Roma nationality is a very complex activity. In the past period Roma women were motivated so that they are now themselves preparing a workshop on trafficking in human beings. Within the State Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Roma Population that is being implemented since 2005, a group of Roma women was established who are attempting to position themselves as an equal partner in better protection of Roma women who are often at risk of trafficking on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These activities have to be better supported in future as the resources available are not sufficient.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina people with disabilities were also identified as victims of trafficking. The state strategy for the improvement of the position of people with disabilities is being designed at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina and entities. Within these activities a separate segment will be the measures for effective protection of people with disabilities. The current protection is not adequate as there are no specialised institutions/organisations to provide adequate protection of these persons. The rehabilitation programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina are not adapted to the needs of these persons so their protection is being provided within the existing shelters for victims of trafficking in human beings.

#### **Working Group for Direct Assistance to Trafficking Victims**

A Direct Intervention Working Group was created under the USAID funded IOM project "Trafficking in Human Beings: Prevention and Protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina", whose primary goal was discussion about assistance to victims of trafficking and assistance to vulnerable groups. The working group for direct intervention includes partners in the implementation of projects that provide direct assistance to victims of trafficking (shelters, food, clothing, accommodation, medical care etc.). These non-governmental organisations are: Lara, Medica, Žena BiH, La Strada, Altius, Budućnost, Žene za Žene International, Fondacija lokalne demokratije, Međunarodni Forum Solidarnosti and Vaša Prava of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Centre for Free Access of Information as associated member.

Among the topics which affect the implementation of the programme, the working group also discussed the sustainability of the referral system, sustainable process of reintegration which should become more efficient, communication and cooperation of state institutions and NGOs involved in combating trafficking in human beings and direct assistance.

Even though still in development phase, the working group has achieved significant results which inter alia include lobbying towards the Office of the State Coordinator with the aim of espousing the views of the NGO sector in the process of drafting of the Rules for the Protection of Local Victims and Victim Witnesses of Human Trafficking Who Are Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Protocol between non-governmental organisations is another important initiative of the working group for direct intervention. The working group recognised the need and initiated drafting and signing of a joint NGO

Protocol on cooperation of organisations involved in direct assistance to victims of trafficking. The working group perceives the document as a guide to promote and regulate partnership, cooperation and channels of communication, prompting efficiency and sustainability. The core working group that is mandated with preparing working version of the Protocol was appointed among the working group members.

#### The International Mechanism of Protection of Trafficked Victims

Since majority of trafficking cases are of transborder character and require international cooperation and joint actions of governmental and non-governmental actors, there is a need to establish, besides the referral mechanism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a transnational mechanism of assistance and support of victims of trafficking. The international cooperation is primarily concerned with provision of security measures for both victims and their families, or persons close to them, in countries of origin, risk assessment before return, adequate and sustainable return, reintegration and support while moving from one country to another and transfer of victim-witnesses to courts outside the country where they live or using video recordings of testimonies instead. Since October 2006 Bosnia and Herzegovina has been participating in the Programme to Support the Development of Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM)/transnational mechanism of referral of trafficked victims in South-East Europe).

Thus, the direct goals of TRM Programme, which will be designed, tested and approved by the countries of South-East Europe on the basis of best practices and identified needs of victims, are development of mechanisms necessary for a comprehensive transnational/interstate support to victims and institutionalised cooperation of beneficiary actors and states in solving cases of international trafficking in human beings. TRM will be designed, tested and approved by the countries that will use best practices and identify needs of victims of trafficking in human beings with due respect to data protection and privacy regulations.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Other participating countries are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and UN Administrated Territory of Vocava

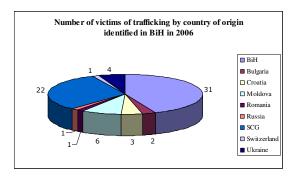
<sup>10</sup> The leading implementing agency of the Programme, which is funded by USAID, is ICMPD with partners: ACTA, MARRI and Ministry of the Interior of Bulgaria. More information about this project can be found in chapter Criminal Prosecution and International Cooperation.

#### V A General Overview of the Situation and Statistical Indicators about Victims of Trafficking

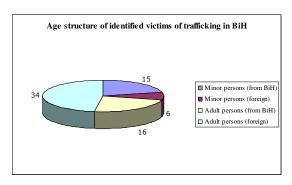
In regards to the number of victims of human trafficking in the shelters in 2006, NGOs assisted 83 persons. Out of this number 7 were children, who accompanied their mothers, and 20 were victims identified and housed in safe houses in the previous years. Thus, the number of assisted victims by NGOs who were identified in 2006 was 56. 11

On the basis of analysis of the data collected by the police, it was ascertained that 42 victims of trafficking in human beings were identified and 52 victims were processed (10 processed victims were identified in the previous years). Out of 42 victims, 15 did not stay in safe houses as they were assisted by centres of social welfare or returned to their families. The remaining 27 victims were assisted in the safe houses.

From the above it can be deduced that in 2006, 71 victims of trafficking in human beings were identified; 31 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 22 from Serbia and Montenegro, 6 from Moldova, 4 from Ukraine, 3 from Croatia, 2 from Bulgaria and one person from Switzerland, Russia and Romania each, as shown in the following chart. Only one person is a male, who is also a minor, from Serbia and Montenegro.



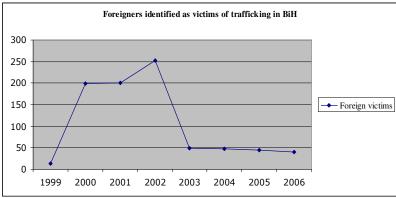
The following chart shows the age structure of victims of trafficking in human beings identified in 2006:

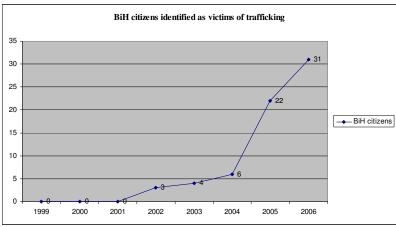


The following three graphs show the total number of identified victims of trafficking in human beings in the period between 1999-2006 and data about the foreign and local victims of trafficking in human beings:

<sup>11</sup> Thanks to the funds of SIDA and USAID, in 2006 IOM in cooperation with non-governmental partners provided assistance to 55 victims of trafficking while in the shelters/safe houses (food, clothing, toilet articles), health assistance (general medical care, psychological help, hospital treatment and medicines), legal counselling and aid, assistance in returning (getting travel documents, help before departure) and assistance in reintegration (development of individual plans of reintegration and financial assistance). 25 of assisted victims of trafficking were returned to the country of origin, 1 was resettled in another country and 29 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina were locally reintegrated.







#### **VI Criminal Prosecution and International Cooperation**

#### **Criminal Prosecution**

#### **Smuggling of Illegal Migrants**

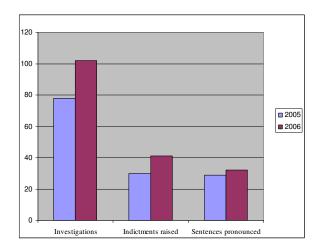
According to the data provided by law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices, during 2006, 63 reports on smuggling of migrants under article 189 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina were filed against 126 individuals. In one case a report was filed for smuggling of migrants in connection with article 250 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina (organised crime).

In 2006 prosecutor's offices conducted 102 investigations in regards to smuggling of persons, with 57 investigations being continued from the previous period and 45 new investigations being ordered.

In the reporting period prosecutors called off 3 investigations and terminated 5 investigations. In the Out of 41 indictments were filed and 39 ones were confirmed and 2 ones were rejected.

The courts pronounced 32 convictions against 35 individuals. On the basis of plea bargaining agreements 21 individuals pleaded guilty out of which 12 received suspended while 9 received prison sentences. Without plea bargain agreements 13 defendants were found guilty: 10 of them received suspended while 3 received prison sentences. One defendant was acquitted.

The following chart shows the ratio between investigations, indictments raised and decisions for smuggling of migrants in 2005 and 2006:



### **Trafficking in Human Beings**

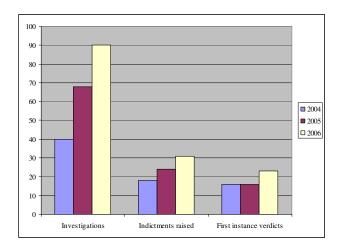
According to the data provided by law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices for 2006, 34 reports on trafficking in human beings and related crimes were filed against 77 individuals. In two cases a report was filed for trafficking in human beings in connection with article 250 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina (organised crime).

According to police reports the number of identified victims of trafficking in human beings in 2005 was 54, and in 2006 it was 42. At the same time it is seen that in 2006 there were more investigations - 90 (42 new and 48 pending from the earlier period) which makes an increase in comparison with 2005 when there were 68 investigations in total (37 started in 2005 and 31 pending from 2004). Fourteen investigations were called off and 13 investigations were terminated.

In 2006, 31 indictments were raised and the courts confirmed 33 (two indictments that were raised in 2005 were confirmed in 2006), while in 2005, 24 indictments were raised and courts confirmed 26

indictments. The courts issued first instance decisions against 30 individuals; out of which 23 were convictions. On the basis of plea bargaining agreements, 10 individuals pleaded guilty which resulted in 1 suspended sentence, 2 fines and 7 prison sentences. Without plea bargain agreements, 13 defendants were found guilty: 2 received suspended sentence and 11 prison terms; 3 indictments were rejected and 4 defendants were acquitted. 12 appeals were lodged against first instance decisions.

The following chart shows the ratio between investigations, indictments raised and first instance decisions for trafficking in human beings and related crimes:



Judging by the number of received prison sentences in comparison to number of fines and suspended sentences it can be concluded that the penal policy has become stricter. So on the basis of plea bargain agreements, 7 individuals received prison sentences while without pleas bargain agreement 11 individuals received prison sentences. Only 2 defendants received fine punishment as part of the plea bargain agreement. In comparison to the total number of convicted individuals in cases of 3 persons, the cases were rejected and 4 defendants were acquitted. In 2006, 23 appeals were filed against first instance decisions: prosecutor filed appeals against 12 individuals and 11 appeals were lodged by defendants themselves. Deciding on appeals, the appellate court issued 17 final and binding decisions altogether: 10 defendants received prison sentences and 2 received suspended sentences. One individual was fined, in cases of 3 individuals the cases were rejected and 1 defendant was acquitted. Nine convicted persons started serving their prison term while 8 individuals with final and binding decisions are awaiting serving of the prison term.

The following chart shows the structure and the ratio of crimes of trafficking in human beings and related crimes in 2005 and 2006:

Criminal offence	Number ported confences		Number reported viduals		Number tims	of vic-
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Establishment of slavery and						
transport of slaves	-	2	-	2	-	1
Article 185 of Bosnia and						
Herzegovina CC						
Trafficking in persons	1.5	17 <sup>12</sup>	25	4.5	27	22
Article 186 of Bosnia and	15	17/2	35	45	27	23
Herzegovina CC						
International Procuring in Prostitution		3		9		3
Article 187 of Bosnia and	-	3	-	9	-	3
Herzegovina CC						
Unlawful Withholding of						
Identity Papers	3	2	3	6	3	5
Article 188 of Bosnia and	3	2	3	O		3
Herzegovina CC						
Enticing into Prostitution						
Article 210 of the Federation	10	8	10	13	14	8
of Bosnia and Herzegovina						
CC						
Trafficking in Human Beings						
for the Purpose of Prostitution	6	1	8	1	6	2
Article 198 of Republika						
Srpska CC						
Enticing into Prostitution						
Article 207 of Brčko District	1	1	2	1	3	1
of BiH CC						
Abuse of a Child or a Minor						
for Pornographic Purposes	1	-	1	-	1	-
Article 208 of Brčko District						
of BiH CC	2.5	2:				4-
TOTAL	36	34	59	77	54	43

### The work of the Strike Force for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Through its appointed members and their material or territorial competencies, the Strike Force for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings monitored, gathered and exchanged information with the relevant state agencies involved in combating trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, except for the information whose release would harm the investigation or jeopardise security of the trafficking victim.<sup>13</sup>

During regular, monthly meetings the members of the Strike Force present general observations about trafficking in human beings and illegal migration in their areas of responsibility, exchange informa-

<sup>12</sup> Offenders are unknown in four cases.

<sup>13</sup> The Strike Group works under direct supervision of the Chief State Prosecutor of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who is the official Head of the Group. The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina established the Strike Force for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration (hereinafter: the Strike Force) with a view to establish and promote cooperation and coordination at the highest level between state and entity authorities and authorities of Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Amendments to the Decision on Establishment of Strike Force were passed on the 134th session of the Council of Ministers on 28 November 2006. The Strike Group consists of Bosnia and Herzegovina Prosecutor's Office, Federal Prosecutor's Office of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republican Public Prosecutor's Office of Brčko District, State Border Service of Bosnia and Herzegovina, State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Ministries of the Interior of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Taxation Authority of RS.

tion, adapt existing and agree on new methods of investigation, and work on other issues related to more successful work and achievement of better efficiency in detecting, preventing and punishing criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

In 2006 the Strike Force participated in investigation of 48 cases of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, using the methods of establishing operational investigating teams that participated in planned actions in regards to investigation of individual cases of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

Through monitoring changing forms of trafficking in human beings the earlier suspected trend was confirmed that trafficking takes place in private apartments by the use of taxi services and fake marriages and that child begging and abuse of children for pornography are on the increase. In relation to this, need has arisen for additional activities on identification of these crimes, offenders and victims of trafficking, amongst whom there are increasingly BiH victims.

With regards to the status of victims of trafficking, the Strike Force established a successful cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina – namely Immigration Department. In specific cases the relevant prosecutor gives recommendations or proposal that a victim of trafficking should be granted temporary stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina for humanitarian reasons and monitors the procedure and outcome of the proceedings and informs the Strike Force. In 2006, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Immigration Department granted temporary stay for eleven victims of trafficking.

The cooperation with NGOs was improved through direct cooperation in individual cases. The best example to illustrate this, is the action carried out in Central Bosnia Canton, when all potential victims of trafficking were assisted by NGOs "Lara" from Bijeljina and "La Strada" from Mostar, following successful raids made in three night clubs, which helped to regulate the status of the victims of trafficking and subsequently to efficiently conduct and conclude the criminal proceedings.

On the basis of the indicators shown above, in 2006 great significant efforts were made to detect and prosecute criminal offences involving trafficking in people and illegal immigration, which led to prosecution of a few very important and complex cases, some of which have been already concluded and offenders have received prison sentences. With the start of prison terms, the cycle of trafficking was in human beings and illegal immigration was broken; due in large part to the efforts of the Strike Force.

## **International Cooperation**

In the area of international cooperation in combating trafficking in human beings, in 2006 the law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to actively cooperate with relevant services of other countries trough the existing channels of international cooperation, first of all INTERPOL and SECI Centre and through the use of bilateral agreements on police cooperation. At the same time, throughout the year the relevant institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina actively worked on creation of additional instruments for international police cooperation by concluding multilateral and bilateral agreements on police cooperation and readmission.

In May 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Police Cooperation Convention for South-East Europe. After the ratification and effective date of the Convention in the countries of South-East Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania, Romania and Moldova) the legal framework will be established to enable law enforcement agencies to have fast and effective cooperation in information exchange, exchange of liaison officers, establishment of joint investigative teams and conducting of joint investigations through application of special investigative measures such as surveillance and controlled delivery and other special investigative measures, in cases of witness protection programmes and other types of cooperation, which will inevitably have a great impact on effective investigations of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration. The procedure of ratification by BiH institutions of the Convention is under way.

In 2006, the relevant institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina finished the procedure under the Law on Conclusion and Enforcement of International Agreements Necessary for Signing of the Strategic Cooperation Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUROPOL. The ceremony of signing of the agreement is scheduled for late January 2007 and after its entry into force the legal framework will be established to enable active cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUROPOL at the level of strategic and technical information, which certainly includes trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

In late 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina started negotiations on the Agreement between European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina on readmission of individuals who are residing illegally. This agreement would create a legal framework for readmission of individuals who reside illegally in all countries of European Union except for Denmark, Great Britain and Ireland.

In 2006 the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated activities for conclusion of agreements on police cooperation and agreement on readmission with countries of the Region and beyond. A significant number of countries accepted the initiative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, so activities to conclude the agreements commenced. Having in mind the direct relation to trafficking in human beings and illegal migrations, they are also discussed in Chapter II of this report – Legal and Regulatory Framework. In 2006 the following agreements were signed:

- 1. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Greece on cooperation in the fight against crime, especially terrorism, illegal drug trade and organised crime
- 2. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria on police cooperation
- 3. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovakia on cooperation in the fight against crime, especially terrorism, illegal trade in narcotics and organised crime
- 4. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Greece on readmission of persons residing illegally on their territory
- 5. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria on readmission of persons who are residing illegally
- 6. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovakia on readmission of persons who are residing illegally
- 7. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bulgaria on repatriation of their nationals and foreigners who are residing illegally
- 8. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Romania on readmission of their nationals and foreigners
- 9. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Benelux countries on admission of persons who are residing illegally
- 10. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Egypt on police cooperation
- 11. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia on admission of persons who are residing illegally
- 12. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia on police cooperation
- 13. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and France on readmission of persons who are residing illegally

In 2006 activities were initiated and carried out on conclusion of the following agreements:

- 1. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland on police cooperation in the fight against crime
- 2. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Romania on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, organised crime, illegal trade in narcotics, psycho tropical substances and precursors and other criminal activities
- 3. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, organised crime, illegal trade in narcotics, psycho tropical substances and precursors, illegal migration and other criminal offences
- 4. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Spain on cooperation in the fight against crime, especially terrorism and illegal trade

- 5. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova on cooperation in the fight against organised crime, illegal drug trade and psycho tropical substances, terrorism as well as other forms of serious crime
- 6. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Pakistan on cooperation in the fight against crime, especially terrorism, illegal drug trade and organised crime
- 7. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Saudi Arabia on police cooperation
- 8. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and France on police cooperation
- 9. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bulgaria on police cooperation
- 10. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia on police cooperation
- 11. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia on police cooperation (amendments to the existing Agreement)
- 12. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro on police cooperation
- 13. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania on police cooperation
- 14. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine on police cooperation
- 15. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Belgium on police cooperation
- 16. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Netherlands on police cooperation
- 17. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Denmark on police cooperation
- 18. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Norway on police cooperation
- 19. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sweden on police cooperation
- 20. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Tunis on police cooperation
- 21. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Morocco on police cooperation
- 22. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Algeria on police cooperation
- 23. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia on readmission of persons who are residing illegally on their territories
- 24. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Spain on readmission of persons who are residing illegally
- 25. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Finland on readmission of persons who are residing illegally
- 26. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey on readmission of their nationals and nationals of third countries who are residing illegally
- 27. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Latvia on readmission of persons who are residing illegally on territory of one of the parties to the Agreement
- 28. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Poland on readmission of persons who are residing illegally
- 29. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova on readmission of persons who are residing illegally
- 30. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Russian Federation on readmission
- 31. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Egypt on readmission
- 32. Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro on readmission.

In the period between 23 and 24 February 2006, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Office of State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migrations in Bosnia and Herzegovina organised in Sarajevo a conference on "Regional Cooperation between Prosecutors in The Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings", funded by USAID, King Baudouin Foundation of Belgium and Swiss Government. The conference was aimed at strengthening regional cooperation among prosecutors who prosecute trafficking in human beings, gathered prosecutors from West Balkans and wider, including Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Ukraine and Moldova. A set of recommendation was made about more efficient prosecuting of trafficking in human beings that would lead in turn to special agreements on prosecutorial cooperation between the countries:

1. With regard to inadmissibility of evidence in the country of the region where the criminal proceedings are conducted in accordance of the laws of the other country of the region, it is necessary to initiate regional agreement to be signed by governments in the region, which would stipulate the obligation of appropriate authorities to accept and recognise in their country's criminal procedure codes validity of evidence gathered in accordance of the laws of the other country in the region.

- 2. The ministries of justice of the countries of the region should issue instructions that stipulate urgent proceedings in cases of international legal assistance involving trafficking in human beings and establishment of contact teams or persons for urgent proceedings in the procedures of provision of international legal assistance and exchange of information between them.
- 3. It is necessary to strengthen national/state capacities in order to use the possibilities of internationally established regional institutions in an efficient manner and liaison officers to a greater extent in the embassies of EU countries.
- 4. Through appropriate institutions of the Council of Europe it is necessary to initiate establishment of a regional centre for combating trans-border organised crime which would besides the police forces also include prosecutors' offices from the Region.
- 5. The necessity of signing and ratifying the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and two additional Protocols (1959 and 2001) was emphasised.
- 6. With a view to fully implement the UN Convention Against Trans-national Organised Crime, adopting a regional programme would assist in harmonisation of relevant international documents and uniform standards for compensation of victims, their protection as well as protection of witnesses and other participants in the criminal proceedings against human traffickers and harmonisation of standards during the reflection period given to victims whose duration should be extended to 90 from the date of identification of the victim instead of the date of entrance of the victim in the country, which does not preclude setting uniform standards for situations when this deadline could be extended for the period of over 90 days.
- 7. With a view of ensuring comprehensive protection of victims of trafficking in human beings, it was unanimously recommended that free legal aid is provided to victims, that hearing of victims as a witness in criminal proceedings should be reduced to the minimum level, with active involvement of specialised doctors who could help as experts not only in proving consequences of criminal acts but also in psychological rehabilitation of the traumatised victims and that advanced technical equipment (video-link) should be used for giving testimonies whenever it is objectively needed and possible.
- 8. In order to enable victims of trafficking in human beings to exercise their right to compensation for damages it is necessary to take synchronised measures so that during the criminal proceedings against human traffickers the countries in the Region can ensure compensation for both physical and mental damages suffered by the victims. The countries in the Region should be more involved in ensuring resources in the state budgets for the realisation of victims' rights, in the sense of positive practice through the implementation the Italian Law on Aliens (article 18 allocation of resources from the state budget) especially for running of the safe houses so that it would not be funded exclusively or mainly from donations.
- 9. With regards to more efficient suppressions of trafficking in human beings it is recommended that uniform training curricula of all governmental institutions, judicial, police and other authorities who participate in combating trafficking in human beings be created and accountability of authorities be raised to the highest level.

In 2006 Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the international project "Ilareia", which was designed by the Ministry of Public Order of the Republic of Greece with the support of European Commission - General Directorate for Enlargement and Technical Support and Information Exchange Unit. The Project will be implemented through the implementation of the Action Plan for Police Cooperation in Transborder Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Apart from Greece and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project will include the following countries: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Croatia, Cyprus, Montenegro, Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary, Portugal, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey and Finland and the following international organisations: European Commission, EUROPOL, EUROJUST, FRONTEX and INTERPOL. The purpose of the project is to find out the model for advancement of trans-border police cooperation on bilateral and multilateral level. In order to achieve its purpose, methods and ways of strengthening trans-border cooperation in combating trafficking in human beings should be set forth for South-East Europe and wider region. Planned activities

within the project will *inter alia* include the establishment of standing expert network of countries beneficiaries; the implementation of joint operations and designing of joint campaigns; establishment of joint, *ad hoc*, investigative teams; operations of trans-border surveillance; use of under cover police officers; direct exchange of intelligence during joint campaigns; use of the network of police liaison officers; conducting joint detailed financial investigations; joint assessment of the phenomenon; conducting of joint exercises and training of staff involved in operational issues in the fight against trafficking in human beings. A particular activity within the Project will be the establishment of the Strike Force of Chiefs-of-Police from South-East Europe that will meet twice a year with a view to strengthening cooperation in operational planning at regional level and coordination of law enforcement agencies in combating organised crime, trafficking in human beings, drugs and weapons and terrorism.

In 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the international project "Hera" – Network for Combating Human Trafficking in Central and Southern Europe, implemented by the Centre for European Public Law of Athens with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece. Apart from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project will include the following countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Greece and Ukraine. The goal of the project approximation of legislative and institutional frameworks in the selected countries with the legal standards of European community in combating trafficking in human beings and development of cooperation among the administrative, judicial and prosecutorial institutions and law enforcement agencies of these countries in achieving the project goals. First, a study of trafficking in human beings in the participating countries will be made within the project to include the following: social dimensions of the phenomenon including causes and development; legislative and institutional framework with a special attention to prevention, protection of victims and prosecution; statistics; technical needs; and proposals for elimination of the phenomenon in each country.

In 2006, apart from Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the project of support to development of transnational referral mechanism in South-East Europe implemented by International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) with support of USAID. The goal of this project is development of mechanisms necessary for comprehensive transnational support to trafficking victims and institutionalisation of cooperation in transnational cases in South East Europe. In the medium term, the project should help in empowerment of trafficking victims in the process of starting an independent life and awareness raising on their rights and the role they may have in the criminal proceedings against traffickers. The long-term goal and comprehensive purpose of the project is to help in combating trafficking in human beings and reduce the phenomenon in South East Europe through development and implementation of Transnational Referral Mechanism.

In late 2006 the implementation of the project "Development of Communication System and Information Exchange on Illegal Migration in West Balkans" commenced. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement of the Republic of Hungary with support of European Commission under Aeneas programme. Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the project along with five other countries of the West Balkans. The main goal of the project is to help the six countries of Western Balkans in their efforts to improve the management of illegal migration and strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this matter. Besides that, the goal of the project is to support the establishment of effective and prevention policies in combating illegal migrations including trafficking in human beings and smuggling of persons through development of relevant legislation and best practices. The specific objective of the project is development of bilateral and multilateral systems and mechanisms of communication and information exchange between countries in the Region.

Following successful completion of the regional CARDS project "Harmonisation of Legislative, Regulatory and Institutional Framework Compatible with EU Visa, Migration and Asylum Standards", in 2006, the Swedish Migration Authority has received the support of the European Commission under Aeneas programme to continue activities in this area. Bosnia and Herzegovina decided to join the project along with five other countries of the Region, and participates in the extended project now called "Capacity Building of institutions in the fields of Asylum, Migrations and Visas". The goals of this project are: practical implementation of the acquis communautaire and best practices of EU countries

in visas, asylum and migrations and capacity building of national institutions and agencies for development of the platform for regional cooperation which was established through the CARDS projects.

#### VII Situation in the area of Migration

Migration situation was analysed through statistics and other indicators gathered by the Ministry of Security and its organisational units: Immigration Department, Asylum Department, State Border Service and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2006 **48.540.884** persons crossed the state border, 24.754.788 were registered as entering the country and 23.786.096 exiting the country. In comparison with 2005 it is a **decrease** by 331.936 persons or **0,68%** in the total number of crossings.

#### Refused Entry to Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2006, the number of entries refused to foreigners **increased** by 71 persons or **0,92%**. In total, **7.829** foreigners were denied entrance in pursuance of article 20 of the Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum in connection with article 11 of the Law, as they did not meet some of the following statutory requirements:

Not having valid travel document	4.365 persons or 55,75%,
Not having visa	1.934 persons or 24,70%
Giving false personal details	715 persons or 9,13%,
Not having means to support oneself	564 persons or 7,20%,
Not having work permit	236 persons or 3,01%,
Threat to national security	, ,
and expulsion	15 persons or 0.19%

Countries to whose nationals the entry was refused:

SUSMN <sup>14</sup>	1.904 persons or 24,31%	-	Brazil160 persons or 2,04%
R. Croatia	1.690 persons or 21,58%	-	Mexico133 persons or 1,70%
Slovenia	543 persons or 6,94%	-	Slovakia132 persons or 1,69%
Bulgaria	501 persons or 6,39%	-	Italy108 persons or 1,38%
Romania	496 persons or 6,34%	-	Argentina105 persons or 1,34%
Switzerland	450 persons or 5,74%	-	SUSMN /UNMIK99 persons or 1,26%
Turkey	343 persons or 4,38%	-	Albania90 persons or 1,15%
Macedonia	263 persons or 3,36%	-	Israel83 persons or 1,06% etc.

It is evident that almost half of the persons refused entry to Bosnia and Herzegovina (45,89%) come from the neighbouring countries: Serbia and Montenegro - 1.904 persons or 24,31%, and Croatia - 1.690 persons or 21,58%.

Further analysis revealed that reasons for denying entry vary according to citizenship; e.g. citizens of Slovenia and Switzerland were denied entrance due to not having travel documents, most probably because of the lack of knowledge, that unlike in Croatia they need a travel document to enter BiH. Citizens of Romania and Bulgaria were denied entry due to not having travel documents or visa. Citizens of the Republic of Croatia were mostly denied entry due to not having valid travel documents. Citizens of SUSMN were denied entrance due to various reasons such as not having valid travel documents, giving false personal details, for not having any means to support themselves or for not having work permit.

## Crossing Border at International Airports by Nationals of High Migration Risk Countries

The total number of people who in 2006 arrived to Bosnia and Herzegovina from high migration risk countries via international airports was 47.127, which makes an evident **increase** by 7.253 persons **or 18,19%** in comparison to 2005 (39.874).

<sup>14</sup> Citizenship of SUSMN (State Union of Serbia and Montenegro) is a category because teh country existed under that name in most reporting period and statisctics were kept accordingly.

In the reporting period 23.672 persons entered Bosnia and Herzegovina and 23.455 left the country, so that the difference between the two is **217** persons or **0,92%** of the total number of registered entries.

Countries from which these persons came from:

Turkey	entered – 14.219 persons,	left – 1	3.932 persons,	difference	+287 persons
India	entered – 346 persons,	left –	298 persons,	difference	+ 48 persons
Armenia	entered – 124 persons,	left -	100 persons,	difference	+ 24 persons.

It is important to note that when it comes to citizens of other countries the differences is insignificant or negative (more people left than entered the country) so the figures indicate that the international airports in Bosnia and Herzegovina generally are not being used as illegal migration channels.

#### **Visa Issued at Border Crossings**

At border crossings (there are 14 border crossings altogether) visa is issued in pursuance of Instructions, according to which the recommendation for visa is given by the Ministry of foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2006 **927** visas were issued, which was **less** by 1.122 visas or **54,75%** in comparison to 2005 when 2.049 visas were issued.

The number of visas issued at individual border crossings is as follows:

- Sarajevo Airport	542	- Pavlovića Most	31
- Gorica	108	- Gradiška	13
- Hum	74	- Mostar Airport	13
- Brod	49	- Karakaj	10
- Doljani	44	- B.Luka Airport	5
- Klobuk	33	- Orašje	5

Border crossings at Tuzla Airport and Izačić did not have any registered requests for visa in the reporting period.

Citizens of 62 countries were given visas at the border crossings. The greatest number of visas was issued to citizens of the following countries:

Albania174	- Moldova40
Romania146	- Armenia38
Mexico90	- Ukraine37
Kazakhstan57	- SUSMN/UMNIK33 etc.

Taking into account the nationalities of the persons to whom the visas were issued, it can be concluded that they were not potential illegal migrants.

From the analysis of the reasons for issuing the visas it is evident that most visas were given for various cultural and sports events held in Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the purpose of religious tourism. A continuous decrease in the number of visas issued at bolder crossings is required in the Strategy of Integrated Border Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The reduction in the number of visas issued at border crossings in the upcoming period will depend on the extension of diplomatic network abroad, which especially apply to Albania and Latin America countries, from where most tourists come for the purpose of religious tourism.

# <u>Deportations, Extraditions, Repatriations, Readmissions and Referral of People Pursuant to the Agreement with the Republic of Croatia</u>

#### Deported Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the reporting period SBS officers registered at border crossings **1.350** citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were deported to Bosnia and Herzegovina from Western European Countries and other countries on various grounds, which makes a decrease by **11,9%** (183 persons) in comparison to 2005,

when 1.533 citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina were deported. Out of the total, 737 persons were deported under police escort and 613 persons were deported without police escort.

The most common reasons for deportation of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina are:

- illegal stay and work in third countries 983 or 72,8 %
- committing of serious crimes (murders, rapes, thefts, frauds, prostitution) 106 or 7,9%
- abuse of illegal substances 27 or 2,00%
- other reasons 232 or 17,2 %

The citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina were deported from 21 countries:

- R. Croatia507 persons	- Austria63 persons
- Germany234 persons	- Switzerland 67 persons
- France107 persons	- Netherlands 52 persons
- Sweden89 persons	- Italy39 persons
- USA38 persons	- other countries154 persons

#### Foreigners Deported from Bosnia and Herzegovina

The number of foreign citizens who were deported from Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006 was **100**, which was an increase by about **66.66%** in comparison to 2005, when 60 persons were deported.

70 foreigners
17 foreigners
1 foreigner
1 foreigner
11 foreigners

Out of the total, 85 persons were deported under police escort and 15 persons were deported without police escort.

Foreigners deported from Bosnia and Herzegovina are citizens from the following 19 countries:

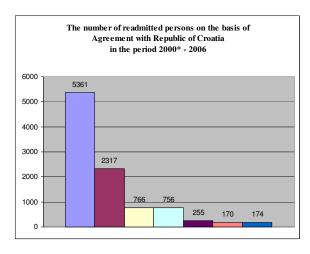
0 1		2	0
Albania	35 persons	- Kina	2 persons
SUSMN	21 persons	- Romania	4 persons
SUSMN /UNMIK	16 persons	- Slovenia	1 person
Croatia	8 persons	- Turkey	1 person
Macedonia	2 persons	- France	1 person
Tunis	1 person	- SMN and Croatia	1 person
Croatia and Macedonia	1 person	- Morocco	1 person
Moldova	1 person	- Great Britain	1 person
Ukraine	1 person	- Nigeria	1 person
Cameroon	1 person		

#### Readmission of persons Pursuant to the Agreement with the Republic of Croatia

In the reporting period, pursuant to the Agreement with the Republic of Croatia 363 persons were readmitted: 89 citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 174 foreign citizens due to illegal entry and stay in Croatia, whose territory was reached via Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The number of foreigners readmitted pursuant to the Agreement with the Republic Of Croatia (174) increased by 4 persons or 2,35% in comparison to 2005 (170 persons).

The following chart shows the number of foreign citizens readmitted pursuant to the Agreement with the Republic of Croatia in the period between 2000-2006:



<sup>\*</sup> The number of readmitted individuals (5361) in 2000, covers the period between 27 July and 31 December 2000.

The number of readmitted foreigners according to countries of nationality:

- SUSMN	74 persons or 42,53%	- Macedonia	32 persons or 18,39%
- Albania	31 persons or 17,82%	- Turkey	10 persons or 5,75 %
- Nigeria	1 person or 0,57%	- SUSMN /UNMIK	26 persons or 14,94%

In 2006, **14** foreigners were returned from Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was an **increase** by **1** in comparison to 2005, when 13 foreigners were returned.

Persons returned from Bosnia and Herzegovina come from the following countries:

- 6 citizens of Croatia,
- 6 citizens of SUSMN (with dual citizenship of Croatia),
- 1 citizen of Macedonia/Croatia
- 1 citizen of Slovenia.

The number of foreigners admitted from Croatia under the Agreement was the same as in 2005 and the national composition of admitted foreigners remained for the most part unchanged.

## Persons referred to International Organisation for Migration (IOM) - repatriation

Owing to voluntary repatriation to the country of origin or earlier residence, in the reporting period, **54** persons altogether were referred to International Organisation for Migration (IOM), a number which is **less** by 141 persons or **72,30%** in comparison to the same period in 2005 (195 persons). The reason for the decrease is a lack of financial means within the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), meaning that from June 2006 the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) was not able to fully realise the planned program of assistance to the SBS. From the mentioned number, 52 cases or 96,29% involved illegal immigrants, while two cases were for other reasons.

Nationality of persons referred to IOM:

Serbia and Montenegro	30	- Turkey	3
Albania	10	- Macedonia	2
Serbia and Montenegro/UNMIK	8	- China	1

# Persons discovered during attempted illegal crossing of the state border of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In comparison to 2005, when 655 persons were registered, in 2006 there was an increase of **96,79%** (**1.289**) in the number of persons discovered during illegal crossing of the state border (entry and exit). Out of 800 persons discovered during attempted illegal entry in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 483 persons were discovered at border crossings, while 317 persons were discovered outside the border area. Analysis of the statistical data revealed that the highest number of illegal entries in Bosnia and Herze-

govina was discovered at the border with Serbia (490), while the number of discovered illegal entries at the border with Croatia was 247 persons and 63 persons at the border with Montenegro.

In the same period 489 persons were discovered during attempted illegal exit from Bosnia and Herzegovina, out of which 270 at border crossings and 219 persons outside the border area. The majority of illegal exits from Bosnia and Herzegovina were recorded at the border with Croatia (351 persons) while the number of discovered illegal exits at the border with Serbia amounted to 132 persons and at the border with Montenegro to 6 persons.

Persons discovered in illegal crossing of the state border were nationals of 27 countries. The majority of persons discovered during illegal crossing of the state border (entry and exit) are nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Foreign nationals discovered during illegal border crossing were nationals of:

Serbia and Montenegro	256 persons	Macedonia	35 persons
Albania	89 persons	Romania	32 persons
Croatia	67 persons	Bulgaria	16 persons
Turkey	15 persons	Serbia and Montenegro/UNMIK	15 persons

Compared to 2005, the number of nationals of Croatia (2005-129, 2006-67), Iraq (2005-6, 2006-0), Bangladesh (2005-4, 2006-1) and UNMIK (2005-21, 2006-15) decreased significantly, while the number of nationals of the remaining countries caught during illegal border crossing is considerably higher.

The statistical data regarding illegal entry into and exit from Bosnia and Herzegovina presented here, nationalities of the persons discovered during illegal border crossing, as well as registered illegal crossings in neighbouring countries, clearly indicate that territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina is still used as a transit area for illegal migration from east to west. In fact, the majority of attempted illegal entries into Bosnia and Herzegovina are registered at the eastern border in the border area of municipalities between Višegrad and Trebinje. The highest number of attempted illegal exits is registered at the western border in the border area of municipalities of Grude, Bihać and Velika Kladuša.

#### **Forged Documents**

During 2006, members of the SBS confiscated altogether **434** documents for which there was suspicion that they were forged, which was **an increase** of **29,94%** in comparison to the same period last year when 334 documents were confiscated. As a consequence of confiscation of these documents, 280 criminal offences of «forging of documents» were registered, which was 20% less than during the same period in 2005, when 350 criminal offences were registered.

On one hand, an increase is registered in the total number of confiscated documents for which suspicion exists that they were forged, while on the other hand the number of registered criminal offences in this field decreased. The mentioned difference in the number of discovered documents (434) and the number of registered criminal offences (280) is a result of application of ICAO standards, discovery of multiple documents in possession of one person, relinquishment of cases to relevant organs and likewise. Number of temporarily confiscated documents, according to the relevant sorts, is as follows:

	Number of		
TYPE OF DOCUMENT	2005	2006	+/- %
Passport	65	84	+29.23%
Identity card	20	20	0
Visa	11	20	+81.81%
Residence permit	8	17	+112.5%
Travel paper	2	0	-

It is apparent that the total number of confiscated forged passports, residence permits and visas is considerably higher compared to last year, which represents a positive trend in the sense of effectiveness of work of the members of the SBS.

### **Minor Offences Proceedings**

During 2006, a total number of **4.298** minor offences were committed which is less by 852 minor offences or **16,54%** in comparison to 2005, when 5.150 minor offences were registered. Altogether 4.051 minor offences' reports were submitted (in 2005 4.795), which is **less** by 744 minor offences' reports or **15,51%** in this reporting period compared to the same period in 2005. In total, 5.219 persons (in 2005 5.752) were reported, which is 533 persons or **9,26%** less reported persons in comparison to 2005.

Out of total number of committed minor offences most frequent offences were in the following areas: Minor offences in regards to the Law on supervision and control of state border crossing - 1.627 persons

Minor offences in regards to the Law of movement and stay of aliens and asylum - 363 persons

Minor offences in regards to the Law on travel documents - 6 persons.

It is evident that the majority of reported persons are citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, followed by citizens of neighbouring countries, namely citizens of Serbia and Montenegro and Croatia as well as Albania. The remaining reported persons are mostly nationals of Slovenia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Germany, Australia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Byelorussia.

### **Residence Permits**

During 2006, Ministry of Security-Immigration Department, received and issued 5427 decisions granting residence permits to foreigners in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Out of that number 153 decisions relate to granted permanent stay while 5247 decisions relate to granted temporary stay of foreigners.

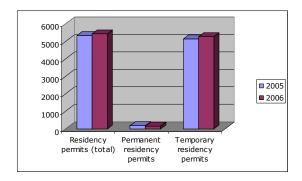
Out of 153 foreigners, to whom permanent stay was granted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, majority comes from China (42), Croatia (19), Turkey (16), Macedonia (10), Ukraine (7), Germany (7), Moldova (7), which is 70,9% out of total of granted and processed permanent stays in the reporting period.

Out of 5247 foreigners who were granted temporary residence permits in the last year, the highest number came from Serbia and Montenegro (1.839), China (823), Croatia (544), Turkey (480), Macedonia (228), which is 74,21% out of total of granted and processed temporary stays in the reporting period.

The largest number of granted temporary residence permits have been issued on the basis of work permits (28,33%), on the basis of marriage (26,45%), on the basis of family reunion (13,48%), schooling (12,40%) profitable activities (10,56%), which constitute 91,22% of the total number of granted and processed temporary residence permits in the reporting period.

The comparison of the numbers of decisions on the stay of aliens in Bosnia and Herzegovina granted in 2005<sup>15</sup> and 2006 is shown in the following graph:

<sup>15</sup> The number of processed cases shown in the Annual report for 2005 is smaller than the actual number. The discrepancy occurred due to subsequent data entry which occurred at the beginning of 2006, for 2005, in the Immigration Department within the Ministry of Security.



As has been mentioned already in the text, Ministry of Security, that is the Immigration Department, in the course of 2006, granted temporary residence permits to eleven victims of human trafficking.

### **Asylum**

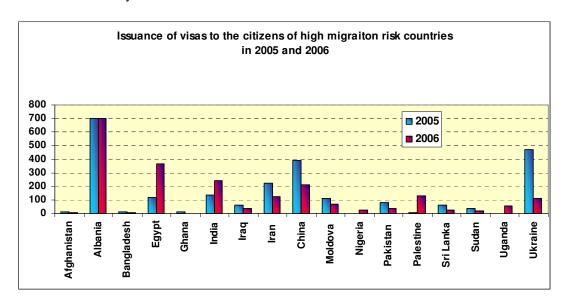
In 2006, in the Ministry of Security, Asylum Department:

- received 37 asylum claims for 68 persons
- 27 claims for 46 persons were processed
- 10 claims for 22 persons are still pending.

During 2006, 68 applications were processed for 122 persons, out of which 5 were granted for 6 persons, 30 claims were refused, 31 claims were terminated, while 2 claims were rejected.

#### Visas

During 2006, a new trend of illegal migration was recognised, whereby migrants attempt to get visas for legal entry to Bosnia and Herzegovina, after which they try to remain illegally in Bosnia and Herzegovina or try to use its territory as a transit route in their endeavours to enter the countries of Western Europe. Such activities most frequently arise through attempts at getting study visas, visas to attend science fairs, sport, cultural or other events in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is noticeable that information on upcoming events are collected via internet pages to which potential illegal migrants apply, either to study or to attend, via electronic mail. From the following graph it is noticeable that during 2006, the number of issued visas for entry into Bosnia and Herzegovina for citizens from high migration risk countries has increased significantly, namely Egypt, India, Palestine and Uganda, while the number of granted visas for citizens of Iran, China, Moldova, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Ukraine considerably decreased.



### **VIII Conclusions**

Bosnia and Herzegovina has for the past few years recorded a positive trend in development of the institutional capacities, legal and regulatory framework, prevention activities, improvement in the prosecution of human trafficking and development of standards for protection of victims of human trafficking. Notwithstanding progress achieved, human trafficking still remains present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, altering its forms and adapting to the new circumstances.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the course of the past few years, the number of foreign victims has been decreasing while the number of victims who are citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been on the rise. The total number of victims of human trafficking has increased slightly in comparison to the previous years, which is a result of the wide-ranging activities undertaken by the law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices and non-governmental organisations, on identification and rescue of victims of human trafficking.

When to comes to illegal immigration, Bosnia and Herzegovina is becoming less a country of origin of illegal migrants to the countries of Western Europe, but remains a transit country for illegal immigration for migrants from countries in Asia and Africa en route to Western Europe, but also a country of final destination for smaller number of migrants from Asia and Africa.

The need for continuation of activities on suppression of human trafficking and illegal migration through institutionalisation and further strengthening of the coordination structure, improvement of the legal and regulatory framework, strengthening of institutional capacities and carrying out of prevention activities is evident. It is necessary to secure additional funds from the budget of the state institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina for implementation of these activities. The plans for mobilisation of additional funding is also necessary due to the fact that majority of international donors have already prepared exit strategies, expecting that the state institutions will entirely take over the role in regards to sustainability of the aforementioned activities.

Considering that during 2007, activities on the implementation of the current State Action Plan will be finalised, there is a need for a detailed assessment of the progress and achievements made and to commence planning of activities for the next medium-term.

### Annex I

Summary of recommendations by the UN General Secretary Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings, especially women and children, Ms. Sigma Huda

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Special Rapporteur addresses a number of recommendations to the Government, the civil society and the international community to support their efforts to combat trafficking and protect its victims. The Special Rapporteur is aware that some of the following recommendations have financial implications and recommends that all relevant actors cooperate in their implementation and, when appropriate, that the international community lend its support.

The Special Rapporteur welcomes the revision of the NPA and encourages the Government to take the lead in its implementation, including in supporting shelters and rehabilitation programmes, and to use it as a tool to sustain efforts to combat trafficking, also drawing on the recommendations contained in this report.

### A. Coordination

The Special Rapporteur welcomes the efforts at coordination undertaken by the Government, including through the appointment of the State Coordinator, and encourages the Government to achieve further progress along this path.

### B. Legislative reform

The impressive legislative reform accomplished in Bosnia and Herzegovina has provided a framework for the prevention of trafficking and the prosecution of perpetrators. However, the Special Rapporteur notes that there are still weaknesses and recommends further efforts to harmonize the provisions of entity-level criminal laws with the State criminal law. In this context, she recommends that further reforms be undertaken to ensure that the crime under article 187 of the Criminal Code is prosecuted as trafficking and that issues of jurisdiction be clarified. The Special Rapporteur further recommends necessary legislative reforms to ensure that prostitutes are not criminalized and that assets and illegally obtained property are confiscated, and that the proceeds go directly into a compensation fund for victims.

The Special Rapporteur believes that reforms are necessary on issues such as the employment of aliens and their access to health and social rights, so as to ensure that they do not become vulnerable to trafficking.

### C. Law enforcement, identification of and assistance to victims

The Special Rapporteur welcomes the strengthened border controls and the fact that the State Border Service has developed the capacity to keep track of foreigners within the territory of the State. In this connection, she wishes to recommend that measures be taken to ensure better control of the border with Serbia and to prevent the misuse of the right to cross the border only with an identity card. She also recommends that when irregular aliens are intercepted, efforts be undertaken to determine their situation individually and to ensure that they have access to asylum procedures, if relevant, and that if they are victims of trafficking they receive adequate assistance and are not immediately deported. The Special Rapporteur recommends that further training be given to SBS officers on the identification of the victims of trafficking, on the Rule Book and the UNICEF Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking.

The Special Rapporteur further recommends that the identification of victims not be left totally to the discretion of SBS officers and other law enforcement officials, but that specific guidelines be developed. In defining guidelines for identification of victims, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the relevant chapter of the Legal Manual on Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina prepared by the OHCHR Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina be taken into account. Rule books and procedures should also be developed on issues such as how to act in case of suspicion that a person is crossing the border irregularly.

The Special Rapporteur recommends greater coordination between the SBS and other law enforcement agencies, especially in the exchange of intelligence, including through joint training on the prevention of trafficking and assistance to victims. More training for law enforcement officials on the Rule Book is also necessary. The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Rule Book be revised to ensure that it addresses the question of protection of national victims and victims of trafficking for purposes other than prostitution. Measures should be taken to address the problem of corruption of local police, in-

cluding introducing higher salaries, promoting internal mechanisms to report cases of corruption and ensuring that internal disciplinary measures are taken in cases of corruption.

The Special Rapporteur recommends that measures be considered to achieve gender balance among officials, in particular those in law enforcement, working to prevent and suppress trafficking, so as to encourage and facilitate identification of victims.

The Special Rapporteur also strongly recommends that steps be taken to ensure the existence of organized legal counselling, to be made available to victims upon identification so that they are aware of the alternatives at their disposal. The Special Rapporteur recommends that legal assistance be made available to victims so that they can seek compensation under the civil procedure, while being accommodated in shelters and provided with assistance, training and rehabilitation.

The Special Rapporteur further recommends greater coordination between the Government, NGOs and IOM to ensure that data are made available on the situation of victims after repatriation, so as to enable better assessment of the impact of identification, referral, assistance and repatriation programmes. The Special Rapporteur recommends further efforts in the implementation of the new criminal procedure codes so as to clarify which crimes are to be prosecuted at the State level as trafficking rather than in the entity courts as offences carrying lesser penalties. In particular, law enforcement officials should receive training on when, how and at what stage to transmit a case to the State prosecutor. Training on investigative methods of gathering evidence should also be implemented for the police. Prosecutors should be sensitized to the need to conduct thorough investigations and to avoid precipitous prosecution for offences carrying lesser penalties. State investigations should also be strengthened, as well as cooperation between different levels of law enforcement. The Special Rapporteur strongly recommends that training be undertaken for law enforcement officials in detecting and properly investigating acts of trafficking. Steps should also be taken to increase cooperation among law enforcement agencies and between them and the prosecutors' offices so as to improve cooperation and information exchange and therefore achieve more effective prosecution.

In order to ensure effective prosecution, the Special Rapporteur further recommends that measures be taken to amend the standards required to prove that the victim-witness are genuinely unavailable at trial and to ensure that the definition of unavailability recognizes that the victim-witness can also be rendered unavailable through fear and that she should therefore not be subject to subpoena or arrest and/or detention as a material witness.

### D. Victim-witness protection

The Special Rapporteur believes that proper protection must be provided to the victims who decide to cooperate with the prosecution so that they do not feel threatened or intimidated.

The Special Rapporteur recommends that protection of victims be provided not only during trial but also before and afterwards. It should include temporary leave to remain in the country for the duration of civil proceedings and work permits. Agreements on relocation to third countries should also be sought. Proper allocations should be secured to ensure the implementation of the witness protection law and the Witness Protection Programme. The Special Rapporteur recommends that agreements be sought with the countries of origin of the victims on cost-sharing schemes in order to provide strengthened assistance to the victims.

### E. Prevention

The Special Rapporteur believes that greater attention should be devoted to addressing the root causes of trafficking in persons into Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this context, the Special Rapporteur encourages initiatives in the countries of origin of trafficked victims, such as supporting the development of women's cooperatives, promoting women's entrepreneurship, and supporting the creation of women's economic networks to provide advocacy, training and information to businesswomen, unemployed women and women in agriculture, among others.

Long-term prevention should also include anti-discrimination measures, job opportunities for women, legal migration projects targeting women, awareness-raising and programmes targeting violence against women.

The Special Rapporteur recommends that awareness-raising programmes be undertaken, especially in rural areas, in the main countries of origin of victims by the respective Governments, the civil society and the international community.

The Special Rapporteur recommends that increased attention be devoted to prevention of internal trafficking and trafficking from Bosnia and Herzegovina to other countries, with particular attention to the

root causes of the phenomenon. In particular, the Special Rapporteur believes that measures to combat trafficking should take into account the Law on Gender Equality and the Poverty Reduction Strategy, as gender-based discrimination and poverty can turn Bosnia and Herzegovina into a country of origin of trafficking and foster internal trafficking.

### F. Trafficking in children

The Special Rapporteur recommends increased efforts to combat international and internal trafficking of children, including through the allocation of funds specifically for this purpose. The Special Rapporteur further recommends increased regular surveillance of premises suspected of harbouring trafficked children and intensified efforts to detect and identify child victims. Special training on trafficking of children and the protection to which they are entitled under national and international law, as well as child-focused methods of intervention, detection, identification, and assistance should be provided to all relevant actors (social workers, NGOs, the media, the judiciary). The Special Rapporteur further recommends that needs in terms of shelters and structures for child victims of trafficking be analysed and measures taken to ensure that children receive the assistance and protection to which they are entitled.

The Special Rapporteur endorses the recommendations of UNICEF concerning the need to increase general prevention measures to identify children vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking and to make use of the Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking concerning detection, registration, referral, shelter, protection and follow-up for children from Bosnia and Herzegovina and from other countries. The Special Rapporteur recommends increased efforts to sensitize potential users of services provided by trafficked children about the human suffering of the victims, as well as teenage girls about the risks related to trafficking. Also, public campaigns with children and youth in rural areas are recommended to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking. The Special Rapporteur further recommends that police methods for dealing with children living or working in the streets, children in conflict with the law and children who are victims of crime be modernized through greater focus on proactive outreach work, confidence-building measures and cooperation with social services. The Special Rapporteur recommends outreach assistance for children living and working in the streets and members of high-risk groups, as well as the investigation of the involvement of criminal networks in begging. Professionals coming into contact with children living or working in the streets, as well as the general population, should be sensitized to the Roma culture and child protection.

The Special Rapporteur welcomes community watch programmes, as well as programmes undertaken by NGOs, UNICEF and IOM to tackle domestic violence and address the root causes of trafficking in children.

### **Annex II**

Conclusions and recommendations from the Shelter Assessment report in Bosnia and Herzegovina, by independent consultant Ms. Ruth Rosenberg

### **Summary of recommendations and conclusions**

### **Psycho-social Support:**

An integral part of reintegration is helping victims to identify their own problems and needs as well as to articulate their personal and professional goals; helping them find ways of addressing their problems, achieving their goals, and leading independent, self-directed lives. Currently, the level of psycho-social care being provided at the different shelters seems to vary considerably, with some shelters giving it little emphasis. In order to ensure that adequate psycho-social support is available at each shelter, shelters should be required to provide such assistance and to hire full time staff capable of providing such services. IOM's agreements with the shelters should specify the requirement to have twenty.-.four hour staffing of shelters, and qualified personnel on staff to provide psycho-social care on the shelter premises. As well, appropriate training is needed to teach social workers and psychologists specific counselling methodologies and treatment which can be used. Psycho-social care should also be provided on a long-term basis, even after victims have left the shelter environment.

Shelters should also provide for clinical supervision of counselling staff by professionals specifically trained in providing professional supervision to ensure a high quality of service to shelter residents, to assist shelter staff in keeping their relationships with the residents on a professional level, and to provide an outlet for the stress of the staff.

- 1. Shelters should be required to have twenty.-.four hour staffing when victims are in residence.
- 2. Shelters should be required to provide full time, trained, professional counselling staff working on a daily basis at the shelters (i.e. social workers or psychologists).
- 3. Mechanisms should be developed for the provision of long term psycho-social support to victims after their departure from the shelter.
- 4. Long term professional training should be provided for counselling staff to improve their skills.
- 5. Shelters should be required to provide clinical supervision and stress management training for shelter staff and managers.
- Mechanisms should be developed to provide family mediation and family counselling for BiH VOTs.

### **Drug Rehabilitation:**

Experts in fighting drug addiction indicated the importance of treating drug addiction with specialized and holistic therapies. Currently, most shelters are trying to treat drug addiction on their own, with the assistance of medical doctors. Discussions should be held between drug rehabilitation experts from UG PROI and Kosevo hospital with the staff of the shelters for VOTs to raise the awareness of the shelter staff regarding the nature and importance of drug rehabilitation programs and discuss how they can collaborate to provide these services to VOTs, while taking into consideration the victims' security and other specialized needs.

7. A meeting should be organised with drug rehabilitation experts from UG PROI and Kosevo hospital with shelter staff to discuss the importance of drug rehabilitation therapy to fight addiction and to discuss how this can best be provided to VOTs.

### **Medical Services:**

Currently, the shelters are providing medical services with funding from IOM. In the long run, this is not sustainable. Arranging a mechanism for State provision of medical services to victims of trafficking should be a priority for the immediate future.

8. Organisations should be encouraged to advocate for the State to develop a system for providing free medical services to VOTs.

### **Education, Training and Employment:**

As a result of trafficking, many of the BiH victims have had disruptions in their schooling. Providing for continuing education is one of the best ways to ensure the victim success in future. It is especially important for minors, but should be considered for older victims who are interested. Depending on the

victims' individual risk assessment, education can be provided within the safety of the shelter itself by professional teachers or by enrolling the victims in schools near the shelter. If the victim is expected to be returning soon to her family home, staff can negotiate with the school in the area to which she will be returning to put her education on hold. Support such as special tutoring, may also be necessary to help the victim adapt to the school environment, develop good study habits, and to catch up on lessons she may have missed. Such assistance should be provided by all shelters, but should be required of any shelter providing assistance to minors, especially those who are BiH citizens.

Many of the victims left home with the intention to build a better life for themselves and their families. Returning them to the same circumstances they left puts them at risk of being re-trafficked. Beneficiaries should therefore be assisted in identifying their professional ambitions and making a plan for how to best attain them. Victims should be provided with opportunities to attend accredited vocational training in a field that they are interested and for which there are jobs available, to help them find well paid employment and to help them sustain their employment. Assistance is needed not only to identify vocational training or employment but also to help victims succeed by providing tutoring, counselling and mediation assistance with teachers or employers.

- 9. Shelters should offer education opportunities to all VOTs, especially BiH citizens, but also to foreign victims who will may be expected to stay longer (i.e. those with humanitarian stay visas).
- 10. Shelters housing minors should be required to provide for their continued education, either by enrolling them in school while at the shelter or putting school officially on-hold while providing home-schooling in the shelter.
- 11. Accredited vocational training opportunities should be provided to VOTs.
- 12. A job placement program should be developed to provide job placements to VOTs, either while in the shelter or in combination with alternative housing arrangements.
- 13. Assistance providers should provide counselling, tutoring and mentoring for education and job placement to smooth the transition and help victims succeed.

#### **Income Generation and Recreation:**

Currently, the shelters do not provide the residents with opportunities to earn income while in residence, nor do they provide pocket money which the women could use at their discretion (with the exception of one). Providing a way to earn even a small income while in the shelter provides the shelter residents a small step toward independence and a sense of self-worth and self-confidence. Shelters needs to be creative about finding ways for shelter residents to earn income that are compatible with the shelter set-up and capacity. For those whose security situation allows it, the opportunity to work and earn money while staying at the shelter should also be explored.

Few of the shelters arrange for recreational activities outside of the shelters. Yet all indicate that victims may be in residence for many months. Experience of shelters in other countries indicates that excursions can be arranged to ensure the safety of residence and staff if planned in advance and in coordination with police or private security agencies when necessary. IOM's agreement with the shelters should provide funding for such excursions to be provided on a regular basis.

- 14. Opportunities for income generating projects in shelters should be developed.
- 15. Shelters should be required to provide recreational activities for shelter residents.

### **Gradual Reintegration and Alternative Accommodation:**

Reintegration is a long process which must be undertaken gradually. While the first phase of assistance may take place in a shelter continued assistance does not have to require remaining in the same shelter. Some victims may be assisted in reunification with their family. Other victims may be better served by moving to a shelter or apartment in the area where they wish to resettle, allowing them to begin working or going to school. While in the new setting, they should continue to receive monitoring and psycho-social assistance from the trained professionals with whom they already have an established, trusting relationship. Once they demonstrate their ability to maintain their employment over

time, they can be assisted to find accommodation which they can afford to pay themselves or the housing subsidy can be gradually reduced.

- 16. A system should be developed for gradual reintegration that includes alternative accommodation arrangements and ensures linkages between reintegration programs and shelter programs so that victims have a smooth transition and continue to receive important psycho-social support from trusted professionals.
- 17. The need for reintegration assistance in other parts of the country should be assessed in relation to the victims' desired place to settle. Collaboration with other partners for the provision of such assistance should be explored, such as domestic violence shelters, other NGOs, or centres for social work.

### **Minors and Mixed Populations:**

In some cases, the shelters are exclusively for victims of trafficking. In other cases shelters also house other populations such as domestic violence and sexual assault. All except one accept both foreign and domestic victims. All accept both minors and adults. There are many models of shelters around the world, and no definitive answer yet as to which model works best, rather each model has both positive and negative aspects. Providing separate shelters may not be financially viable, nor will it always serve the best needs of the victims if specialized services are more readily available elsewhere.

In order to ensure consistent and appropriate standards of care for all of the different populations served – adults, minors, foreign victims and BiH citizens – protocols should be developed which detail the assistance which should be provided to the different populations. The protocols should describe who is responsible for providing which services and the standard of care required. This would ensure that victims receive the appropriate level of service and support regardless of the shelter to which they are referred, and that services are tailored to meet the needs of minors and to differentiate between the services needed by foreign VOTs and by BiH VOTs. Currently, agreements with IOM only stipulate the victims should receive housing, food, hygienic supplies and medical care. Additional services are required to assist victims to recovery and should be included in such agreements, as well as in the national agreements established with the state. A list of which shelters comply with which protocols could also be used by law enforcement officials who refer victims to shelters to ensure that they refer victims to the most appropriate shelter to meet their needs.

18. Protocols should be developed which detail the assistance to be provided to different categories of victims – foreign, BiH, adults and minors, and a list maintained of which shelters comply with these different standards.

### Security/ Open vs. Closed Shelter:

There is a limit to the reintegration which can take place in a closed shelter as the victim cannot go back to school, attend vocational training programs or start a job. As well, victims feel that they are in prison when in a closed shelter, with negative consequences for their psychological recovery. However, security cannot be as high in a shelter which is open or semi-open. Victims should only be kept in closed shelters if their security concerns require it, rather than as a matter of general policy. A specific security assessment should be undertaken for each individual VOT to determine the level of threats against her and ensure that she is not placed in the restrictive environment of a closed shelter if her circumstances do not require it.

19. Individual security assessments should be conducted to identify those victims who require a high level of security due to known threats against them and house these victims separately in a highly secure shelter. Other victims, who do not require such high levels of protection, should be housed in shelters which provide more opportunities for victims to leave the premises.

### **Repatriation:**

Currently, victims are being repatriated without having adequate information about what they can expect on their arrival and for continued services. More of an effort must be made to obtain detailed information about the reintegration services available in countries of origin and to provide this informa-

tion, as much in advance as possible, to the victims in their native language and to the NGO staff who assist victims, so that they can discuss the options with the victims in advance of their departure. Victims should also be provided with a contact number for the assistance provider in their country of origin, giving them a second chance to seek assistance if they decide not to identify themselves on arrival. Without proper reintegration assistance there is a much greater likelihood of the victim being retrafficked or returning to prostitution from a perceived lack of alternatives.

To encourage a dialogue and continuum of care between destination and origin countries, it is highly recommended that study tours are arranged to the main countries of origin for shelter staff which provide assistance to foreign victims of trafficking in BiH. The study tours should be focused on giving the shelter staff an opportunity to see first hand the accommodation and services available for returning victims and to meet the staff who will assist the victims on their return so that they can describe the services and the people to the victims directly, prior to their return.

- 20. Information should be provided to VOTs and NGOs regarding reintegration assistance available after repatriation. The information should be provided in advance of their departure to allow them time to think about their options and to discuss these with their social worker or counsellor.
- 21. A study tour should be organized for shelter staff in order to see first hand the reintegration services available in the main countries of origin for foreign victims in BiH (Serbia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine).

#### **Number of Shelters:**

Currently, the capacity of the existing shelters exceeds the number of victims currently in need of assistance in BiH at any given time. While services and expertise vary, most focus on providing emergency shelter services, there is little emphasis on reintegration and little differentiation amongst the shelters in terms of populations served. All accept adults and minors and all except one accept foreign as well as BiH VOTs.

Because the country is not so large and most areas are within 4-5 hours of one of the existing shelters, it is not recommended that additional emergency shelters be built. However, there may be a need for reintegration programs to be available in different parts of the country. The need for reintegration services in other parts of the country will need to be assessed with the victims, depending on where they are from or where they would like to settle. It is not recommended that additional structures or shelters be developed to assist victims in other parts of the country, but that alternative arrangements be identified with existing organizations in these areas

### **Financial Sustainability:**

Continuation of all existing shelters should not be the ultimate goal of USAID assistance as there is currently more shelter space available than is needed. The important issue regarding sustainability is the sustainability of high quality and appropriate services for VOTs, regardless of the number of organizations providing the services. Given the current method of funding these shelters (on a per person per night basis), there is the chance that there will be a natural attrition as shelters may not be able to remain open if they do not have victims in residence, and therefore are not eligible for funding. [Note, if the number of victims assisted declines substantially, there is the risk that shelters will continue to operate, but may not provide adequate assistance. To guard against this, there must be monitoring mechanisms in place to ensure that services provided meet minimum standards.]

Each of the shelters assessed currently have multiple forms of funding, which have allowed them to continue operating, but none is fully financially sustainable on its own. While many have attempted to find creative ways of generating income, the organizations report that the tax structure hinders their efforts, taxing income like private businesses, requiring NGOs to pay VAT and not providing any tax incentive for charitable donations. Lobbying efforts should be made to change the existing tax laws regarding non-profit organizations in order to help them become more locally sustainable.

The State is also currently funding the shelters for the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking. Some local governments are also providing significant assistance to shelters for other vulnerable

groups. Efforts should be made to increase the funding provided by the State as well as by entities, cantons and municipalities and to advocate that victims of trafficking be included amongst the vulnerable people eligible for assistance. The way in which the State distributes funds also impacts on sustainability of shelter services. Rather than dividing funding equally amongst the shelters, which does not provide enough for any of them, the state could distribute funding like IOM on a per person per night basis or they could fund only two or three types of assistance programs (i.e. one for foreign VOTs, one for BIH adults and one for BiH minors) and issue a competitive request for proposals from NGOs to provide these services.

Additional support from other government offices should also be developed which can eventually take over the provision of certain services for VOTs. The centres for social work should be gradually included in the provision of assistance, especially to BiH VOTs to coordinate assistance and provide access to government assistance and psycho-social support. Other government offices must also be given a clear mandate and necessary training to provide services to VOTs, such as government employment offices, education institutions, and medical facilities.

- 22. Organizations should be encouraged to advocate for revised tax laws to reduce taxation on income from social businesses and on donations to NGOs from private businesses, as well as to reduce the taxes paid by NGOs or to provide NGOs with a reimbursement for VAT.
- 23. Organizations should advocate for an increase in the amount of funding provided by the State to shelters for VOTs and change the way in which the funding is distributed to encourage differentiation of shelter services according to types of victim serviced and to increase the financial sustainability of shelter services.
- 24. The mandate of other government agencies, such as centres for social work, employment offices, educational institutions and hospitals, should be expanded to ensure that they provide services free of charge to VOTs.
- 25. Encourage shelters to work more closely with such government agencies (and vice-versa) to increase their knowledge and understanding of how to provide effective services to VOTs

#### **Victim Identification:**

Currently, the shelters rely on law enforcement structures to make the determination if a person is a VOT.

However, if a victim does not wish to collaborate with justice or the State fails to provide the NGO assisting her with the necessary documentation, her case may not be recognized and support may not be provided. Procedures should be changed so that the NGOs are reimbursed for providing assistance to victims who qualify as a victim of trafficking according to the criteria stipulated in the UN Protocol so long as the NGO fulfils its own obligation to inform either the local Department of Foreigners or the Prosecutor of the presence of the victim.

There is also a concern that local victims of trafficking are not being properly identified and referred for assistance. Local police may treat these cases as cases of mediation in prostitution rather than cases of human trafficking. If a BiH citizen is identified in relation to prostitution or in other circumstances that raise the suspicion that she might be a victim of trafficking, she should be presumed to be a victim of trafficking and referred for assistance, as is currently the case with foreigners.

26. Mechanisms for the identification of potential BiH victims of trafficking need to be improved, modelled on the measures currently in place for foreign VOTs.

### **Monitoring:**

While there is currently in place a referral mechanism in BiH, and one that works better than in many countries, the system is not being monitored. Monitoring is essential to make sure that all of the agencies and organizations involved are undertaking their roles effectively and to an acceptable standard of care. Monitoring should include ensuring that staff have the necessary professional background and level of experience and conducting examinations of individual cases to ensure that the individuals received appropriate and timely medical care, psycho-social assistance, legal assistance, documentation, or repatriation. Monitoring can also assess whether State actors are implementing their roles appropri-

ately and effectively. The monitoring team can also assess whether the referral mechanisms in place are working or need to be revised.

Some persons interviewed suggested that the state is not ready to take on this role and that there is not yet enough trust amongst the other actors. However, monitoring is needed and should begin as soon as possible. Therefore, it is recommended that a monitoring team be assembled with a coalition of members to include membership from the State Coordinators Office, a representative from the Centres for Social Work, the Ministry of Security, international NGOs, and academics or professionals who are not currently associated with any of the shelters, but whom are expert in relevant fields, such as a psychiatrist, doctor, and lawyer. To ensure transparency as well as to encourage collaboration by all stakeholders, the monitoring team should convene a meeting with all relevant stakeholders to discuss the purpose of the monitoring and the criteria and methods which would be used.

27. A mechanism should be developed to monitor the victim assistance network in order to evaluate the quality of the services being provided and to monitor the implementation of the referral mechanisms.

### **Annex III**

The work of the non-governmental organisations on combating trafficking in human beings in 2006

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# Prevention of human trafficking among high-risk groups in asylum reception centres in BiH

In cooperation with UNHCR, NGO 'Ključ' from Slovenia and Red Cross-Croatia, BHWI Foundation, responding to the perceived need to inform asylum seekers on problems relating to human trafficking, has implemented Project against trafficking and gender based violence. The main goal of this project is provision of information to asylum seekers through individual sessions and the use of a 'Dictionary'. 'Dictionary' in the form of a reference book is printed in nine languages and contains all essential information such as information on SOS phone lines for help to victims of human trafficking in BiH and Europe.

This project included 103 asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of that number 46% of the talk sessions was conducted with women and 54% with men. Implementation of the second phase of this project is expected in 2007.

Furthermore, besides dissemination of information to asylum seekers, at the beginning of November 2006, BHWI Foundation started implementation of the second phase of the CRS project ''Prevention of human trafficking among high-risk groups in asylum reception centres-Phase II''. Planned activities are focusing on prevention of human trafficking through organising of various vocational/skilled trainings for asylum seekers as well as workshops on the subject of trafficking developed using the experience from the past project implemented in asylum reception centres.

In the first phase of this project two workshops on prevention of human trafficking were held for adults (men and women). Currently ongoing are vocational/skilled trainings in silk painting and 'BAGAT' tailoring course for 30 women from asylum reception centres.

At the end of the three-month course, the participants will receive certificate of completion.



### Report on activities in 2006

Centre for Children's rights from Konjic and Association of citizens Budućnost from Modriča in partnership with Save the Children Norway, Office for South East Europe

Project: Prevention of human trafficking and abuse of children

During 2006, these two organisations held 32 workshops for children in primary schools educating them on problems of human trafficking and abuse. This kind of teaching was carried out through the play 'Rely on me' which has been performed before 1208 pupils from primary schools on the territory of Doboj region and HN Canton. Children were given the opportunity to learn something about trafficking in children, how it starts and mechanisms of protection.

In 2006, eight round tables were also held on the topic 'Cooperation of institutions on prevention of human trafficking and abuse' with representatives of institutions from eight municipalities from above mentioned regions. At these round tables, 175 participants (pedagogues, teachers, representatives from primary schools, health institutions, police stations, social welfare centres, municipalities, registry offices, religious communities) discussed and cooperated on this problem. Introduction was given by the cantonal prosecutor and a police inspector working on trafficking in human beings. General conclusion that derived from these round tables is that, not only is there no cooperation between institutions, but the cooperation within certain institutions is also insufficient.

Poor cooperation between institutions became evident from an example of an abused girl and survey amongst pupils about that case. Ways of resolving the case was initiated at one of the round tables. Representative from the Social welfare centre, together with a pedagogue and representative of the police got together and agreed on coordinated steps in resolving the case. Conclusions, shared by all participants, emphasised the necessity of cooperation and working together, better education on the problem as well as on the new Family Law, for representatives from institutions as well as children and the wider community.

Besides these activities, 43 children (from the Centre for Children's Rights from Konjic, Association of citizens Budućnost from Modriča and Beosupport from Belgrade) participated in a summer workshop where children were educated on HIV-prevention and abuse of children.

On the occasion of Children's week, 10 children from the Centre and NGO Budućnost, participated at the International Conference on Prevention of Violence against Children, where they presented their views and ideas on participation of children in prevention of human trafficking and violence against children. Conference was organised by Council for Children of BiH and Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees.

In October, six children took part in the training for peer trainers in Belgrade. Their experiences and lessons learnt were demonstrated to other members of the organisations.

In Modriča, on the occasion of Week of Solidarity, children collected clothes and school equipment and gave them to 39 of poorest children.

In the Centre, in Konjic, children prepared presentation of the study 'Why are efficient national systems for protection of children necessary' and presented it on Radio Konjic on 19th October, on Day against Violence.

During last year, 980 address books and diaries (which also contain educational materials), 2100 leaflets about children's rights and prevention of trafficking and abuse of children were distributed.

Work of these two organisations received media coverage through BN TV, RTRS, K3, Radio Konjic, Radio BiH, and monthly editions of the information bulleting of the Youth net of BiH.

All information about activities of these two organisations can be found on the internet page: www.stoptrgovinidjecom.ba.



### "ALAM"

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### Work in the field of combating trafficking in human beings for 2006

Women's Association "Maja', in accordance with its mission, also focuses on activities aiming to increase public awareness on violence and trafficking in human beings in BiH. Therefore, as of November 2006, this association has been implementing the project 'Partnership and mobilisation for human trafficking prevention' that is to last till March 2007 and is supported by the STAR Network of World Learning.

### Main project goals are:

- Prevention through education on human trafficking issues and creation of clear recommendations for better methods for prevention of human trafficking.
- Education of personnel working in NGOs, police, social welfare centres, employment bureaux, representatives of tourist and catering agencies, young women and women registered with the Employment Bureau about human trafficking, in municipalities of Bratunac (BiH) and Ljubovija and Bajina Bašta (Serbia).
- Establishment of inter-state communication on joint action on prevention of human trafficking in the area of Drina border region municipalities of Bratunac, Ljubovija and Bajina Bašta.

### **Activities within the project:**

- Establishment of co-operation through meetings with employment bureaux, police stations, social welfare centres, tourist and catering agencies and NGOs in municipalities of Bratunac, Ljubovija and Bajina Bašta.
- Organisation of a two day workshop "Trafficking" with the goal of increasing citizens' awareness on trafficking, protection mechanisms, legal regulations and showing of the movie "Lily Forever" in municipalities of Bratunac, Ljubovija and Bajina Bašta.
- Showing of the movie "Lily Forever" in the final grades of secondary schools in municipalities of Bratunac, Ljubovija and Bajina Bašta.
- Round table "Local capacities in prevention of human trafficking".

The following was undertaken as part of these activities:

1. In November meetings were held with representatives of NGOs, police, social welfare centres, employment bureaux, tourist and catering agencies, young women and women registered at the employment bureaux in municipalities of Bratunac, Ljubovija and Bajina Bašta.

The first meeting was held in Bajina Bašta on 28 November 2006. The second and third meetings were held on 30 November in municipalities of Bratunac and Ljubovija. During these meetings the project, activities and donor were introduced to participants. Further co-operation was discussed and agreed.

In course of the meetings in towns in Serbia (Bajina Bašta and Ljubovija) and after analysing surveys it became apparent that no one was dealing with this issue so far and that 'Maja' is the first organisation in this area that initiated awareness raising on human trafficking issue.

2. On 7 and 8 December 2006, a two day workshop "Trafficking" was held in Bajina Bašta. Brochures "Stop trafficking in women" were distributed to participants. The movie "" Lilly Forever" was shown in two secondary schools. The first showing was for students of final grades of Technical secondary school while the second was shown for students of Secondary school "Josif Pančić".

After the two-day workshop "Trafficking" and showing of the movie in secondary schools in Bajina Bašta, requests were received from secondary school pedagogues and NGO "Baština" to distribute copies of the movie "Lilly forever". Pedagogues wanted to work on trafficking awareness raising within their planned activities by using practical example from the movie. NGO "Baština" wanted to show the movie to their members and visitors in order to raise awareness on human trafficking. Copies were delivered to all of them. All activities were monitored by media, more precisely local television station from Bajina Bašta, covering this municipality with 20.000 inhabitants, as well as parts of the municipalities of Srebrenica and Bratunac.

In the coming period, implementation of the project will be continued in the municipalities of Ljubovija and Bratunac. Apart from the project implementation, video tapes of "Lilly forever" were lent to the Youth Organisation "Odisej" - Bratunac as well as to the members of NGO 'Maja'. NGO "Odisej" - Bratunac screened the movie to its members.

In 2006, several meetings were held with a representative of police station in Bratunac who is a liaison person for human trafficking issues. The goal of these meetings was development of a plan for joint action for protection, that is public awareness raising on prevention of human trafficking, in the framework of the programme "Police action in the community" and inclusion of additional education as well as networking for 2007. In the process of implementation of other activities in 2006, such as round tables and seminars, brochures "Stop trafficking in women" were distributed along with the main material.



The Green Light Project: Promoting Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for people who are vulnerable or have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation

### Goal of the project:

Improved sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of persons who are vulnerable to trafficking, especially young women, and persons who are or were trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **Objectives:**

- 1. To strengthen the capacity of XY to address the particular SRHR issues of those affected by trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation
- 2. To increase SRHR knowledge and skills, including gender based violence and trafficking, of young people who are vulnerable to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- 3. To increase access to SRHR information, quality services and support for people who are or have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- 4. To increase recognition, support and commitment among government officials, key policy makers and the general public for SRHR as primary and fundamental elements of trafficked persons' legal and human rights.

### **Target groups:**

- 1. Young people
- 2. Young people living in rural areas
- 3. Young people living in collective centres
- 4. Young people living in institutions for children without parental care
- 5. Young people that are currently trafficked
- 6. Young people who were trafficked.

#### REPORT ON IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

### **Objective 1:**

### 1.a Development of partnership relations with relevant organisations

Having in mind the fact that Association XY is for the first time actively involved in the issue of trafficking <sup>16</sup> and the scope of the project, same relevant governmental institutions and non-governmental organisations, in accordance with their experience in the work and area of implementation of the activities, are included in the implementation.

#### Partners are:

-Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration in RiH

-NGO Lara, Bijeljina

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> In the context of the Green Light project terms human trafficking and trafficked persons refers to trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation and persons who have been trafficked for this purpose.

- -NGO Medica, Zenica
- -International Organisation for Migration IOM.

Besides the above named organisations, that represent main partners in the implementation of the project, Association XY is also cooperating with non-governmental organisations which deal with youth issues or with vulnerable groups in the primary project locations.

### 2.a Development of the position paper on trafficking and sexual and reproductive health

Having in mind that trafficking in the context of sexual and reproductive health and rights is a new area of work for Association XY, a position paper was developed in regards to this topic that, besides explaining the position of the organisation, presents recommendations through 5A programmatic goals.

### 3.a Inception workshop

In the first week of June 2006, Association XY organised an inception workshop in which, besides relevant staff of Association XY, representatives of main project partners also participated. Besides the presentation of the project, aim of the workshop was to introduce the basic concepts and link between trafficking and sexual and reproductive health, and plan project activities in the timeframe from June 2006 to November 2007.

# 4.a Research to demonstrate the linkages between trafficking and sexual and reproductive health and rights in BiH

In August 2006 Association XY began a research within the Green Light project with the aim of demonstrating linkages between trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Target groups of the research:

- 1. Young people vulnerable to trafficking (young people from rural areas, representatives of Roma minority, young people in institutions for children without parental care)
- 2. Persons who were trafficked
- 3. Shelter staff
- 4. Health service providers
- 5. Representatives of law enforcement agencies.

Research is qualitative in nature and methodologically based on half structured interviews and focus groups.

After the research is finalised, which is foreseen for January 2007, the results of the same will be published and available to interested institutions/individuals.

### **Objective 2:**

### 1.b Development and testing of additional peer education module

Within the Green Light project Association XY will develop a supplement to the peer education module that will cover trafficking, gender and rights topic.

Development of the module begun in August 2006 with identification of relevant literature, examples of module and handbooks based on good practice. A review of literature begun in September and it was finalised in December, while the whole handbook will be completed until the first half of February 2007.

# 2.b Peer education activities, Phase 1: High school students in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Bijeljina

In September 2006, Association XY conducted a 6 day training for new peer educators in Banja Luka. Training was successfully finished by 19 new peer educators who, in the first half of December, also went through supervision training.

Additionally, young people were recruited in Bijeljina who will, in the beginning of February 2007, go through peer education training.

New peer educators will begin with presentations in 2007, during the second school term.

### **Objective 4:**

### 1.d Organization of a press conference

In June 2006, Association XY officially presented the Green Light project to the public during a press conference. The State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration in BiH and representative from non-governmental organisation Lara, Bijeljina participated in the press conference.

The journalists had the opportunity to hear about the Green Light project and current situation in BiH in regards to trafficking.

#### 2.d Organisation of awareness raising events

### 2.1.d Organisation of awareness raising events

As every year, Association XY marked the 1st of December, World AIDS Day, with street action and concert followed by the educational content.

With the aim to turn the attention of the public to the vulnerability of women for HIV and AIDS a motto for December 1st in 2006 was:

Rubber keeps your head safe...She protects herself because she CARES...She protects herself because she KNOWS.

In addition to informational and educational material of Association XY volunteers also distributed informational and educational materials of International Organisation for Migration.

### 2.2.d Organization of public discussions (Bijeljina)

In cooperation with partner organisations Lara, Association XY organised public discussion dedicated to the topic of sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people. Discussion was attended by representatives of local youth non-governmental organisations, high and elementary schools, and parents of the students who were recruited for the peer education training.

Even though the discussion itself was productive, absence of representatives of the schools that have negative attitudes towards education of young people in regards to sexual and reproductive health prevented the confrontation of different opinions.

### 3.d Integration of trafficking into the work of Parliamentary group for population and development

Since 2003, Association XY cooperates with Parliamentary Group for population and development of Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. Besides the regular meetings and contacts with members of the Parliamentary Group for population and development, Association XY published bulletins for the members of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH and other key stakeholders, in which they are informed about the current topics in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights. In the second half of 2006, within the bulletin number 3, Association XY included the information about the Green Light project, and in the further editions of the bulletin information regarding the Green Light project will be included on regular basis.

### Monitoring and evaluation activities:

### 1. Organisation of Local Project Steering Committees

In order to continuously follow the implementation of the Green Light project, Association XY established three Local Project Steering Committees on primary project locations (Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and Bijeljina). Members of the Local Committees are representatives of the project's target groups that are gathering information and observations from the field, based on which modification of project activities can be conducted.

The Steering Committees will meet every six months and membership to the same is voluntary.



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### ŽENA BIH REPORT ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING 2006 ON COMBATING TRAF-FICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Association ŽENA BiH has in accordance with its mission, among other activities on suppression of trafficking in human beings and exploitation of women for the purpose of forced prostitution, continued with its work on prevention, education and awareness raising regarding this problem. During 2006, the Association ŽENA BiH has also continued with providing direct and comprehensive assistance to the victims of trafficking through the capacities of its safe house.

Among numerous activities, the following should be emphasised:

# Screening of LILY-4-EVER movie, January 2006 Pupils of the Sixth Elementary school from Mostar

"Conversations with men about trafficking in human brings", STAR NETWORK OF WORLD LEARNING; September 2005 – February 2006

Eight workshops were held with 68 men between 18 and 55 years of age. Interactive workshops produced good results in terms of interest shown by men from Mostar. This fact has contributed to the main goal, which was to raise awareness regarding the real extent of this problem. Another good result is media coverage of each workshop. In this way majority of Mostar citizens were sensitised and informed about this problem.

# **BHWI /IOM, April, 2006**Activities with Roma people: Puzzle (Trafficking in human beings)

Four sessions were organised with children, who do not go to school on a regular basis. The subjects elaborated during the workshops were difference between trafficking in human beings and smuggling, migration risks (legal and illegal), recognition of basic rights, power and control over victim, how domestic violence can lead to increase of the migration risks and trafficking in human brings and to whom to turn for help.

### Safe house for women

During the meeting held on January 17 2006, problems with staff, problems with beneficiaries and general functioning of the safe house, were discussed. It was evident from this discussion that training should be arranged for the staff who will work in the safe house. Out of 18 potential candidates, 5 candidates successfully completed the training.

# Workshop "Cross border cooperation against trafficking in human beings" Hotel "Mihovil", Knin, Croatia / May 16 and May 17 2006

Within the Programme for suppression of trafficking in human beings (Croatia Trafficking Prevention Activity - CTPA) NGO STAR Network of World Learning and Republic of Croatia Human Rights

Office are carrying out promotional, educational and development activities aiming at suppression of trafficking in human beings in Republic of Croatia with the financial support of USAID.

# **"Combating trafficking in human beings: Prevention and protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina"**

Coordination meeting with partners (IOM) on the project PARC (II) on October 5 and October 6 2006 in Hotel "Aqua", Sarajevo. Subjects: "Insight in the combating against trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the new trends" and "Protection of local victims of trafficking in human beings".

### **♣ PARC II / IOM**

Eight workshops with pupils, parents, teachers and men were held in the course of 2006.

"Improvement to the system of protection of victims of trafficking accommodated in safe houses" (CRS)

The goal of the project was to improve the system of protection for victims of trafficking by having in mind specific needs of children, domestic and foreign victims of trafficking. The objective was to educate and sensitise the staff for work in the safe house in order to provide adequate assistance and support to victims of trafficking.

### **Membership to the ARIADNE Network**

Association "ŽENA BiH" Mostar became a member of the NGO network for combating trafficking in human beings in South East and Eastern Europe. The name of this network is ARIADNE and its head-quarters is in Athens, Greece. The network is established by 17 NGOs from 12 states from South East and Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Moldavia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, UNMIK Kosovo UN Protectorate, Turkey and Ukraine). The main goal of this network is to develop coordination among states of origin, transit, and destination of trafficking victims, to develop anti-trafficking activities for support of victims and prevention of phenomenon of trafficking in human beings.

First activity is to publish a book about the situation in trafficking in human beings in South East and Eastern Europe on local languages as well as in English. Every state member will have its presentation

Bosnia and Herzegovina presentation will include four areas:

- 1. legal framework
- 2. implementations of laws dealing with trafficking in human beings
- 3. real dimensions to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and
- 4. recommendations of the nongovernmental organisations.

Presentation is based on the State Action Plan, reports about trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina and experiences of the Association.



# Work of Caritas of Bishops' conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2006 on combating trafficking in human beings

Caritas of Bishops' conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the main office of Caritas in BiH, gave during 2006 contribution in prevention of trafficking in human beings. Program was implemented in cooperation with Caritas network in BiH and CRS/BiH. The main focus was on prevention activities in different communities throughout the country.

Partners in the project implementation:

- > Caritas of Bishops' conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Archdiocesan Caritas of Vrhbosna Sarajevo
- ➤ Diocesan Caritas of Mostar-Duvno and Trebinje-Mrkan
- Diocesan Caritas Banja Luka
- ➤ Catholic Relief Services (CRS)/BiH
- > Network of local NGOs BiH

### Type of the projects:

Prevention activities of trafficking in human beings

### **Results of the projects:**

- Capacity of the civil society built to implement and coordinate prevention activities in regards to human trafficking
- Improved awareness of the public through prevention activities of the risks and responses to trafficking in people
- The team of volunteers created at parish levels
- Increased capacity and knowledge of Caritas workers and volunteers.

### Categorisation of the activities:

- > Multimedia campaigns
- > Education of activists, volunteers and wider public through different institutions
- > Cooperation of governmental and nongovernmental organisations.

### List of the main activities implemented during 2006:

- > Public discussion "Family in Struggle for its Identity", with focus on problem of trafficking
- Education on trafficking issues of local activists in Banja Luka area
- > Sewing course as a part of economic empowerment for at-risk population, organised in cooperation with Family Counselling Centre of Caritas and Agriculture Cooperation "Radisa"
- ➤ Lecture in Kotor Varoš parish "New Methods and Ways of Recruiting Potential Victims of Trafficking"
- Lecture in Trn parish "Causes and Consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings"
- Campaign "Education of Activists and Professionals of Family Counselling Centre on the Use of Modern Didactic Equipment"
- > Campaign "Family Violence and Trafficking in Human Beings"
- > Training for educators from kindergarten St. Joseph and Rehabilitation Centre St. Family for children with special needs

- > Public discussion "Family Violence and Conflict Resolution" for parents of kindergarten St. Joseph
- > Training in Sarajevo "Networking of Caritas Parishes for Anti-trafficking Project"
- Campaign in Lug-Brankovici parish for raising awareness, held in Mostar
- ➤ Workshop for volunteers and activists on management of the meetings
- ➤ Coordination meetings with NGOs
- ➤ Workshop "Presentation Skills" for project activists and volunteers
- > Printing of posters, flyers and other promotional materials as well as other media activities
- > Cooperation with local NGO networks and governmental institutions in BH
- > Cooperation with COATNET (Catholic Organization for Anti-Trafficking and Migration Network)
- > Start up of the new project with CRS/BiH "Enhancing Local Capacities to Stop Trafficking II".

# fondacija

In the field of combating trafficking in human beings, "Fondacija Lokalne Demokratije", Sarajevo has in the course of 2006 realised the following activities:

From September 2006, 4 workshops were held as part of the PARC project:

Primary school "Kovačići" – 2 workshops: 1 workshop for pupils and 1 workshop for teachers;

Primary school "Podlugovi" – 2 workshops: 1 workshop for pupils and 1 workshop for teachers and pupils;

The general theme of the workshops is: "Violence and human trafficking with the emphasis on violence against children".

Continuation of the PARC educational workshops is planned also for the first part of 2007: 2 workshops in the area of Hadžići and 2 workshops in the area of Istočno (East) Sarajevo.

During realisation of the above mentioned workshops, high interest for the subject and motivation amongst the participants were noticeable, from all target groups: pupils, parents and teachers.

The participants were relatively familiar with the problem of abuse and human trafficking, but do not have sufficient information on prevention of these problems, how and in what way they can help themselves and others in their environment in case a need for protection arises.

During public participation and appearances in the media, FLD Sarajevo, besides activities for prevention of domestic violence, actively spoke of prevention of the problem of human trafficking, as well as the ways to assist victims of human trafficking (the work and functioning of the 'Shelter for girls' FLD Sarajevo, forms and ways of assistance that are offered to victims of human trafficking etc.).

During 2006, one victim of human trafficking was accommodated in the "Shelter for girls" FLD Sarajevo. This person was receiving treatment in the period between 31.07.06.-05.01.07, when she was moved to a different shelter for security reasons.



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# THE REPORT ON THE WORK OF WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIOM "LARA" IN THE FIELD OF COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN BIH

Women's association "LARA" has throughout 2006 continued with provision of assistance to victims of human trafficking, education, awareness raising and prevention campaigns.

### **ASSISTANCE:**

During 2006, 16 victims of trafficking were assisted in total, of which 1 was a citizen of Moldova, ten women and one boy from Serbia and 4 citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. From the total number of assisted persons, eight were minors (4 were citizens of Serbia and 4 citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Throughout the whole year, victims were residing in the shelter. The victims' stay in the shelter varied between 5 and 214 days, while combined stay of the 16 victims in the shelter came to 852 days.

Due to security concerns, the location of the shelter has changed. This has been used to increase the capacity of the shelters and improvement of the general conditions in the shelter. In order to create more secure environment for the victims, security agency has been employed which undertakes 24 hours supervision of the alarm system.

### **EDUCATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTION:**

In 2006, three workshops were held in the framework of the pilot project "Prevention of human trafficking through education". All three workshops were held in Roma settlement in Bijeljina in cooperation with the NGO "Otaharin" from Bijeljina.

At the first workshop, 35 Roma children in the age group between 9 and 14 years gathered, at the second 35 parents, and on the third, parents and children were gathered in the joint workshop.

As part of the project activities in the project "Human trafficking: Prevention and protection in BiH" which is being conducted with other partners, and in coordination with IOM Sarajevo, activities relating to PARC campaign were continued. In 2006, NGO "LARA" organised 2 out 9 envisaged educational workshops. Both workshops were held in November in Eight Primary Schools in Brka (Brčko District). At the first workshop, 45 children from upper grades participated, and on the other 25 parents and teachers. Two topics were covered "Violence against children" and "Human trafficking".

In cooperation with Association XY from Sarajevo, and in the framework of the project "Green light", six focus groups were conducted with the aim of researching the level of knowledge of the vulnerable categories about human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual and reproductive health. Two focus groups were conducted in Roma settlement in Živinice, two were conducted in Roma settlement in Bijeljina and two in the refugee settlement in Janja. There were 70 participants in total.

At the beginning of the year, as part of the programme of cross-border cooperation, with Women's Association from Vukovar, PEER education was organised for youth from Bijeljina. The education was attended by 2 pupils from secondary schools in Bijeljina. The trained pupils later delivered presentations in their schools on the problem of human trafficking.

### **AWARENESS RAISING:**

With the aim of awareness raising about human trafficking, NGO "LARA" has in the period between 1-3 December, organised a Conference in Brčko on the topic "Sentencing policy for criminal offence of human trafficking".

Representatives from the judiciary, police structures, state institutions, media and nongovernmental organisations were invited to the conference.

For the conference, presentation on the basis of available data was prepared on the ratio between pronounced sentences for human trafficking and related offences, which demonstrated that, save for a few exceptions, the sentencing policy for this category of crimes is lenient.

During the conference, legislative framework for prevention of human trafficking, position of victims during the criminal proceedings and media coverage of human trafficking were also discussed.

### WORKING GROUP FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS:

Working group, whose members are representatives of the international organisations, which have local or regional offices in Northeast Bosnia (OSCE, UNHCR, EUPM, EUFOR, SBS), representatives of the teams for fight against organised crime, Public Security Centre Bijeljina and Ministry of Interior of Tuzla Canton, regional office SIPA in Tuzla, "Vaša prava", centres for social welfare from Bijeljina and Tuzla, as well as representatives of NGO "Lara" meet regularly, once a month at the premises of NGO "Lara" and exchange information.

The Working group jointly prepared and implemented the campaign "PROTECT YOURSELF", warning the youth about the dangers of the so-called 'Rape drugs' and ways in which criminals use these substances for recruitment of victims. Detailed information on abuse and ways of protection was distributed to the directors of the schools and pedagogues in primary and secondary schools, who they will in their work with pupils contribute to their better protection.

### **REGIONAL COOPERATION:**

"LARA" has in 2006 developed particularly good cooperation with organisations from the neighbouring countries which deal with the problem of human trafficking.

Geographical position and vicinity of the state borders led to close cooperation between Women's Association from Vukovar, Esperanca from Novi Sad (member of ASTRA net) and Women's Association "LARA". In 2006 several meetings, trainings and round tables were held between these organisations. The aim of the round tables was linkage of the NGOs and state institutions, especially state border service operating at border crossings in Orašje, Rača and Tovarnik, for the purpose of joint action against trafficking in human beings.

Udruženje žena / Women's Association

### **MEDICA ZENICA**

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### Report on activities performed by Medica Zenica in combating THB in 2006

### 1. Direct assistance to VOTs in Medica Zenica shelter:

Medica Zenica, within its capacities, assisted 11 persons reasonably suspected to be VOTs out of whom 4 are juvenile persons BiH citizens, and 5 persons of foreign origin, two of whom with child dependants, from Russia, Moldova, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Montenegro.

All sheltered persons were provided with following assistance:

- > Psychological support, through individual therapy and counselling; medical assistance, integration in the community, regular schooling for children/under age persons.
- ➤ Vocational training, in order to support economic empowerment. Three women accomplished 6-months training program whilst two persons continued with education in year of 2007.

### 2. Educational and prevention workshops in 2006:

Medica's trainers continued with educative and prevention workshops on the topic "Education and awareness rising on combating trafficking in humans". There were 8 workshops implemented in 4 schools (two elementary and two high schools) in Zenica/Doboj Canton and Central Bosnian Canton.

In Zenica/Doboj Canton there were two workshops in "Enver Čolaković" school in Janjići near Zenica. The school had two target groups, namely teachers and students in  $5^{th}$  and  $6^{th}$  grades.

As for Central Bosnia Canton, there were 6 workshops in 3 towns: in Donji Vakuf and in Travnik there were two workshops in each of these towns for focus groups of students of  $1^{st}$  and  $2^{nd}$  grade of secondary schools and teachers. Vitez town was covered by two workshops for students of  $5^{th}$  and  $6^{th}$  grade and teachers.

### Table overview on education and prevention workshops implemented:

No:	School	Target groups	Date of workshop
1	Elementary school "Enver Čolaković" Jan- jići-Zenica	Students of 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	27.11.2006.
	Elementary school "Enver Čolaković" Jan- jići-Zenica	Teachers	28.11.2006.
2	Mixed high school D.Vakuf	Students of 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	27.11.2006.
	Mixed high school D.Vakuf	Teachers	28.11.2006.
3	Mixed technical high school Travnik	Students of 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	05.12.2006.
	Mixed technical high school Travnik	Teachers	12.12.2006.
4	Elementary school in Vitez	Students of 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	08.12.2006.
	Elementary school in Vitez	Teachers	08.01.2007.

In these schools, there were 192 participants, of which 108 students of elementary and high schools, and 84 teachers.

### 3. Research "Monitoring of residence status and status in legal proceedings for the VOTs"

Medica Zenica, in cooperation with the IOM, implements the project "Monitoring residence status and status in legal proceedings for the VOTs". This is the continuation of the project implemented in 2005 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Croatia. Project goal is to create evidence paper and provide recommendations for improvements of residence status and status in legal proceedings for victims of trafficking. In the period between June 2006 and June 2007 the project will be implemented in Banja Luka and Neum, whilst from June 2007 to May 2008, it will be implemented in Bihać and Zvornik.

In 2006, appropriate questionnaires were distributed to the institutions listed below, and the institutions were kindly requested to provide details for processing and further analysis.

# Overview of institutions asked or which will be asked to provide data and periods for which data is required:

### **BiH Ministry of Security**

For period July 1st 2005 to June 30th of 2006

**BiH State Court** 

For period July 1st 2005 to June 30th of 2006

**BiH State Prosecutor's Office** 

For period July 1st 2005 to June 30th of 2006

**Federation of BiH** 

Neum municipality

Cantonal court in Mostar

For period July 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2006

Cantonal Public Prosecutor's Office for Herzegovina-Neretva Canton

For period July 1st 2005 to June 30th of 2006

Cantonal Minor Offence Court in Mostar

For period July 1st 2005 to June 30th of 2006

Municipal court in Čapljina

For period July 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2006

Municipal Minor Offence Court in Čapljina

For period January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2006

Ministry of Interior of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton -authorised body for foreigners' affairs

For period July 1st 2005 to June 30th of 2006

Centre for social welfare - Neum municipality

For period January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2006

Organisational Unit of the State Border Service in Čapljina

For period January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2006

### Republika Srpska

District court of Banja Luka

For period January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2006

District Public Prosecutor in Banja Luka

For period January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2006

Basic Court u Banja Luka

For period January 1st of 2003 to June 30th of 2006

Municipal Minor Offence Court in Banja Luka

For period January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2006

Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska- Centre of Public Security Banja Luka – authorised body for foreigners' affairs in Banja Luka

For period January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2006

Centre for social welfare -Banja Luka Municipality

For period January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2006

Organisational Unit of the State Border Service in Banja Luka

For period January 1st of 2003 to June 30th of 2006

### 4. Presence at working meetings, meetings of subgroups, seminars, trainings, and conferences

Representatives of Medica Zenica continuously participated at the working meetings and subgroup meetings organised by the State Coordinator. The representatives of Medica Zenica also participated in giving suggestions and proposals for resolving issue of domestic VOTs, and also took part in other anti-trafficking related activities organised by local NGOs and/or international organisations.

×

Udruženje za pomoć djeci i ženama žrtvama porodičnog nasilja

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### Activities on prevention of human trafficking in 2006

The Project "Women and children's human rights", which is supported by the American Embassy, foresees education about the trafficking phenomenon for all head teachers in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> classes in primary schools and head teachers of all classes in secondary schools in Trebinje.

Main goal of this Project is to respect women and children's human rights, the right to have a life without violence. Project objectives are:

- Raising the awareness of one "risk" group (children victims of domestic violence) about the trafficking phenomenon with preventative aim
- Raising the awareness of children in primary school age about the trafficking phenomenon through children's amateur journal
- ♦ Development of governmental capacities or head teachers and pedagogues in all primary and all secondary schools in municipality Trebinje regarding the fight against trafficking in persons in order to continuously raise the awareness of young people aged between 12 and 18 about this issue.

Ženski Centar Trebinje has started already at the beginning of March to implement the Project through lobbying the representatives of all primary and all secondary schools in Trebinje (there are 6 schools – 3 primary and 3 secondary schools) for the realisation of one-day seminars about the trafficking phenomenon for head teachers in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> classes in primary schools and all classes in secondary schools. These seminars also involve school directors who are our team leaders because they coordinate within their schools with participants and in the coming period, they will also supervise the realisation of education about trafficking for their students that should happen on the monthly level. Participants of these seminars were also the pedagogues – 106 of them. There was a high level of interest from all participants for this topic and a high level of interest of directors themselves. This was used to create the agreement with all head teachers taking on the responsibility to continuously, on a monthly basis, talk with their students about the trafficking phenomenon as well as about other forms of violence against children and women. This document, the Protocol on cooperation, which is also the continuation of organisation's previous activities regulated in the Agreement on cooperation from the year 2004, was signed by representatives of all three primary and all three secondary schools.

The seminars encompassed three thematic units:

- General terms on trafficking and NGO experiences in working with victims (differences between trafficking and prostitution)
- Sexually transferable illnesses with focus on AIDS and psychological changes for the victim
- Police methods and cognition about trafficking with the view on drugs.

All participants received scripts from the previous project, as well as 80 brochures of the State Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005 – 2007, as well as the materials from the Centre for public safety Trebinje about their work and their possibilities to co-operate with citizens.

Children from the Creative centre prepared at the same time two editions of their journal (for March and April) which was handed out to their peers (500 examples in each school) because of the coming summer holidays.

The NGO Women's Centre Trebinje organised during the previous period three workshops in the field of trafficking prevention with children aged from 8 to 15. These workshops involved children who are members of the Creative centre.

NGO Women's Centre Trebinje organised in the period from September – December 2006 workshops in the field of trafficking with children aged up to 15. These were interactive workshops where the children were very interested in this issue and they are, even though still very young, aware of the situation and the position of the town where they live.

The project Women and children's human rights finishes with January 2007.



### Udruženje

### VAŠA PRAVA BOSNE i HERCEGOVINE

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#### PROVISION OF FREE LEGAL AID TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### Association Vaša prava Bosnia and Herzegovina – basic information

The Association Vaša prava BiH is a local, non-governmental and non-profit organisation with its headquarters in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Association was originally founded in 1996, as a network of information and legal aid centres under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with its mandate to ensure safe, legal, and dignified return of refugees and displaced persons to their pre-war homes. The project had been initially implemented by four international and domestic non-governmental organisations until December 2003, when the network became a local non-governmental organisation Vaša prava – Legal Aid Network, which incorporated work, mandate and goals of the previous network of information and legal aid centres funded by the UNHCR.

Registered at the state level, today the Association Vaša prava BiH represents the largest free legal aid provider and one of the largest non-governmental organisations in the region. The beneficiary groups of Vaša prava BiH include refugees, displaced persons, returnees, asylum seekers, persons under temporary admission in BiH, victims of human trafficking and vulnerable local population. The Association has developed into an effective network of legal aid and information centres with 67 employees in 16 offices and 60 mobile teams across BiH. Since 1996 the Association has provided aid to some 400,000 beneficiaries in the legal matters such as: property repossession, social, economic and cultural rights, discrimination in access to employment, utilities, education and social welfare as well as other human rights guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and other international legal instruments.

#### Activities in terms of provision of aid to victims of human trafficking

In July 2004 Vaša prava BiH signed the Protocol on provision of free legal aid to victims of human trafficking, asylum seekers and persons under temporary protection in BiH with the Ministry of Security BiH. The Protocol stipulates that Vaša prava BiH will provide free legal aid services to all beneficiaries regardless of any influence from state authorities.

In accordance with the Protocol on Cooperation signed with the Ministry of Security BiH in 2006, Vaša prava BiH continued to provide free legal aid to victims of human trafficking, as well as regular visits to safe houses, where beneficiaries were accommodated. Direct legal aid provided to these beneficiary groups includes legal counselling, drafting written submissions and documents (requests, appeals, applications, lawsuits, etc.), legal representation in administrative, civil and other procedures before all state organs, regular and other courts, as well as provision of other forms of legal aid aimed at protection of beneficiaries' rights and interests.

Since the signing of the aforementioned Protocol with the Ministry of Security BiH until today, Vaša prava BiH has provided free legal aid to a considerable number of victims of human trafficking, some of whom have been minor victims, when Vaša prava BiH had to contact and cooperate with the Centres for Social Welfare also. When providing legal aid to victims of human trafficking, Vaša prava BiH regularly carries out following activities:

Visits to safe houses and provision of legal counselling to victims of human trafficking

- Legal counselling
- Legal representation

Legal counselling includes informing victims of trafficking about the legal regulations in BiH i.e. dissemination of correct and objective information to the victims of trafficking about their rights, legal status, possibility for seeking asylum and consequences, as well as providing assistance in understanding their obligations in BiH. To victims of trafficking, Vaša prava BiH also provides legal assistance in exercise of their rights in BiH, like access to health care. Additionally, the procedures for compensation of material and nonmaterial damage are initiated with lawsuits and, in these cases, Vaša prava BiH drafts lawsuits and represents victims before regular courts. Moreover, victims of trafficking are informed about their rights and obligations in accordance with the BH Criminal Law as well as Law on Criminal Procedure, if they decide to testify in the criminal procedure against the traffickers. At the same time, victims of trafficking are also informed about the possibility of having a legal advisor from Vaša prava BiH present during the time they give statement before the public prosecutor as well as during the court procedures to ensure protection of their rights.

Vaša prava BiH provides legal aid and representation to victims of human trafficking in the asylum procedures before the BiH Ministry of Security, as the first-instance organ in the asylum procedure. In the process of obtaining asylum, Vaša prava BiH provides professional legal aid to the victims of human trafficking in the course of the procedure. Apart from the direct legal aid for the victims of human trafficking, assistance has been provided also to children of the victims in terms of registration of children in the registers of births, marriages and deaths and resolution of issues related to accommodation.

Since the beginning of 2005 Vaša prava BiH has provided free legal aid to 48 victims of human trafficking, some of whom have been minors and, in these cases, it was necessary to maintain continuous cooperation with the Centres for Social Welfare. In most of these cases, legal issues were related to temporary stay or asylum in BiH, personal safety and freedom, return to the country of origin and rights in the country of origin. Special activities were carried out during February and March 2006, after the raid and subsequent accommodation of 6 girls, victims of trafficking from Serbia and Montenegro at the safe houses in BiH, when Vaša prava BiH lawyers visited all safe houses and advised the above victims of human trafficking about their rights. During the second quarter Vaša prava BiH registered the activities pertaining to legal representation before court in the case of a minor beneficiary. During the third quarter the procedure was underway when Vaša prava BiH lawyers provided legal aid to 6 alien beneficiaries that testified before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moreover, during the third quarter 4 out of 7 new beneficiaries were from BiH and increase of the number of local victims of human trafficking can be considered a trend. During the fourth quarter characteristic was return of 6 beneficiaries to their country of origin when Vaša prava BiH contributed in terms of provision of information and obtaining documentation, as well as contacts with diplomatic consular representative bodies of the countries to which victims of trafficking were returning.

Apart from cooperation with the Office of the State Coordinator and Ministry of Security BiH, Vaša prava BiH has established very good cooperation with non-governmental organisations dealing with provision of other kinds of assistance to victims of human trafficking, like accommodation and psycho-social assistance, namely International Solidarity Forum, La Strada, Lara, Medica, Women of BiH, Local Democracy Foundation Sarajevo and others.

Besides good cooperation with competent bodies, institutions in BiH and non-governmental organisations involved in anti-trafficking, Vaša prava BiH makes great efforts towards its capacity building through number of seminars, training and conferences regularly attended by its staff. This way, Vaša prava BiH ensures competence and expertise of its staff to enable them to provide not only free, but also professional legal aid in accordance with the latest legal procedures in the country and international instruments of human rights protection.



### REPORT ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY FOUNDATION LA STRADA BIH IN 2006

# Extending and maintaining contacts with governmental institutions (in connection with lobbying)

Throughout the entire reporting period, regular contacts were maintained with governmental institutions, such as the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH (hereinafter the Office of the State Coordinator), Ministry of Security, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and the State Border Service (SBS). La Strada BiH lobbied for human rights in general, human rights of women, with a special focus on women who have been victims of human trafficking. La Strada BiH regularly sends its activity updates for the quarterly newsletter of Office of the State Coordinator. Advocating efforts of La Strada BiH for open shelters are just a part of activities within this lobbying campaign which also include interviews for relevant media representatives, trainings for women, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, SBS officials, police officers (many of whom are women) etc. The result of these efforts is reflected in an increased media attention for the issue of human trafficking, as well as more room for implementation of joint campaigns by governmental institutions and nongovernmental sector through broadcasting of documentaries dealing with this issue.

On 21 December 2006 La Strada BiH organised a meeting of the Working Group for Anti-Trafficking (HN Canton, Livno Canton as well as region of South East Herzegovina-Trebinje) in the premises of Centre for children and youth with special needs "Los Rosales" in Mostar.

La Strada BiH provided necessary information/comments/suggestions for the drafting the Operational Plan for 2006, which was adopted in spring 2006, as well as updates on its activities for the quarterly newsletter of the Office of the State Coordinator. La Strada BiH was involved in all programs planned by the Office, especially in prevention and education activities. La Strada BiH also participated in and actively contributed to the work of the referral meetings organised by the State Coordinator during the reporting period. Topics discussed during these meetings were the annual report for 2005, as well as other related issues such as the Initial report on violence against children in BiH (drafted by Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees and Council for Children), as well as legal framework that regulates the field of trafficking in human beings in BiH.

# Regional Conference on topic "Harmonising work of governmental institutions and nongovernmental sector in the field of fight against trafficking in human beings: lessons learnt"

The Conference took place in Sarajevo on 2-4 November 2006. It was attended by representatives of foreign embassies in BiH, governmental institutions (Ministry of Interior; Office of the State Coordinator from BiH, Serbia and Montenegro; SBS of BiH, Serbia and Montenegro; Cantonal Prosecutor's Office Split, Croatia), nongovernmental organisations La Strada Macedonia, La Strada Poland, Office of the State Prosecutor, State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), international organisations (OSCE, IOM, EUPM, OHCHR, EUFOR), media representatives etc.

### **Capacity building**

### **Adult Entrepreneurship Training**

Over 40 women from all over HN Canton participated in trainings on adult entrepreneurship. During the first part of the training the attendants were given basic details about creation of a business plan. During the second part of the training the attendants were trained on difficulties with starting of small businesses, possibilities, possible obstacles, procedures, technical points, etc. Special attention was given to creation of business plan for a sustainable small business. When both parts of the training

were finished, the applicants had to present their own business plans which included all relevant information in general, as well as in details when asked so by the commission. After a deliberation, this commission took the decision as to three most successful plans whose creators were awarded with symbolic money prizes. Special importance of this training lies in the fact that the training program included two wards from La Strada's shelter.

### **Trainings for the State Border Service**

During February 2006 trainings were organised for in total 43 participants in Višegrad and regional offices in East Bosnia. In March 2006 training was organised for 16 officials of the SBS Doljani. These trainings were targeted at improving interviewing skills which should enable these officers to interview potential/actual trafficking victims. The participants themselves showed a significant level of team working skills, which was particularly apparent during the simulation exercises. At the end of the trainings the participants received materials which should ease their work while interviewing trafficking victims.

Training on the topic «Tasks of SBS BiH in regards to uncovering and resolving of criminal offence of smuggling of persons» was held on 10-12 May 2006 in Neum. Subject matter of the training was of crucial importance for the work of this Service whose officers through their daily duties on protection of state borders and investigators from all organisational units of SBS contribute to prevention of these criminal offences.

### Advanced training for police officers, prosecutors, NGOs and SIPA (Sarajevo)

In the period between 8-19 May 2006, La Strada BiH, Office of the State Coordinator and OSCE Mission to BiH organized a three-week training for representatives of Ministry of Interior, SIPA, SBS, Prosecutor's Office and nongovernmental sector on topic "Investigating Trafficking in Human Beings without relying on the victim-a multi agency approach". The training was designed and realized as a simulation of a case of trafficking in women. First part of the training was successfully completed on 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2006 while already in the period between 22 and 26 May 2006 a training was organised for professors and trainers in the field of human trafficking after which they received a certificate and were qualified to hold lectures and seminars in the field of fight against trafficking in human beings.

### **SECI seminar**

La Strada BiH, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to BiH and the Office of the State Coordinator, organised three SECI seminars on the theme of "Application of international mechanisms in prosecuting trafficking cases" which were held in Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Mostar on respectively 13, 14 and 15 September 2006. Goal of the seminars was to clarify the role of SECI Centre in prosecution of trafficking cases as well as the role of INTERPOL in this area (possibilities of cooperation through SECI Centre and possibilities of establishing international police cooperation through INTERPOL). During the seminars the State Coordinator, as well as representatives of SECI Centre, INTERPOL BiH, Federal Prosecutor's Office and national coordinator La Strada BiH gave a presentation.

### Prevention and education activities (lectures/workshops/trainings for PEER groups)

Within the prevention and education campaign for the reporting period, La Strada BiH continued its previously established cooperation with CRS Mostar on the implementation of 4 additional advanced workshops for the target groups of Councils of teachers and parents throughout February 2006, two in Bugojno and two in Banja Luka. What's specific for these workshops is that they cover the entire territory of Bosnia Herzegovina and involve representatives of Councils from many towns, not only the hosting towns. Main goal of the workshops for the abovementioned target group is to strengthen the self-confidence of pupils and inform them of risks of suspicious job offers, as well as circumstances that could lead them into chain of human trafficking. During the workshops participants received information on the definition and issue of trafficking in human beings as well as the methodology of recruitment and the risks of searching for jobs abroad as well as within BiH borders. The main goal of the workshops for teachers and parents was basically the same, however more focussed of their involvement in the fight against human trafficking, ways of overcoming this problem or at least minimising its effect on the community, as well as finding possible solution for the problem through incorporation of human trafficking into school curriculum. La Strada BiH prevention materials, including questionnaires and evaluation sheets, are specially designed for the targeted group. Video materials and true stories were also presented during the workshops. Variety of new exercises and sessions was

the basis characteristic of advanced workshops, whose aim was to improve team work. Same type of workshops which were organised in the past all over BiH, caused very positive reactions from the pupils as well as their parent and teachers. Participants gained a clearer picture of significance of human trafficking, its proportions, seriousness of this community evil and importance of early inclusion of all community segments in the fight against this increasing phenomenon, starting from a family and school towards a wider community. Expectations arising from the implementation of the workshops relate to application of the gained knowledge, changes in views on human trafficking as an issue, as well as forming of the so-called PEER groups on voluntary basis. Furthermore, two trainings were also organised for peer groups with the goal of preparing them for an inter-school competition on the subject of "Democracy and human rights". As a result of a fruitful cooperation between La Strada BiH and Council of parents and teachers across BiH, lectures were held for pupils of primary and secondary schools in many towns in BiH, such as Bugojno, Gornji Vakuf and Mostar.

In the framework of prevention and education activities, La Strada BiH actively participated in the implementation of a big international awareness raising campaign for youth on human trafficking. MTV EXIT concert tour, organized by MTV and SIDA, started in Sarajevo on 29 July 2006 at 20:00 hours, with a big humanitarian concert on "Metalac" open-air stage. La Strada BiH closely cooperated with the organisers through active involvement in the process of advertising the event, distribution of promotional material and tickets prior as well as during the event. Volunteers and peer-group members of La Strada BiH were also actively involved in the mentioned activities. In the reporting period, total of 32 activities, including the concert, were conducted in the framework of prevention and education campaign.

#### Victim assistance

La Strada Bosnia provides complete care and support which include psychological counselling and support, social counselling, legal advice, medical help and care, workshops, vocational trainings, courses, etc. Medical service is provided in cooperation with hospitals and medical centres as well as professionals such as gynaecologists, psychiatrists, dermatologists, dentists etc. Legal aid is provided in cooperation with nongovernmental organisation Vaša prava, while in relation to concrete case close cooperation was also realised with the police, SBS, Centres for social welfare, as well as other NGO's. Repatriation of their shelter protégés is generally speaking conducted in cooperation with IOM. Throughout 2006 La Strada BiH assisted 30 victims of trafficking in human beings.

### **Monitoring**

La Strada BiH continued monitoring state observance of human rights situation and protection of trafficking victims as well possible examples of non-compliance with international protocols and documents signed by representatives of BiH governmental institutions. In that respect, La Strada BiH encountered problems in regards to closed shelter which were demanded by the Ministry of Security, thus denying freedom of movement of their wards and violating the UN Protocol. La Strada BiH runs an open type shelter which is contrary to instructions of BiH governmental institutions. La Strada BiH is going to continue lobbying for open shelters, as it is the only way to respect basic human rights of trafficking victims. La Strada BiH was an implementing partner of Medica Zenica in the research project concerning the work of State Court of Bosnia Herzegovina with a particular focus on trafficking cases. La Strada BiH closely monitors and registers cases of trafficking in BiH through a four-digit hotline (1261), unique for the entire country, and through cooperation with police officers.

### Cooperation with other organisations

Representatives of La Strada BiH also actively contributed to the events, seminars, round tables, organised by other organisations and institutions in the field of anti-trafficking.