



Government of the Republic of Macedonia  
National Committee for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal  
Migration

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR FIGHT  
AGAINST TRAFFICKING  
IN HUMAN BEINGS AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION  
FOR 2016

Skopje, 2017

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## Introduction

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Activities of the National Committee for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration and its bodies continued being transparent in 2016. Several meetings were held to discuss and propose important solutions and efforts for promotion of the area of fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, by having partner approach with relevant institutions, international organizations and citizen associations who vigorously informed on planned and finalized activities and results achieved, thus contributing in drafting this report.

The National Committee for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration drafted new documents for the fourth time in order to successfully address the trafficking in human beings, specifically:<sup>1</sup> **National strategy and National Action Plan for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration 2017-2020**<sup>2</sup> aiming at achieving greater efficiency among institutions, both at central and local level, underlining in this way the great transparency and cooperation of the National Committee. The Strategy is a reflection of the current state of affairs in this field, but in the same time – a vision for continuous improvement of coordinating activities, promotion of the legislative framework, increased implementation, as well as further preventive actions in the fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

Hence, SOPs were developed for treatment of vulnerable categories of individuals – foreigners with the support of the UNHCR, General Indicators for initial/preliminary identification of presumed and potential victims of trafficking in human beings in events of mixed migration movements in the Republic of Macedonia with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM Skopje) and **Inter-institutional Plan for Training 2016-2017**. The Plan covers areas of top priority necessitating training for all national stakeholders at **local, central and regional level**. The planned trainings were conducted in 2016 and will be continuing in 2017. The following topics are contained in the Inter-institutional plan for training:

- training for SOPs for treatment of unaccompanied children-foreigners and SOPs for treatment of vulnerable categories of individuals - foreigners;

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<sup>1</sup>In 2006-2008 the first Strategy and an Action Plan were drafted, followed by the second in 2009 – 2012 and the third in 2013-2016 for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration in the Republic of Macedonia.

<sup>2</sup> Developed by experts engaged by IOM under the guidance of the National Committee and partnership and in close cooperation with all of its bodies. The National Strategy and NAP for 2017-2020 have been sent to the European Commission for consideration and they are expected to be adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia at the beginning of 2017.

- training for indicators for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings in mixed migration movements;
- training for differentiating trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants and familiarization with the latest amendments of the Criminal Code in the area of THB and SOM;
- Training on Standard Operational Procedures for handling victims of trafficking in human beings ;
- Training for SOPs for realization of investigations for trafficking in human beings and illegal migration for police officers at all levels;
- Training on awareness raising for events relating to trafficking in human beings for journalists;
- Training for diplomatic-consular officers prior to their secondments to the diplomatic-consular representative offices of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Training for local committees for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration

Capacities of all partners in the fight against trafficking in human beings were continuously enforced by their active participation at seminars and workshops at national and international level.

National coordinators for fight against trafficking in human beings from the Western Balkan supported **“Declaration of the National Coordinators for fight against trafficking in human beings<sup>3</sup>.”** adopted at the regional conference **“Promotion of synergy and common approaches in addressing trafficking in human beings along the migrants route of the Western Balkan”** organized by the OSCE.

The Republic of Macedonia continued to be used as transit country in 2016 on the part of the migrants from the countries of the Middle East and Africa. The geostrategic location and the use of the so called **“Western Balkan route”** embedded the country into the list of countries with risk from the migration crises, because one of the main characteristics of the current migration crises is the widespread movement towards European Union countries.

In 2016 there was an increase in the number of identified victims done<sup>4</sup> by the institutions. Specifically, a total of **6 victims of trafficking in human beings were** identified who received direct assistance and support, as well as a total of **125 potential victims (78 adults and 47 children)** of trafficking in human beings on the part of institutions/organizations. Out of the total number of identified potential victims, 120 were identified as victims among the illegal migrants. During the illegal crossing of the state border, a total of **35.177 migrants** were discovered upon entry into the Republic of Macedonia, and a total of **1.961** were prevented from smuggling.

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<sup>3</sup> The Declaration was supported by the National Coordinators from Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the other hand, the latest report of the US State Report from July 2016 noted that Macedonia was ranked in TIER 2, i.e. a group of countries which fulfil the minimum standards for addressing trafficking in human beings.

## 1. Supporting framework

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### 1.1 COORDINATING STRUCTURES

The National Committee for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration<sup>4</sup> (the Committee) is a body uniting and coordinating all relevant parties in the fight against trafficking in human beings. The Committee is managed by a National Coordinator<sup>5</sup> with participation of its Deputy, Secretary and members.<sup>6</sup>

The Committee since 2003 is also composed of a National Committee Secretariat<sup>7</sup> - implementing the decisions of the Committee and a subgroup for fight against trafficking in children established in 2003<sup>8</sup>.

Due to personnel changes in the Ministry of Interior in 2016, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia nominated a President of the National Committee for trafficking in human beings and illegal migration<sup>9</sup>.

Activities of the Committee and its bodies proceed the work in a transparent and cooperative manners. Meetings were held on a regular basis<sup>10</sup> to discuss and propose important decisions and efforts to promote the field of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

Specialized mechanisms for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration were developed and a clear division of tasks was made to institutions and organizations at central and local level relating to identification, assistance and support of victims of trafficking in human beings and risk groups.

All factors in the process among which the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, through the Office of the National Mechanism for Referral of victims of trafficking in human beings continuously implements activities as provided in the National Strategy and the Action Plan for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration 2013-2016.

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<sup>4</sup> Decision published in "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No 18/2001.

<sup>5</sup> The Government adopted a Decision to nominate a National Coordinator and members of National Committee at its session held on 30.01 2007.

<sup>6</sup> Members of the Committee: MoI, MFA, Basic Public Prosecution Office for prosecution of cases of organized crime and corruption, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, judge of the Basic Court Skopje 1.

<sup>7</sup> Composed of representatives from international association of citizens and experts governmental institutions: MoI – STHIM, and MLSP-NRM; United States Embassy, ICMPD, OSCE, IOM, UNHCR, MARRI RC, "Open Gate", "For Happy Childhood", "Semper"; "Ezerka" and the Red Cross of Macedonia.

<sup>8</sup> Chaired by an advisor for protection and prevention of trafficking in human beings with members from the MoI – STHIM, United States Embassy in Skopje, ICMPD, OSCE, GIZ, IOM, "Open Gate", "For Happy Childhood", "Equal Access", as well as a Deputy People's Ombudsman acting as an external member/observer.

<sup>9</sup> Number 42-6668/1 of 23.08.2016, "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" no. 163/2016

<sup>10</sup> A total of six meetings were held in 2016: on 15 February, 19 April, 02 June, 19 September, 07 November, 23 November.

In May 2016 an independent expert<sup>11</sup> conducted an analysis of the National Strategy and the Action Plan for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration 2013-2016 which finished with positive note as for the level of implementation of activities provided in the National Strategy and the Action Plan for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, as well as the Action Plan for fight against trafficking in children.

The National Committee for Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration developed<sup>12</sup> **the fourth version of the National Strategy and an Action Plan for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration of the Republic of Macedonia 2017 -2020**<sup>13</sup>. The NS and the NAP are in the process of governmental approval and they are expected to be adopted at the beginning of 2017. These strategic and operational documents in the field of fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration provide special focus on the illegal migration, having the same meaning as the trafficking in human beings due to the recent events in the country and beyond in the last two years. This document also provides for measures and activities of the national institutions directed towards detection and prosecution of perpetrators and improving the status of victims of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration in the Republic of Macedonia.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Sector for Equal Opportunities, via the Office of the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings continuously implements activities as provided in the National strategy and the Action Plan for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration 2013-2016.

In 2016, NRM continued the cooperation and coordination with social workers from Centers for Social Affairs (in 30 towns in Macedonia), labor inspectors, Ministry of Interior/ the Unit for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, as well as with the Center for persons who are victims of trafficking in human beings with NGOs.

As a continuity of the activities for decentralization of the National Committee in the area of trafficking in human beings in 2016, a decision was made to set up additional local committees<sup>14</sup> in Prilep, Gevgelija and Veles. The Councils in Prilep, Gevgelija and Veles already decided to set the Local Committees, so there are activities under way to nominate the members/participants in the Committees.

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<sup>11</sup> Prof. Ph.D. Sunica Dimitrievska was engaged as an expert by the IOM Skopje

<sup>12</sup> Sande Kitanov and Jovan Andonovski, consultants engaged by the IOM Skopje

<sup>13</sup> In cooperation and financially supported by the IOM Skopje and the OSCE Mission in Skopje.

<sup>14</sup> In 2013, the Committee set up two Local Committees in Tetovo and Bitola and in 2014 in Stip.

## 1.2 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted **Standard Operative Procedures for handling vulnerable categories of persons – foreigners**. Even though the protection of vulnerable categories of persons was previously appropriately regulated, it was acknowledged that there was a need of adaptation of the existing procedures to better respond to the new situation and enable proper protection of this category of persons in specific conditions, such as the great inflow of migrants.

The National Committee considered the issues which went in line of amendments of the CC in view of the overlapping of Article 201 par. 2 “**Neglect and abuse of a child**” with Article 418-d “**Trafficking with a child**”, as well in view of implementing the principle of non-punishment of victims of trafficking in human beings.

Hence, the National Coordinator asked for a consultative meeting with the Working Group for amendments of the Criminal Code, starting an initiative for the need of **intervention in Article 201 par 2, Neglect and abuse of a child which is overlapping with Article from the Criminal Code, Article 418-d Trafficking in human beings**. The meeting of the National Committee was also attended by a representative of the Working Group for amendments of the Criminal Code, Member of Academy, Prof. Ph.D. Vlado Kambovski who gave the proposal to make better distinction among the two acts, which was accepted by members of the National Committee.

At the same meeting, discussion opened on the **Principle of non-punishment** regulated in Article 26 from the Council of Europe Convention for Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ratified by the Republic of Macedonia. The proposal given by the Working Group for amendments of the Criminal Code was to intervene in Article 418-a in paragraphs 5 and 6. The proposal will provide for the proper requirement that victim of trafficking in human beings will not be held responsible as an instigator or abettor of the act, will not be held responsible for acts committed while he/she is in a state of victim of trafficking in human beings forced under threats of the perpetrator of the primary act relating to the intent of the perpetrator, but will be held responsible for all other acts, even though should those acts also been committed under threats, general rules will apply.

The Association of citizens against violence and trafficking in human beings „Open Gate – La Strada“, in March 2016 published the analysis „Remuneration of victims of violent crime in Macedonia – How much the setting of state fund will cost?”. The analysis addresses the significance of financial sustainability in the work of the State fund for remuneration of victims from violent crime and existing models of financing such fund in other countries in the world.

Additionally, it published a “**Report from monitoring judicial proceedings on trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Macedonia**–

**Position of trafficking in human beings in judicial proceedings**“. The report is based on monitoring of judicial proceedings in 2015 and provides a comprehensive evaluation on the state of affairs and realization of the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings throughout judicial proceedings and in accordance with the basic standards for protection and realization of rights for assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings.

In 2016, the Association „Open Gate – La Strada“ within the regional project “Balkan – act now!” set up a Working group to draft text and elaboration on the Law for compensation of victims of crime, including victims of trafficking in human beings. Members of the WG worked on the draft law for compensation of damage on the basis of the analysis (feasibility study) - How much the setting of state fund for compensation of damage will cost? And a comparative analysis of relevant remedies in the region and in Europe<sup>15</sup>.

### 1.3 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- **Trafficking in human beings**

In organization of the OSCE in the period from 11-12 April in Vienna, Austria – a conference was held of the 16<sup>th</sup> Alliance against trafficking in human beings on the topic: „Fight against trafficking in human beings for purposes of violent crime“. The conference – along with the Deputy National Coordinator of the Republic of Macedonia – was attended by representatives from 57 countries members of OSCE and 11 partners for cooperation, international organizations and association of citizens.

Aiming at strengthening bilateral cooperation and prevention in the fight against trafficking in human beings, on 13 and 14 of June in Pristina, a **trilateral meeting was held of the National Coordinators for fight against trafficking in human beings** of Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro, which was also attended by the National Coordinator of the Republic of Macedonia.

In the period from 9-10 June 2016 the Members of parliament Club hosted a **Regional workshop dedicated to the fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration**. Host of the Regional Workshop was the National Coordinator fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration of the Republic of Macedonia. The workshop was realized with the assistance of the German Association for international cooperation GIZ<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> Within the reporting period, 5 meetings were held. As a starting point, draft text was developed using the Law on compensation of damage of Montenegro and of Croatia, being largely similar to the legal system of Macedonia.

<sup>16</sup> The Regional workshop was attended by members of the National Committee for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as representative of the Secretariat of the National Committee (IOM, OSCE, ICMPD and the US Embassy), along with delegations from the Republic of Serbia led by the National Coordinator, Republic of Montenegro led by the National Coordinator, Republic of Albania with three representatives from the Office of the National Coordinator, Republic of Kosovo led by the National Coordinator and the Republic of Croatia led by a representative of the Office of the National Coordinator within the Government Office for human rights.

The The National Coordinator and the Deputy National Coordinator took part at a **high level conference held at the occasion of initiation of a project “The fight against trafficking in human beings along migrants routes”**, which was held in the period from 16-17 June in Vicenza, Italy in organization of the OSCE and upon an invitation of the Special Representative and Coordinator in the fight against trafficking in human beings of the OSCE, Ms. Madina Yarbusinova.

The Deputy National Coordinator attended a **meeting for strengthening of the national coordination and international cooperation in the fight against trafficking in human beings** in the period from 21-22 June in Strasbourg, France in organization of the Council of Europe and the ICMPD, upon an invitation of the Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention for fight against trafficking in human beings, Ms. Petya Nestorova.

On 27-28 October 2016 a Regional Conference was held entitled **“Promotion of the cooperation and common approaches in addressing trafficking in human beings along the migration route”** hosted by the Republic of Macedonia. The Conference was organized by the OSCE Mission in Skopje with the support of the Office of the Special Rep[resentative and Coordinator of the OSCE for fight against trafficking in human beings and the National Committee for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration which was attended by 100 participants from the region. This Conference was aimed to inspire constructive dialogue towards joint action among representatives of relevant state institutions, the civil sector and the OSCE Missions in the region. Focusing on the countries from the Western Balkan, the dialogue involved other countries facing challenges of mixed migration movements, including countries of destination. Key international organizations active in the area of addressing the vulnerability of trafficking in human beings also had active participation. At the end of the Conference, the National Coordinators from the Western Balkan countries for fight against trafficking in human beings supported **Declaration of National Coordinators for fight against trafficking in human beings**<sup>17</sup>. The Declaration includes achievements, puts focus on constant common challenges and the promotion of modules of cooperation.

The National Coordinator attended the promotion of a movie “Observers” developed by UNITAS and the National Committee of Serbia.

An obligation which was fulfilled by the Republic of Macedonia for 2016 is answering the questionnaire for evaluation of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention for taking action against trafficking – GRETA, presenting a second round of evaluation done by the Republic of Macedonia. The deadline for submission of answers was 8 November 2016 where the National Committee sent the requested answers on time. Second step of this process is a visit by members of GRETA in the period February 20-24 this year.

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<sup>17</sup> The Declaration was supported by the National coordinators from Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In December 2016, the National Committee for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration organized a meeting of the Management Committee within the project „Horizontal Facility for Western Balkan and Turkey” supported by the Council of Europe, when an Action Plan was adopted putting an emphasis on the fight against trafficking in human beings in view of labor exploitation. Activities provided in this Action Plan generally refer to organizing workshops, trainings for labor inspectors and other competent authorities on this type of trafficking in human beings, increasing the knowledge and improving their work, improving identification of victims of labor exploitation, mapping study on dissemination and measures for protection from labor exploitation in the Republic of Macedonia, etc. The activities are planned to be realized in the period 2016-2018, i.e. throughout the duration of the project. In the same time, the National strategy and the National Action Plan of the Republic of Macedonia for the period 2017-2020 - the adoption of which by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia is under way – also provides for dozen of activities for improvement and reduction of activities of criminal groups and individuals in the field of commercial sex and labor exploitation.

As always, the National Committee provides input in the drafting of the Annual National Program for members of the Republic of Macedonia in NATO.

Two individuals from the Unit for fight against THB and SoM in the period from 14-18 November in Vicenza, Italy attended simulation training for conducting investigations on trafficking in human beings supported by the OSCE entitled „**Fight against trafficking in human beings along the migration route**“. One person from the Unit for fight against THB and SoM in the period from 5-8 December in Budva, Montenegro attended Train the Trainer event for trafficking in human beings supported by the IOM entitled “**Second Regional Train the Trainers for fight against trafficking in human beings** “.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM Skopje) within the regional project “**Enhancing capacities and mechanisms for identification and protection of vulnerable groups of migrants in Western Balkan countries**”<sup>18</sup> conducted two regional working visits in the Republic of Macedonia by delegations composed of high representatives from the Republic of Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. These visits were aimed at familiarization with the current situation with the migration flows in the Republic of Macedonia and sharing experiences for further adequate contingency planning. Within this project a regional training was organized for identification and referral of unaccompanied children-foreigners for representatives of law enforcement institutions and border services.

The association „**For Happy Childhood**“ continued the cooperation with members of ARIADNE – regional network for fight against trafficking in human

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<sup>18</sup> Financed by the US Secretary of State, Bureau for population, refugees and migration (PRM), training in Tirana, Albania on 23 and 24 November 2016, the training was attended by members of police services of the Regional centers of the border police within the Ministry and representatives from the MLSP who directly work with unaccompanied children-foreigners.

beings. A common manual was published “Instructions for rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in human beings,, published in English and translated into four languages. With the support of the network, the association “For Happy Childhood” extended the web page of the Association and created a Facebook page.

In reference to the international cooperation, the Association “Open Gate-La Strada“ attended regional meetings and conferences, round tables, trainings, among which:

- International round table held on 17 June 2016 in Vienna „**More than trafficking in human beings and modern slavery – Changing global threats and challenges into future plans** “<sup>19</sup>. The round table was used to discuss on examples and good practices in relation to trafficking in human beings and migration, as well as to develop creative solutions and potential solutions for the current crisis situation.

- **Regional Conference "Protection of victims of trafficking in human beings - approach based on the rights of victims in practice "**. The Conference was organized as part of the second phase of the project “Balkan, act (against the crime of trafficking in human beings) Now!”<sup>20</sup>

- Panelist of an international event, improving **methods for identification of victims in mixed migration movements** “<sup>21</sup> held in Geneva on 25 November 2016. The panel discussion was focused on discovering new moduses of addressing the trafficking in human beings for forced labor – through migration routes.

- On 22-23 November in Strasbourg, it shared its experience attending an expert meeting attended by lawyers representing victims of trafficking in human beings in Europe. The topic was “**Improving the access to justice for trafficked persons** “ and experience was shared from the project “COMPACT”, as well as practices in Macedonia in view of representing victims of trafficking in human beings in judicial proceedings.

- Regional meeting for field consultation: **Unaccompanied and separated children** in Belgrade from 14-15 November 2016<sup>22</sup>. The aim of this meeting was to exchange experience, to define key challenges and find best practices and recommendations of concerned parties.

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<sup>19</sup> Organized within “Initiative for regional application for prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings

<sup>20</sup> Organized by ACTRA in partnership with International Solidarity Forum Emaus in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Center for women rights in Montenegro, Open Gate – La Strada Macedonia and La Strada International in the Netherlands, held on 1 and 2 June 2016 in Belgrade. It was realized in the last four years with the assistance of European Union (CSF IPA).

<sup>21</sup> The panel was organized by the OSCE Office with the financial support of the Swiss Government and logistics and coordination by the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

<sup>22</sup> Attended by organizations from the region (Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia) who work in the area of protection and support of children refugees.

- Training „Illegal migration“ realized in Zagreb 25 – 29 April. The training was attended by participants from 8 countries<sup>23</sup>. Participants were able to present the state of affairs with the illegal migration in their country and share experience from the field regarding the current migration crisis.
- Participant and panelist at two regional meetings organized by the Ombudsman Office of the Republic of Macedonia. The first meeting was held on 3-4 November (Ohrid, Macedonia) and focused on the **access to the right of asylum and the formal/informal deportation of refugees/migrants**. The second regional meeting was held on 14-25 December (Skopje, Macedonia) and focused on the role of **Peoples Ombudsman in the protection of children refugees/migrants**. The meetings gathered at one place all Peoples Ombudsman from the region, providing an opportunity to exchange and discuss concerns relating to the protection of children refugees. Based on the identified need from cooperation, the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“ signed Memorandum of Cooperation with the Peoples Ombudsman of Macedonia.
- „Regional meeting of the expert group for enhancing capacities for improvement of joint criminal investigations and prosecutions to prevent illegal financial flows stemming from smuggling of migrants in Southeastern Europe“<sup>24</sup> Belgrade, Serbia 16-18 November. The regional meeting gathered representatives of countries of transit and destination from the wider region of Southeastern Europe and the EU to take action regarding current challenges in addressing smuggling of migrants, exchange of best practices on the use of parallel investigations and joint investigative teams (JITs) with the aim of improving cross border cooperation
- **Regional meeting on field consultation: Unaccompanied and separated children – Belgrade, 14-15 November** gathering organizations from the region (Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia) working on protection and support of children refugees.
- „Fight against trafficking in human beings and organized crime “ – Phase 2 (THB /IFS / 2), held in Tirana, Albania 6-7 December<sup>25</sup>.

In the period from 19-21 October in Rome, a meeting was held of the network of European National associations of the Red Cross implementing programs for prevention of trafficking in human beings, which was attended by a representative of **the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia**. The meeting presented an opportunity to exchange experience in view of activities relating to migrants movements and trafficking in human beings.

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<sup>23</sup> Among which Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Serbia, Kosovo and Croatia.

<sup>24</sup> Organized by the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international development of France and UNDP,

<sup>25</sup> In organization of ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) in cooperation with FEI (France, Expertiza Internacional) and FIIAPP (International Foundation for administration and public policies of Spain). Delegations were composed of representatives at expert level from Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Pakistan and Turkey.

- **Illegal migration**

In 2016 the state of affairs in the area of illegal migration continued in the direction of addressing the migrants crises, i.e. the increased flow of migrants from Arab and African countries attempting to get to some of the western European countries, primarily the Federal Republic of Macedonia, using the so called Western Balkan route.

The Republic of Macedonia, as a country located on the route itself, was one of the most affected European states, even though it was mainly a transit country for this category of people.

Going in line with the commitment for common European response in addressing the migrants crises, the measures and activities undertaken by the competent authorities to address the situation, were done in coordination with the decisions and measures of the other countries along the route and beyond, as well as with the measures of the European Union. Along with the implementation of the conclusions contained in the Common statement of the leaders which came out from the meeting of leaders regarding the refugee flow along the Western Balkan route held in Brussels on 25.10.2015, the Republic of Macedonia took active part in all international and regional initiatives and projects having the aim of mutual coordination and more successful addressing of the challenge.

Fostering national capacities and successful addressing of the migrations were one of the priorities in the bilateral police cooperation. Among other things, this cooperation resulted in continuous presence on a bilateral basis of foreign police officers at the Macedonian-Greek border throughout 2016. Police officers from 8 countries, among which EU member states are present at the southern border and provide support of the national security services in the protection of the border. Since 01.03.2016, this activity is supported by the European Union within the Special measure No.2, by implementing the IOM project “Special measures for support of the Republic of Macedonia in managing the southern border in the context of the European migrants crisis, financed by the EU.

### [1.3.1 Relevant documents from the European legislation committed to the fight against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants](#)

On 19 May 2016, the Commissioner Avramopoulos tasked with migration, internal affairs and citizenship, together with the Coordinator for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration on the level of the European Union, Marija Vasilidiou held a press conference at the occasion of the adoption of the First Report on the progress in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

The Report presented trends and challenges present in this field, as well as an evaluation of the progress in the area. Along with the remarks, the Report

contains key challenges to be faced by the Union and its member countries, as well as priorities which are to be fulfilled.

The **European Border and Coast Guard Agency** officially started its work on 6 October 2016 when the Regulative on the establishment of European Border and Coast Guard agency came into force, proposed in 2015 by the European Commission. The primary aim of the Agency is to implement European external borders management in view of effective management of migration and provisioning high level of security within the EU, together with protection of the freedom of movement in the EU and full consideration of the fundamental human rights.

Along with the stated activities, the Agency will have a strengthened role in the cooperation with third countries, especially neighboring countries and countries of origin or transit of illegal migrants.

The establishment of the new Agency was announced in September 2015 by the President of the EC as part of set of measures of **the European Agenda for migration** in order to strengthen the management and security of the EU external borders, as a precondition for sustainability of the Schengen area. On 15 December, EC submitted a draft Regulative for establishment of European Border and Coast Guard which would be set on the foundations of the existing Frontex Agency. The Regulative was adopted by the European Parliament on 14 September 2016, and entered into force on 6 October 2016.

### 1.3.2 Relevant international agreements dedicated to the fight against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants

In December 2016, the European Commission sent an initiative – and the Macedonian Ministry of Interior confirmed the interest for initiation of negotiations with the European Union, by signing a **Status Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the EU** as provided in the EU Regulative 2016/1624 of 14 September 2016 for European Border and Coast Guard (Frontex). The Status Agreement will establish the legal framework which will enable Frontex to deploy its teams on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, pursuant to the needs, and in view of protecting the borders from the new flow of migrants, which according to the estimations of the EC, presents a real danger to happen in near future...

Signing the Status Agreement is of highest interest and urgency for the EC and they have shown preparedness to start with the negotiations as soon as possible and sign the Agreement in 2017.

Parallel to the submission of the initiative to sign the Status Agreement, by the end of December 2016, Frontex submitted a **draft text for amendments to the existing Working Arrangement for establishing operative cooperation between Frontex and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Macedonia** (in force since January 2009) which is going to be discussed and harmonized in the forthcoming period.

## 2. Prevention

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### 2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF REASONS FOR OCCURRENCE OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION

The International organization for migration (IOM Skopje) within the project “Reinforcing the answer to increasing migration flows on the Western Balkan route” financed by the Department for International development of the United Kingdom in cooperation with the National Committee for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration developed **„Indicators for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings in cases of mixed migration movements“** and **„General indicators for initial/preliminary identification of assumed and potential victim of trafficking in human beings in context of mixed migration movements in the Republic of Macedonia“**. These indicators are intended to be used by persons responsible in the competent institution/organization being the first to respond/contact the foreign nationals in cases of mixed migration movements on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia (police officers, social workers, representatives of citizen/international organizations and other institutions and organizations). The indicators are a tool having the aim of recognizing usual signs on possible case of trafficking in human beings and undertaking appropriate steps having determined the existence of such signs...<sup>26</sup>

The International Organization for migration (IOM Skopje) within the project project „Strengthening the response to increasing flows along the Western Balkan route“ developed a **Manual on management of mixed migration flows**, compiling in one document - laws, best practices and procedures relevant to the mixed migration flows and elaborating the expectations and possibilities for action of the competent institutions of the Republic of Macedonia. This need resulted from the state of affairs in which the Republic of Macedonia was - being part of the Western Balkan route and the important position it has in addressing migration flows that passed through Macedonia, traditionally, but also in the recent times. The manual compiles in one place all international and domestic provisions relating to integrated border management, migration and asylum, as well as to analysis of best practices and more significant cases processed by competent authorities, non-governmental and international organizations.<sup>27</sup>

The Association „Open Gate-La Strada“ within the project Balkans ACT NOW II aimed at controlling national policies for prevention of trafficking in human beings and at inciting improvement of the approach towards compensation of victims of trafficking in human beings and other type of

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<sup>26</sup> The indicators were prepared by the consultant Mr. Sande Kitanov, hired by the IOM Skopje(2016).

<sup>27</sup> The Manual was prepared by the consultant hired by the IOM Skopje, prof. Trpe Stojanovski (2016).

violent crimes – drafted – along with its partners – **Manual on victim’s legal representatives: Monitoring and evaluation of policies for prevention of trafficking in human beings**. This document is an overall framework for analysis, providing opportunity for governmental and non-governmental institutions to improve their procedures in the process of suppression of trafficking in human beings, as well as the mechanisms for protection of victims of this crime. Additionally, the Association drafted Report: **Monitoring and evaluation of policies against trafficking in human beings and their implementation in 2014 and 2015**.

The Association „For Happy Childhood, participated in the research “Analysis of current practices for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings in countries of the ARIJADNE network “.

## 2.2 REINFORCING CAPACITIES AND REALIZATION OF PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES

During 2016, the National Committee identified the need of adoption of Plan for Trainings for 2016-2017 for employees/individuals who are part of the fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration. The trainings would concern each professional working in the area of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration to be able to respond to each challenge posed by trafficking in human beings and illegal migration in a more efficient and effective manner.

Within the Plan of Training for 2016-2017 and aiming at reinforcing capacities of the relevant actors, the following has been realized:

- Training on the use of **Indicators for initial/preliminary identification of assumed and potential victims of trafficking in human beings in the context of mixed migration movements, gender equality and fight against trafficking in human beings in times of migration crises**. Trainings were conducted for the purpose of early identification of assumed and potential victims of trafficking in human beings, with the financial support of IOM, realizing four one-day trainings attended by 160 individuals<sup>28</sup>.
- **Training for Standard Operative Procedures for treatment of unaccompanied children-foreigners and Standard Operative Procedures for treatment of vulnerable categories of individuals – foreigners**. The trainings were implemented with financial support of UNHCR in the period from

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<sup>28</sup> The training sessions were attended by persons from: The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the National Ombudsman, Asylum Sector, Border Police, SIA, Red Cross of the REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, Civic Association – Open Gate, Civic Association – For Happy Childhood, The Municipality of Shtip, the Municipality of Bitola and Municipality of Gevgelija. An activity was conducted within the projects *Providing an improved targeted and coordinated support for the persons moving around entry, transit and exit points in Serbia and Macedonia* financed by the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and *Strengthening the readiness to manage migrations via proper planning in Western Balkan countries* financed by the IOM Development Fund on October 17th and 18<sup>th</sup> 2016.

October to December, conducting six two-day trainings attended by 150 individuals<sup>29</sup>.

In 2016 the **Ministry of Labor and Social Policy** in the **Sector for Equal Opportunities** in cooperation with the OSCE Mission conducted 2 trainings in view of reinforcing capacities of social workers for pro-active identification of victims of trafficking, protection of the rights of the victims and efficient addressing of trafficking in human beings. The trainings were attended by 60 professionals: social workers from the Centers for social work, social workers-volunteers from the camps "Vinojug", "Tabanovce", as well as from the Reception Centre for asylum seekers. Within these trainings along with the theoretical training, field training was organized to practically apply Indicators for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings, i.e. the employees visited the above-mentioned camps and spoke with women refugees for the purpose of profiling victims of trafficking in human beings among the refugees. These activities were realized in May-September 2016.

On 27 and 28 September 2016 in Struga a two-day training was conducted on gender-dimension of trafficking in human beings for police officers, social workers and citizen associations in organization of the Young Lawyers Association and the Office of the United Nations for women in the Republic of Macedonia attended by representatives of the Sector for Equal Opportunities.

From 6-7 July 2016 in Berovo, the OSCE Mission in Skopje in cooperation with the Association of Public Prosecutors organized a workshop on the topic "Promotion of cooperation and multidisciplinary approach and protection of rights of victims of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants". The event was attended by 35 experts responsible for criminal prosecution of perpetrators and identification, assistance and support of victims of trafficking in human beings, representatives from The Basic Prosecution Office for prosecution of cases of organized crime and corruption, The Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“, the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) and lawyers providing free legal assistance.

Having said this, the gender concept of trafficking in human beings was included in an educational session at trainings organized by the National Committee for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration with the support of the International Organization for migration (IOM Skopje) on the use of SOPs for identification of unaccompanied children-foreigners and vulnerable categories of people- foreigners, as well as on the General indicators for initial identification of assumed victims of trafficking in human beings in

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<sup>29</sup> The training sessions were attended by persons from: The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the National Ombudsman, Asylum Sector, Border Police, SIA, Red Cross of the REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, International Organisations for Migration (IOM), MARRI, Save the Children, Civic Association- Open Gate, and Macedonian Young Lawyer Association.

the context of migration movements in the Republic of Macedonia held on 17 and 18 October 2016.

The Academy for training of judges and prosecutors “Pavel Satev” in the reporting period realized dozen of trainings, 7 of which on the topic of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration. The trainings were attended by 62 persons, out of which 36 judges, 21 public prosecutors and 5 professional associates. The trainings organized in the Academy for training of judges and prosecutors related to: „Effective fight against smuggling of migrants“, „Trafficking in human beings/Right of victims to compensation of damage“, „Asylum seekers from Syria and the position of the UNHCR“, „Protection of the rights of refugees and migrants pursuant to ECHR“, „Asylum seekers from Iraq and the position of UNHCR“, „Asylum seekers from Afghanistan/Pakistan and the position of UNHCR“, „The law and practice in the protection of refugees“.

**The International Organization for migration IOM** in 2016 organized numerous trainings and workshops for relevant parties directly involved in the migration crisis. The training were held by national and international experts and had the aim of reinforcing capacities of national authorities in addressing the migration flow with special emphasis on victims of trafficking in human beings, vulnerable categories and unaccompanied children-foreigners.

- In January and February 2016 **six two-day trainings were organized** on humane border management, international standards for protection, interview conducting skills, registration and profiling techniques. The trainings were attended by **123 police officers**<sup>30</sup>. The purpose of the trainings were to increase the overall capacity of the professional knowledge and skills and in the application of international and national standards and regulative in view of: respect of the rights of migrants and refugees pursuant to international agreements; profiling – identification and referral of vulnerable groups (persons in need of international protection, minors with no escort and victims of trafficking in human beings) in mixed migration flows; managing transit centers and the role of rapid intervention teams.

- In May 2016 four two-day trainings were held in Kumanovo and Gevgelija on “**Capacity building for coordinated response to challenges of mixed migration flows with a total of 120 participants** through the project „Migrants and refugees“<sup>31</sup>. Purpose of the trainings went in line of improvement of knowledge of participants of the fundamental rights of the migrants, their consideration pursuant to international conventions ratified by Republic of Macedonia and familiarization of the police officers with the cultural, religious and political characteristics of the migrants and the communities where they come from.

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<sup>30</sup> From the Department of Border Affairs and Migration as well as members of the Regional Center for Border Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, funded by the Government of Japan within the project “*Enhancing the National Response to the Increased Migration Flow along the Western Balkan Route*”.

<sup>31</sup> The training was attended by employees of the Ministry of Interior, police officers deployed around the green border line, social workers from the Ministry of Labour and Soial Policy, Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association and NGOs, funded by the Council of Europe Development Bank

Special emphasis was given to the role of intervention teams in dealing with mixed migration and their medical protection.

- In view of improving the management of the Reception Centre for Foreigners, **Standard Operative Procedures (SOPs) for the Reception Centre for in the Republic of Macedonia**. The SOPs were developed in cooperation with the Department for Border Affairs and Migration. Two-day training was organized on the topic of the SOPs of the Reception Centre for Foreigners. The training was attended by **26 participants**<sup>32</sup>. The aim of the training was familiarization with the basic rights of the migrants in the context of the Reception center, introduction into the basic procedures for management of the Reception Centre for Foreigners, as well as mechanisms for coordination and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings and vulnerable categories.

- In May and June 2016 trainings<sup>33</sup> were held on humanitarian border management for the Macedonian Border Police. The total number of participants from the two sets of trainings was **249** divided in ten events lasting for two day. The topics covered went in line of humanitarian border management, as well as standards for protection of human rights of the migrants, prevention and management of critical incidents in mixed migration flows, exchange and collection of information in times of mass cross-border flows, stress management and stress reduction, gender integration in the border management and distinction between smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

The Association „Open Gate-La Strada“for capacity building of competent institutions conducted:

- Round Table<sup>34</sup> held on 4 October for inter-agency exchange of best practices, identification of challenges and further steps for action - "Social protection of refugees Социјалната заштита на бегалците во Republic of Macedonia". **Case study** was presented at the panel discussion **“Social protection of refugees in Macedonia, shown through their personal stories from the Western Balkan route 2015/2016”**. A total of 43 persons attended the event from the NGO and the governmental sector responsible and tasked with responding to the crises and the protection of refugees and migrants, including journalists who took active part in the discussion.

- Within the project **„Building professional approach – identification, referral and assistance of high risk cases among migrants and refugees“**, consultants were involved to supervise and protect the physical and emotional

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<sup>33</sup> Employees of the Department of Border Affairs and Migration, employees of the Regional Centers for Border police of the Republic of Macedonia, police officers from the Reception Center for Foreigners, Asylum Sector and a representative from the Office of the Ombudsman, the training was held on 23 and 24 August 2016 in hotel Gardenia – Veles.

<sup>34</sup> As part of the project **“A Follow-Up and Lessons Learnt: Mobile Teams for Identification, Assistance and Protection from THB of Refugees and Migrants**, supported by the German Association for international cooperation (GIZ)

wellbeing of citizen organizations and the police in doing field work with migrants and refugees.

- In the period from 1 March to 31 August a series of group and individual **counseling's** were conducted (therapies) by an external psychologist and gestalt psychologist. A total of **89 workshops were held attended by 126 professionals**<sup>35</sup>. The trainings enabled development of creative techniques of behavior to enable more efficient stress management, emotional exhaustion and professional wearing out, as well as keeping person's integrity for people assisting in the refugee crisis...

- Within the project **„Building professional approach – Identification, referral and assistance of high risk cases among migrants and refugees“**, employees in the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“ conducted on-the-spot training for information and awareness raising to the sensitiveness of professionals and volunteers working in transit/refugee camps in Gevgelija and Tabanovce. The purpose of the on-the-spot training was to increase sensitiveness, knowledge and skills of the professionals in order to recognize and refer high risk cases, which will contribute towards increased protection of the migrants and refugees, especially women and children without escort. The field trainings were conducted in a period of 6 months and included **400 professionals**<sup>36</sup>.

- On 24 and 25 February in Strumica two day training was organized on the topic **„Identification, referral and support of migrants/refugees “**<sup>37</sup>. As a result of the training, 17 participants gained knowledge on the manner, methods and techniques of work on the field.

- Mobile teams from Gevgelija and Tabanovce took active part at the training for **„Psycho-social group activities with children, games and sport“** organized by Terre des Hommes and the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“ from 11 to 14 May. The purposes of the training were: familiarization of participants with the basic principles of psycho-social group activities with children; improving methodological and practical skills for better, more efficient organization of the psychosocial work with children; to learn and practice some of psycho-social activities for children: movement games and sport activities. The training included **26 professionals** (social workers, psychologists, translators).

- **Round table- Monitoring and evaluation of policies against trafficking in human beings and their implementation in Macedonia – presenting results from the project Balkan, act now!** On 14 November presentation was held on identified faults in the implementation of public policies relating to trafficking

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<sup>35</sup> 99 social workers, psychologists and interpreters hired for fieldwork in TC Vinograd and Tabanovce by La Strada, who attended 84 workshops, 8 members of the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association who participated in a total of 3 workshops and 19 border police officers who attended 2 workshops

<sup>36</sup> (The Police, the Army, employees of UNHCR, MLSP, MYLA, Red Cross etc.) as well as volunteers in the transit centres Vinograd and tabanovce

<sup>37</sup> The sessions were attended by field workers (social workers, psychologists, interpreters etc) from TC Tabanovce and Gevgelija. This training was part of the project *Interventions for child protection and psycho-social support of children on the go* funded and supported by Save the Children International (SCI).

in human beings and protection of victims of trafficking. The meetings was used to present the Manual for monitoring and evaluation and the Report on monitoring, its structure and the main findings and recommendations. Additionally, a feasibility study was presented for compensation of damage and the proposed solution for setting the fund for compensation of damage<sup>38</sup>.

The Association „**For Happy Childhood**„ trained 10 volunteers– social workers for realization of a project for prevention of trafficking in children in pre-school facilities which is planned to be implemented in 2017 in five such facilities.

The First Children’s Embassy in the world Megjashi from January 2016 started implementing a project “Transnational coalition of citizen associations of Southeast Europe for protection of women and children from trafficking in human beings and gender based violence– STOP”. Within the project in 2016 a focus group was organized covering the topics of trafficking in human beings and gender-based violence, as well as a round table covering the issue of trafficking in human beings, illegal migration and gender-based violence, with special emphasis on children. The event was attended by representatives from citizen association, state institutions, high schools, experts and other interested parties in the said issue.

### 2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS RAISING AND EDUCATION

In 2016, the **SOS telephone for assistance for trafficking in human beings** of the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“ continued to operate and 7 operators provided information, support and referral every day of the week from 08-20 hours. In 2016 a total of **219 calls** were registered on the SOS telephone.

- **Marking the world day od fight against trafficking in human beings**

At the occasion of the world day of fight against trafficking in human beings - 30 July, the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“ joined the manifestation with a call to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery, such as ce trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation, worst form of child exploitation, forced marriages and forced recruitment of children in armed conflicts. There is still trafficking in human beings in Macedonia which is considered as contemporary form of slavery. The statement was an appeal to all competent institutions and organizations to take severe measures to suppress trafficking in human beings and to provide appropriate protection and assistance for victims of trafficking in human beings. The statement was publicized by several media and social networks and sent to all relevant institutions.

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<sup>38</sup> The meeting was attended by 15 different stakeholders, institutions, experts, as well as civic associations.

- **European day for fight against trafficking in human beings**

The National Committee initiated the implementation of a national campaign for fight against trafficking in human beings under the motto **PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS – ask, assist, report!**<sup>39</sup> The campaign was realized with the support of the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“ and the International Organization for migration (IOM Skopje) and it started and it was promoted at the occasion of the European Day for fight against trafficking in human beings (18 October). The campaign included printed materials (bags, wallets, posters and leaflets), as well as realization of forum theaters held in rural areas. In the same time, there were sessions organized in municipalities of the region (Gevgelija, Doyran, Valandovo, Bogdanci) on awareness raising for trafficking in human beings and illegal migration. The sessions were held in Transit centers „Tabanovce“-Kumanovo and „Vinojug“ - Gevgelija. The campaign included printing 8500 materials (bags, raincoats, wallets, posters and leaflets), as well as realization of forum theaters in rural areas.

The Association „Open Gate-La Strada“ within the project Balkans ACT NOW II, developed and publicized a media campaign under the title “Finally, Justice” at the occasion of the European day for fight against trafficking in human beings embedding within 10 procedures for action – calls upon governments of the countries in Europe to implement those procedures, with the use of which victims of trafficking will exercise their right to compensation and eliminate all obstacles preventing victims to do so.<sup>40</sup>

The **Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia** organized 11 workshops<sup>41</sup> for prevention of trafficking in human beings at the occasion of 18 October – the International Day of fight against trafficking in human beings.

- **Week of fight against trafficking in human beings**

At the occasion of the Week of fight against trafficking in human beings, the National Committee with the support of UNHCR reconstructed and developed the new web page<sup>42</sup> aiming at better accessibility to information, as well as with the aim of promoting activities, public educations and public awareness raising in the area of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

At the occasion of the Week for fight against trafficking in human beings, the social network pages of the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“**published** a Statement which was also sent to all media, calling upon all

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<sup>39</sup> The Campaign STOP TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS -ASK, HELP, REPORT was supported by UNICEF, the Dutch Embassy, UK Aid Dift, National Commission for Combatting THB and Illegal Migration.

<sup>40</sup> The statement of the NGO, as well as the banner for the Campaign *Justice at Last* was prepared and published on online-media (web and Facebook) and the statement of the NGO was sent directly to over 40 national stakeholders as well as the international community, i.e. representatives from the EU, OSCE, ICMPD.

<sup>41</sup> Bitola, Kavadarci, Kochani, Krushevo, Ohrid, Resen, Tschair, CO of the City of Skopje, Kisela Voda, valandovo and Demir Hisar

<sup>42</sup> [www.nacionalnakomisija.gov.mk](http://www.nacionalnakomisija.gov.mk)

competent institutions to improve identification of victims from different types of exploitation, thus, contributing for greater number of victims to gain access to the available services for their protection and integration. The Association called upon a multidisciplinary approach in the work and effective implementation of reintegration programs for victims of trafficking in human beings by respecting their human rights, primarily: proper information, right to protection, right to legal assistance, compensation of damage, social integration, non-discrimination and right of free choice.

Additionally, for the refugees and migrants accommodated in the two transit centers, **7 workshops** were conducted “Prevention of trafficking in human beings” aimed at reducing risks and vulnerability of these persons.

In December, with the Week of fight against THB, the Association „For Happy Childhood,, under the motto „Trafficking in human beings has many faces –how to recognize them,, organized 3 one-week trainings for students from the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Economy. The film „Taken” was also shown. They were attended by **83 students** from these faculties who had never taken part in training in this area.

In 2016 **the Association for equal opportunities SEMPER from Bitola** carried out only preventive activities within the scope of marking the European day **against trafficking in human beings** and Sunday for fight against trafficking in human beings. Preventive activities were conducted with pupils from primary and secondary schools in Bitola<sup>43</sup>. A total of **120 participants** attended the trainings. Educational materials (flyers) were also distributed among the participants – the pupils and the wider public.

**The Red Cross Republic of Macedonia** got involved in the celebrations of the Week of fight against trafficking in human beings by organizing preventive activities by the Red Cross of Skopje and the municipal organizations of the Red Cross<sup>44</sup>. A total of 17 workshops were organized for peer-to-peer education of young people in primary and secondary schools, covering a total of **420 students**. The preventive lessons were aimed to raise the awareness of youngsters, recognize moduses through which young people can get caught up in trafficking in human beings and their self-protection. Additionally, throughout the year there were **83 workshops** organized attended by **2146 pupils** from primary and secondary schools.

To raise public awareness and educate, within the reporting period, institutions and organizations continuously conducted planned trainings, form theaters, peer-to-peer education:

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<sup>43</sup> Workshops were conducted for students and representatives from Parental Councils of the Municipal Highschool “Josip Broz Tito“, Municipal Highschool “Taki Daskalot“, also workshops were conducted in the Primary School “Dame Gruev“ Bitola.

<sup>44</sup> Gazi Baba, Kavadarci, Bitola, Veles, Ohrid, Berovo, Valandovo, Radovish, Kumanovo, Kichevo, Kochani, Krushevo and Sveti Nikole

- **"Inform about migration and trafficking in human beings"**<sup>45</sup> is the topic of the two forum theaters organized by the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“attended by **a total of 180 participants** (students, teachers and local population in Gevgelija) who had the possibility to take part in the theater and give their opinion and solution on possible moduses for prevention of trafficking in human beings. The participants were additionally informed on the migration and refugee crisis and on the situation in which the migrants and the refugees are found in our and in other countries from the western Balkan route. During the forum theaters 500 USBs and brochures with the SOS telephone were developed and printed, along with stories of refugees, instructing the participants to call the SOS line and inform about the migration and trafficking in human beings.
- Within the project „Provisioning support for children refugees in the Transit centers Vinojug-Gevgelija and Tabanovce“ financially supported by UNICEF – there were 6 forum theaters realized in 6 primary schools under the title „Inform yourself on migration and trafficking in human beings,, which were attended by 230 children. The materials developed with the campaign were distributed by mobile teams in rural areas along the southern border and in the transit centers. The mobile teams held brief info sessions and informed on the existence of the SOS line for prevention of trafficking in human beings and preventive protection measures.
- In 2016, the Association „**For Happy Childhood**,, with logistic support of the Faculty of Philosophy continued implementation of preventive activities with students of the 4 institutes of the Faculty and there were 3 one-day trainings held with trained **119 students**<sup>46</sup>.

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<sup>45</sup> The trainings were conducted on 2016/10/19 with children, parents and teachers from the Primary School *Brakja Ribar* in the village of Tabanovce and on 25.10.2016 with children, teachers and local population in Gevgelija. The event was part of the project *Follow-Up and Lessons Learnt: Mobile teams for identification, assistance and protection from THB of refugees and migrants*, supported by the German Association for international cooperation (GIZ).

<sup>46</sup> Training was held on 12 March, 14 May, 18 October for 2 Universities: Ss. Cyril and Methodius and International Slavic University –Sveti Nikole- Bitola.

## 3. Support and protection of victims and migrants

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### 3.1 IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF VICTIMS

In 2016, institutions in the Republic of Macedonia identified 6 **victims of trafficking in human beings** female, 3 of whom children. Half of the victims originate from the region of Skopje, one from Kicevo, Gostivar and one from the Republic of Serbia. As for the place of exploitation, the most present is internal trafficking where the exploitation was mainly committed in Gostivar – in three cases, two in Ohrid and one in Skopje. All victims identified in the reporting period have been sexually exploited, one of them is a minor and she was sexually exploited within a forced marriage.

The Ministry for Labor and Social Policy/NRM coordinated several procedures for protection of identified 3 children who were victims of trafficking in human beings. They were accommodated for a short period of time in a Center for persons who are victims of trafficking in human beings where they received appropriate assistance and support, two of them were then returned to their families and one was taken in by a foster family.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the International Organization for migration (IOM Skopje), **mobile teams** were set up and trained, who were composed of lawyer, social worker and psychologist assisted by a translator in order to provide assistance and referral of asylum seekers, migrants, refugees and vulnerable categories of migrants, especially unaccompanied children-foreigners. The mobile teams are active seven days in the week in the Reception Center „Vinojug“ - Gevgelija, „Tabanovce“ - Kumanovo and the Reception center for asylum seekers “Vizbegovo”. Their purpose is by conducting interviews and conversation to perform screening of vulnerable categories of migrants and to refer them to the competent institutions/service providers in order to receive the necessary assistance. The mobile teams of IOM Skopje cooperate with all actors in transit centers in order to detect vulnerabilities of migrants and facilitate their access to protection and services according to human rights. **In 2016, in the two transit centers the mobile teams referred 3,295 migrants towards services offered by different organizations (national/international) and the state institution within the Transit centers themselves.**

In 2016, **the mobile teams** of the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“ continued providing services for vulnerable groups of refugees accommodated in the Reception center in Vinojug/Gevgelija, the Transit Centre in Tabanovce, and in the Asylum seekers Centre in Vizbegovo with the support of several partner organizations. The Association actively worked with refugees identifying their immediate needs and providing different information, such as: initial identification of individuals at risk to become or who are victims of trafficking in human beings or gender based violence, psycho-social and emotional support for the vulnerable groups; advice for mother-refugees on

parental care, maintaining hygiene of the children, advice on safe travel, referral and escorts to other institutions and organizations, etc. During 2016, **the mobile teams provided direct assistance to 8627 refugees/migrants with specific needs**<sup>47</sup>. Out of the number of persons having been provided with assistance and support, **86 (61 adults and 25 children)**<sup>48</sup> persons were identified as potential victims and victims of trafficking in human beings. Total of 80 individuals were identified as potential victims and victims of gender based violence, out of whom 63 – women, 9 girls, 2 men and 6 boys. For all persons who were identified, an initial emotional support was provided, as well as appropriate information on available services, referral to other services and support in meeting other needs.

To support migrants transiting through the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, **the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia** engaged **234 volunteers** deployed in teams for distribution of humanitarian assistance, paramedics, family reunions, maintaining field kitchens, as well as additional two mobile teams in the region of Loyane. Identified potential victims are reported in cooperation with partner organizations.

### 3.2. DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS AND MIGRANTS

In the process of protection and reintegration, there are special measures undertaken based on the age and the needs of the child/victim, taking into consideration the special physical, psychological and social consequences the child has been subject to, being a victim of trafficking in human beings, as a result of misuse and exploitation. Referral and accommodation in a Shelter Centre for victims of trafficking in human beings, evaluation of the needs and intervention in crisis situations;

The Centre for persons who are victims of trafficking in human beings, the involved NGOs provide:

- expert team active both during day and night time, as well as escorting victims to required locations;
- Food throughout their stay, hygienic packages, clothes and shoes;
- Inclusion in the program for psycho-social assistance (different workshops, computer training, basic English language lessons, etc.);
- organizing occupational-recreational activities depending on the interests> drawing in glass, napkin technique, handmade jewelry, drawing on porcelain, knitting, sewing, origami technique;
- Primary medical checks were provided by specialized gynecological checks, laboratory tests, HIV tests and A, B and C hepatitis tests;

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<sup>47</sup> (Old persons, single mothers, persons with special needs, persons who were subject to gender based violence etc.). Humanitarian assistance (food, beverages, sanitary materials, soup, tea, toys, winter jackets, raincoats for children, hats, socks, gloves) for refugees and migrants.

<sup>48</sup> Out of 61 adults, 46 are males and 15 women, and out of 25 children, 16 are boys and 9 girls

- Legal counseling and familiarization with the judicial system and representation before courts by lawyers in previously initiated judicial proceedings;
- Individual long-term plan for inclusion into the educational process after returning to the place of living;
- Psychological support of victims including different types of treatment and sessions, group therapy and individual psychological counseling once a week, as well as urgent or intensive assistance, when necessary;
- overcoming stress and trauma, improving reading skills, positive thinking, basic information on adolescent development problems, emotional relationships and relation with peers, risks from sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy.

The Association „Open Gate-La Strada“in 2016 within the Centre provided accommodation and support for 2 minors – victims of trafficking in human beings. The two of them were initially accepted and provided with basic hygienic packages, clothes and food. During their stay, they were also provided with initial psycho-social assistance from the expert team. In one of the cases, temporary fostering was the Centre for social affairs and due to the security of the victim, in cooperation with the temporary foster parent, decision was made that the best solution would be to accommodate the victim into a foster family, while the other child was returned to his/her biological family.

Within the program for social work maintained by the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“ in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy/CSP, there are **5 victims of trafficking involved**, all of whom are children. Two of them are taking part into an educational process, one is attending associate lessons; one potential victim is attending regular classes, in four cases medical assistance was provided using medical specialists (gynecological, internal medicine, traumatology injuries). Additionally, **3 (three) minors** upon proposal of CSP were included in the program as **potential victims of trafficking in human beings**. Intensive work was done with them and different services were provided to help them rehabilitate and get involved in mainstream social flows.

The Association „**For Happy Childhood**“, in 2016 continued providing psychological assistance to victims accommodated in the Centre for victims. Members of this Association, together with representatives of the the Association „Open Gate-La Strada“enabled work in two shifts in the Centre.

Within the reporting period, the Association “**For Happy Childhood**” provided psychological support to two identified minors victims of trafficking sheltered in the Centre. One of them received support both from a psychologist and a psychiatrist. For the needs of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the psychologist of the Association drafted Psychological report on the situation of the victim and professional opinion on the type of protection for the victim after leaving the Centre. On the basis of this report, it was proposed and later accepted as best solution to accommodate the child into a foster family.

The IOM Mission in Skopje within the project „Reinforcing capacities and mechanisms for identification and protection of vulnerable groups of migrants in countries from the Western Balkan“<sup>49</sup> established a **Direct Fund for assistance of unaccompanied children-foreigners and other vulnerable categories that are in need of direct assistance**. This fund enabled provisioning medical, psycho-social, educational, legal and basic assistance (clothes, food) for vulnerable categories of migrants in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

### 3.3 LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF VICTIMS AND MIGRANTS

The Association of citizens against violence and trafficking in human beings „Open Gate-La Strada“ provided legal assistance and representation of 3 victims of trafficking in human beings. The lawyer in the three cases also took part in preparing the judicial proceedings for these persons. Additionally, for the needs of the judicial proceedings, the lawyer also provided funds for expert testimonies of a neuro-psychiatrist.

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<sup>49</sup> Financed by the US Secretary of State, Bureau for population, refugees and migration (PRM),

## 4. Budget

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Activities relating to the fight against trafficking in human beings were realized in partnership between the Committee and institutions of the system, international organizations and associations of citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, donors and partners having contributed in implementation of activities for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

Table 1: Funds for the activities were provided by:

Ministry of Interior	180.000,00 den
Reception Centre for Foreigners	3.822.000,00 den
Ministry of Labor and Social Policy for CVTHB	820.000,00 den
International organizations <sup>50</sup>	17.971.966,00 den
Citizen associations <sup>51</sup>	18.725.000,00 den
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>41.518.966,00 den</b>

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<sup>50</sup>The International Organisation for Migration (IOM Skopje) spent € 225.000 or 13.881.375,00 MKD. (Part of these means were used for the activities for combatting trafficking in human beings and illegal migration as well as activities of the mobile teams for 2016 working in the Transit Centres and the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers.); OSCE Mission to Skopje spent 35,245 EUR or 2.174.440 MKD, UNHCR 1.916.151 MKD.

<sup>51</sup> During the ongoing 2016 the Civic Associations conducted their activities on a volunteer basis and they funded them from their own budget without being compensated for the financing of activities from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia. The association Open Gate spent 300 000 euros or 18 540 000 MKD for its activities aimed at combating trafficking in human beings and potential victims among migrants and refugees. The Association *For Happy Childhood* has no budgetary implications, the Association *Semper* spent 185 000,00 MKD from its own budget. The Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia conducted the activities for educating young people by hiring professional educators working voluntarily

## 5. Investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants

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### 5.1 PRE-INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURE

#### 5.1.1 Trafficking in human beings /child

- **The Ministry of Interior**

**The Ministry of Interior**<sup>52</sup> in 2016 documented two cases of trafficking with a child and one case of trafficking in human beings. **the Unit for trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants** within the reporting period undertook measures and activities in view of detection and identification of individuals, but also organizers of criminal groups (CGs), persons who are members of CGs and persons who are their associates which were under the suspicion that are perpetrators of criminal acts. In this context, the ETHBSOM provided material evidence and submitted criminal charges.

Two criminal charges were submitted against seven persons for committing five criminal acts „trafficking with child“as per Art. 418 d from the Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia. The reported persons are at the age of 25 to 58 years, two of them females and the remaining six – males. Victims are two females at the age of 12 and 17.

One criminal charge was submitted against six persons for committing „trafficking in human beings“as per Art.418a from the Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia. Two persons are at the age of 20, and per one at the age 26, 55, 60 and 62 years, out of whom two are females, and the remaining four males. In relation to these charges, another person was charged for having committed criminal act “**organizing a group and inciting to committing the acts of trafficking in human beings, trafficking of a minor and smuggling of migrants**“as per Art.418c from the CC of the Republic of Macedonia. The charged persons acted as criminal group. Two females are victims at the age of 22 and 23 years.

- **The Basic Prosecution Office for prosecution of cases of organized crime and corruption**

**The Basic Prosecution Office for prosecution of cases of organized crime and corruption**<sup>53</sup> provided data in relation to reported and processed individuals which were subject of work of this Prosecution office in 2016.

**Trafficking in human beings Art.418-a from CC**, 2 criminal charges were submitted for initiation of an investigation against 7 individuals and a final

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<sup>52</sup> Data obtained by the Department for Criminal Intelligence and Analysis

<sup>53</sup> Data obtained from the Public Prosecutor's Office for prosecuting organized crime and corruption

effective verdict was reached against one person, sanctioning him with an alternative measure – conditional sentence

**Trafficking with child Art. 418-d from CC**, 1 criminal charges were filed against 6 individuals, an Order for initiation of an investigation against 6 individuals has been made and an Indictment has been filed against 1 person.

In 2016, the **Ministry of Labor and Social Policy via the NRM** coordinated procedures for 2 children brought for questioning before a public prosecutor and for expert psychiatric testimony due to suffering psychological pain and immaterial damage.

Table 2: Review of identified victims of trafficking in human beings in 2016

VICTIMS			
6			
Minors 3		Of age 3	
National 3	Foreign /	National 2	Foreign 1
Type of exploitation		Type of exploitation	
Sexual 2	Sexual 1 (forced marriage)	Sexual 3	
Potential victims of trafficking in human beings 122* (78 adults and 44 children)			

\*Out of the total number of identified potential victims, 120 were identified among illegal migrants.

Potential victims of trafficking in human beings were identified by:

- MoI – total **35** (18 children) out of whom 34 victims were identified among illegal migrants on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia,
- Ministry of Labor and Social Policy – identified **1** (one female child) potential victim identified on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia,
- The Citizen Association Open Gate/La Strada – identified a total of **86** (25 children) as potential victims of THB among illegal migrant who were exploited outside the border of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, in the countries of transit before entering the Republic of Macedonia.

### 5.1.2 Smuggling of migrants

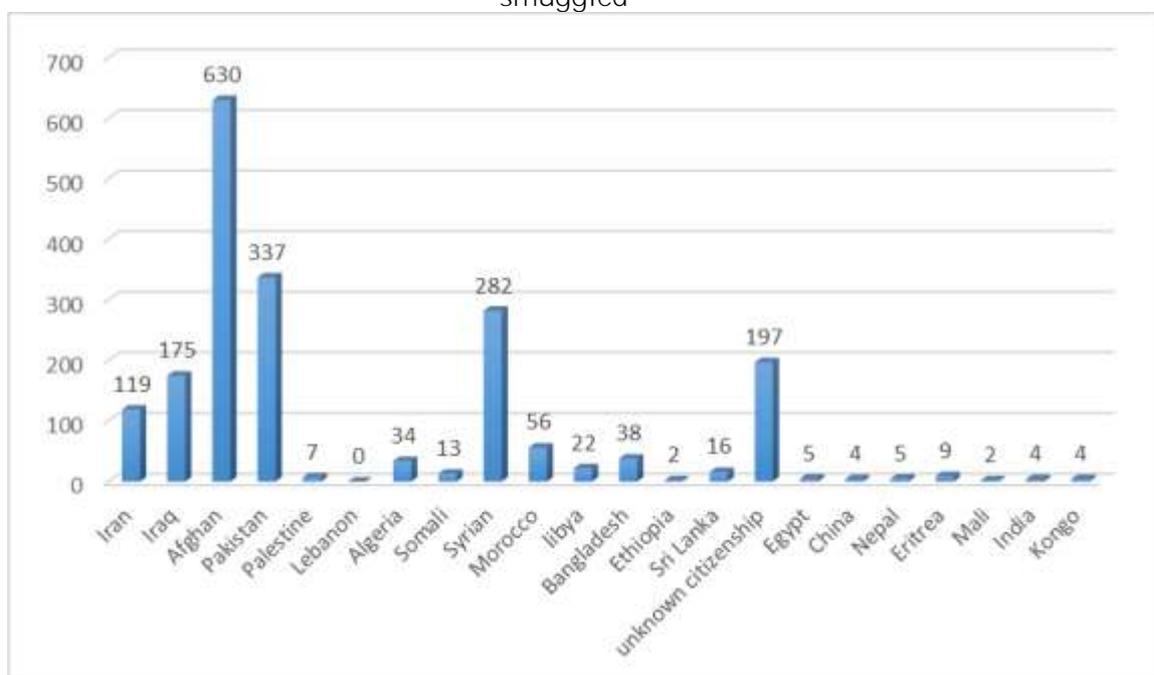
The Smuggling of migrants was relevant throughout 2016, but it especially intensified after the official closure of the so called “Western-Balkan route” in March 2016. The decision to close this route for transit of the migrants

towards Western Europe and the reinforced measures for security of the state borders undertaken by the countries in the region, the use of services of individuals and criminal groups operating in the area of smuggling of migrants – practically made this the only way this category of individuals to be able to transit through the countries from the Western Balkan towards their final destination.

The detection and proving the commissioning of this criminal act is burdened by the fact that migrants in most of the cases attempt to cross the state border when entering or exiting the Republic of Macedonia by them, they are received and transported into the territory of the country, they are provided with temporary accommodation. The high sums the smugglers seek to be paid for their services, as well as the fact the migrants have stayed in Greece for a longer period of time and their funds are depleting are factors which contribute to the possibilities for different types of misuses of the migrants.

In 2016, a total of 108 cases of smuggling of migrants were detected in an attempt to smuggle 1,961 migrants mostly from Afghanistan - 630, Pakistan - 337, Syria -282, individuals with unknown nationality -97, Iraq-175, Iran-119 etc. After undertaking the necessary measures, more than a half of the cases were closed and there were measures of criminal prosecution taken against 93 individuals (19 of them are foreign nationals) for having perpetrated the crime “smuggling of migrants”.

Table3: Graphic image of nationalities of migrants detected in an attempt to be smuggled



During the procession of the cases, one organized criminal group was suppressed, composed of 15 members acting at national and international level

whose members committed crimes in the area of violent crime<sup>54</sup>. Within the group, 10 individuals were reported for the crime „**organizing a group and instigating into committing acts of trafficking in human beings, trafficking with minor and smuggling of migrants**“.

As a specific case we would elaborate a case which was processed by the ETHBSOM by submitting criminal charges against 8 individuals before the Basic Public Prosecution Office for prosecution of cases of organized crime and corruption as per Article 418-b, par.4 and par.3 in relation to par. 2 from the CC of the Republic of Macedonia based on a reactive investigation between Macedonian and German police services. During the investigation, a total of fifty individuals/migrants were discovered originating from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, out of whom 31 were identified as potential THB victims. The eight criminally charged individuals, using physical force and threats took control over the migrants aiming to extort additional money, misusing their state of vulnerability and the lack of personal identification documents, having illegally entered and stayed on the territory of Republic of Macedonia – to obtain material benefit in order for the migrants to be able to continue along the Balkan route – Greece – Macedonia – Serbia and onwards to EU countries.

Part of the discovered migrants were accommodated in the „Reception Centre for Foreigners,, Skopje and another part in a Safe house – Center for accommodation of vulnerable category of persons who are foreigners. Some of the migrants during the investigative procedure provided statement before the relevant Public Prosecutor from the Basic Public Prosecution Office for prosecution of cases of organized crime and corruption.

The relevant institutions treated the potential THB victims in accordance with the SOPs for handling victims на trafficking in human beings, SOPs for handling unaccompanied children-foreigners and SOPs for handling vulnerable categories of individuals-foreigners.

After conducting security checks, procedure was initiated for their family reunion which was done with collaboration of JUMCSR Skopje and the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia. In 2016 also, acting on the basis of the above-mentioned SOPs, family reunification was done for:

- Two children, males from Syria identified as potential victims of THB among illegal migrants in 2015.
- Two children, females from Afghanistan identified as potential THB victims among illegal migrants in 2016.

#### o **Reception Centre for Foreigners**

As for migrants accommodated in the Reception Centre for Foreigners in Skopje, in 2016 година there were a total of **750 migrants** accommodated in the center, 581 of whom male. 169 females; distinguished by age - 563 are of age, 187 minors. Distinguished by nationality, most of the migrants are from Syria -184,

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<sup>54</sup> Illegal trafficking in drugs, smuggling of migrants, illicit manufacture, possession and trade with arms or explosive substances and crimes of corruption

followed by Afghanistan -162, Pakistan -119, Iran -100, Iraq -66, Morocco -41, Algeria-17 and some other countries.

In reference to accommodation, for individuals considered victims of **криумчарење**, the relevant institutions also used alternative accommodation capacities, despite the Reception Centre for Foreigners, such as the Safe House supported by Jesuit Refuge Service under the competence of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. This measure was applied especially for vulnerable categories of people, primarily children, unaccompanied children foreigners and women.

○ **The Basic Prosecution Office for prosecution of cases of organized crime and corruption** provided data in view of reported and processed individuals which were processed by this prosecution office in 2016.

- **Smuggling of migrants Art. 418-b from CC**

77 criminal charges were submitted against 102 individuals, orders for initiation of investigative procedure against 56 individuals, submitted motions for indictment against 33 individuals, decisions for dismissal of the criminal charges for 3 individuals, verdicts on the basis of a settlement in a previous procedure for 21 persons, verdicts on the basis of a settlement after implemented investigative procedure against 19 individuals, indictments submitted against 16 individuals, first-degree convictive verdicts were adopted for 14 individuals, for 12 individuals the first-degree verdicts were enforced by the Second Instance court and for two individuals – the first-degree verdicts were amended in the part of the given punishment<sup>55</sup>.

For individuals for whom verdicts were adopted (on the basis of settlements, as well as in a regular procedure) the given punishments were in duration of 8 years and 10 months up to 7 months for 62 individuals, as well as conditional sentences for 14 individuals.

- **Organizing a group and instigating into perpetration of trafficking in human beings, trafficking with child and smuggling of migrants as per Art. 418-c from the CC**

One criminal charges were filed against 3 individuals, orders for initiation of investigative procedure against 3 individuals, submitted indictment against **поднесени** against 7 individuals, first-degree convictive verdicts were adopted for 18 individuals, second-degree verdicts for 7 individuals, out of whom for 1 – the first-degree verdict was enforced by the second instance court, and for 6 individuals - the first-degree verdicts were amended in the part of the given punishment, specifically for 4 individuals the prison sentences in duration of 7 years and 6 months were reduced to 6 years and 6 months, for one person the prison sentence in duration of 7 years was reduced to 6 years and for one, the

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<sup>55</sup> For one person the alternative measure – conditional sentence which was given was amended into effective imprisonment sentence in duration of 8 months, and for one person, the imprisonment sentence in duration of 1 year was amended to 1 year and six months.

prison sentence in duration of 6 years and 6 months was reduced to 5 years and 6 months.

Individuals who were convicted received prison sentences in duration of 15 years up to 1 year and 1 month for 15 individuals, and conditional sentences were issued against 3 individuals.

## 5.2 CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

For crimes relating to trafficking in human beings and illegal migration in 2016 the Basic Court Skopje 1 Skopje received a total of 91 cases, covering as defendants 106 individuals, with 83 cases processed by the court and indicting 99 individuals. Out of the indicted individuals, 96 are males and 3 females.

In 2016, including the cases received in the previous years, prison sentence in 69 cases was given for 85 individuals, while conditional sentence was given in 14 cases for 14 individuals.

Duration of the prison sentences go within the range of 8 months to 18 years. Effectively in prison were processed a total of 47 individuals. Confiscation of items was included in 72 verdicts, and specific sum of money were confiscated in in 5 cases. No verdict was made to result in closure of business or organization used for trafficking in human beings.

Table 4: Court cases and indicted individuals

Article from CC	Received		Finished		Prison sentence		Conditional verdict	
	Cases	individuals	Cases	individuals	Cases	individuals	Cases	Individuals
Art.418a	1	1	1	1	/	/	1	1
Art.418b	81	85	74	83	62	71	12	12
Art.418c and Art.418b	7	18	7	14	6	13	1	1
Art.418d	1	1	/	/	/	/	/	/
Art.418eд	1	1	1	1	1	1	/	/
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

## 6. Recommendations and planned activities for 2017

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- Implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration 2017-2020;
- Monitoring of amendments and novelties in EU legislation, EU countries and countries from the region in areas relevant to the illegal migration and timely synchronization of the national measures and activities with the measures of the EU and the region;
- Identification of criminal groups and individuals planning, preparing or committing crimes of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings in an organized manner;
- The Ministry of Interior will continuously monitor the situation at the southern and the northern border and undertake coordinated measures and activities for successful addressing and overcoming of the migration crises, increased involvement of overall capacities and resources, to prevent escalation of the situation and maintain stable security situation;
- Elaboration and implementation of an operative plan for inter-institutional trainings;
- Reinforcing the National Referral Mechanism;
- Undertaking measures to reduce the demand.