



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

STRATEGY FOR COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

ACTION PLAN FOR COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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Criminality as a phenomenon with a socially negative connotation, as a detrimental phenomenon for the society and as a dangerous phenomenon for the successful functioning of the legal, economic, social and other systems, finds itself a suitable ground for expansion and development especially in those countries which face political, economic, social and legal crisis or general transition. The transitional processes today are developing with great dynamism and have the tendency to encompass all segments of the social structure, and all strata of society. This is precisely why, as a rule, they produce conditions which E. Dirken defines as states of "anomia," manifesting as social disorganisation at all functional levels of the state and society. Such countries tend to experience a constant recurrence of criminal influence in all areas of social life. This influence produces states that contribute to the penetration of criminality into all spheres of life, and to the emergence of its phenomenological characteristics into new, more dangerous forms and shapes. It is because of these states that such countries must build their criminal policies based upon scientific grounds for the successful prevention, hinderance and finally elimination of criminal activities. Such a crime policy represents a separate strategy for combatting criminality, because the criminogenous factors conditioning its emergence in the various spheres of life occur with differing levels of intensity. To overcome and eliminate them invariably requires a specific approach depending on those relations.

The most serious criminal activities today involve the rapid and widespread expansion of organized crime marked by a large number of participants operating internationally, regardless of national borders. Such serious crime involves especially: illegal drug production and trafficking; trafficking in arms and nuclear materials; pirated merchandise, often with false trademarks and poor quality; and of course trafficking in human beings and illegal migration. The principal feature

of the last is sexual exploitation, forced labour and the like.

The irreparable damage that countries suffer owing to the negative manifestations of such transnational crime today adversely affects the essential functioning of society. This has prompted the governments of the countries affected to undertake energetic measures to respond effectively to criminal activity in the attempt to suppress it. This strategy, prepared by a team of experts, assisted by a wider circle of people of diverse provenance connected specifically to the battle against this evil, passed and adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia only points to the fact that our country has a consistent policy and an intention to make an energetic contribution in response to the criminal organisations in the battle against such organised crime.

I hope that our activities will not stop with the enactment of this strategy, and its multidimensionality provides the carrying out of activities in the particular areas, which will lead to a decrease in trafficking in human beings, smuggling migrants and all those forms that only facilitate the existence of this criminal phenomenon, whereby it will make the objective itself attainable.

Therefore, it is a great pleasure to see that this document will contribute to a more successful combat against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, as an international social evil.

Goce Džukleski, Ph.D.
State Secretary
Ministry of Internal Affairs



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**STRATEGY FOR COMBATTING
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND ILLEGAL
MIGRATION
IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Skopje, March 2006

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The purpose of the National Commission, with this strategy for combatting trafficking in human beings and illegal migration in the Republic of Macedonia, is to set out the guidelines and priorities for dealing with this criminal phenomenon.

Starting from the constitutional provisions whereby the corpus of fundamental human and citizens' freedoms and rights and respect for the commonly accepted norms of international law have been established as fundamental principles of constitutional organisation, and bearing in mind the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the United Nations' Convention against Transnational Organised Crime with its Protocols, the Republic of Macedonia in 2002 enacted a National Programme for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration with the single intention of being actively involved in the international community's efforts regarding the prevention and combatting of trafficking in human beings, one of the most serious forms of organised crime. A striking example in confirmation of this stance is the existing legislation which, regardless of the extent of its compliance, is of limited value if it lacks the support of the ruling structure and the political will for its immediate and unconditional application.

The activities that have been undertaken also go in this direction, above all owing to the care that the country takes for the security and personal integrity of its citizens, with the purpose of their protection against the activities of criminal organisations which deal with the trafficking of human beings. This is one segment, among others, for the preparation of the national programme for combatting this 21st century evil.

The programme addresses the activities aimed at discovering the causal relations which have a certain influence on trafficking in human beings on a national and a regional level, the disclosure of the bearers of these criminal

activities, the methodology of work applied, the measures which are being undertaken from a preventive point of view, as well as the activities that are being undertaken for the criminal prosecution and for the protection of the victims of trafficking in human beings.

Owing to the complexity of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, which implies a correlation with the rest of the forms of organised crime because of the globalisation and the non-existence of borders among the member states of the European Union, which enables its transnationality, the necessity for the national strategy to be based in the future on a multidisciplinary methodological approach arises as a necessity when utilising the practical experiences and the empirical data from the other countries in the region and beyond, in order to fight a more successful battle against this most serious form of sophisticated slavery.

The Republic of Macedonia, since the establishment of the National Commission, has gone through several stages and has made significant steps towards the harmonisation of its legislative framework with European Union standards in the sphere of combatting trafficking in human beings.

It is of exceptional significance to work on undertaking activities which will deepen activities which have so far been operationalised on a preventive level with the single intention of preventing this kind of organised crime. To that end, also in future, these activities will address the allocation and reduction of the economic and social factors which affect the percental representation of the victims of trafficking in human beings:

- identification of the extent of domestic violence;
- stimulation of the co-operation between the governmental institutions and the non-

govrenmental sector through participation in research projects related to the issue of trafficking in human beings

- promotion of projects which will implement programmes of economic reintegration for the risk groups.

Other iintegral parts of this strategy include: the prevention, identification, aid, support and protection, as well as the return and reintegration of victims, adequate criminal prosecution;internationalcooperation;education of the institutional capacities; the coordination and establishment of a single information system; as well as an informative campaign designed to influence public opinion.

The entire national nomenclature involved in the battle against trafficking in human beings expresses its willingness for the institutionalisation and upgrading of such progressive gains.

BACKGROUND - ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Trafficking in human beings, particularly in women and children, is a global issue which is also reflected in the Republic of Macedonia. It appears in different shapes and has as its objective the exploitation of its victim for the greatest financial profit possible.

According to the analyses carried out by the professional agencies within the Ministry of Interior, the victims of trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Macedonia were most often girls and women originating from the countries belonging to the former Soviet Union as well as from those countries that belonged to the former Socialist bloc¹, who had illegally entered or had been brought in through already established networks for illegal transit of migrants into the Republic of Macedonia. Some of them had also legally entered the territory of our country. According to the information, some of the women - victims of trafficking, who have illegally crossed the state border of the Republic of Macedonia, are transferred into neighbouring countries through organised channels, where they are sold for the financial benefit of organised criminal groups from these countries, whereas a lesser number of them are transferred to Italy and other Western European states. In the field of illegal migration and according to the Interior Ministry's experience to date, the territory of the Republic of Macedonia has been used as a transit country, with the most frequently used illegal passages at this time running via the west-east and north-south corridors.

A smaller portion of female persons who have illegally entered the territory of the Republic of Macedonia most frequently remain in the western part of the country, where, by means of various false promises of employment in catering companies, they are sold, often multiple times in a chain of traffickers into prostitution. In addition

to trafficked foreign nationals, there have recently also been registered several Macedonian female citizens, most frequently juveniles, who are being introduced into prostitution, increasing the likelihood of their becoming trapped in the chain of trafficking in human beings.

On the basis of analytical data, the majority of unrealised cases involves the forced prostitution of foreign female nationals in rented or private flats, houses and summer-houses. Having control over such structures is particularly necessary, taking into consideration the fact that these are not only the sites of forced prostitution, but also the places where the victims of trafficking in human beings are sheltered until their sale or resale.

1. (Moldova, Romania, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Bulgaria)

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

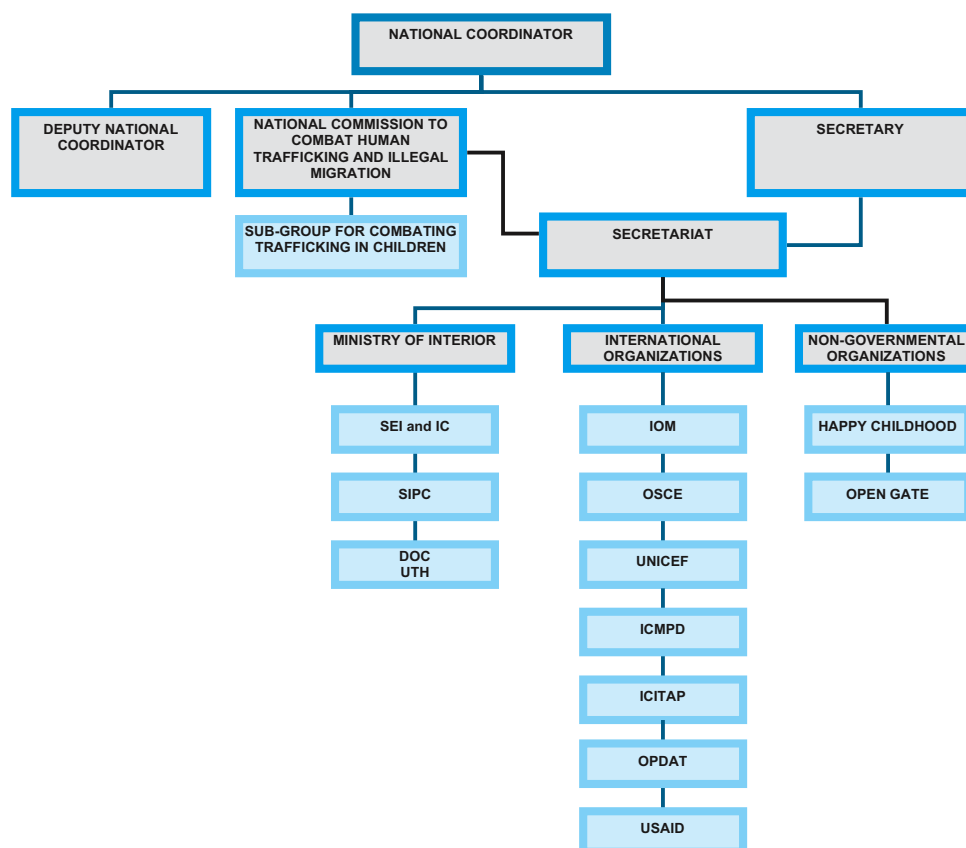
The Government of the Republic of Macedonia, responding decisively to the problem of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, and wishing to attain a higher level of efficiency and joint action in the battle against these phenomena within the country, has passed a Decision on Establishing a National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration in the Republic of Macedonia². On the basis of this Decision, the Government has passed a Decision on the Nomination of a National Co-ordinator and Members of the National Commission³.

In accordance with the Decision, the National Commission has the task of monitoring

and analysing the situation with trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, and to coordinate the activities of the competent institutions, as well as the international and non-governmental organisations which are involved in problem-solving in this area.

The Secretariat is a body which operates within the National Commission, and the Secretary enforces the decisions of the Commission and represents this body, in which also participate representatives from the international⁴ non-governmental organisations and experts from the government agencies. Within the National Commission, there has been established a sub-group for combatting trafficking in children.

STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION



2. The Decision was published in (the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia", no. 18/2001)

3. The Decision was published in (the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia", no. 19/2001, 26/2002)

4. OSCE, IOM, UNDP, ICMPD, USAID, UNICEF, the US Embassy Programmes – ICITAP and OPDAT

1. Legislation

In spite of the evident progress in the transposition of the standardised legislative decisions of the EU, the internal legal system of this field of action will have to be particularly supplemented in the direction of the preparation of by-laws, whereby the legal decisions which have been enacted or are in the phase of being enacted will be operationalised, thereby accepting the fundamental values that relate to the protection of human rights and the approach to the orientation of the victims of trafficking in human beings.

In support of the commitments and activities of the international community for an efficient and co-ordinated response to the growing forms of trafficking in human beings, in the segment of legislative activities, there has been made an amendment to the Criminal Code with two new incriminations pursuant to the Protocol for Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially in Women and Children, whereby the United Nations' Convention against Transnational Organised Crime has been supplemented, which was signed by the Republic of Macedonia in December 2000.

After the signing and ratification of the Agreement on Stabilisation and Association with the European Union in 2004, the Republic of Macedonia in the segment of the Agreement that refers to the chapter of justice and internal affairs, was obligated to harmonise the legislation towards a more efficient cooperation in the battle against the most serious forms of organised crime, and in that context also in trafficking in human beings. The strategic objective of the Government in the course of 2004 was the fight against organised crime, even more so if one takes into consideration that the Palermo Convention, and its Protocols emphasise the need to establish a unique and efficient legal framework, as an

essential prerequisite for offering a stronger and a more consistent response in the battle against this kind of sophisticated slavery of the 21st century.

In this direction, as priority activities of the Commission which have been operationalised in the previous period were activities for reform in the criminal legislation in order to finish the completion of the construction of the legal framework for more efficient prevention and suppression of acts related to trafficking in human beings.

In addition to these amendments and modifications to the legislation in 2002, the process of harmonisation of the criminal legislation continued in 2004, when the amendments and modifications to the Criminal Code were adopted in the provision of Article 418-a by embedding new actions of execution in paragraph 1 and the introduction of two paragraphs 6 and 7, which refer to punishing legal entities and confiscation of the items and means used for committing the criminal act, as well as the modifications to the Law on Criminal Procedure. To this end, two new acts have been introduced, 418-b smuggling of migrants, and Article 418-c organising and inciting to perpetration of the criminal acts of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.

With the introduction of the incrimination of trafficking in human beings into the criminal legislation of the Republic of Macedonia, our courts and prosecutions have successfully processed a large number of reported cases of criminal acts of trafficking in human beings.

In the function of the implementation of the right to protection of the identity and privacy of victims of trafficking in human beings in the amendments and modifications to the Law on Criminal Procedure adopted in October 2004, a new Chapter XIX-a: Protection of witnesses, collaborators of justice and victims has been

introduced. Pursuant to these provisions, process and non-process measures for protection of witnesses, collaborators of justice and victims are established.

In addition to the amendments and modifications of the criminal legal code, in the segment of the legislation the Law on Witness Protection has been enacted, whereas the Law on the Conditions and Procedure of Monitoring Communications is in the process of being enacted.

In the course of its work, the National Commission reviewed the activities undertaken in the legislative field aimed at modernising the measures for monitoring and efficient combatting of trafficking in human beings, the improvement of the existing criminal-processing regulation for international legal assistance and education, as well as the acceleration of the reform process in the criminal legislation in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

The establishment of the legal framework for protection of witnesses and victims of criminal activities is essential, even more so that last year, in Sarajevo, a declaration on combatting organised crime was signed by the Ministers of Interior and state representatives from South-east Europe, particularly in relation to the protection and processing of data, as well as the protection of witnesses. Furthermore, in Ohrid, the Adriatic Charter was signed by Macedonia, Croatia and Albania, also with the priority joining in by Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina, with which the signatory countries committed themselves to intensified cooperation in the suppression of organised crime, illegal trafficking in arms, drugs and human beings.

With regards to the aid and protection for the victims of trafficking in human beings, the Republic of Macedonia has undertaken activities for providing a legal and administrative system which will contain measures for providing the victims with information about the appropriate judicial and administrative procedures in front of the competent bodies, as well as assistance in providing their standpoints to be expressed and reviewed in the respective stages of the criminal proceedings against the perpetrators, in such a manner that it will not affect the rights of

the defence. Moreover, measures for providing adequate accommodation, counselling and information regarding their legal rights, then, providing medical, psychological and material aid and securing physical safety of the victims until their repatriation are undertaken.

Boosting efficiency in the battle against criminality necessarily requires utilisation of all the available means and methods from the classical (conventional) to the most up-to-date (modern). Namely, the prosecutory bodies presentation of information very frequently jeopardises the source of that information (the witness), his/her life, health and property, as well as the members of his/her family. The necessity of utilising such a source of information imposes on the state the obligation to also envisage an adequate protective mechanism, which will secure the safety of the witness and his/her closest ones.

Even though it dates from quite some time ago, as of late the issue of the Programme for Witness Protection has been increasingly made a topic of discussion among the general public as well as among criminal experts and the police, and with regard to this, especially the prospects of its legal regulation in our country.

2. International, regional and police co-operation

The National Programme for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration in the Republic of Macedonia, passed by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, in section five, which refers to the international cooperation and coordination in the execution of laws, sets out the principal strategic objectives and specific activities, as well as the bearers of the activities for creating conditions for international cooperation and coordination in the prosecution of the perpetrators of criminal acts that relate to trafficking in human beings.

Bearing in mind the transnational character of trafficking in human beings, it is necessary to have a multi-agency and international approach in regards to the exchange of information, data and knowledge about the perpetrators of this

type of criminal activity, as well as in regards to the preventive measures and actions, the identification and protection of victims, and also the manner of coordination and realisation of the criminal prosecution.

With the reforms in the Ministry of Interior, within the Department for Organised Crime, a separate Sector for International Police Cooperation has been established, within which, besides the National Central Bureau of INTERPOL, there also operates the National Office of the SECI Centre. The appointment of liaison officers with EUROPOL after the necessary prerequisites will have been created is also envisaged.

The cooperation of this sector in the segment of trafficking in human beings is being developed in several directions with the purpose of identification of the reasons for the emergence of trafficking in human beings, the analysis of the emergence and establishment of mechanisms for its suppression on a regional level, as well as on an international one.

The exchange of information, knowledge and data among the countries which is being made seeks to identify, find, suppress, arrest and prosecute i.e., indict persons or organisations involved in trafficking in human beings and illegal migration; to disclose and close the paths i.e., channels and routes of trade, smuggling people and illegal migration; to identify the victims of this kind of criminal activities and to repatriate them to their home countries; to take appropriate care in the return and reintegration of the victims, particularly the high-risk groups, like women and children; to find and provide witnesses who have already been repatriated into their home countries and who are needed in order to testify in front of the competent courts in the Republic of Macedonia; to realise the possibility of a telephone or video conference hearing; as well as to perceive the modus operandi of perpetration of the criminal acts in this area.

At the same time, the Republic of

Macedonia has also taken part in the regional operational actions in this area, co-ordinated by the SECI Centre.

It is worth mentioning the practice of undertaking actions for tracking down female foreign nationals, victims of trafficking in human beings who have been repatriated into their home countries, but who are needed in order to testify in initiated criminal proceedings in front of the competent courts against those persons accused of criminal acts in the area of trafficking in human beings, which is realised through the SECI Centre.⁵ In the segment of finding witnesses, cooperation has been achieved through the SECI Centre with the Mols of Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Ukraine, as well as other countries whose witnesses are needed for testimony.

What is of particular importance for the Republic of Macedonia is the cooperation achieved through the SECI Centre with Moldova in the realisation of a video conference hearing of a witness from Moldova in front of the Primary Court in Tetovo. This is the only case in the region of conducting a hearing of a witness from another country in this manner.

Regional cooperation in this field is a process to which particular attention is paid. In accordance with the conclusions, adopted at the meeting of the National Co-ordinators for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in Zagreb, a general consensus has been made that the existing regional cooperation in the area of the suppression of trafficking in human beings, ought to be continually strengthened, especially after the termination of the mandate of the Working Group for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings of the Stability Pact.

As a result of the continuation with the strong support of the professional development of the police, the public prosecution and the judiciary in the Republic of Macedonia, in the area of coping with the issue of trafficking in human beings the Secretariat in cooperation with its

5. In the course of 2004 alone, there have been submitted to the Sector for International Police Cooperation within the Department for Organised Crime at the Mol, 20 demands for tracking down 48 witnesses – victims of trafficking in human beings or forced prostitution, who have been repatriated to their home countries, out of which, as a result of the undertaken measures and activities through the SECI Centre in Bucharest, a total of 15 of the requested witnesses have been found, out of which 11 female foreign nationals have been made available for testimony, who consented to make their statement at the scheduled hearings in front of the competent courts.

members and experts in this area works on the implementation of several projects of the CARDS Programme which relate to this field.

Within the Project "Improvement of the Implementation of the National Action Plans for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings of the Countries in the Process of Stabilisation and Association", financially supported by the Regional CARDS Programme "Support for the Civic Society for Reduction of the Cross-Border Crime, through Regional Actions for Assistance in Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and the Anti-corruption Initiatives", the National Action Plan for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings is in the phase of preparation, by the Working Group established for this purpose.

With the activities covered in the second module »Providing Comparative Training for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, Smuggling and Illegal Migration« from the Regional CARDS Project on organised crime »Development of Safe and Functional Systems of Policies as well as Improvement of the Battle against the Major Criminal Activities and Police Cooperation«, there will be developed a curriculum and training courses, which will provide coherent, all-encompassing, updated, uniform and quality information in the area of trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration.

3. Education

Within the cooperative framework, the educational process and utilization of foreign experience concerning the fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, Commission members have participated in workshops and seminars and to that end it is of particular importance to highlight the realisation of the Project on Training and Education of Members of the Police and the Judiciary about »Gender Awareness and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings«, which envisaged training of instructors for combatting trafficking in human beings, which was operationalised on the basis of the signed Memorandum of Understanding among the IOM, OSCE and MoI.

In the forthcoming period stress shall be placed on the institutionalisation of education and training in the sphere of trafficking in human beings, more precisely, the inclusion of the appropriate contents related to this phenomenon in the regular curriculum of schools and higher-educational institutions.

Education and training must be systematic, to match concrete needs (which also requires an appropriate survey to be conducted), to be well devised and to represent a continuous process, because that is the only way in which they can lead to the desired results. It is necessary that the curricula be developed following a multidisciplinary approach, whereby the starting postulates will be grounded on human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination. The curricula ought to be adopted after they have passed through the appropriate procedure and by the competent bodies.

One of the achievements of the mentioned institutionalisation in this very important sphere of social activity is providing co-ordinated activity in this respect, avoiding unnecessary duplication or repetition of the same contents, even with the same target groups, at the expense of some relevant entities which are not at all or not sufficiently encompassed.

In addition, in this area prevails the understanding that the success of countering trafficking in human beings and illegal migration is connected with the specialised education of the target groups who are directly involved in this process. Thereby, as target groups should particularly be included police employees, public prosecutors, judges, lawyers, prison personnel, social workers, health care workers, teachers, diplomatic and consular personnel, members of the armed forces involved in military missions, NGO members, media representatives, expert persons who take care of and give assistance to the victims of trafficking in human beings and so on.

The participation of the NGOs in this area in future ought to be dimensioned in accordance with the capabilities that they possess, that is their professionalism, competency and training, in order to realise or to be part of the already established institutionalised forms of education

and training as a significant partner in this area. With that regard and as a part of the process for their licencing for work in the area of trafficking in human beings, their capacity for education and training should also be verified. The emphasis of their work in the area of education, will, first and foremost, be put on the raising of the awareness about the seriousness of the emergence and the detrimental consequences that can result from it, as well as the manner in which it can be prevented.

At the same time, one of the priorities will also be the initiation and realisation of research projects connected to the study of this/these phenomenon/phenomena. It is an area that has so far been unjustifiably neglected, and which is very significant, especially from the aspect of its phenomenology and etiology, and above all the study of the factors that determine this really complex social phenomenon, that is, form of criminality. For that purpose there will have to be set aside a lot more funds and there will have to be necessary cooperation among the institutions in the higher-educational and scientific-research area not only on a national, but also on a wider, above all regional level.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In the course of its work, the Commission in the next two-year period will also focus on the operationalisation of the strategic objectives that have not been realised in the past period, as well as on the implementation of objectives that have been identified with the evaluation of the existing situation in the sphere of trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Macedonia.

The National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration in the Republic of Macedonia in the next period will work on providing an adequate response to this kind of criminal activities through implementation of the strategy towards determining the following principles and guidelines for action in the fields of:

1. The supporting framework

1.1. Coordinating structures

- Strengthening the coordinating role of the National Commission
- Secretariat of the NC
- Sub-group for Combatting Trafficking in Children

1.2. Legal and regulatory framework

- Higher degree of compliance of the domestic legislation with the international standards
- Implementation of the priority activities of the APEP which cover this phenomenon
- Change in the national legislation

1.3. Capacity building

- Enlargement of the capacities of state and non-state entities for combatting

trafficking in human beings through an approach based on human rights

1.4. Mobilisation of resources and the budget

- Providing human and material resources for the implementation of the strategy and the National Action Plan for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration

2. Prevention

2.1. Raising awareness and education

- Building of a consistent and permanent system of education and raising awareness with regard to the trafficking in human beings and illegal migration

3. Support and protection of victims and witnesses

3.1. Identification of the victim

- Standardised approach and provision of an early identification of the victims of trafficking in human beings

3.2. Social support and protection of victims

- Psycho-social support and protection of victims

3.4. Access to legal procedures, protection of witnesses and judicial treatment of victims of trafficking in human beings

-
- Full access to the judicial and administrative bodies and providing adequate professional free of charge assistance

3.5. Reintegration, social inclusion, return

- Prevention of repeated victimisation

4. Investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking in human beings

4.1. Proactive and retroactive investigation

4.2. International cooperation among the bodies responsible for application of the laws and judicial cooperation

IMPLEMENTATION

Under contemporary circumstances the jeopardising of the essential functions of social living by this particularly serious and dangerous criminality is on a very high level and there is no country which does not suffer huge and irreparable damage as a result of the expansion of some of its emerging forms. The non-existence of borders among the member countries of the European Union, the sophisticated means of communication, the explicit mobility and flexibility, the linking between the legal and the illegal activities, the finding of new methods of action, as well as the transnational character of organised crime are factors which enable the criminal structures, particularly from the higher levels, which deal in trafficking in human beings to be inaccessible to the prosecutory bodies.

From everything that has been mentioned in this document, as well as due to the fact that the system of committing criminal activities which cover this form of organised crime is changing, finding out new forms of increasing the profits, demands an appropriate response from the Government and all the entities in the prevention of this criminal phenomenon or its decrease and consistency in the policy of minimisation of such emerging form of organised crime.

The success of the implementation will above all depend on:

- The institutional capacities and their ability for management and coordination
- The analysis of the situation
- The successfulness in monitoring of the operationalisation of the strategic objectives;
- Larger involvement of the public administration by the bodies of the state administration responsible for combatting this form of organised crime
- Proactive approach by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia particularly in the allocation of financial means from the budget for realisation of activities for which funds from the international donors will not be obtained
- Improvement and more consistent co-operation among the governmental institutions and the international and non-governmental organisations

The major engagement for successful operationalisation of the strategic objectives of this document is expected from the bodies of the state authorities and administration which are responsible for the prevention of this form of organised crime. Thus, the direct cooperation and support by the international and non-governmental organisations will also be essential to its implementation.

From the financial aspect, the implementation of the strategy will condition implications that will additionally be determined, and these will correspond to the activities in the precisely determined stages of realisation.



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**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
FOR COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN
HUMAN BEINGS AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION
IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Skopje, March 2006

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
1. SUPPORTING FRAMEWORK					
1.1. Coordinating structures					
Strengthening of the coordinative role of the National Commission	1. Cooperation among all the entities involved in the battle against trafficking in human beings in the Country: governmental institutions, international organisations and NGOs, coordination, monitoring and evaluation	1. Coordinating the activities of all the entities involved in the battle against trafficking in human beings	1. the NC Co-ordinator	1. Continuously	1. Increased efficiency in the cooperation among the entities involved in the suppression of trafficking in human beings.
		2. Holding quarterly meetings for analysing the results achieved and providing guidelines for further activities	2. the NC Co-ordinator	2. Quarterly	2. Number of meetings held and conclusions from them
		3. Preparing and submitting an annual report to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia	3. the NC	3. Annually	3. Accepting the report by the Government
		4. Reviewing proposals from the NC Secretariat and the Sub-group for Combatting Trafficking in Children	4. the NC	4. Continuously	4. Number of proposals accepted and tasks accomplished
		5. Achieving international cooperation	5. the Co-ordinator and NC members	5. Continuously	5. Activities realised on an international level
Secretariat of the NC	1. Providing information about the activities of the NGOs and the governmental and international	1. a) Preparing a list of members of the Secretariat	1. a) the Secretary	1. a) In the course of 2006	1. a) Existence of a list
		1. b) Holding meetings	1. b) the Secretary	1.b) continuously	1. b) Number of meetings held and a directory prepared

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
	organisations that are involved in the battle against trafficking in human beings in the country.	1. c) Preparing and regular updating of a directory (information booklet) of governmental, non-governmental and international organisations	1. c) the Secretary	1.c) Continuously	1. c) Number of meetings held and a directory prepared
NC Secretariat	2. Review of the entire activities implemented by the Secretariat	2. a) Regular notification of the NC about the activities undertaken by the members of the Secretariat	2.a) the Secretary	2.a) Continuously	2. a) Flow of information
		2. b) Networking of the members of the Secretariat with the purpose of exchange of information	2.b) the Secretary	2. b) 2006	2. b) Existence of an electronic system for the flow and exchange of information
	3. Criteria for new members of the Secretariat	3. Preparing proposal criteria	3. a) the Secretary	3. a) 2006	3. a) Existence of a rulebook
Sub-group for Combatting Trafficking in Children	1. Adopting a draft plan for combatting trafficking in children	1. Implementing the Action Plan for Combatting Trafficking in Children	1. the Chairman of the Sub-group	1. 2006	1. Analysis and preparation of a report about the degree of success of the implementation of activities
1.2. Legal and regulatory framework					
	1. A higher degree of compliance of the domestic legislation with the international standards	1.a) Regular updating and proposing plans and implementation of signed and ratified acts	1. a) the Government of the Republic of Macedonia	1.a) 2006 -2007	1. a) Number of ratified and signed agreements
		1. b) Concluding bilateral agreements in: the International legal assistance; Regional cooperation and Extradition	1.b) the Government of the Republic of Macedonia / the Mol	1. b) 2006 and continuously	1. b) Number of ratified and signed agreements

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
		1. c) Enactment, signing and ratification of the Convention on Police Cooperation	1. c) the Mol of the Republic of Macedonia	1. c) 2006 and continuously	1. c) Extent of application
	2. Implementation of the AP of the EP	2. a) Enactment of a Law on Monitoring Communications			2. a) Number of cases committed (before and after the enactment)

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
	<p>3. a) Harmonisation of the criminal legislation in the function of an efficient battle against the Organised crime;</p> <p>3. b) Change in the legal provisions for regulating the status of temporary residents in the Law on Movement and Residence of foreigners;</p> <p>3. c) Amendments and modifications to the Law on Criminal Procedure in the segment of the assessed measures for protection of witnesses;</p> <p>3. d) Defining the competencies of the following sectors within the Mol for combatting trafficking in human beings: Border police, OOK, Department for foreigners and the local police;</p> <p>3. e) To appoint an OOK as a leading body in the combat against trafficking in human beings;</p> <p>3. f) To establish a management unit in the Transit Centre and to prepare by-laws with reference to it;</p> <p>3. g) To prepare by-laws with the objective of regulating all the relevant aspects in the treatment of victims.</p>	<p>3. a) Harmonisation of the criminal legislation in the function of an efficient battle against the Organised crime;</p> <p>3. b) Change in the legal provisions for regulating the status of temporary residents in the Law on Movement and Residence of foreigners;</p> <p>3. c) Amendments and modifications to the Law on Criminal Procedure in the segment of the assessed measures for protection of witnesses;</p> <p>3. d) Defining the competencies of the following sectors within the Mol for combatting trafficking in human beings: Border police, OOK, Department for foreigners and the local police;</p> <p>3. e) To appoint an OOK as a leading body in the combat against trafficking in human beings;</p> <p>3. f) To establish a management unit in the Transit Centre and to prepare by-laws with reference to it;</p> <p>3. g) To prepare by-laws with the objective of regulating all the relevant aspects in the treatment of victims.</p>		2007 - 2008	<p>3. d) Improvement of the work connected to trafficking in human beings among all the sectors involved;</p> <p>3. e) Number of cases realised;</p> <p>- a better daily management and improved coordination among all the relevant sectors within the Ministry of Interior involved in the combat against trafficking in human beings;</p> <p>- number of proactive investigations;</p> <p>- better distribution of work among the authorised persons from the different relevant sectors within the Ministry of Interior;</p> <p>- a degree of efficiency of the Mol in the respective field of action;</p> <p>- better management of the Transit Centre.</p>

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
1.3. Capacity building					
Enlargement of the capacities of the state and non-state entities for combatting trafficking in human beings through an approach based on human rights	1. Creating a policy of devising and implementation of educational trainings	1. a) Including a regular programme of education of participants in the Police Academy and other higher-educational institutions with respect to the issue of trafficking in human beings	1. a) the Ministry of Education and the Mol, the Police Academy	1. a) 2006	1. a) Increase in the number of persons involved
		1. b) General and specialised training for the members of the law enforcement agencies as well as for journalists, NGOs, diplomatic personnel	1. b) trained trainers	1. b) 2006	1. b) Number of persons trained
		1. c) Defining of target groups for organising and carrying out trainings	1. c) the Mol, the Police Academy and international organisations and NGOs	1. c) 2006	
	2. Support for the capacity of the existing SOS line for aiding the victims of trafficking in human beings and prevention of trafficking in human beings	2. Continuous education of operators and providing a continuous functioning of the line	2. the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the NGO sector – holder of the SOS line, international organisations		2. Successfully realised campaigns against trafficking in human beings and cases prevented

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
	3. Strengthening the capacity of the existing shelter for the victims of trafficking in human beings from Macedonia	3. Continuous training	3. the Governemnt of the Republic of Macedonia and the bearer of the project, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and NGOs	3. 2007 and continuously	3. Increased activity of such shelters and research conducted in relation to domestic emigration
1.4. Management of information and research					
	1. Continuous research on the phenomenon	1. a) Conducting research and analyses in the domain of trafficking in human beings	1. a) the Office of the NC, NGOs, international organisations, the PA and adequate institutions	1. a) 2006 and continuously	1. a) Number of researches and analyses made
		2. a) Exchange of data on a national, regional and international level	2. a) the NC, NGOs, international organisations	2. a) 2006 and further in continuity	
	2. Regulating the access to the data with reference to the trafficking in human beings and their exchange	2. b) Preparation of reports for the public	2. b) the NC	2. b) Annually	2. b) Number of analyses and reports made
		2. c) Creating a web site of the NC	2. c) the Secretariat	2. c) 2006	2. c) Constructed and updated web site
		2. d) Appointing a national reporter	2. d) the NC	2. d) 2006	2. d) Prepared analysis

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
	3. Creating a SOFTWARE for data from the domain of trafficking in human beings	3. a) Entry and processing of data	3. a) the Mol and NGOs	3.a) Continuously	3. a) Successful operation of the data base and provision of statistical data
		3. b) Data from/about the activities of the NGOs and international organisations and about the implementation of projects	3. b) NGOs, the NC and international organisations	3.b) Continuously	
1.5 Mobilisation of resources and the budget					
Providing human and material resources for the implementation of the NAP and the STR	1. Providing institutional postulates for the Commission's operation	1. a) Review of all the material, technical and financial needs	1. a) the NC	1. a) 2006	1. a) Appropriate budget lines established for the support of the human and material resources
		1. b) Preparation and approval of a separate budget for the needs of the Commission	1. b) the NC and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia	1. b) 2006	1. b) Appropriate budget lines established for the support of the human and material resources
		1. c) Procurement of financial means	1. c) the NC	1.c) continuously	1. c) Appropriate budget lines established for the support of the human and material resources

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
		1. d) Employment of professional staff	1. d) the Government and the NC	1. d) 2006	1. d) Professional staff in the service of the mentioned activities with a precisely determined description of the work assignments
		1. e) Establishment of the Office of the National Commission (Secretariat and Sub-group)	1. e) the Government of the Republic of Macedonia	1. e) 2006	
		1. f) Preparation of a national resource plan	1. f) the NC	1. f) 2006	1. f) Increased efficiency and coordination of the NC
		1. g) Providing donors	1. g) the NC	1. g) 2006	
1.6. Research, monitoring and assessment					
	Continuous improvement of the national response to the trafficking in human beings	1. Preparation of an all-encompassing plan for research, monitoring and assessment	1. the NC	1. The end of 2006	1. An all-encompassing and updated insight into the situation (at all times)

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
2. PREVENTION					
2.1. Raising awareness and education					
Construction of a consistent and permanent system of education and raising awareness with regard to the trafficking in human beings and the illegal migration	1. Increased capacity of the NGO sector involved in combatting against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration	1.a) Training/supplementary training of the NGOs in the new trends	1.a) b) Governmental institutions, international, governmental and non-governmental organisations, specialised NGOs, higher-educational institutions	1) a),b) as of 2006	1.a) b) Increased number of trained NGOs 1. a) b) Complete territorial coverage
		1. b) Inclusion of the NGOs in the raising awareness campaigns			
	2. Raising the awareness of the "risk groups" as regards the dangers connected to trafficking in human beings	2.a) Recognising of the "risk groups"	2. a) b), the Mol, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Education and higher-educational institutions and non-governmental organisations	2. a) b) Continuously	2. Newly identified risk groups - Raised awareness of the separate risk groups and - Reduced number of victims who emerge from the diverse risk groups
		2.b) Organising campaigns in accordance with the needs of the separate risk groups			

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
	3. Raising the awareness of the users and the potential users of sexual services by the victims of trafficking in human beings	3. a) Raising awareness campaigns and distribution of appropriate advertising material to the users and the potential users	3.a) Law enforcement agencies, NGOs	3.a) Continuously	3. a) Increased inclusion of users and potential users in the campaigns - Adequate advertising materials prepared
	4. Raising the awareness of the responsible state bodies as regards trafficking in human beings and illegal migrations	4. a) Designing an appropriate training for different competent bodies in the fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration	4.a) Responsible ministries in coordination with the NC and the respective educational institutions	4. a) 2006	4.a) Increased number of disclosed and processed criminal acts of trafficking in human beings
		4. b) Employment of the results from diverse regional projects which deal with this area through all-encompassing trainings additionally adjusted to different structures	4. b) the Secretariat which has insight in and coordinates such projects, the Ministry of Education and respective institutions		4. b) Existence of respective educational materials

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
2.2. Reduction of vulnerability					
	1. Prevention of all the forms of discrimination particularly in the risk groups	1.a) Promotion of gender equality campaigns	1. a) the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and NGOs	1. a) 2006	1.a) c) Increased number of employed women
		1. b) Campaigns for eradication of all the forms of discrimination	1. b) the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and NGOs	1. b) 2006	1. b) Improved identification of the forms and cases of discrimination
		1. c) Facilitation of access to the labour market (employment, retraining, supplemented qualifications)	1. c) the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and NGOs	1. c) continuously as of 2006	
	3. Increasing the possibilities of legal migration; psycho-social, informative assistance for migrants by professional international organisations	3. a) Institutionalisation of the functions of the Migration Information Centre (MIC)	3. a) the MFA, the MoI, the IOM, non-governmental organisations		3. a) Reduction of the illegal migration and the consequences of it
		3. b) Strengthening of the capacities of the respective department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as regards the information about legal migration	3. b) the MFA, the MoI, the IOM, non-governmental organisations		3. b) Reduction of the illegal migration and the consequences of it

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
		3. c) Availability of the information about the legal migration for the wider public (information line of the non-governmental organisations)	3. c) the MFA, the MoI, the IOM, the non-governmental organisations		3. c) Reduction of the illegal migration and the consequences of it
2.3. Administrative controls					
Updated system of the state and inspection control	1. Regulation and monitoring of the sectors in the society which can be concerned with trafficking in human beings	1.a) Standardisation of the forms of control and regulation of the licence processes	The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Interior and the local self-government		1. a) Existence of a proper legal regulation
		1.b) Intensification of the cooperation and coordination among the bodies of government administration			1. b) Existence of systems for licencing agencies for marriage, employment, tourism and escort
		1. c) Enactment of protocols for cooperation on the basis of the signed Memorandum of Cooperation among the institutions in charge			1. c) number of enacted protocols

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
	2. Strengthening the coordination of the administrative control on a consular level and strengthening state control	2. a) Establishing a data base of forged documents and misuses of entrance/exit	2. a) the MFA (DKP), the Mol and the Customs Administration		2. a) The number of disclosed forged documents – the number of rejected visas due to suspicion concerning trafficking in human beings
		2. b) Monitoring of the implementation of other relevant current and planned action plans, adopted regional recommendations (CARDS)	2. b) the MFA (DKP), the Mol and the Customs Administration		2. b) number of persons trained who work in the border police
	3. More efficient identification of victims and perpetrators of criminal acts of trafficking in human beings at the borders	3. a) Training of the border police and implementation of the existing manuals for combating trafficking in human beings and illegal migration and its updating	3. a) the NC, the Police Academy, NGOs and international organisations	3. a) Continuously	3. a) b) number of trainings held. Accessibility of the manuals to the participants and their adjustment to the target groups
		3. b) Continuation of the practice of filling in questionnaires in order to identify the potential victims of trafficking in human beings at all the border crossings.	3. b) the Mol	3.b) Continuously	3. a) b) Increased number of prevented illegal entrances and cases processed

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
		3. c) Intensification of the bilateral cooperation and exchange of information with the respective agencies from the countries of the European Union		3.c) Continuously	3. a) b) c) number of persons – victims of trafficking in human beings, identified at the borders
					3. a) b) c) number of traffickers in human beings arrested at the borders
					3. a) b) c) number of victims disclosed by proactive investigative measures - Increased number of bilateral agreements and cooperation in this field
2.4 Identification of the causes and consequences of trafficking in human beings and investigation of the phenomenon in general in the Republic of Macedonia					
	1. Increase in the investigative activities in the aspects of the area of trafficking in human beings	1. a) Analysis of situations, data and reports on trafficking in human beings.	1. a) the NC, the Ministry of Education, NGOs and responsible institutions	1. a) b) Continuously	1. a) Number of realised investigations

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
		1. b) Realisation of cooperation with the respective research centres in the region	1. b) the NC, the Ministry of Education, NGOs and responsible institutions	1. a) b) Continuously	1. b) Number of realised investigations
3. SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES					
3.1. Identification of the victim					
Standardised approach and early identification of the victims of trafficking in human beings	1. Definition of the notion of victim		1. a) the Ministry of Justice	1.a) 2006	
	2. Implementation of a national mechanism for referral of the disclosed victims	2. Referral, protection of and assistance for the victims in accordance with the valid standards	2. the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, NGOs, the IOM, the MoI, the NC	2.a) 2006	
	2. a) Development of mutual cooperation among the institutions responsible for disclosure, processing and penalisation of perpetrators of criminal acts in the area of trafficking in human beings	2. a) Fostering of the cooperation between the MoI and the Department for Prosecution of Perpetrators of Criminal Acts in the Area of Organised Crime, within the Basic Public Prosecution			

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
	3. Standardised practice of exchange of information among the relevant actors in the process of identification of the victims	3. Institutionalisation and legal regulation of the already existing positive practice at the Transit Centre of the Mol/IOM of the Standard Operation Procedures			3. Existence of a larger number of expert NGOs for providing aid and assistance to the victims
	4. Regular communication with all the institutions, embassies and consular representative offices, international organisations and NGOs. - Monitoring of cases and final sentence for trafficking in human beings	3. a) Standardised questionnaire for identification	3.a) the Centre for Social Work, NGOs, the NC	3.a) 2006	
	4. a) Establishing criteria for including the NGO sector in the work with victims and offering assistance to them	4. a) the NC, the Secretariat, international organisations		4.a) 2006	
		4. b) Preparing a list of NGOs which meet the above mentioned criteria	4.b) the Secretariat and NGOs	4.b) 2006	

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
		4. c) continual upgrading of the human resources in the NGO sector who work in the field of offering assistance to the victims	4. c) NGOs and International organisations	4.c) 2006	
3.2. Period of reflection / stabilisation and the status of residence					
	<p>1. Enactment of legal provisions concerning the temporary residence for all the (presumed) persons victims of trafficking in human beings in the country, notwithstanding their willingness to co-operate with the bodies in the criminal proceedings</p>	<p>1. Preparation of legal texts that will appropriately reflect the international standards, by respective mixed teams</p>	<p>1. Respective working groups established by the National Commission and the Secretariat</p>	<p>1. 2006</p>	<p>1. Increased number of persons who have been given a period of time for reflection with regard to the number of assisted persons victims of trafficking in human beings</p> <p>- Increased number of persons who have been given a permit of temporary residence in relation to the number of assisted persons - victims of trafficking in human beings</p> <p>- Dissemination of brochures intended for those persons who have been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of familiarising them with their status, rights and obligations</p> <p>- Number of (presumed) victims of trafficking in human beings, who have been properly taken care of</p>

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
	3. Offering necessary assistance and psycho-social aid in the shelters for victims of trafficking in human beings by the governmental agencies and NGOs			3. Continuously	
	4. Defining the status and role of the Transit Centre, from the aspect of the period of stabilisation and residence of the victims		4. the MoI, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the MFA	4. 2006	
3.3. Social support and protection of victims					
Psycho-social support and protection of the victims	1. Providing budgetary presuppositions and a proper legal framework, foundation on the obligations of the state towards the necessary social, psychological and legal assistance for the victims	1. Amendments and modifications of legal texts regarding the category of users of such assistance and care for the victims of trafficking in human beings	1. the NC, the Secretariat and working groups concerning certain laws, NGOs which already work at the Transit Centre	1. 2006-2007	- Number of victims who have been provided with assistance in accordance with the internationally established standards, their participation in proceedings, proper protection and efficient socialisation

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
	2. Providing physical security for all the victims of trafficking in human beings and their accommodation in an appropriate institution				2. the Transit Centre as a best institutionalised practice in the legal texts; - Increased safety of the victims
	3. Standardised approach in the provision of proper information of the victims concerning their rights, obligations, options and possibilities	3. Enactment of standard operating procedures as regards assistance for the victims at the level of a legal provision		3. 2006	3. NGOs trained in offering assistance in accordance with the internationally established standards - The number of quality materials concerning the rights of the victims of trafficking in human beings recognised standards.
3.4. Access to legal procedures, protection of witnesses and the judicial treatment of the persons - victims of trafficking in human beings					
Full access to the jurisdictional and administrative bodies and offering adequate professional assistance free of charge	1. Providing, implementation of a special system for protection of witnesses for victims of trafficking in human beings	1. Establishment of the system of legal assistance at the transit centre and formalisation of access for female lawyers to the victims sheltered in the transit centre	1. the Mol, NGOs and female lawyers		1. Existence of a special system of protection of witnesses for victims of trafficking in human beings; - number of victims of trafficking in human beings, who are covered by the system for protection of witnesses; - number of persons included in the system for protection of victims - witnesses covered by appropriate training;

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
	2. Compensation of victims of trafficking in human beings in the proceedings against Organised crime	2. Adequate training for the agencies for witness protection Adequate training of NGOs, women lawyers and jurisdictional bodies with respect to the compensation (Article 101 of the LCP)	2. the Mol, the Ministry of Justice and the Police Academy		2. Existence of information material for the victims - witnesses (about what risks they run should they decide to testify, who will be protecting them, what are their rights, etc.)
3.5. Reintegration, social inclusion, return					
Prevention against repeated victimisation	1. Systematisation of procedures for voluntary repatriation of the victims of trafficking in human beings	1. Preparation of instructions for proceeding	1. the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Education and NGOs		1. Existence of individual risk assessment for every person - victim of trafficking in human beings
	2. Reintegration and social inclusion of the victims of trafficking in human beings	2. Preparation of programmes for reintegration of the victims of trafficking in human beings, citizens of the Republic of Macedonia - Prioritising of employing the victims of trafficking in human beings, through reintegrative programmes			2. The percentage of individual victims of trafficking in human beings who have found employment within one year after their reintegration -The percentage of individual victims of trafficking in human beings who have an operational social network one year after their reintegration

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
4. INVESTIGATION AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS					
4.1 Proactive and retroactive investigation					
	1. Giving priority to the application of proactive investigations	1.a) Training for application of the specific investigative measures	1. a) the Mol, the Public Prosecution, respective educational institutions and the Ministry of Education		1. a) Number of realised trainings - Number of officials from the responsible bodies covered with the trainings
		1. b) Establishment of an operational data base for trafficking in human beings and illegal migration	1. b) the NC, the Mol		1. b) Amount of information obtained with regard to the trafficking in human beings and illegal migration
		1. c) Introduction of operational software for managing investigations in trafficking in human beings and illegal migration			1. c) Increased number of police investigations carried out
4.2. International cooperation among the law enforcement agencies (i.e. international criminal cooperation) and judicial cooperation					
	1. Strengthening of the existing institutional and other capacities for international police and judicial cooperation and building of new ones	1.a) Development and major co-operativeness among the National Central Bureaux of INTERPOL	1. the Mol, the MFA and the Ministry of Justice		1.a) Increased efficiency in international cooperation

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
		1. b) Improvement of the cooperation with the SECI Centre for Combatting Inter-border Crime and its development in accordance with the new strategy adopted at the 20th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee			1. b) Increased efficiency in international cooperation - Establishing coordinated cooperation of the responsible institutions in the Republic of Macedonia with regional and international institutions, organisations and initiatives
		1. c) Signing a strategic, as well as an operational agreement with the EUROPOL			1. c) A signed agreement with the EUROPOL
		1. d) Development, improvement of the cooperation and communication between the judicial bodies and the public prosecution offices			1. c) Increased efficiency in the international cooperation; - Establishing a co-ordinated cooperation of the responsible institutions in the Republic of Macedonia with regional and international institutions, organisations and initiatives

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
		<p>1. e) Intensification of the activities of the appointed national focal points and the liaison officers within several international organisations, that is nomination of persons for these positions within the organisations where this has not yet been done.</p> <p>1. f) General and specialised training in the segment of the international cooperation</p>			1. e) Appointing liaison officers
	2. Operative activities on a regional level as well as on an international level		2. the Mol, Partners; the MFA, the Ministry of Justice and the NC		2. Improvement of the exchange of data with other countries

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination of and participation in regional operative actions in this area 			<p>2. Preparation of and proceeding following standardised regional questionnaires for conducting interviews with the victims of trafficking in human beings and analysis of the data obtained on a national and regional level for the purpose of development and implementation of an all-encompassing national response to trafficking in human beings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disclosure of the channels and routes of trafficking, smuggling human beings and illegal migration; - Identification of the international criminal groups and individuals and their prosecution; - Identification, proper care, return and reintegration of the victims, especially of the risk groups, like women and children.

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
					<p>(2) - Finding and providing witnesses already repatriated to their home countries and needed for testimony in front of the competent courts in the Republic of Macedonia;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Realisation of the possibility for a hearing via telephone and video conference; - Realisation of <i>the modus operandi</i> in the perpetration of the criminal acts in this area
	<p>3. Legislative activities in the segment of international cooperation</p>	<p>3. Signing, ratification and implementation of the ratified international conventions and concluding bilateral agreements;</p>			<p>3. Number of joint regional or bilateral actions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of joint investigations with the bodies in charge of enforcing the laws of other countries; - The existence of joint investigative teams; - Modernisation of the national legislation with the view to creating a legal basis for a more efficient battle against trafficking in human beings in the segment of the international cooperation

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives and tasks	Activity / Sub-activities	Assigned responsibilities	Time frame	Criteria for monitoring and evaluation
4.3. Police and judicial treatment of victims/witnesses					
	1. Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the Mol and the IOM for establishing Standard Operation Procedures as regards their joint activities concerning the persons trafficked and their support and assistance				1. Improved cooperation among the parties involved; - Improved level of assistance and support for the persons trafficked
	2. Signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Mol and the NGOs				2. Improved cooperation among the parties involved; - Improved involvement of the NGOs



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATTING
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND
ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**
Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children

**ACTION PLAN FOR COMBATTING
TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN
IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Skopje, March 2006

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ACTION PLAN FOR COMBATting TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION

With the purpose of protection of the children in the Republic of Macedonia against illegal trafficking and exploitation, and giving priority to the rights and interests of children, the Republic of Macedonia has passed the Action Plan for Combatting Trafficking in Children.

The Republic of Macedonia, as a member of the UN and a signatory of the Convention on the Rights of Children and of the World Plan of Action, is obliged to establish a national strategy for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Children in the legal regulation and in the practice.

The Action Plan for Combatting Trafficking in Children is grounded on the Convention on the Rights of Children and on the Statement on Obligation signed at the Fourth Ministerial Forum within the Stability Pact for South-east Europe, held on 10.02.2002 in Sofia, the provisions of the National Programme for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration in the Republic of Macedonia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on 05.02.2002 and the international documents for human rights, in particular the optional Protocol on Selling Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography of the Convention on the Rights of Children, the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocol on the Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially in Women and Children.

The Action Plan for Combatting Trafficking in Children is grounded on four basic principles including the basic principles of the Convention on the Rights of Children, these being the following:

- Protection of rights - including protection from discrimination against all forms of abuses, neglect and exploitation;

- Right to survival and development including the right to residence in shelters, by providing access to the health care institutions, educational institutions, protection of the rights against economic exploitation and protection of the physical, psychological and mental development of children;
- Participation of children in making decisions regarding their rights and interests and their influence in all the matters relating to their rights and interests - including also the right to forming and presenting their views and opinions and the right to obtain information accessible to and comprehensible for them, which contribute to their well-being, as well as their protection against the detrimental influence of various information, materials and content;
- The best interest for the children to be an absolute priority in the creation of the governmental policy and in making decisions by each individual, institution or the legislative body.

COMMON GOALS

The Action Plan has the objective of providing the Republic of Macedonia with the means and mechanisms for the implementation of the commitments to the fight against trafficking in children and for the improvement of the coordination between the governmental institutions and the inter-governmental and non-governmental sectors in the battle against trafficking in children.

The Action Plan ought to provide mechanisms and good practices for overcoming the problems with the trafficking in children, including the protection of child victims of trafficking, the prevention of trafficking and exploitation of children and criminal prosecution of those who deal in trafficking or exploitation of children or assist in committing these acts.

The Action Plan for Prevention of

Trafficking in Children has the objective to:

- improve the policy of the Republic of Macedonia concerning the fight against trafficking in children and exploitation of children with respect to the protection of child victims of trafficking during a period of 3 years;
- set up minimum standards which will provide protection of the risk groups of children, the labour-exploited and neglected children who are potential victims of trafficking;
- the best interest for the children to have a primary importance in the protection of the rights of the child victims;
- not to exclude a single child from the proper protection against involvement in trafficking or as a victim of trafficking;
- undertake preventive measures for reducing the reasons and risks that lead to the emergence of and increase in the trafficking and exploitation of children;
- provide special protection for the children with special needs who are victims of trafficking;
- involve children with their own opinions and decisions in the undertaking of measures for protection against trafficking;
- undertake activities for identification, rehabilitation and reintegration of the child victims of trafficking.

The Action Plan for Combatting Trafficking in Children unites all the tasks and objectives that the Republic of Macedonia ought to undertake in order to prevent the trafficking in children and to protect the children who are victims of trafficking, on the grounds of the principles of equality, accessibility, quality and efficiency.

The working text of the NAP follows the guidelines of the UNICEF "Guide" for special measures for protection of the rights of the child victims of trafficking in the South-east Europe, as of 2003.

PRINCIPAL GUIDELINES AND PRIORITIES OF THE ACTION PLAN

For the purpose of realising the objectives of the Action Plan, the following guidelines and priorities have been determined:

- complete implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Children, the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Selling of Children, Prostitution and Pornography of Children and other international documents which define the mechanisms and obligations for protection of children against trafficking in human beings and other kind of violence and abuse;
- establishment of adequate mechanisms and manners of coordination of the entities involved in the carrying out of the legal regulation and the programme tasks;
- providing possible sources of funding for preventing trafficking in children and protection of child victims of trafficking;
- education of children in order to be able to recognise their rights and obligations and acquiring skills of self-protection and education of the appropriate entities that are to provide protection to the children as well as raising the public awareness about the existence of the trafficking in children and about the necessity for uncompromising battle of everyone against the trafficking in children;
- enactment of adequate legal decisions and change in the practice of protection of children;
- improvement in the cooperation between the governmental institutions and the inter-governmental and non-governmental sectors with respect to the providing of aid and protection of the children.

DEFINITION OF TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

Adjustment of the definition of the notion of the child in the national legislation to the international standards (the UN Convention on the Rights of Children, the UN Protocol on Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially in Women and Children).

The Action Plan accepts the definition of trafficking in human beings contained in the Palermo Protocol and accordingly implemented in the incrimination contained in Article 418-a "Trafficking in human beings", of the CC, but defined as a separate criminal act committed against children until the age of 18 and by adding that cases when the child has voluntarily consented to trafficking, i.e. to sexual or other kind of exploitation will also be treated as trafficking in children.

LEGAL REFORMS

There is a need for amendments and modifications of the existing laws and other normative acts which deal with the issue of children, whereby it is necessary to amend and modify the following:

1. The Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia
 - by standardising a new article on the trafficking in children, that is the trafficking in children to be envisaged as a separate particular criminal offence;
 - to provide punishment for both the attempt and the perpetration of this criminal offence;
 - to provide for a qualified form of the criminal act of trafficking in children, if the act is committed by the parents.
2. Law on Criminal Procedure
 - to provide compulsory provision of free legal assistance in the criminal proceedings in which the victims of trafficking are children;
- the hearing of the children who are victims of trafficking to be held in a separate adequately equipped room and in the presence of persons specially trained for dealing with this category of children: a judge, a social worker, a psychologist and a lawyer;
3. Law on Family
 - to provide carrying out compulsory supervision over the parental right by the centres for social work, over families where there are indicators and dangers of involvement of children in trafficking, or in any other type of forced labour;
 - preparation of the child victims of trafficking to return to their normal lives in their own families, who will take proper care of the further development of the children, but with a constant supervision by an expert team from the centre for social work, composed of a social worker, a psychologist and a health care worker;
 - if there are no conditions for the return of the child to his/her family, the priority solution is to provide accommodation in another family, which is specially trained in taking care of such children and to which the state has provided special material and professional support for the carrying out of the above mentioned work;
 - a guardian shall be necessarily assigned to children who are victims of trafficking or who have no parents or parental care, or who are children coming from another country;
4. Law on Protection of Children
 - envisaging special measures for involving child victims of trafficking or other kind of forced labour in the educational institutions and for their rehabilitation and resocialisation.
5. Law on Community Care
 - envisaging measures for reducing poverty, that is guaranteeing and providing minimum means for survival for the families that have juvenile children, and who cannot be provided with ensuring means of survival by means of employment

or in another way, particularly undertaking social measures for the families in which have been identified child victims of trafficking, or of another kind of forced labour, owing to the difficult social position.

- providing an appropriate system for identification and registration of the children in the streets, or the children whose labour is exploited and undertaking appropriate measures for their protection by accommodating them in the daily centres and by aiding and educating the children and their parents, as well as by linking the daily centres with the educational institutions for the purpose of involving these children in regular schooling;
- the measures that will be undertaken for the benefit of this category of children outside the daily centres (in the family, school, and in front of other institutions) ought to be carried out under the constant supervision of a social worker and a psychologist from the centre for social work;
- creating a legal obligation for establishing shelters for the child victims of trafficking in which there ought to be engaged a social worker, a psychologist and a health care worker;
- in the shelters there ought to be engaged strictly confidential and specially trained persons and the whereabouts of the shelters ought to be known only to a certain circle of people, who have the obligation of undertaking respective measures for the protection of the children.

6. Laws on Primary and Secondary Education

- introduction of human rights as a compulsory subject in the curricula and syllabi in all the grades of the primary and secondary education;
- involvement of the children in the schools in making decisions which involve their rights and interests;
- providing equipment for schools on the basis of established standards, with the

purpose of providing adequate conditions for education, that is, that the schools ought to become friends of the children;

- training of the teaching staff for the purpose of providing children with knowledge and skills for self-protection against all kinds of harm and abuse;

7. Law on Witness Protection

- A person, an escort, ought to be obligatorily assigned to the child victims of trafficking who are willing to and able to testify in the proceedings against the persons involved in the chain of trafficking in children, which person will help them and escort them in all the proceedings and in front of all the bodies and institutions..

8. Law on Juvenile Justice

The Republic of Macedonia, as a member of the UN, the Council of Europe and a signatory of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, and especially taking into consideration the fact that the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia on 24.09.2004 enacted the Law on Ratification of the Palermo Convention with its Protocols, undertakes activities for implementation of all the international norms and standards that regulate the area of prevention of juvenile delinquency and the system of juvenile justice, for which purpose a separate law on juvenile justice ought to be enacted. This Law needs to provide measures for preventive activity of suppressing juvenile delinquency, measures for protection of children in conflict with the law by providing more alternatives, that is extrajudicial measures and measures for resocialisation and rehabilitation of the children in conflict with the law. At the same time, this law also ought to provide measures for protection of the child victims.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE

- Ratification of international conventions and protocols (the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, the UN

Protocol on the Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially in Women and Children) and the Hague Convention No. 33 on the Protection of Children and Cooperation Regarding Interstate Adoptions.

- The signing and the ratification of the Hague Convention has been assessed as a SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE. With regard to the ratification of the Hague Convention, UNICEF was lobbying during the past year at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy as regards this issue. Lobbying in this regard will also continue in the following period. The OSCE will support the legal reforms with expert commentaries.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Providing a legal framework, successful enforcement of the proposed amendments and modifications to the CC

BEARER: Ministry of Justice

PARTNERS: Line ministries, domestic non-governmental and international organisations (UNICEF, OSCE and IOM)

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Justice with the possible assistance of donations from international organisations)

DEADLINE: Until the end of 2006

ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION

1. Research/analyses/studies on the phenomenon of trafficking in children

ACTIVITIES

- a) Determining and defining the risk factors of trafficking in children and decreasing the socio-economic causes that lead to the emergence of trafficking in children (poverty, economic instability, unemployment, discrimination, status of women and children, dysfunctionality of families and the like);
- b) preparing and publishing reports and relevant statistical information about

trafficking in children on a national and international level;

- c) monitoring and continuous evaluation of the implementation of the Draft Action Plan;
- d) an all-encompassing assessment and setting up of the network of agencies and services available to the children who are victims of trafficking.

EXPECTED RESULTS: possessing relevant data and their dissemination

BEARER OF THE ACTIVITY: the MoI

PARTNERS: the Ministries of Labour and Social Policy, Education and Justice and international and non-governmental organisations

DEADLINE: Until the end of 2008

2. Identification of the settings, communities, and the risk groups of children and families who run a high risk of involvement in trafficking in children;

ACTIVITIES

- a) Development of instruments, methodologies and indicators in accordance with the international standards, with the purpose of monitoring the phenomenon of trafficking in children;
- b) Establishment of a system of identification, registration and monitoring of the children in the streets (i.e. the children outside of the educational process), the misuses of child labour and other forms of exploitation and discrimination.

The activity shall be directed towards the adequate treatment and protection of children through various forms of aid, in order to prevent trafficking (their accommodation in homes, families, daily centres and the like);

- c) Collection of data and establishment of a data base of children victims, perpetrators and users services, as well as of the identified child victims of trafficking (national and foreign citizens), the children who run the risk of trafficking owing to the presence of diverse risk factors, as well as of the perpetrators of such kinds of acts.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Adequate protection of potential victims of child trafficking and more appropriate preventive measures

BEARER: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

PARTNERS: the Mol, the centres for social work, the local self-government

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (with possible support from non-governmental and international organisations - donations)

DEADLINE: The end of 2008

PREVENTION

1. Informing and raising the awareness about the trafficking in children and the risk groups

ACTIVITIES

- a) Holding preventive lessons in primary and secondary schools, as well as other educational and instructional institutions, with the purpose of informing the pupils and the school staff about the issue of trafficking in children, distribution of brochures and information leaflets to the teachers and children through the curricula and syllabi on civic education in the schools.

EXPECTED RESULTS: A larger number of children involved in the educational process, particularly with the risk groups trained and educated in trafficking in children.

BEARER: the Ministry of Education and the local self-government

PARTNERS: the relevant ministries, international and non-governmental organisations, local self-government

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Education and the local self-government (with the possible support of non-governmental and international organisations through donations)

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008

- a) Organisation of media campaigns directed at informing and raising public awareness about the issue of trafficking in children,

the causes of its emergence and the consequences of it and establishment of funds in the local self-government for that purpose, which will be provided through donations..

- b) A wider media information campaign aimed at parents (families) and other citizens with a view to recognition of trafficking in children and protection from it.

EXPECTED RESULTS: A sensitisation of the entire public, the parents in particular, about the existence of trafficking in children.

BEARER: the Ministry of Education

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, the relevant ministries, international and non-governmental organisations

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Education and the local self-government (with possible support from non-governmental and international organisations through donations)

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008

- d) Organisation of informative and educational seminars for employees of state institutions on a local and national level, by animating the local self-government with regard to identifying the problems, in order to raise the awareness and their preventive activities in the performance of the professional duties, including the Government of the Republic of Macedonia as a policy creator in the field of children's protection.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Trained personnel in the state institutions and identification of the problem

BEARER: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, the relevant ministries, international and non-governmental organisations, the units of the local self-government

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (with the possible

support of non-governmental and international organisations through donations)

DEADLINE: In continuity up until 2008

- e) Information and education of parents and families who are socially endangered about the risks of trafficking in children;
- f) Reintegration in society by means of allocating small grants for self-employment or other forms of assistance.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Educated socially endangered families and decrease in the unemployment

BEARER: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, the relevant ministries, international and non-governmental organisations, the units of local self-government

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (with a possible support from non-governmental and international organisations - donations)

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008

- g) Training of non-governmental organisations in the Republic of Macedonia for undertaking preventive activities concerning the issue of trafficking in children;
- h) Training of media representatives in order for them to become acquainted with the issue of trafficking in children and a more appropriate presentation of cases via the mass media.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Involvement of the trained staff in the non-governmental sector in the realisation of the envisaged preventive measures of the state. An objective and adequate presentation of the phenomenon of trafficking in children in the mass media.
BEARER: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children
PARTNERS: the relevant ministries, international and non-governmental organisations, the units of the local self-government

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: Non-governmental organisations with the financial support of international organisations

DEADLINE: until the end of 2006

- 2) Undertaking measures by the state for the purpose of stimulating education of the children and creating a better policy with regard to the allocation of the budgetary resources having in mind the best interest of the child

ACTIVITY

- a) Involvement of all the children - inclusion in the educational process which involves material and other support by the state for the children's attending classes in the educational institutions

EXPECTED RESULTS: A decreased number of children outside the educational process, particularly in the primary education.

BEARER: the Ministry of Education

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, the MoI, the relevant ministries, international and non-governmental organisations, the units of the local self-government

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Education

DEADLINE: In continuity up until 2008

- 3) Familiarising children with their rights and their education in order to be able to recognise the risk factors and protect themselves from them
- a) Introduction of human rights, as a compulsory subject in the formal education and motivation of the children to practice them;
- b) A more active participation of children in undertaking measures for their protection and resocialisation.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Adequate involvement of the children in the decisions which pertain to their rights.

BEARER: all the relevant ministries
 PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, international and non-governmental organisations, the units of the local self-government, the Agency for Youth and Sport
 BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Education
 DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008

4) Identification of child victims of trafficking

ACTIVITY

- a) Undertaking measures for establishing efficient procedures for rapid identification of the child victims of trafficking by means of establishing a co-ordinated exchange of information and data among the police, the border police, the centres for social work, the schools, the health care institutions, the non-governmental organisations and the Ombudsman.

EXPECTED RESULTS: A coordinated performance by the state and reduction of the number of cases of this type of crime.

BEARER: All the relevant ministries

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, international and non-governmental organisations, the units of the local self-government

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (with a possible support from non-governmental and international organisations' donations)

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008

- b) Intensifying control over the borders and the illegal crossings by the Border Police, as well as increasing surveillance by the responsible agencies for foreigners, particularly when children are travelling without parental escort.

EXPECTED RESULTS: A decrease in the number of illegal crossings of children.

BEARER: the MoI

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, the relevant ministries, international and non-governmental organisations, the units of the local self-government

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the MoI

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008

- c) Promotion and support of the existing SOS line which operates within the NGO for the purpose of children and young victims of trafficking, by involving media representatives as partners and extension of the line at a local level with a commitment on the part of the Government for finding a permanent solution.
- d) Improvement and support of the existing info counselling service and telephone lines in the non-governmental sector in cooperation with the local network of NGOs for the prevention of trafficking in human beings on a local and national level, which offer services for informing and advising about the risks connected to youth travel abroad for the purpose of work or studies; legal counselling; assistance in establishing contacts with the governmental agencies; psycho-social assistance; emotional support and crisis intervention; aid for returning to the home country and referral to other agencies.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Promotion and support of the existing SOS lines. A decrease in the number of potential victims of trafficking.

BEARER: NGOs

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, the relevant ministries and international organisations

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: non-governmental organisations with financial support by the business sector and international organisations

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008

PROTECTION AND AID FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

1. Providing minimum standards for treatment, aid and protection of the child victims of trafficking

ACTIVITY

- a) Establishment of mobile multidisciplinary teams at the centres for social work, with representatives from the responsible institutions, expert persons (the Centre for Social Work, the Ministry of Interior and the NGOs), who will be available 24 hours per day, so as to enforce the standard procedures in the process of finding a child victim of trafficking (a preliminary acceptance and a conversation - an interview - with the child and his/her temporary accommodation in an appropriate institution)

EXPECTED RESULTS: A team approach and a more efficient protection of child victims of trafficking.

BEARER: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

PARTNERS: the line ministries, international organisations and NGOs

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (with a possible support from non-governmental and international organisations through donations)

DEADLINE: until the end of 2006

- b) Finding appropriate spatial facilities for accommodating the child victims or witnesses of trafficking (separate accommodation of children, according to foreign and home citizens);
- c) Providing the essential existential necessities, a psychological, social, medical, educational and legal assistance for the child victims or witnesses of trafficking, accommodated in the shelter centres.

DEADLINE: until the end of 2006

- d) adaptation of premises in the existing Transit Centre for Foreigners, for the foreign children and adaptation of premises in the existing institutions for protecting children for the preliminary acceptance of child victims from the Republic of Macedonia..

DEADLINE: until the end of 2006

- e) finding a permanent solution, that is, a structure of permanent character for collective accommodation of the child victims, domestic and foreign citizens;
- f) organisation of shelter centres in the environments where the phenomenon of trafficking in children is more present.

DEADLINE: until the end of 2008

EXPECTED RESULTS: Organised accommodation and support of children victims

BEARER: the Mol and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

PARTNERS: other line ministries and non-governmental and international organisations (UNICEF, IOM and OSCE)

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Mol and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and non-governmental organisations (with financial support from international organisations' donations)

- g) a quick and efficient identification of child victims or witnesses and assignment of an ex-officio guardian, an escort (an NGO representative);
- h) organisation of shelter centres in the environments where the phenomenon of trafficking in children is more prevalent;
- i) providing free legal assistance and translation into their mother tongue;
- j) finding a permanent solution, that is a structure of a permanent character for collective accommodation of the child victims, domestic and foreign citizens alike;
- k) finding foster families for accommodating child victims of trafficking.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Organised accommodation and support of the children victims. Providing appropriate assistance and a decreased victimisation of the children - victims

BEARER: the MoI and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, that is, the centres for social work

PARTNERS: Other line ministries, international organisations and NGOs

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the MoI and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and non-governmental organisations (with financial support from international organisations through donations)

2. Prevention of further victimisation of child victims of trafficking

ACTIVITIES

a) Training of representatives of all the responsible institutions in providing assistance and protection of victims in any way, professionally, they are in touch with the issue of trafficking in children (judges, public prosecutors, barristers, lawyers, social workers, psychologists, paedagogues, special education teachers, health care workers, members of the Ministry of Interior and non-governmental organisations), for the carrying out of the special measures for protection of child victims or witnesses of trafficking in all the stages, starting from identification and protection up until the final rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation of the children;

b) Application of special techniques of holding conversations with the child victims or witnesses, by respecting their fundamental rights and respecting their personality and dignity;

c) Providing appropriate assistance for children with special needs who are victims of trafficking, especially in cases of disability, psychological disorders, disease and pregnancy.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Personnel trained for adequate treatment of the victims of trafficking in children

BEARER: the MoI, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Education

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting

trafficking in children, the relevant ministries and NGOs

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: Non-governmental organisations, the MoI and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Education (with financial support from international organisations and other donors)

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008.

REHABILITATION, REINTEGRATION AND REPATRIATION

1. Rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation of the child victims of trafficking

ACTIVITIES

- a) Rehabilitation and preparation for reintegration in the environment will be carried out in the shelter, through providing psycho-social support and training in social skills for reintegration of child victims of trafficking;
- b) Implementation of permanent solutions for the child victims or witnesses of trafficking in order to return to their families or to be accommodated in other families

EXPECTED RESULTS: Children trained for a more successful reintegration in the environment

BEARER: the NGOs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, the relevant ministries, international organisations

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: Non-governmental organisations and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (with financial support from international organisations - donations)

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008.

- c) Strengthening and promoting NGOs which offer psycho-social support and assistance to the child victims of trafficking

EXPECTED RESULTS: Educated personnel from the NGOs who will work on the issue

BEARER: the NGOs

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, the relevant ministries, international organisations

DEADLINE: Until the end of 2006

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: Non-governmental organisations (with financial support from international organisations' donations)

- d) Repatriation of the child victims of trafficking in human beings to their home countries or their accommodation in third countries.

EXPECTED RESULTS: The child victims will be accommodated in safe environments in accordance with their best interest

BEARER: The Ministry of Interior

PARTNERS: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, the relevant ministries, international organisations

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Interior and non-governmental organisations (with financial support from international organisations' donations)

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008.

2. Support for the families of child victims of trafficking and support for the home-families

ACTIVITIES

- a) Material and professional support from the state for the families who will take in child victims of trafficking and their supervision by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;
- b) Information campaigns about the general population in the Republic of Macedonia in order to prompt more families (home-families) to accept and provide residence to child victims of trafficking and their appropriate training, as well as provision of material and other support and providing benefits

EXPECTED RESULTS: Adequate number

of families trained for acceptance and accommodation of the child victims and providing appropriate support

BEARER: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

PARTNERS: the Sub-group for combatting trafficking in children, the Mol, the relevant ministries, international and non-governmental organisations, the units of the local self-government

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and non-governmental organisations (with financial support from international organisations' donations)

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008.

COORDINATION OF THE COMPETENT NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

1. Cooperation and coordination of the respective governmental bodies and institutions, international and non-governmental organisations with a view to establishing an efficient system of identification, referral, acceptance and providing assistance and protection to child victims or witnesses and criminal prosecution of the perpetrators
 - a) Signing of memoranda of understanding and cooperation by all the relevant institutions;
 - b) Concluding of bilateral and multilateral agreements when needed, for cooperation with the countries by which and in which the children are victims or witnesses of trafficking, in order to prevent trafficking and ensure their safe return.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Better cooperation and efficient coordination on a national, regional and international level

BEARER: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PARTNERS: All the relevant ministries

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008.

2. Establishing and intensifying the international cooperation in order to facilitate the process of repatriation of the children victims or witnesses to their country of origin or their accommodation in third countries

EXPECTED RESULTS: Better cooperation and efficient coordination on a national, regional and international level

BEARER: the Ministry of Interior and the IOM

PARTNERS: all the relevant ministries, non-governmental and international organisations

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: the Ministry of Interior and the IOM

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008.

- a) Establishing and utilising the already existing regional networks for exchange of information, data and experiences of the sub-groups for prevention of trafficking in children from South-east Europe and wider.

EXPECTED RESULTS: reduction in the number of victims of trafficking in children, monitoring and informing, as well as utilising others' experiences and expertise and transparency in cooperation

BEARER: the National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration and the Sub-group for Combatting Trafficking in Children

PARTNERS: all the relevant ministries, international and non-governmental organisations

BEARER OF FINANCIAL EXPENCES: Non-governmental organisations (with financial support from international organisations' donations)

DEADLINE: In continuity until 2008.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

Monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan for Combatting Trafficking in Children shall be carried out by the National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration in the Republic of Macedonia.

The National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings will be informed about the activities of the Sub-group every six months, and earlier if necessary, and the Commission shall inform the Government and the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia on the issue.

The Sub-group have set the deadlines:

- Short-term objective: until the end of 2006
- Midterm objective: 1 year after the adoption of the NAP (end of 2007)
- Long-term objective: 2 years after the adoption (end of 2008).