



**CHILD TRAFFICKING RESPONSE PROGRAM  
SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

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**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN THE PROGRAM**

**Albania**

**Bosnia-Herzegovina**

**Bulgaria**

**Montenegro**

**Romania**

**Serbia**

**UN administered Province of Kosovo**

**Experience in working with “at risk” children**

By *Masa Avramovic & Milica Djordjevic, Centre for Youth Integration*

The development of trafficking prevention and protection programmes involves the creation of conditions for vulnerable children’s group to cope with personal and environmental circumstances that expose them to risks.

Serbia research report showed that specific prevention and protection programmes have not been sufficiently developed to be directed towards facilitating access to education, acquiring life skills, providing information to children about existing risks and ensuring necessary assistance.

As CTRP phase II year 3 is focusing on reducing vulnerability of children through prevention activities based on research findings and recommendations, Save the Children’s Serbia programme supports the Centre for Youth Integration, a local NGO, working with and for street children through outreach programmes and drop in centre.

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Mrs. Bauer, MEP and SC CTRP staff at the launch of “Children Speak Out” regional report at the European Parliament

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## SEE REGION AND COUNTRY UPDATES

## CTRP REGIONAL OFFICE EVENTS

September 18, 2007

European Parliament, Brussels

The European Parliament hosted the launch of Save the Children's Regional Report "Children Speak Out. Trafficking Risk and Resilience in Southeast Europe"

The research project which started in March 2005 and ended in June 2006 is a qualitative, child-centered and participatory field based research conducted in the seven CTRP participating countries/entities. In general the report reflects children's feelings, fears and daily experiences and their views on the violence and exploitation that trafficking victims are facing. The children describe their direct and indirect contacts with state institutions, NGOs and INGOs and make a list of recommendations that could help improve their security and provide better protection.

Children's recommendations are of special interest and they focus on children's rights, education, employment, poverty, migration, marriage, institutions (orphanages) and shelters.

In terms of poverty, a child in Montenegro stated that *"the Government of Montenegro could help me, provide a pension for my welfare to my old and sick parents. Then, I could study and not worry whether they would remain hungry..."*

In terms of education, a street working child in Kosovo stated that *"Children should be learning and not begging on the street."*

The opening speech was held by [Mrs. Bauer](#), MEP, and that was followed by Steve Ashby's presentation on the Save the Children anti-trafficking programme and the benefits of having this research report. Steve's presentation was followed by Zosa's presentation (currently working for Save the Children in Mozambique). Zosa's presentation was about the methodology, the vulnerability that makes children feel at risk, what children's perceptions are about the risk and resiliency, children's relationships with multiple environments, interaction of different risk and resiliency factors, their relation with others and their decision making in adverse conditions and children's recommendations.

Steve's and Zosa's presentations were rich in children's quotes extracted from the report.

The launch of the report at the European Parliament in Brussels gathered together Members of European Parliament (MEPs), parliamentary



assistants, representative of major international institutions, like UNICEF-Brussels office, International Terre des Hommes, ECPAT international and Save the Children. This event was hosted by Mrs. Edit Bauer, MEP and showed the collective concern about the issue of child trafficking and the commitment to combat it.

The regional research report is also uploaded onto Save the Children Alliance website

[www.savethechildren.net](http://www.savethechildren.net)

September 10-11, 2007, Vienna

The Regional Advisor participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons' Conference entitled: "Assistance to Trafficked Persons: We Can Do Better". Chaired by the OSCE, the Conference was held in Vienna and was attended by a large number of representatives from OSCE Member and Co-operating States, as well as International Agencies and NGOs working on trafficking in human beings at the European and international levels.

The aim of the Conference was to discuss how research-based empirical evidence can help improve anti-trafficking interventions, especially concerning schemes and programmes aiming to provide assistance to trafficked persons. Several organizations presented their latest research findings, focusing on effectiveness of assistance frameworks in place. Save the Children presented the regional research on Risk and Resilience, opening the first day of the Conference.

Other relevant publications discussed at the Conference (and received by country coordinators through separate e-mail messages) were: the recent study by ICMPD "Listening to Victims" and the Handbook produced by Terre des Hommes on

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“Planning Projects to Prevent Child Trafficking”.

More information is available at:

<http://www.osce.org/cthb/>

## COUNTRY EVENTS

**Albania****CTRP updates**

*September 27, 2007*

Save the Children in Albania launched the CTRP national research report “Children Speak Out. Trafficking Risk and Resilience in Southeast Europe” The launch gathered together stakeholders from government and non-government institutions/ organizations working in the field of child protection and anti-trafficking. The participants included social workers, practitioners from different I/NGOs (Terre des Hommes; ARSIS, CAFOD), members of the Coalition against trafficking of Children, representatives of National Coordinator’s office against THB, and the Albanian Deputy-Minister of Social Affairs and the representative of the British embassy in Tirana.

Steve Ashby, country director of SACE THE CHILDREN in Albania presented in general the regional research project and focused on Albania national research project. Following Steve’s presentation, Anduena, the CTRP coordinator and Elona, field researcher presented at large the methodology, the selection of communities, the findings and the recommendations. The launch had also media coverage in the Albanian daily papers.

**Bosnia-Herzegovina****General updates**

*August 2007.*

Save the Children Norway SEE in BiH and Serbia held a 5 day summer workshop for children involved in the anti-trafficking activities. The workshop introduced children with the UN Secretary General’s Study on the Violence against children and its main recommendations as well as reported the up to date progress in improving the children’s situation in BiH and Serbia. The children in workshop developed their own messages to state representatives, responsible for children’s safety and will deliver these messages to raise public awareness on the issue of children’s violence in the region, on the occasion of Save the Children Day of Action against children’s violence.

*September 07, 2007 – Sarajevo*

The promotion of the State Strategy for Combating Violence against Children was held at the premises of Bosnia-Herzegovina Parliament Building. The strategy is result of the joint work of the Council of Children of BiH and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and funded by Save the Children.

According to the Minister of Human Rights and Refugees, this state strategy for combating violence against children will make it possible to establish plans and programmes at state (central) and local level in order to implement activities which would protect children from all sort of violence, within family, in the institutions or on the street. The goal of this strategy is to have children in BiH live in an environment free of violence and to grow healthy.

The following objectives are stated by one member of Council for Children of BiH: 1) to raise awareness and educate the broader public, especially children, parents and experts on violence and the ways to combat it. 2) to develop multidisciplinary approach to children, victims of violence. 3) to establish rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. 4) to ensure a sustainable system of funding, technical and human resources and a centralized database on violence against children.

*September 10, 2007 – Sarajevo*

The “Caritas” NGO in cooperation with the Office of the State Coordinator have conducted a conference on the achievements in the field of combating trafficking in human beings for the period September 2006- September 2007. NGOs presented their accomplishment throughout this period. The State Action Plan for the period 2008-2012 was also elaborated and this action plan includes Save the Children intentions to develop professional standards for treatment and protection of children, victims of trafficking as well as the endorsement of multidisciplinary programmes for inclusion of street working children within the education system.

**UN-administered Province of Kosovo****CTRP updates**

*September 2007*

Preparation of awareness raising campaigns at community level is part of the advocacy work following the findings and recommendations of the research report. Addressing the highlighted issue that “*children are not aware about the existing protection services available at community level and they don’t have knowledge about where and*

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how to address problems they face in everyday life", workshops with children are conducted to train them on organizing awareness raising campaigns. Such a campaign is going to take place in October and the children are going to disseminate information on available services.

Save the Children in cooperation with Kosovo Youth Council (KYC) its partner organization conducted meetings with Child Protection Groups at community and municipal level. The discussions focused on 1) the national legislation and international conventions applicable in Kosovo; 2) "Children Speak Out" research report findings; 3) the referral system within institutions that have the mandate to protect children; 4) how to address the issue of monitoring children who drop out of schools.

### September 2007 – Prizren

Peer to peer training. Children from Pristina peer-to-peer groups have conducted training sessions for other children in Prizren aiming to increase the level of understanding on issues related to trafficking and child protection.



Peer to peer training in Prizren

Kosovo Youth Council (KYC) is leading meetings with children to discuss and prepare the child friendly version of the research report. The first draft of the child friendly version would be available in October 2007.

### Montenegro

#### CTRP updates

July 2007 – Children's home, Bijela and IDP camp, Konik

FORUM MNE, a community youth work programme

working with young people and Save the Children's CTRP partner organization, has implemented activities in the framework of "Youth Resilience" project in Bijela's Children's home as well as in IDP camp, Konik.

The project offers model of youth work based on non-formal education where the young person is in the centre of the learning process. Because of specific environment in the institution, the workshops are about "building self-esteem" and "mastering presentation skills" so that the children could



Doctor's profession; role play by young people in IDP camp

present themselves as citizens that can make informed decisions.

One of the activities that took place in the institution during summer was the role play activity "Wonderful Forest", where children of age 7-10 role-played different animals (rabbit, mouse, bear, ant, deer, and owl) to promote independence and helping each other.

In IDP camp, an outstanding activity was the "Treasure quest" focusing on the topic of employment. The activity promoted life long skills for youth. Having the activity organized by young Roma people for the camp participants showed that these young people are talented and capable of being peer educators and animators and that they are overcoming the obstacles of stereotypes imposed to them.

### Romania

#### CTRP updates

August 2007

Save the Children's Galati branch produced 400 leaflets containing important information about human trafficking. The leaflets were designed to tar-

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get students 15-18 year old and are distributed at the prevention campaign in Ialomita county that took place during 27-30 September 2007. The goal of the campaign was to reduce the vulnerability of children to trafficking. The students are informed about human trafficking and exploitation, risky situations and recruitment methods, profile of potential victims, trafficking stage and consequences for the victims.

*August 21, 2007*

Save the Children Romania received a visit from the OSCE delegation – Warsaw. The delegation was interested to know more about the difficulties the countries of origin face in the field of prevention of trafficking in human beings.

*September 2007 – Iasi County*

A seminar gathering specialists from Romania and Moldova was conducted by Save the Children Iasi branch trainers in order to exchange experience between two countries in terms of prevention ac-



tivities against human trafficking; awareness raising campaigns and help-line services. The seminar was part of the project on “Cross border cooperation in human trafficking preventions – Creating an informing and counseling centre for the community” implemented by the general department of Child Rights Protection.

### Serbia

#### CTRP updates

*July 12-15, 2007*

At the “EXIT Music Festival” which is one of the most popular SEE music festivals taking place in Novi Sad, Serbia, Astra activists, (CTRP’s partner

organization) had the opportunity to talk to visitors about the issue of human trafficking and handed out promotional materials. During the festival, organizations working with youth were given the opportunity to present their work and discuss with youth.

*September 08, 2007- Belgrade*

Astra representatives (CTRP’s partner organization) conducted a workshop on basic information about human trafficking for the high school teachers of civic education. The main objective of the activity is to provide teachers with basic knowledge on this issue and to set the stage for Astra’s coming to conduct workshops with students within their schools.

*September 11-14, 2007 – Belgrade*

Workshops related to the issue of child trafficking were conducted by Astra for high school students of a vocational school.

#### General updates

*September 10-14, 2007*

The Child Rights Centre conducted a seminar on “Reporting the implementation of child rights in Serbia by NGOs”. The participants included local NGO representatives working on child rights. The objective was to form a coalition of NGOs which would work in a coordinated manner on child rights implementation.

## CTRP STAFF UPDATES

*August 25, 2007*, Sladjana Vorkapic, the CTRP country coordinator in Serbia, gave birth to a lovely baby girl. The baby is named Zoja, meaning “life” after the Greek zoi.

Sladjana is fascinated with the new gorgeous universe opened in her life.

“Congratulations Sladjana from anyone in CTRP!”

This is a good opportunity to introduce and welcome Masa Avramovic who has replaced Sladjana during her maternity leave.

Masa has extensive NGO background and has been cooperating with Save the Children for the past few years on various projects including Child Rights Ombudsman, children’s participation and child-led advocacy.

“Welcome on board and Good Luck, Masa!”

## ARTICLE

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### Experience in working with “at risk” children

The Centre for youth integration works with street children and youth since its beginning in 2004. For the last three years, the team of students-volunteers has made the Centre able to do outreach work. They (the team) visit Belgrade street children 6 times per week by going to their “homes”, “working places”, “leisure spots” and offer them services like medical assistance, some form of education and counselling...

Our work is based on the principles of best interest of the child, participation, individuality and confidentiality.

Working with this group of children has taught us that our program needs to be flexible but consistent, to be led by agreements with children and young people, open for discussion and their participation. Moreover, every intervention we make towards this group of vulnerable children and youth is based on respecting their rights.

Working in this way has helped us develop relationship of trust and respect, which has resulted in a common project - “the Drop in Centre”.

The “Drop in Centre” as a concept of service for street children offers them possibility to rest, to wash, to do laundry, to have some food but also provides some form of education, counselling and support. Children can come and leave whenever they want and participate in any activity they like. The “Drop in Centre” ensures the anonymous use of services when the beneficiary is prepared to receive more comprehensive assistance.

During the preparation phase for the opening of “Drop in Centre”, we discussed with children about their experiences and listened to their needs, interests and wishes in terms of the services, programme activities and the space in “Drop in Centre”, as we believe that children can best identify the most appropriate forms of support they need. Children wanted a warm place they could come and leave whenever they want and have time, where they could take shower, have some food, and also enjoy toys, music and TV...

We were speaking about workshops they would want to participate in, and also about the rules within the “Drop in Centre”. That was a big challenge for us, since we have had great relationship with children ‘on their field and within their homes’, and we did not know how it would look like in a

new place.

Finally, the first “Drop in Centre” for street children in Serbia opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> August in Belgrade and it is operational 24 hours, 7 days a week. Children can come whenever they want during the day and sleep over during the night in particular situations defined by the Drop in Centre protocol.

In “Drop in Centre” children can benefit from the professional assistance of psychologist, social worker, nurse, and other employees.

The workshop plan within the “Drop in Centre” was developed together with children. According to the plan, children can participate in the following programme activities: creative workshop; basic literary workshop; psychodrama and workshop for making jewellery (that we implement with “ATINA” local NGO), all supported by Save the Children CTRP II.

11 people together with volunteers are making sure that “Drop in Centre” offers quality assistance to children.

Until now we have had 84 children who have benefited from our services (on outreach, we have met more than 180 children and youth involved in street life)

One month after opening the “Drop in Centre”, we wanted to know what children liked most, or what they didn’t. They enjoy all services and activities but mostly they appreciate the **trust** we have shown them in using space as their own, and possibility to receive assistance or suggestion from the persons they trust, so they feel important and respected.

Such a programme of the “Drop in Centre” broadens children’s choices and supports the option that they have to change their current situation or some aspect of it.

That is why it is important for us to cooperate with the formal social welfare system. Therefore, City centre for social work is the formal partner in this program. Together with them, we work towards the integration of children within the system.

People often say- “those children need freedom and that’s why they are on the street, wandering around”. Our experience says different- “they enjoy reasonable boundaries; enjoy to have a safe place and support of adults. When they have that they don’t wander around and start planning their future.”