



**CHILD TRAFFICKING RESPONSE PROGRAM  
SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

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**Albania**

**Bosnia-Herzegovina**

**Bulgaria**

**Montenegro**

**Romania**

**Serbia**

**UN administered Province of Kosovo**

**Development of manuals and guidance for professionals on child trafficking prevention**

By *Rita Gina Badiu*  
*Coordinator on Trafficking Program*  
*Salvati Copiii Romania*

Save the Children Romania began its work in the field of combating and preventing child trafficking in 2000. Based on the experience of the professionals working within the 7 counseling centers for children victims of abuse and neglect, Save the Children Romania started the first project on anti-trafficking and started to offer support to children victims of trafficking.

As a consequence of working directly with victims of trafficking within the team and with other professionals from other institutions, it was obvious that there was a need for informing and training both categories on the issue of child trafficking.

In order to create a tool for training professionals working within institutions, professionals from the counseling centers of Save the Children were asked to create a training manual.

The manual called "*Best practices in assisting victims of trafficking*" was structured based on following issues:

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- ⇒ **SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)**



photo by FoNet

## SEE REGION AND COUNTRY UPDATES

### CTRP REGIONAL OFFICE EVENTS

*June 07, 2007 – Belgrade, Serbia.*

The CTRP Regional Advisor attended a roundtable organized by ASTRA NGO (CTRP local partner in Serbia) and OSCE on the topic "Working with victims of trafficking in human beings: standards of assistance and alternative measures"

The roundtable aimed to bring new impulsion to the process of setting quality standards of care for the assistance of trafficked persons in Serbia (and in the broader Balkan region). Participants to the roundtable were representatives of NGOs, international agencies and government institutions that deliver direct assistance to victims of trafficking in a number of SEE countries. A specific session of the roundtable, which was facilitated by the Regional Advisor of SC (CTRP), was devoted to the issue of working with trafficked children. During that session participants discussed several concerns that would arise in practice when providing direct assistance to a child who has been trafficked, especially when trying to appropriately balance the best interest principle and the right of the child to participate in any decision affecting her/him. In the closing sessions, participants set out recommendations that should constitute the basis for the elaboration of minimum standards of care for trafficked persons, including children, in Serbia.

*June 2007.* Update on Save the Children CTRP Regional Research Report.

The launch of the regional research report, which is currently being finalized, is envisaged to take place in September 2007. With the objective to influence international and regional institutions at European level, the Regional Team is negotiating about a possible launch in Brussels at the premises of European Parliament, expected to take place between the second and the third week of September 2007. International agencies, NGOs, government institutions of the countries/entities involved in the research and donor representatives, as well as members of the European Parliament will be invited in the launch. In addition to this, the research findings are going to be presented at the 7th Conference of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons (promoted by the OSCE) to be held in Vienna and to focus on empirical research on identification, protection and assistance to trafficked persons. Country teams will receive information in due course as soon as launch date and place are confirmed.

### COUNTRY EVENTS

As the launch of SC CTRP research reports in the 7 participating countries/entity in the programme was the main event taking place during May- June 2007, we are entirely devoting the Country Event section to the coverage of launch events.

*May 29 – June 27, 2007* – The Launch of CTRP national research reports "Children Speak Out: Trafficking risk and resilience in South East Europe" The research was carried out from March 2006 until June 2007 and gave answers to the questions of major concern in SEE region:

- ⇒ Why are some children more at risk of being trafficked than others?
- ⇒ What are children's perceptions of risk and trafficking?
- ⇒ How can SC design better programmes and policy interventions?

The carried out qualitative and child participatory research included a total of 618 children and 258 key informants who provided valuable information with their individual and focus group interviews.

The research report launch events were held in the range of a month by CTRP country teams and the invited participants were national and local government officials directly or indirectly involved in anti-trafficking and child protection, national and international NGOs working in the above mentioned areas, CTRP implementing local partners and children who participated in the research project.

Government officials in almost each country launch emphasized their appreciation to the development and completion of such research, pointed out its unique nature and the significance that "*its recommendations would help and find their place in the National/State Action Plan*"- as stated by BiH state coordinator for combating THB and Illegal Immigration and that "*the research is necessary to us to create better prevention and protection programmes*"- stated the Serbian Ministry of Labour representative.

The research report authors presented the findings, conclusion and the recommendations to the audience. In some launches the children were given the floor to present their own experience in the research, or documentary on marginalized children, while the researchers spoke about their own direct experience with the children.

The national launches were covered by local and national written and visual media and made the headlines in the respective country daily news. Days later, several CTRP country coordinators held interviews in the respective country media.

## SEE REGION AND COUNTRY UPDATES

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Information on the national launches is also posted in SC Norway website: [http://www.reddbarna.no/default.asp?V\\_ITEM\\_ID=14314](http://www.reddbarna.no/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=14314) and SC UK website: <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk/jsp/resources/details.jsp?id=5036&group=resources&section=news&fromgroup=news&newssection=newslibrary&subsection=details&pagelang=en>

More country-specific information is found below:

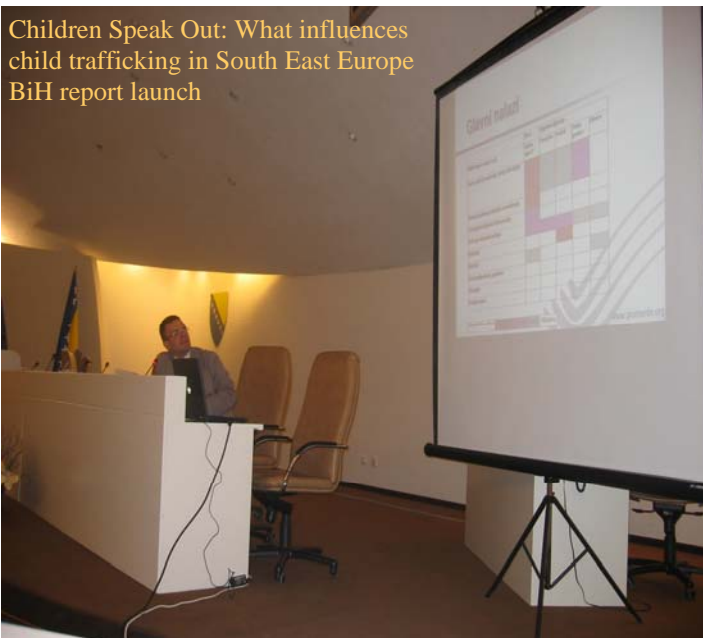
### Bosnia-Herzegovina

June 04, 2007- Sarajevo.

Save the Children Norway SEE Regional Office and Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration held the promotion of the research report «Children Speak Out: What influences child trafficking in Southeast Europe –Bosnia and Herzegovina report»

Besides the update covered in the sections above, "This research is unique by its nature due to the fact that it was the first time that children were asked for their opinion", said Mrs. Senija Tahirović, Ph.D, Regional Director of Save the Children Norway SEE. Mr. Steve Powell, the lead researcher

Children Speak Out: What influences child trafficking in South East Europe BiH report launch



concluded that

"the report conclusions and recommendations are extremely important for the development of most efficient prevention interventions in order to protect children of BiH to become trafficking victims in future".

### Bulgaria

June 27, 2007 – Sofia.

AAF and PBF held the launch of Bulgaria Research Report in a round table event with the participation government officials (including police, public prosecutor's office, ministry of education and state agency for child protection), NGO working in the area of child protection, Roma women's organization representatives and children from Resource Centre in Kyustendil.



Children Speak Out: Trafficking risk and resilience in South East Europe - Bulgaria report launch

The children had the chance to share their experience from the participation in the research and raised the importance of more prevention activities to combating trafficking of human beings. The participants at the round table agreed to conduct joint advocacy activities at national level.

### UN-administered Province of Kosovo

May 31, 2007 – Pristina.

The launch of Kosovo Research Report brought together approximately 80 participants from central and local government institutions, local and international NGOs working in the field of child protection, representatives of schools, parents and children who participated in the research.

The local partner organization together with one researcher and a group of children presented the goal, objectives, methodology and findings and recommendations of the research report. The participants offered a positive feedback especially for the child participation component of the research.

## SEE REGION AND COUNTRY UPDATES

Continued from page 3

Children Speak Out: Trafficking risk and resilience in South East Europe - Kosovo report launch



### Montenegro

May 29, 2007 – Podgorica.

Save the Children UK in Montenegro was the first country in SEE to launch the research report with the participation of relevant national and local government institution representatives, local NGOs, representatives of Roma settlement in Konik, Podgorica and Children's Home (institution) in Bijela. "By publishing this report Save the Children wishes to provide an opportunity for the opinion of the marginalised groups of at-risk children to be heard and acknowledged, as well as to call upon all competent government and non-governmental institutions and organizations to enhance their efforts to reduce the identified risks that many of these children are faced with and initiate additional programmes to help strengthen their resiliency – says SC office representative.

(apology for not providing any picture from Montenegro research report launch because of the poor quality of the pictures)

### Serbia

May 30, 2007- City Assembly, Belgrade.

Serbia Research Report launch hosted within the City Assembly premises showed that the capital public authorities have perceived the publication as of great significance and that's the reason why they provided support to its presentation. After the presentations held by SC office representative, State Secretary for Social Policy at Ministry of

Labour and Social Affairs, CTRP coordinator, report author and other actors, the children were given the opportunity to present a documentary on street children, produced by the Children's Informative and Cultural Services.

June 14, 2007. The CTRP country coordinator and the research report author were hosts at the Morning TV Programme aired by TV B92 and presented basic information on Save the Children, the research conducted in Serbia, the findings and the way of providing further support to the interviewed children in the research.

Children Speak Out: Trafficking risk and resilience in South East Europe - Serbia report launch



As for **Albania**, the research report draft is completed and the launch is scheduled for *September 2007*. RMT wish Albania "Good Luck with the Launch".

May – June 2007- Kuçova (Mid-South of Albania). Another important piece of news is that Kucova Municipality approved the establishment of Child Protection Unit (CPU) as a section within the municipality's structure. Save the Children in Albania and the Municipality have reached an Agreement regarding this initiative, which would last for a period of 3 years.

As for **Romania**, the research report is completed and the launch is scheduled to take place on *July 23-24, 2007*.

We wish Salvati Copiii team "Good Luck with the launch!" too.

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**ARTICLE****Lessons learnt from CTRP year II experience in Albania**

By *Anduena Shkurti*,  
*CTRP Programme Coordinator*  
*Save the Children in Albania*

In continuation of the first phase of CTRP, Save the Children in Albania focused attention on the issue of trafficking prevention. In this framework we continued to support partners, including children and youth to implement child anti-trafficking prevention projects. This involved an NGO in Tirana "Children of the World and of Albania" who runs non-formal educational activities for roma children at risk of trafficking and two youth-run Centres in Cërrik (mid-Albania) and Kucovë (mid-south). This article is about lessons learned during the implementation of these projects during the second year of CTRP. As in other fields, these involved both positive and not so positive experiences, which ultimately will help us in the steps to follow, and hopefully will also help others who would like to work with children and youth using similar approaches and interventions. We are aiming to document these experiences in a handbook, especially the experience of youth in running their own youth centre. Participation in networks and coalitions will be another way of sharing our experience and learning from this project with other interested stakeholders

**Youth Centres for Social Development**

The major positive aspect we appraise is the involvement of children in all phases of the project activities. The consultations before project started helped us and them understand needs, issues, concerns and wishes better. We started the research on risk and resiliency in the second year, and we believe their thoughts and opinions as reflected in it would help us further to develop better targeted interventions with them.

Peer-to-peer approach proved to be the most effective way to convey information and at the same time to ensure child participation and to empower youth to take more responsibility as community members. They were invited to give opinions and to participate in decisions of local authorities concerning children and youth. The activities in the centres help youth to become more visible and active in their communities. Local government authorities recognised this since the beginning, which helped the sustainability of interventions and better outreach to children and youth.

However, involving more vulnerable and marginalized children in the running of the centers remained problematic. This is due to the cultural attitudes – children try their best but in general they are not considered as 'able' to become leaders. It is also hard for marginalized kids to have access to the services as most of them are not in schools.

Another identified constraint is the limited human capacities in the country, including the number of partners working in child rights and who share our vision in relation to trafficking and the very few qualified people working in the remote areas where the projects are developed. There is a need to support capacity building activities and training in management, monitoring and evaluation practices, advocacy, participation, conceptual understanding of the issue, not just for us but also for our implementing partners. On the job training remains the only possibility, but often we have no time to do all these.

**Tirana Centre for Socio-Educative Integration (FBSH)**

This project promotes a holistic approach that targets children at risk in the context of their families and communities, with the goal of mobilizing all stakeholders to provide a protective and nurturing environment for children at risk. It involves a combination of formal and non-formal education, psychosocial counselling, material support, referral and recreational activities for socially excluded groups. This holistic approach allows us to better understand and respond to the need of the child in the context of the community: work with the parents, education, build trust relationship, work with local authorities to advocate, change their opinion, this gives greater support of the stakeholders in the community.

We emphasised the work with the parents because their support is central to be able to help kids change attitudes and mentality regarding importance of schools and limits of early marriages, training parents in life skills, support the families through food aid/medical and legal assistance. Also, we applied a flexible approach to implementation. This was essential as it helped us make corrections and improve the work.

However, more work is required to acquire support from local authorities and the community as the approach is costly and difficult to sustain, and so far it is supported with external funding and the partner NGO capacity in fundraising is very limited.

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## ARTICLE

**Development of manuals and guidance for professionals on child trafficking prevention**

*(Continued from page 1)*

What is trafficking in human beings?; Case management; Social Assistance; Police intervention; Legal Aspects.

The guide was used within different trainings for professionals on the issue of child trafficking. The manual was welcomed at that time since it was one of the first manuals in Romania. The weakness of the manual was that it did not contain aspects related to training techniques.

In 2004, Save the Children Romania as Ecpat affiliated member participated in a 2 year project developed by ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group. Within the project, Save the Children Romania cooperated with ECPAT France as twinning country. The Manual was a result of the third stage of a programme to combat trafficking in children for sexual purposes. It was created after Ecpat conducted a research in eight Eastern/Central European countries and eight Western European countries. The research showed that among different stakeholders (police, social workers, state agencies) there is a lack of recognition of, and attention to, child victims of trafficking, and to the special protection and care that they need. One of the conclusions of the report was that training with a child rights based approach was needed for these professionals.

The manual developed by ECPAT brought as a novelty the concepts related to techniques and tools, aspects that were missing from the manual developed by Save the Children Romania in 2004.

As part of the project, Save the Children Romania as ECPAT affiliated member conducted 2 trainings for caregivers and law enforcement representatives. During the training sessions, it was important and relevant to use the experience of different professionals working for border police, direction for child protection, representatives of National Antitrafficking Agency and IOM. The manual was adapted to their own opinion and practical experience and so, the manual is adapted to the local context and contains feedbacks from practitioners. The experiences from the Romanian trainings were incorporated into this final draft of the manual. The result is therefore the product of the expertise and experience of many professionals and practitioners. In 2006, within a project developed with ILO/IPEC, Save the Children Romania contributed to the development of the manual "Psycho-social rehabilita-

tion of children withdrawn from trafficking and other forms of child labor".

The manual provides information on child trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation. The manual is the result of the cooperation between organizations directly involved in the psychosocial rehabilitation of children withdrawn from trafficking and other forms of child labor in Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine.

One of the most important things when elaborating a training curriculum is the cooperation with different stakeholders in order to bring together different perspectives on child trafficking. Involving both practitioners and high-level persons in developing training curriculum ensured a comprehensive approach of the manuals.

The phenomenon of trafficking in human beings has special dynamics, it keeps changing every day and new trends in trafficking in human beings are appearing. Thus, a training curriculum for professionals has to be flexible and to be adapted when needed so that professionals from different institutions working in the field of combating child trafficking can adapt their work accordingly.

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**As summer vacations are approaching,  
the Regional Management Team of CTRP  
wish you all to  
"Enjoy summer vacations" and relax!**

