



Save the Children

**CHILD TRAFFICKING RESPONSE PROGRAM
SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

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The Overall Goal of our Child Trafficking Response Programme is to enhance protection of the rights of trafficked children and children at high risk of being trafficked as enshrined in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments.

Participating countries in the program

- Albania**
- Bosnia-Herzegovina**
- Bulgaria**
- Montenegro**
- Romania**
- Serbia**
- UN administered Province of Kosovo**

Our Donors

The CTRP is funded by the **NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)**, the **OAK FOUNDATION** and the **SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (SIDA)**.

The regional team would like to thank the country teams for providing plenty of valuable information to share among us.

Important reminder(s)
SEE Child Trafficking Response Programme
Research and Monitoring workshop
October 3 – 5, 2006, Budva, Montenegro



(Photo from a Youth Centre activity, Albania)

Children's rights in the human rights framework

The Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the rights that must be realized for children to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. It reflects a new vision of the child. Children are neither the property of their parents nor are they helpless objects of charity. They are human beings and are the subject of their own rights. Despite the existence of rights, children suffer from poverty, homelessness, abuse, neglect, preventable diseases, unequal access to education and justice systems that do not recognize their special needs. These are problems that occur in both industrialized and developing countries.

STAFF UPDATES

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Aida Bekic, Program Coordinator for CTRP in Bosnia and Herzegovina had a medical surgery on Monday, Sept 18, 2006. The Program in BiH misses her sorely and hopes that she will get well soon and be back on board. The regional team wishes her rapid recovery. Please join us in wishing her the best of health!

Romania

The family of Dana Rusu, local coordinator from Galati, have a new ADDITION. The baby girl was born in August 2006. **CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NEW ARRIVAL!**

Gina Badiu, project coordinator and Iulia Ungureanu, social worker in Bucharest joined their forces in an "incredible attempt" to obtain their driver's license. We all cross the fingers. GOOD LUCK!

CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3 – 5, 2006, Budva, Montenegro Research and Monitoring workshop (CTRP)

The main objective of the workshop is to present preliminary findings from the on-going research on risk- and resiliency factors related to child trafficking. Field work started in June/July in all countries and is expected to be completed by end of November. The main topic on the agenda will be country presentations on their field work and preliminary findings.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

September 28-30, 2006. Training (second out of three to be held) on "**Implementation of the Child Protection measures against trafficking in human beings**"- to take place in Banja Luka,

October 3 and 4, 2006. "**International Conference on Violence against Children**", in the framework of the children's week- to be held in Sarajevo.

Romania

In Iasi county, National Authority for Child Protection is organizing a meeting with specialists from Child protection Department, Police Department, Alternative Sociale Association, Holt International, School Inspectorate and a local coordinator from Iasi.

October 2006. A two-day training with the volunteers selected in September 2006 will be conducted in Iasi branch of Save the Children Romania.

October 2006. Iasi branch will be hosting a meeting with representatives of the General Division of Combating the Organized Crime of Public Prosecutor (*continue on page 4*).

COUNTRY UPDATES

Albania

Preventing human trafficking in Roma communities was the focus of a three-day OSCE-organized meeting (September 18-20, 2006) in Tirana, Albania. The meeting organized by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Presence in Albania, aimed to promote partnerships between anti-trafficking and Roma NGOs to better fight the increasing phenomenon of trafficking in Roma across Europe. More than 60 participants in the meeting included key Roma and non-Roma stakeholders working on anti-trafficking from countries of origin and destination, like France, Italy, Greece, Spain, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UN administered province of Kosovo, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Serbia.

A Council of Europe "Equal Rights and Treatment for Roma" conference, part of a Council of Europe/European Commission project for Roma in South Eastern Europe was held in Tirana, Albania from September 18-20, 2006. Council of Europe representative, officials from ministries of health, education, culture and public works, Roma NGOs and others working with Roma community in Albania presented assessment reports on measures undertaken to promote human rights of Albania's Roma and debated over a number of topics, like socio-economic, educational, health, housing and culture. The Council of Europe representative highlighted poverty as a factor in trafficking.

September 7– 9 of (the third) two-day **residential workshop on peer to peer methods** was conducted in Tirana, with the participation of 25 youth and adult facilitators from both Youth Centers of Kucova and Cerrik. This workshop is the third in a series of 8-day workshops, which will be organized for this purpose. It will

prepare youth to deliver peer to peer training.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

The State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration organized a three-day training (July 13-15, 2006) in Neum, BiH, on "**the Implementation of child protection measures against trafficking in human beings**". This training was part of SC Norway SEE regional office support to the Office of the State Coordinator. The training aimed at increasing the professional capacity of social workers, medical workers and police in the area of child prevention and protection from trafficking.

Aiming to increase the competencies and efficiency of people involved in free legal aid provision to victims of trafficking, **Vaša prava BiH and IOM** held a seminar on **legal aid provision to victims of trafficking** in late August 2006 with the participation of VP BiH lawyers and representatives of organizations dealing with combating against human trafficking.

The "**Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of a Comprehensive National Anti-Trafficking Response**" developed in the framework of ICMPD programme for the Enhancement of Anti-Trafficking Responses in SEE, will be available by the end of September 2006. The guidelines as a set of measures to be taken by anti-trafficking and cover four main areas: prevention; support and protection of victims and witnesses; investigation and prosecutions; supporting framework.

A 24-month USAID funded Program to Support the Development of Trans-national Referral Mechanisms (TRM) for Trafficked Persons in SEE launched on June 30, 2006, is implemented by ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) in partnership with ACTA (Network of NGOs against Human Trafficking and Corruption) and Bulgaria's Interior Ministry (*see page 3*).

COUNTRY UPDATES

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The program's objective is to empower trafficked people to restart a self-determined life, become aware of their rights and the role they might play in criminal proceedings. Albania, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and the UN administered province of Kosovo are among the participating countries.

A Data Collection and Information Management program for Enhancement of anti-trafficking Responses in SEE, launched on September 01, 2006 is a 12 month program funded by Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That is implemented by ICMPD in partnership with EUROPOL, ACTA and MARRI (Migration, Asylum, Refugee Regional Initiative) regional centre in Skopje. A database will be developed for each participating country/territory of SEE to be installed with relevant national institutions.

UN administered province of Kosovo

Report on the Research Project.

The lead researcher and the research team of 4 field assistants are in the process of finalizing the field work and collecting qualitative data, which will be available to highlight gaps related to trafficking and how the child protection mechanisms function at community level. This information will support Save the Children in Kosovo to design further direct intervention in the field related to trafficking and child protection in general.

Montenegro

Montenegro country team is sharing with us some experience from "**Prevention Program - Modification of behaviour through play**"

In July- Ana Jankovic reports- when the academic year ended, the team made the presentation of the prevention program and the achieved results. The students & children, who were involved in the program, had the full freedom to prepare the presentation in their own manner. They were free to incorporate their own ideas into this presentation, and they did it in a very qualitative and interesting way. The presentation was introduced to the representatives of relevant ministries, social work centres, faculties, schools and NGOs in order to influence the relevant actors to support the program implementation in the coming year. The presentation had full media coverage.

Field research on trafficked children and those at risk: Two researchers have completed the field research in Roma communities, with children in shelters and orphanage. The gathered data are currently being transcribed and translated. They would be available by the end of September. During her Montenegro visit, Zosa De Sas Kropiwnicki, regional research advisor, supported the researchers in the current process and clarified some tasks.

SC Montenegro continues to supervise and assist with **the capacity of the staff of "Montenegrin Women's Lobby" NGO**, which is managing a shelter and a SOS hotline for victims of trafficking. Further plans are being developed to strengthen the capacity of this NGO's staff to provide support to children, victims of trafficking or at risk.

Child Protection System and National Referral Mechanism. SC. Montenegro is continuing their advocacy, networking and capacity building of relevant national and local authorities to improve Child Protection System and National Referral Mechanism to protect trafficked children by promoting changes in the legal framework.

SC staff in SEE region assigned a regional working group in June 2006 to assess the current situation of **Child Protection Policy Application through our direct implemented programs and partners**. Both Sladjana Vorkapic and (Ana Stojovic Jankovic) are involved in the working group. A final report with recommendations on how to improve its implementation was prepared and introduced to SC UK country managers.

OSCE conducted a seminar on the '**Coordination of special teams for combating trafficking in Human Beings**', in Podgorica, Montenegro, from August 31 - September 01, 2006. SC coordinators took part as well.

Romania

The Romanian Ministry of Interior and Administration held the "**Prevention Days**", **an event of conferences and workshops** focused on preventing child abuse, from September 11- 17, 2006. Salvati Copiii Romania participated with a display of materials produced within the following topics: child abuse and exploitation, trafficking and street children. Other participants included agencies within Ministry of Interior, like the National Anti-trafficking agency, National Anti-drug agency and Child Protection Departments.

Alternative Sociale Association held a **Summer School within-Peer to Peer Education**- to mainstream Children Participation to Combat against Trafficking in Children from August 21-27, 2006. The summer camp is organized with the support of ILO-IPEC (for more info see <http://www.antitrafic.ro/>)

In the **MTV Romania 2006 Awards**, a award giving tour to the best musicians, 60 volunteers distributed informative materials produced within MTV Exit international campaign (126 DVD MTV Exit; 1120 MTV Exit brochures and 5000 leaflets). MTV Exit is Music Television - End Exploitation and Trafficking Campaign. This year, IOM, MTV and other NGOs organized a tour in different cities of Romania awarding the best musicians with "Free your Mind" prize. For more info, see <http://212.227.38.159/mtv3/homepage.jsp?langid=1>

Serbia

September 15, 2006, Atina, a local NGO, initiated a Re-integration Center for the victims of Human Trafficking identified in Serbia, with the support of IOM.

September 15-17, 2006- **The ASTRA Network`s 11 NGOs gathered for a meeting in Belgrade**. The three day meeting was dedicated to informing the latest trends in (continue on page 4)

CASE STUDY (Romania)

A.B. is 15 years old and she comes from a small village in the north of Romania. She has 3 other sisters, 2 of them living abroad. Her mother died when AB was just 3 years old. Her sisters and her father raised her until the age of 13. Her father suffers from diabetes and has been unable to work for many years and unable to provide the children with many things. He receives pension, which amounts to 100 euros. In addition, the father of AB is alcoholic. At the age of 12, AB sustains that some gypsies kidnapped and raped her. They threatened her & her family not to press charges and because of that, she didn't say anything against the perpetrators at the police. At the police, because of her refusal to testify against the men who kidnapped her, the police officer beat her very badly. With an alcoholic and violent father, without any protection, AB dropped out the school and entered the local gangs and began to steal and beg. In these conditions, her father told her that she could gain some money from internal prostitution and that he is very sick and he needs money for medicine and food. For almost 3 months, she was involved in internal prostitution. She met 2 women and a man who promised to take her abroad to work in a bar/restaurant as a cleaner and that she will make a lot of money. The recruiters provided her with money for the flights, accommodation and the passport. She left Romania in the company of other girls and travelled to Spain with her Romanian passport. When AB arrived in Spain, she handed her passport over to traffickers and was later told that it had been stolen. According to AB, shortly after that, she was introduced to prostitution. In Spain, she was sheltered in an apartment and she was forced to assist when the traffickers shot a girl because of her behaviour. She declared that she could see 1-5 clients per day while working in Spain and she was provided with food, clothes, and cigarettes. She didn't have access to medical care while she was trafficked. She tried several times to escape but the traffickers threatened to kill her & her family. Therefore, she attempted to harm herself once by cutting the wrists, but another girl had prevented her from doing that. She was involved in traffick-

ing for 6 months and she succeeded to escape during a police raid.

She was repatriated and reintegrated in her family because her father didn't agree with her placement in shelter. After a month in the family, she informed the psychologist that she had problems with her father because he blamed her and his behaviour hasn't change. In addition, her father refused to let her go to school. She also thought that her father would sell her. In these conditions, AB was placed in a centre for victims of trafficking in another town and she entered the assistance of Save the Children Romania.

She was reintegrated in school in the 7th class. Her teachers weren't informed about her history in order to prevent her discrimination. She graduated the 7th class and she obtained very good results.

Regarding her complain against the traffickers, AB refused very strongly to do that because of her former problems with the police and because she was afraid of the traffickers. AB is convinced that the police officer who aggressed her is still working at the police and that he will treat her in the same manner.

Her relation with her family at the beginning was tensed. Her father accused her of prostituting. Her sisters didn't know about the trafficking history. The only person in the family who was interested in her was her uncle. He encouraged her to go to school. After 6 months in the centre, she decided to see her father in order to resolve their problems. Apparently, he understood her and decided to accept her. AB told her sister what happened in Spain and she was supportive with AB and understood her trauma. She started to see her often and after checking the possibility of reintegration, she was placed under her older sister's custody.

She is afraid that her former teachers would find out what happened to her and that she would be discriminated. AB knows for sure that in that school, she is a bad example and the teachers in the parent meetings mentioned her history and they say to other children "not to do what she did". For that reason she was sent to a different school.

Her father has still economical and medical problems,

**CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

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The Politics and Communication Sciences Faculty of Oradea University in collaboration with IOM Romania and Office for Work Migration is conducting a 3 semester **master's programme on "Freedom of movement of people in Europe"**. The curriculum is approved by the Ministry of Education and Research.

Serbia

September 26 -27,2006, A seminar on child trafficking is taking place in Kruševac, with the participation of local centers for social work, media, police, school teachers, justice department, NGOs and health workers from Rasina and Toplica District.

October 2, 2006, The official campaign of "**Child Trafficking—Our Reality**", an initiative of ASTRA, local NGO, will be launched.

Albania

October 19,2006 Both youth centers are going to organize youth fora on the issue of violence and abuse of children, on the occasion of SC Day of Action against violence.

COUNTRY UPDATES

Continued from page 3

Serbia

trafficking, anti-trafficking campaign and planning future actions.

September 14-15, 2006 - A seminar on "**Trafficking in children – Threat and Reality**" with the participation of the representatives of local centers for social work, media, justice, police, school teachers, NGOs, and health workers from Pčinj District (south of Serbia) was conducted by Child Rights Centre with the support of Save the Children (CTRP II) in Vranjska Banja. The speakers were representatives from police and justice depts, INGOs and Institute for Forensic Medicine.

(Photo from Serbia)



(Case Study continues here)

but AB is no longer under his influence. She lives with her older sister who is married and has a child. Her sister could provide her with a safe environment and protection.

(AB was assisted by Save the Children Romania in 2005).

**CHILD TRAFFICKING RESPONSE PROGRAM-SEE
COUNTRY TEAMS CONTACT LIST, 2006**

Regional team

Steve Ashby
Programme director
sashby@savealbania.org
+355 4 261 840

Veslemoy Naerland
Regional programme
manager
veslemoy_naerland@savealbania.org
+355 4 268 132
+355 69 2081 356

Anila Mecó
Finance manager
anilameco@savealbania.org
+355 4 261 840
+355 692036543

Maria Antonia Di Maio
Regional advisor
madimaio@savealbania.org
+355 4 268 132
+355 69 2081 354

Zosa De Sas Kropwincki
Regional Research advisor
zdesas@savealbania.org
+355 69 2081 358

Besnik Kadesha
Regional information coordinator
besnikkadesha@savealbania.org
+355 4 268132

Daniela Shkalla
Data Assistant
Danishka@savealbania.org
+355 4 268 132
+355 (0) 692466519

Albania

Anduena Shkurti
Programme coordinator
anduenashkurti@savealbania.org

Bosnia Herzegovina
Aida Bekic
Programme coordinator
a.bekic@savethechildrennorway-see.ba
+387 33 659 822

Senija Tahirovic
s.tahirovic@savethechildrennorway-see.ba
+387 33 659 822

Andrea Zeravcic
a.zeravcic@savethechildrennorway-see.ba
+387 33 659 822

Bulgaria
Diyana Radeva-coordinator
animus@animusassociation.org
+ 359 2 9835305
Cel: +359 889 261087

Deyana Kurchieva-coordinator
deyana@partnersbg.org
deyanak@gmail.com
+359 2 989 2471
Cel: +359 887 386541

Kosovo
Rrezarta Jashari
Project manager
Rrezarta.jashari@scik.org
+381 382 49705/ 548177/
548178

Montenegro

Ana Stojovic Jankovic
Programme coordinator
scfmon@cg.yu
+381 81 621 339/ 639 770

Gordan Ivanovic
scfmon@cg.yu
+381 81 621 339/ 639 770

Marina Lutovac
scfmon@cg.yu
+381 81 621 339/ 639 770

Romania

Rita Gina Badiu
Programme coordinator
gina_badiu@salvaticopiii.ro
+4021 260 0163

Gabriela Alexandrescu
Gabriela_alexandrescu@salvaticopiii.ro
+4021 3166176/ 314 4050

Serbia
Sladjana Vorkapic
Programme coordinator
s.vorkapic@scfukbgd.org.yu
+38111 3671 477/ 3671 476
+381 640 140 4948

Stanka Djoric-Danubic
s.djoric@scfukbgd.org.yu
+38111 3671 477/ 3671 476

SAVE THE CHILDREN WEB-SITE OF EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY

Albania
<http://www.savealbania.org/>

Bosnia-Herzegovina
<http://www.savethechildrennorway-see.ba/>

Bulgaria
<http://www.animusassociation.org/>
<http://partnersbg.org/english/index1.html>

Kosovo
<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk/jsp/wherework/country.jsp?ukww=ww§ion=europe&subsection=kosovo>

Montenegro
<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk/jsp/wherework/country.jsp?ukww=ww§ion=europe&subsection=montenegro>

Romania
http://www.salvaticopiii.ro/romania_en/

Serbia
<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk/jsp/wherework/country.jsp?ukww=ww§ion=europe&subsection=serbia>

Rasa Sekulovic
r.sekulovic@scfukbgd.org.yu
+381 11 3671 477/ 3671 476