



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN
HUMAN BEINGS

2007 NATIONAL PROGRAM
FOR PREVENTION AND COUNTERACTION OF
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND PROTECTION OF THE VICTIMS

SECTION I: "INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES"

MAIN GOAL: Build the administrative structures provided for in the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act on a national and local level and ensure their effective functioning.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Create and re-structure the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHB) in Varna, Burgas, Pazardjik and Sliven.

Responsible institution: National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB), mayors of the respective municipalities;

Partners: Regional units of the institutions represented on the NCCTHB; International Organization for Migration (IOM) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);

Funding: from the budget of the NCCTHB and the respective municipalities; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2007

2. Develop a system of criteria and indicators for determining the municipalities where the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking of Human Beings (LCCTHB) are going to be created.

Responsible institution: National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB);

Partners: Regional units of the institutions represented on the NCCTHB; International Organization for Migration (IOM) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);

Funding: Not needed;

Deadline: December 2007

3. Open centres for protection and help to victims of trafficking in human beings with the local commissions under item 1.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB, LCCTHB, mayors of the respective municipalities;

Partners: IOM and NGO;

Funding: From the budget of the NCCTHB and the respective municipalities; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2007

4. Create a crisis centre for temporarily accommodation of children victims of trafficking in human beings in Sofia.

Responsible institution: Sofia Municipality;

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, NCCTHB and IOM;

Funding: Sofia Municipality; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2007

5. Create an organization of research, analysis and reporting for statistical data in relation to trafficking in human beings with the NCCTHB.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, judicial bodies, NGO;

Funding: Funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2007

6. Create register for the physical and legal non-for-profit bodies that provide shelter to victims of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: IOM and NGO;

Funding: Not needed;

Deadline: December 2007

7. Create a website of the NCCTHB.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: IOM and NGO;

Funding: Funds under the IOM program and International Agency for Development, United States Embassy;

Deadline: December 2007

8. Create a logo of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking of Human Beings

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: IOM and NGO;

Funding: from the budget of NCCTHB and funds under the IOM program and International Agency for Development, United States Embassy;

Deadline: December 2007

SECTION II: "PREVENTION"

MAIN GOAL: Raise the public awareness of the problems of trafficking in human beings and develop mechanisms for its limitation and create public intolerance to this phenomenon.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Cover the risk groups of the population (women, children and representatives of ethnic minorities):

- 1.1. Expand the basis of training on human rights and children's rights in the initial and secondary school stages of secondary school education and in pre-school preparation, by using the opportunities offered by the general schooling, additional and out-of-school activities.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Education and Science;

Partners: Ministry of Culture, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, LCCTHB, IOM;

Funding: From the budgets of the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: permanent

- 1.2. Develop, disseminate and popularize educational modules and models of local and school policies, information materials and tools for teachers, secretaries and members of the LCCTHB, students and parents in relation to the topics of sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Education and Science;

Partners: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, NCCTHB, LCCTHB, Ministry of Interior; IOM, NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Ministry of Interior; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: permanent

- 1.3. Explanatory activities with relation to the rights of victims of human traffic and the possibilities of extending any assistance or/and protection to representatives of risky groups, especially among ethnic minorities.

Responsible institution: LCCTHB;

Partners: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science; IOM and NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of the respective institutions and funds under projects and programs of partner organizations;

Deadline: permanent

2. Conduct studies and organize information campaigns:

- 2.1. Conduct a study and analysis of the risk factors with a view to identifying the prerequisites and conditions for the arising of crimes related to trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Justice – Criminological Research Council;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Justice;

Deadline: December 2007

- 2.2. Develop two reference books (including in an electronic form): one with information

about the national and international legislation and the institutional framework of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings and one with internet addresses of state and non-governmental organizations providing information about the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and the possibilities for action in the event of supposed trafficking.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: All institutions and organizations represented on the NCCTHB, IOM and NGO;

Funding: From the budget of the NCCTHB; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2007

- 2.3. Popularize the specialized website of the State Agency for Child Protection (<http://www.stopech.sacp.government.bg/>) and the specialized website of Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency in all kinds of schools, kindergartens, homes for children, social schools – boarding houses, reformatories and children's correctional homes with the Ministry of Justice.

Responsible institution: State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science;

Partners: Ministry of Interior, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Ministry of Justice;

Funding: From the budgets of the State Agency for Child Protection and Ministry of Education and Science; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: September 2007.

- 2.4. Develop a pilot project for a hot telephone line for children with national coverage to inform, consult and help children at risk (including children who are victims of trafficking in human beings).

Responsible institution: State Agency for Child Protection;

Partners: UNICEF, NGO;

Funding: From the budget of the State Agency for Child Protection; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2007

- 2.5. Conduct an information campaign for raising society's awareness of the problems of trafficking in human beings including raising the awareness of the opportunities for legal work abroad.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, NCCTHB, National Employment Agency, IOM, International donors and embassies, NGO;

Funding: from the budgets of the respective institutions, funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: November – December 2007

- 2.6. Conduct a round table discussion on the topic of legalizing prostitution and its possible impacts on trafficking of human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: All institutions and organizations represented on the NCCTHB, intergovernmental international and non-governmental organizations, personalities with active social position, experts;

Funding: From the budgets of NCCTHB and off-budget funds;

Deadline: November 2007

- 2.7. Conduct joint initiatives with the media to cover the problems related to trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: All institutions represented in the NCCTHB and NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of NCCTHB and partner organizations;

Deadline: permanent

SECTION III: “TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”

MAIN GOAL: Initial training of the staff in the newly-created structures under the Combating trafficking in human beings Act and improve the qualification of the staff in the institutions working on the problems of trafficking. Build the capacity of NCCTHB for applying and participation in European projects.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Training of the administrative staff of the NCCTHB and LCCTHB as well as of the experts from the permanent working group with the NCCTHB.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: Institutions represented on the NCCTHB; IOM and NGO and international donors;

Funding: NCCTHB budget and funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: December 2007

2. Continue the training of magistrates in the area of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Justice, National Institute of Justice;

Funding: From the budgets of the Ministry of Justice and National Institute of Justice; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: permanent

3. Improve the qualification of the Ministry of Interior staff working on cases of trafficking in human beings, staff of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior and its centers for specialization and professional preparation.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Interior;

Deadline: permanent

4. Training of preliminary investigation staff on the methodologies of investigation of crimes related to trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior, National Investigation Service,

Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation;
Funding: Budget of the Ministry of Interior;
Deadline: permanent

5. Training of young diplomats and consular staff on how to handle cases of trafficking in human beings (when they are preparing to work abroad).

Responsible institution: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
Deadline: permanent

6. Organize and lead trainings for journalists on the issues of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;
Partners: Council for Electronic Media, State Agency for Child Protection, NGO.
Funding: NCCTHB, funds under projects and programs;
Deadline: permanent

SECTION IV: "PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS"

MAIN GOAL: Assist and support the victims of trafficking in human beings and protect their rights. Overcome the consequences of trafficking in human beings and reintegrate the victims in the society.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Update the Coordination mechanism for referral, care and protection of repatriated Bulgarian UAM and children victims of trafficking returning from abroad.

Leading institution: State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Social Support Agency, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency;
Partners: Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, IOM, International Labour Organization, International Social Service, NGO;
Funding: From the budgets of the respective institutions; funds under projects and programs;
Deadline: December 2007

2. Disseminate the Manual of good practices for police officers, preliminary investigators and investigators when carrying out procedural activities with children who are victims of sexual exploitation.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior;
Funding: From the budgets of the Ministry of Interior;
Deadline: December 2007

3. Develop measures to limit and prevent the use of the Internet to recruit potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior;

Partners: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection, NGO, Ministry of Defense, internet providers;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Interior;

Deadline: October 2007

4. Ensure a mechanism to provide medical and psychological assistance in the centers for protection of victims of trafficking with the LCCTHB.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Health;

Partners: LCCTHB;

Funding: From the budgets of the municipalities where the LCCTHBs will be created;

Deadline: permanent

5. Include the victims of trafficking in appropriate forms of training and qualification.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, National Employment Agency and respective municipalities;

Partners: LCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, NGO;

Funding: From the budgets of the Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the National Employment Agency, funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: permanent

6. Support the participation of victims of human trafficking in projects, programs and measures under the terms and procedure of the Encouragement of Employment Act.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Employment Agency;

Partners: NCCTHB and LCCTHB;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Employment Agency; funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: permanent

SECTION V: "INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION"

MAIN GOAL: Develop the international activities of the NCCTHB, widen the international cooperation and exchange of best practices in the field of counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Establish bilateral contacts and exchange experience and best practices between the NCCTHB and similar structures and state institutions working on the issues of combating and preventing trafficking in human beings in European Union Member States and other countries.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, IOM and NGO;

Funding: From the budget of the NCCTHB; funds under projects and programs of the partner organizations;

Deadline: permanent

2. Present the Bulgarian legislation and practice in combating trafficking in human beings under the bilateral relations and in accordance with the multilateral cooperation.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: All institutions and organizations represented on the NCCTHB;

Funding: from the NCCTHB budgets; off-budget funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: permanent

3. Conduct international round table with the purpose of sharing experience and best practices in the counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: All institutions and organizations represented on the NCCTHB;

Funding: From the NCCTHB budget; off-budget funds under projects and programs;

Deadline: October 2007

4. Create a network of partners on an international level to establish cooperation and assistance.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: International and non-governmental organizations;

Funding: From the NCCTHB budgets; funds under projects and programs, European program funds;

Deadline: permanent

SECTION VI: LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

ACTIVITIES:

1. Prepare a proposal for amendment and complement to the Criminal Code concerning the execution of Bulgaria's obligations to Art.19 from the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the criminalizing of intentional use of services from victims of human trafficking.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Justice;

Expert assistance: Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office;

Funding: From the budget of the Ministry of Justice;

Deadline: December 2007