



# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITIES OF THE RELEVANT PARTIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME, WITH FOCUS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING



This project is funded by the European Union

## International Organization for Migration I O M S k o p j e

### HIGHLIGHTS

• **July 2009:** IOM Skopje launches an EU funded project titled “Technical assistance to improve the capacities of the relevant parties in the fight against organized crime, with focus on human trafficking”. **Cover Page**

• **October 2009:** the first of eight sessions on “Fundamentals of Human Trafficking and Migrants’ Smuggling” designed for front line police officers is organized. **Page 3**

• **December 2009:** The Minister of Interior, Ms. Gordana Jankulovska, presents the results achieved under Module One. The session, hosted by the Director of the Ministry on Interior Training Center Mr. Bacanov, was attended by the IOM Chief of Mission, Ms. Radicetti, and Mr. Paquet - 1st secretary of the EU Delegation in Skopje and Head of Section for Political, Justice and Home Affairs, Information and Communication. **Page 4**

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The project <<Technical assistance to improve the capacities of the relevant parties in the fight against organized crime, with focus on human trafficking >> funded by the European Union aims to increase the capacities of state actors at early identification of victims of human trafficking and of smuggled migrants and in the application of protection measures.

### THE PROJECT AT GLANCE!

**Phase One: Assessment of needs and establishment of a Technical Working Group** - A multi-level assessment of the existing capacities and training needs of the identified audiences was carried out at the project start. A Technical Working Group gathering experts from various key institutions was established to analyze the findings of the needs assessment and formulate, in tandem with the IOM Project Team, the overall training outline and methodology.

**Phase Three: Compilation and distribution of reference material:** a set of informative documents aimed at complementing the knowledge and skills acquired during the training phase will be produced. Each document will be tailored to the specifics of each audience and will contain easy reference to national and international legal and practical documents on trafficking in human beings and irregular migration.



Training Center cadets and Drama Faculty actors simulate the interception of VoT transporter

**Phase Two: Training phase** - with the aim of providing tailored training programmes to the three selected audiences, the overall training component was divided into 3 different modules:

**Module 1:** Structured in 8 sessions for over 250 basic police officers. **Module One** “Fundamentals of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling” provided a set of practical tools and tangible indicators enabling the immediate application of acquired skills in early identification as well as protection and referral response.

**Module 2:** Composed of 6 sessions planned for 120 officials from specialized units at the Ministry of Interior, Public Prosecution Office, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. **Module Two** is intended to provide the audience with in-depth and up-to-date international investigative and preventive mechanisms and methodologies on different topics, including a Train-the Trainers component.

**Module 3:** 4 sessions planned for 100 practitioners in the area of Migration management. **Module Three** is specifically designed to reinforce inter-agency coordination capacity and enhance communication and response among different stakeholders engaged in the identification and referrals of victims and vulnerable migrants.



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### The WORK of the TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP .....

To ensure full compliance of the overall training programme with the national legal and assistance frameworks as well as to develop training modules that would best respond to the national priorities - the project envisaged the creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) tasked to elaborate and design the overall training methodology and contents.



Members of the Technical Working Group discussing the session outlines

The TWG included members from the Ministry of Interior: Head of unit for combating human trafficking and smuggling; Police Advisor for illegal migration from the sector for border affairs and migration; Assistant Director of the Bureau for Public Security and the Head of the Ministry of Interior Training Centre; From the Ministry of Justice: human rights unit assistant; From the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies: State Counsellor and the National Referral Mechanism representative; From the State Labour Inspectorate: Head of the department for working relations; From the EU Delegation: Project Task Manager and Police Advisor and IOM project team including the international training expert, counter trafficking expert and project assistant.



During the initial 6 months of project implementation the TWG met on 3 occasions: The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was called to get the TWG members acquainted with project goals, planned activities and was dedicated to the initial elaboration of the training first module. The Second TWG was organized for a restricted number of members, specifically those from the Ministry of Interior, directly concerned with the finalization of "Module 1" training agenda and overall training programme. The goal of the 3<sup>rd</sup> TWG meeting was two-fold - on one hand the meeting was dedicated to the revision of the on-going training sessions under Module 1 to correct and adjust the training agenda wherever required - on the other, the TWG members had an opportunity to brainstorm on the preparation of Module 2.



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## MODULE ONE: "Fundamentals of Human Trafficking and Migrants' Smuggling"

### Module One - AT GLANCE

**8 Sessions** delivered for a total of 16 days of lessons.

**267** front line police officers from the following sectors were trained: **Sector for Border Affairs and Migration** (Border Crossing Points and Unit for Securing the State Border); **Sector for Internal Affairs** (Uniformed Police; Crime Police, Unit for Preventive Measures and its Traffic Police and Highway police).

**Training Locations:** Mol Training Centre in Idrizovo, Mol Premises in Ohrid and Ponikva.

**Ethnic breakdown:** over 30% of the trainees belong to Albanian or some other ethnic groups.

A **tailored agenda** was elaborated in order to reinforce the audience's response on early identification, protection and referral systems: Fundamentals of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants including national, regional and international trends and modus operandi; Applicable Provisions and International Conventions on trafficking and smuggling of human beings; Indicators for Early Identification of Victims; Victims Protection; Application of Human Rights Standards; Roles and Responsibilities of Relevant Parties Involved in Victim Assistance; Role and Responsibility of the NGO Sector in Victim Protection; and Elements for Identification, Referral and Protection of Asylum Seekers.

### Project Partners and Training Audiences:

Module One involved the participation and joint work of different practitioners, including: **Ministry of Interior** Inspectors from the Unit for Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants; Inspectors from the Sectors for Home Affairs; Police officers and inspectors from the Border Police Stations and Regional Centres for Border Matters; Police officers from the Police Stations of General Competencies; **Ministry of Labour and Social Policy** officials/National Referral Mechanism/Social workers from the Centres for Social Work and labour inspectors, Officials from the **Ministry of Justice**; Specialised Department for Combating Organized Crime within the **Public Prosecutors Office**; and **Academy for Training of Judges and Prosecutors**; and **Civil Society** actors active in victims' protection.



IOM project team together with front line police officers in Ponikva

A special *thank you* note from IOM

to the experts from the Special Unit for Combating Human Trafficking and Smuggling, the Asylum Department, the Reception Centre for Foreigners, the Training Centre, from the National Referral Mechanism and the NGOs La Strada and For a Happy Childhood for their dedication and provision of expertise as trainers and lecturers.





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## MARKING THE SUCCESSFUL CLOSURE OF MODULE ONE.....

The successful finalization of Module One was marked with an Information Sharing Session for press representatives hosted by the Ministry of Interior Training Centre.

The results achieved with Module 1 were presented by the Minister of Interior, Ms. Gordana Jankulovska, IOM Chief of Mission Ms. Anna Eva Radicetti and the 1st Secretary of the EU Delegation in Skopje - Head of Section for Political, Justice and Home Affairs, Information and Communication, Mr. Patrick Paquet.

The Minister of Interior noted that prevention of the crimes of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants is of crucial interest for the country. First of all for citizens' security and stability of society, but also for prevention of potential serious pain and suffering to the victims.

## UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

Starting in mid-February a series of six 3-day specialized/advanced training modules will be delivered to approximately 120 professional from, *inter-alia*, the Unit for Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants; Border Police Stations and Regional Centres for Border Matters; from the Police Stations of General Competencies; Public Prosecutors Office-Specialised Department for Combating Organized Crime/Academy for Training of Judges and Prosecutors and National Referral Mechanism.



As emphasized by IOM Chief of Mission, the training programme developed within this project is important for the country: *“Because migration related issues are and will continue to be an important part of relations within and between the national authorities, those of the region and between them and the EU, and the regular development of capacities and skills of all relevant stakeholders, specifically in the area of early identification, is of paramount importance to build adequate response mechanisms.”*

The EU Representative applauded the engagement of the national counterparts during this first phase thus enhancing the overall national ownership and sustainability of the project outcomes.

The upcoming training module – M2 - is intended to provide a highly specialized set of knowledge and skills to identified senior practitioners in the area of human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

In close coordination with the project TWG, M2 will focus on the following subjects: Application of Legislative Framework and Human Rights Standards; Child Trafficking; Trafficking For The Purpose Of Labour Exploitation; Criminal Networks and Investigation Techniques.

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