

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic**



**2004**

**Progress Report on the National Action Plan to combat  
Trafficking in Persons**

This interim report aims to evaluate the progress achieved during the first six months of the National Action Plan (NAP) to combat TIP. The NAP has been elaborated in the framework of an inter-ministerial committee of eight competent Secretaries General and coordinates the implementation of the various provisions of anti-trafficking Law 3064/2002 and Presidential Decree 233/2003. The Hellenic State and civil society are currently undertaking a comprehensive action plan covering the whole range of actions referring to TIP (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution):

- monitoring the phenomenon – locating victims through street-work and police work; follow up on prosecutions and convictions;
- databases and collection of statistics;
- screening procedures by special prosecutors to identify victims;
- establishment of shelters;
- medical and psycho-social support to victims;
- provision of legal assistance to victims;
- administrative support – granting of residence permits;
- provision of education and labor integration to victims remaining in Greece;
- voluntary repatriation;
- support in the source countries with re-habilitation projects;
- educating police forces;
- educating judges and public prosecutors;
- raising awareness of public opinion.

### **Ongoing Developments**

- Ø **Inter-ministerial committee of eight Secretary Generals, a National Action Plan and a National Governmental Coordinator/Spokesperson (Ambassador Verros).** The committee meets twice a month, monitors developments and ensures that the political will of the government to tackle TIP is implemented in a timely manner.
- Ø In the light of certain operational shortcomings and feedback received from grass-root organizations and competent ministries, **the legal framework is constantly being reviewed and amended** to facilitate

MoUs between the state and NGOs and safeguard that a reasonable shelter referral system is in place.

- Ø The Ministry of Justice proceeded to an amendment of certain provisions of Presidential Decree 233/2003 'on the protection and assistance of the victims of the crimes of Articles 323, 323A, 349, 351 and 351A of the Criminal Code, as per Article 12, Law 3064/2002'. The amended Presidential Decree now guarantees that the victim benefits from the provisions on protection, support and assistance, and that NGOs are accredited to offer assistance during screening procedures and victim support.
- Ø The Ministry of the Interior proceeded to an amendment of the legal framework in support of foreign victims of trafficking: a) on the granting of residence permits to victims, b) work permits and c) exemption from the requirement to pay a deposit.
- Ø **Cooperation with NGOs:** the first meeting of the 'permanent forum' brought together SGs, 15 NGOs and IOs. The dialogue was very constructive, particularly as it concerned the identification of operational shortcomings in the legal framework, the necessary amendments to it, and the signing of MoUs between the State and NGOs. The next forum is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> 2005.
- Ø **International anti-trafficking contact point in Thessalonica:** In cooperation with OSCE, the Stability Pact and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the alternative seat of the Stability Pact in Thessalonica is coordinating and hosting several local and regional initiatives (e.g. the EU/IOM *AGIS* project, educating police and prosecutors in cooperation with the NGO ARSIS, the International Police Association, the National School of Judges, and others).
- Ø **Greece's role in the Security Council:** In Greece's capacity as a member of the UN Security Council, the TIP issue will be given a high priority within the framework of action against organized crime
- Ø **NGO Shelters:** Six NGO shelters are operating currently: '*Médecins du Monde*', '*Klimaka*', '*EKYTHKA*', '*KESO*', '*KATHV*', '*Allilengi*'/*Solidarity (opens in April)*.
- Ø **Three State Shelters:** The National Center for Urgent Social Aid

**(EKAKB) and the 197 Crisis Hotline Telephone Service** operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on a nation-wide range. Victims are referred to two medium term residential shelters (Ilion in Athens, Oreokastron in Thessalonica) as well as to a short term screening and referral service in EKAKB headquarters.

- Ø **Free legal aid:** two NGO initiatives provide free legal support and administrative assistance to TIP victims (Helsinki Watch, European Public Law Center).
- Ø **Establishment of international anti-trafficking networks:** the project established a regional network of NGOs and IOs for the exchange of information between the source countries and the transit and destination countries (Human Rights Defense Center).
- Ø **Repatriation programs:** Financing of victims' voluntary repatriation in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration.
- Ø **Educating Judges and Public Prosecutors** to facilitate screening procedures, through: a) the introduction of relevant courses in the Curriculum of Studies of the National School for Judges, and b) the organization of education seminars for active judicial functionaries, in the framework of the National School for Judges, taking place annually in the city of Komotini, c) Financing of seminars for police officers, judges and public prosecutors.
- Ø **Appointment of anti-trafficking Public Prosecutors:** Two Public Prosecutors (Mrs. Malouhou and Mrs. Halva,) follow up on prosecutions and convictions, while the Judge of Appeal Mrs. Gouli coordinates regional anti-trafficking initiatives in cooperation with Hellenic AID and IOs.
- Ø **Creation of a national database:** At the Committee's meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2005, the MPO Secretary General agreed to consult with his IT experts on how to proceed with the creation of a national database on the basis of information provided by competent Ministries, IOs, and NGOs.
- Ø **The Secretariat General for Gender Equality** focuses on Counseling and social support, public information campaign and vocational integration of victims. The main implementation agency is the Research

Center for Gender Equality, operating in 5 major Greek cities. The financing of anti-trafficking actions by the EQUAL community program will begin as of 2005, in the course of the second implementation cycle of the program: 1) **provision of specialized information** services, counseling and social support to TIP victims, with the objective of their social and, primarily, employment integration; 2) **public awareness campaign** with the production of a multilingual informational leaflet; 3) **Work – integration – employment of victims** in cooperation with the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection.

- Ø **More than double the TIP budget:** For the year 2004, Hellenic AID (MFA) anti-trafficking budget amounts to EUR 3.1 mil.
- Ø **Bilateral agreement with Albania against trafficking in unaccompanied minors:** Greek authorities have identified institutional amendments (included in the new Presidential Decree and the new Civil Code) that are imperative for the prompt implementation of the various provisions of this comprehensive agreement. Provided that respective measures will be applied in Albania and other origin countries, the intention is to implement this agreement at a regional level.
- Ø **Awareness raising campaign concerning Sexually Transmitted Diseases:** A multi-language program providing information and offering basic treatment to foreign visitors and possible victims of TIP, in anticipation of a possible upsurge of STDs during the period of the Olympic Games. (NGO ACT UP).
- Ø During the period of the Olympic Games, an agreement has been signed with the chairpersons of five Olympic cities' **Bar Associations** (Athens, Thessalonica, Patras, Heraclion, Volos) for the provision of free legal protection and aid to TIP victims.
- Ø **Support and Protection in the countries of origin (KEDE – Stop Now, ARSIS, KEPAD):** a) support of existing rehabilitation centers, b) psycho-social support, c) medical treatment, d) vocational seminars etc.
- Ø joint project between Greek and international NGOs and IOs (ARSIS, UNICEF, Terre des homes) aiming to: a) the protection of **unaccompanied minors** in Greece, b) assist the authorities that repatriation is being conducted in a reasonable and humane way, and c)

that adequate social research and support will facilitate the rehabilitation of children in the source country.

- Ø **Trafficking in Children Observatory:** During the 6 month period between May – October 2004, Hellenic AID supported the operation of an observatory that monitored the growth of the phenomenon of trafficking in children with street-workers (ARSIS, Terre des Hommes).
- Ø **Operation of police anti-trafficking units:** pilot anti-trafficking units are operating with qualified staff and adequate infrastructure. In the existing specialized vice departments of the Security Directorates of Attica and Thessalonica, the anti-trafficking units have been operating since November 11, 2003.
- Ø **Further education of police personnel:** In the academic years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 the Police Academy included in its curricula (Police Officers Schools as well as postgraduate studies and further education courses to police personnel) the issue of TIP (combating the phenomenon – locating victims – provision of assistance and protection to victims).
- Ø **The ‘Mirage 2004’ international police operation** was organized by SECI (where Greece is a member), with the participation of the member states, international organizations and NGOs, to the end of cracking down TIP networks in the framework of joint police investigations.

### **Pending Issues**

2                   **Enhanced collaboration with the Migration Policy Institute:**  
increase of public awareness through information campaigns of the Migration Policy Institute.

2                   **Provision of information** with respect to relevant permits by way of circulars containing explanatory guidelines, issued by the competent Regional Foreign Nationals and Immigration Services.

2                   **The Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs** is studying various secondary education projects with respect to the TIP issue.

2                   **Victim Admission in labor force:** Victims may be admitted in an Comprehensive Intervention program, designed in the framework of the

Operational Program 'Employment and Vocational Training'.

<sup>2</sup> **Learning the Greek language:** Greek language courses are offered by the company 'Vocational Training S.A.', leading to the award of a title of studies in the Greek Language, in order to enable victims to communicate easily in their everyday lives and be smoothly integrated in the labor market.

<sup>2</sup> **Employment advancement:** the Greek Manpower Employment Organization will admit victims into their employment advancement program.

### **TIP STATISTICS**

During the year 2004 the Hellenic Police dealt with 65 cases of TIP, of which 29 were committed by criminal networks. The investigations and preliminary inquiries led to charges against 352 perpetrators, both Greek and foreign nationals, while there were 181 victims (men, women, and minors) of financial and sexual exploitation. 46 victims received state and NGO assistance and protection. For 25 victims (7 subjects of Albania, 3 subjects of Bulgaria, 1 subject of Lithuania, 2 subjects of Moldova, 3 subjects of Uzbekistan, 6 subjects of Ukraine, 2 subjects of Romania, 1 subject of Russia) an order was issued from the qualified Prosecutor, suspending their deportation, in accordance with Article 12 of Law No. 3064/02.

The respective Departments of Hellenic Police have collaborated with:

- Ø In 12 cases, victims requested transfer to their respective diplomatic authorities Embassies – Consulates. Subsequently, they were safely repatriated in collaboration with IOM – Greece.
- Ø In addition to the aforementioned 12 cases, the IOM was involved in other 5 occasions of voluntary repatriation.
- Ø The Secretariat General of Equality, as well as the Secretariat General of Health – Social Solidarity for assistance and protection of 31 victims (7 subjects of Albania, 4 subjects of Bulgaria, 2 subjects of Lithuania, 2 subjects of Moldova, 6 subjects of Ukraine, 8 subjects of Romania, 2 subjects of Russia). Victims were referred to both state (i.e. EKAKB) and NGO shelters (MdM, ΚΕΣΟ, ΕΚΚΥΘΚΑ, ΚΑΘΒ, ΑΡΣΙΣ).

It should be stressed that the majority of victims **remain legally** in Greece and hence they have stated to the respective Departments of Hellenic Police that they do not wish to be taken under the protection of the Greek State. The majority of victims have departed for their native countries, while a small number still remains in Greece.

During 2004 **The Directorate of Foreigners and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior** has issued 22 permits of stay of the new type to victims of TIP.

STATISTICAL DATA  
(1/1 to 31/12/2004)

TIP offenders  
(Articles 323A & 351)

SUBJECTS OF COUNTRIES	SUM
EGYPT	7
ALBANIA	22
BELGIUM	1
BULGARIA	15
GREECE	207
KAZAKHSTAN	1
BELARUS	2
MOLDOVA	4
UZBEKISTAN	4
UKRAINE	5
ROMANIA	5
RUSSIA	10
SYRIA	1
TURKEY	4
UNIDENTIFIED	64
<b>total</b>	<b>352</b>

STATISTICAL DATA  
(1/1 to 31/12/2004)

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION  
(Articles 323A & 351)

SUBJECTS OF COUNTRIES	Assistance & Protection	Prosecutors Order	Collaboration GO & NGO	Collaboration with Diplomatic Authorities	Collaboration with I.O.M
ALBANIA	7	7	7		
BULGARIA	4	3	4		

LITHUANIA	3	1	2		2
MOLDOVA	2	2	2		2
UZBEKISTAN	3	3			1
UKRAINE	6	6	6		
ROMANIA	17	2	8	12	12
RUSSIA	4	1	2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>

STATISTICAL DATA  
(1/1 to 31/12/2004)

TIP VICTIMS  
(Articles 323A & 351)

SUBJECTS OF COUNTRIES	SUM
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1
ALBANIA	9
ARMENIA	1
AUSTRIA	1
BULGARIA	10
GEORGIA	2
GHANA	1
GREECE	2
ERITREA	1
UNITED KINGDOM	3
BELARUS	8
LITHUANIA	4
MOROCCO	1
MOLDOVA	10
NIGERIA	3
THE NETHERLANDS	2
UZBEKISTAN	5
UKRAINE	21
POLAND	1
ROMANIA	41
RUSSIA	50
THAILAND	1
CZECH	3
<b>total</b>	<b>181</b>

Criminal prosecutions for the offences of the Law 3064/2002  
for the year 2004

<i>Criminal Prosecutions for the offences of the Law 3064/2002 (according to data kept by the Ministry of Justice)</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Semester of 2004</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester of 2004</i>	<i><b>Total</b></i>
	61	33	94



**I. Warrants of Arrest for the offences of the Law 3064/2002 (Athens Prosecution Office)**

Warrants of Arrest for the year 2004 in the procedure of official investigation issued by Athens Prosecution Office for the offences of Law 3064/2002	8
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**II. Course of criminal prosecutions for the offences of the Law 3064/2002 (Athens Prosecution Office)\***

***Course of 56 cases***

Cases under official investigation	15
Cases pending before the Judges' Board for Misdemeanors or Appellate Justices Board**	17
Cases under preliminary investigation	5
Prosecuting Attorney	19

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\* We expect shortly information from other Prosecution Offices of the country.

\*\* According to the Greek Code of Penal Procedure