



NATIONAL REPORT

on the Implementation of the Policy for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in 2018

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ABBREVIATIONS

NEA – National Employment Agency

TEA – Territorial Employment Agencies

CPA – Central Public Authority

LPA – Local Public Authority

PSA- Public Institution Public Services Agency

CAP – Center for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of THB

CCTP – Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons

IC „La Strada” – Public Association International Center for Protection and Promotion of Women’s Right „La Strada”

NC CTHB – National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

NCCAP – National Center for Child Abuse Prevention

CC – Criminal Code

TC CTHB– Territorial Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

TME – Territorial Multidisciplinary Team of the NRS

GRETA – Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Council of Europe

GD – Government Decision

ICMPD – International Center for Migration Policy Development

MFAEI – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

MECR – Ministry of Education, Culture and Research

MF – Ministry of Finances

MJ – Ministry of Justice

MHLSP – Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection

IO – International Organization

IOM – Mission of the International Organization for Migration to Moldova

NGO – Non-governmental Organization

OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

GPO – General Prosecutor’s Office

NRS – National Referral System for Protection and Assistance of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

PS – Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Person

TC – Trafficking in children
THB – Trafficking in human beings
TdH – ‘Terre des Hommes’ Swiss Foundation
NCU – National Coordination Unit of the NRS.

METHODOLOGY

This Report is an analysis of data and trends in the field of trafficking in human beings (THB), as well as of actions implemented and results achieved by the anti-trafficking community in the Republic of Moldova during 2018.

The following information and statistic data were used as sources to develop this Report:

- Information provided by the central public authorities (CPAs), local public authorities (LPAs), non-commercial organizations (NGOs) and international organizations (IOs) on the implementation of the Action Plan for the years 2018-2020 on the implementation of the National Strategy for Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2018-2023 and on the fulfillment of the recommendations of the decisions of the National Committee for Combating THB (NC CTHB);
- Recommendations stated in the minutes of the meetings of the PS Technical Coordination Group of the NC CTHB;
- Statistic data collected in line with the PRETRIAL, TRIAL, AFTERTRIAL, RELATED CRIMES and VICTIMS Forms;
- Recommendation from the international evaluation reports (GRETA, Trafficking in Persons Report of the US State Department, etc.).

The Report is structured in chapters according to the 4Ps policy paradigm – recommended by international standards in the field (Prevention, Protection, Punishment, Partnership), and addresses the amendments made to the legal and institutional framework in the field. The Report has three Annexes that reflect the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan for the years 2018-2020 on the implementation of the National Strategy for Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2018-2023, evaluation of the achievement of overall objectives for the year 2018 in line with the Action Plan for the years 2018-2020 on the implementation of the National Strategy and the activity of the Territorial Commission for Combating THB for the year 2018.

I. GENERAL MEASURES

1.1. Legal and Regulatory Framework

Strengthening policy, legal and regulatory framework, as well as adjusting to international recommendations on efficient prevention and combating of THB, is one of the key factors for human rights observance.

During 2018, major amendments to the regulatory framework referring to all the dimensions of the fight against the phenomenon, starting with prevention, protection and assistance of victims and ending with punishment of perpetrators, were made:

- One of the most important achievements of 2018 was the approval the **National Strategy for Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2018-2023 and the Action Plan on its implementation for the years 2018-2020**, by the Government Decision no.

- 461/2018, adjusted to the provisions of the *National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Association Agreement Republic of Moldova – European Union for the years 2017-2019 and the National Action Plan in the field of human rights for the years 2018-2022*. The strategic document pursues to develop a sustainable national system for prevention and combating THB in the light of the 4 Ps paradigm (prevention, protection, punishment and partnership). The **intended impact** of the Strategy is to reduce the number of victims and presumed victims of THB, to deter the increase in the number of victims of labor exploitation and of victims exploited inside the country, to strengthen human rights, as well as to promote gender equality;
- Another important achievement in the field was the incrimination of new forms of trafficking in human beings. Thus, according to the amendments to the *Criminal Code*, **article 165, paragraph (1) „Trafficking in Human Beings”**, new forms of victims’ exploitation were introduced: „appropriation of social assistance, allowances or benefits, illegal usage in medical or scientific tests or experiments”; and the methods to recruit victims were updated: „kidnapping; taking away, hiding, degrading and destroying documents; keeping a person under servitude for paying off a debt; threatening with disclosing confidential information to victim’s family or to other legal entities or individuals”. **Article 206, paragraph (1) „Trafficking in children”** was amended to include other forms of victims’ exploitation: appropriation of social assistance, allowances and benefits; illegal usage in medical or scientific tests or experiments; usage as surrogate mother or for the purpose of reproduction, illegal adoption;
 - Amendments were made to the *Contravention Code* and the notion of „*practicing prostitution*” was defined. Until now, the Moldovan legislation lacked an official interpretation of the notion of "*practicing prostitution*" and as a consequence, there was no consensus on this definition both in judicial practice and in the specialized literature. Moreover, the **liability** for benefiting from prostitution services was also provided, actions that had not been criminalized by the contravention law before. Respectively, paragraph (2), article 89 of the *Contravention Code* provides that „... *benefiting from services listed in article (1) in exchange for offering or promising to offer a reward to the person that provide such services*” shall be penalized;
 - To strengthen the legal framework in the field, a series of amendments were introduced to the *Law No. 241/2005 on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*. Thus, some notions that are important for the activity of professionals in the field (***presumed victim of THB, sexual exploitation, commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation***) were conceptualized; the duties of some institutions were specified following the central public administration reform, and the **National Referral System (NRS)** was institutionalized;
 - The amendments made to the Government Decision no. 472/2008 „*approving the composition of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Regulation of the National Committee*” adjusted the composition of the NC CTHB, by adding a new institution - *Migration and Asylum Bureau*, as well as the Public Services Agency, which was created following the reorganization of a number of public institutions (State Enterprise CRIS „REGISTRU”, Licensing Chamber, State Enterprise „State Registering Chamber”, State Enterprise „Cadastru”, Civil Status Service);
 - The amendments to the Government Decision no. 948/2008 *approving the Regulation on the repatriation procedure of children and adults – victims of trafficking in human beings, persons in difficulty, as well as of unaccompanied children* were contingent on the need **to improve the repatriation mechanism of victims of THB and of persons in difficulty** by concretely establishing the process of identification of persons in difficulty, as well as the content of the repatriation file of the victim of THB and the person in difficulty (adults);

- To streamline the processes of delivering public services related to the issuance of identity documents, a number of amendments were made to the Law no.273/1994 *on identity documents from the national passport system*, (by Law no. 61/2018) that pursue to simplify the operational processes for the delivery of public services related to the issuance of identity documents and registry of inhabitants of the Republic of Moldova, especially:
 - *applying solely the signature of the holder of the identity document who has reached the age of 14 years in order to acquire limited exercise capacity. If the holder cannot put his/her signature, a special symbol shall be applied under the terms established by the Government;*
 - *replacing the word “nationality” with the word “citizenship”;*
 - *issuance of a temporary ID card to the person who legally emigrated and who is temporarily on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, upon request;*
 - *regulating the application procedure for the issuance of ID documents depending on the category of applicants, as well as on the special situations in which they are in (minors, including those in custody or under guardianship, persons that are under the judicial protection in the form of guardianship, children separated from their parents that are in the care of social services, bedridden persons, severely ill persons, persons undergoing forced treatment, persons in pre-trial detention or in detention, etc.);*
 - *compulsory issuance of the ID card at the age of 16 etc.*
- Referring to the process of delivering civil status services, it is necessary to note that according to the amendments made to the Law no. 100/2001 on civil status documents (*by Law no. 310/2017, Official Gazette no.18-26/99 of 19.01.2018*) the authentication procedure of civil status facts produced and registered in the localities from the left bank of Nistru River and Bender Municipality was regulated. In this context, PSA jointly with the Ministry of Justice developed the *draft Government Decision approving the Guidelines for the authentication of civil status facts produced and/or registered on the left bank of Nistru River and Bender Municipality*, that comes to thoroughly regulate the authentication procedure of civil status facts produced and registered in the respective localities, thus creating the regulatory framework necessary for the authentication of these categories of legal facts by the PSA structural subdivisions;
- To streamline the process of delivering public services related to citizenship, on the 21st of December 2017 the amendments to the *Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Moldova* no. 1024/2000, in force as of 19 April 2018, were approved, namely: - simplification of the Moldova citizenship acquisition procedure by recognizing the persons born on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, aged from 18 years, who are not registered as citizens of the Republic of Moldova with the competent authority and who do not hold the proof of citizenship, - granting the opportunity to parents, who are not citizens of the Republic of Moldova and who have, at least one of them, the stay permit on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, to decide on the belonging of their child born on the territory of the Republic of Moldova to the Moldovan citizenship, taking into account his/her interests, - granting the child the right to acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Moldova under the same conditions as his/her parent acquired it, if the child did not acquire it at the same time as his/her parent;
- In the context of amendments made to the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Moldova no. 1024/2000, the Government Decision no. 1144/2018 approved the Regulation of the Acquisition and Loss of Moldova Citizenship;
- Within the PSA, the project „The System of Facial Recognition in the State Population Registry

„BackOffice FRS”, was implemented. The given system is under continuous development. This is a very important tool when it comes to the identification of persons with multiple identities, as well as to the counteracting the identity thefts attempts;

- An important event that took place during the reporting period is the implementation, as of the 5th of February 2018, of the new model of passport of the citizen of the Republic of Moldova, AB series with a new design and a modernised content (order of the PSA „on the implementation of the passport of the citizen of the Republic of Moldova, AB series, no.24 of 25.01.2018”). The document contains additional advanced security elements, that contributes to the counteracting of identity theft attempts, passport forging and its usage by a foreign person – in case of loss or theft, as well as to the prevention of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration;
- On 01.01.2018 the provisions of the 4th Section of Chapter III of *Law no. 137/2016 on rehabilitation of victims of crimes* came into force, which grants the victims (including victims of THB) the right to request financial compensation from the state, in cases when certain exhaustive conditions are met;
- The Decree of the President of the Republic of Moldova to launch the negotiations on the *draft Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the field of protection and repatriation of persons who suffered from THB (adults and children), unaccompanied children and persons in difficulty (Decree no. 862-VIII of 23 August 2018)* was issued. The purpose of the Agreement is to make Parties agree on a trans-national cooperation mechanism in the field of protection and assistance of persons who suffered from THB (adults and children), unaccompanied children and persons in difficulty identified on their territories and returned to their country of origin. The objectives of the cooperation framework between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine include trans-national support and interactions, with an increased focus on the process of identification of beneficiaries, mutual information, beneficiaries’ referral, assistance and protection, with the focus on individual assistance plans for beneficiaries, including for their family members/relatives in their country of origin; preliminary assessment of the risk of their return to the country of origin; proper and long-term support upon return, reintegration and transfer to other locality/country.

1.2. Institutional Framework

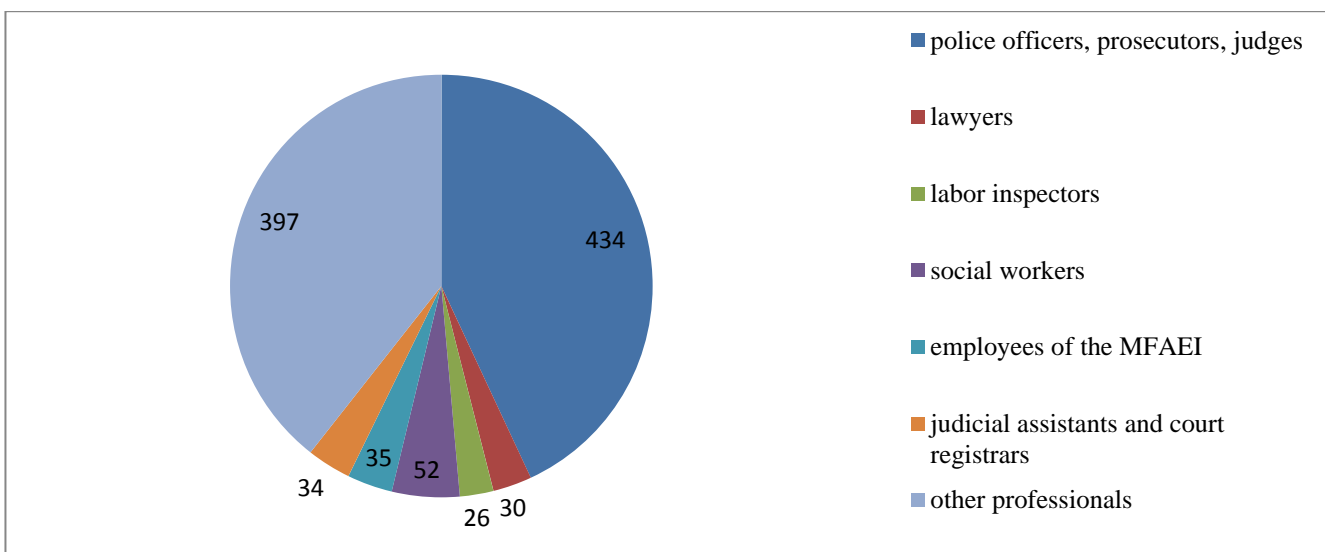
- During the reporting period, the NC CTHB held three meetings (05.04.2018, 16.07.2018, 13.12.2018), during which the following topics were addressed: institutional achievements in the field in 2017 and 2018; the US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, 2018 edition and its recommendations; organization of the competition to select candidates for the position of the member of the Experts Group on Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings; amendments to the normative acts in the field; the reform of the Permanent Secretariat of the NC CTFB and its further activity; the phenomenon of temporary employment abroad of Moldova citizens by private employment agencies and individuals and other information related to institutional framework;
- At the end of 2018, the reform of the Permanent Secretariat of the NC CTFB took place. Based on the Government Decision 915/2018, the **Directorate for Permanent Secretaries** was created under the State Chancellery, by merging 3 Secretariats: Permanent Secretariat of the NC CTHB, Secretariat of the National Council for Protection of Children’s Rights and the Secretariat of the National Commission for Consultation and Collective Bargaining. The Directorate is composed of 7 staff units with duties in all three areas, as well as in the activity of other consultative bodies of the Government.

- At the request of the General Prosecutor, based on the Decision no. 198/10 of the Superior Council of Magistrates of 17.04.2018, the **pilot project on specialization of judges** from Chisinau Law Court and Chisinau Court of Appeal to examine cases of THB and related crimes, was launched. Judges were designated for this purpose. Thus, based on Orders no. 28 of 14.05.2018 of the Chairperson of Chisinau Law Court, 3 judges responsible for the examination of criminal cases on THB, crimes related or assimilated to THB were specialized in every office of the aforementioned law court. Moreover, in May 2018, 3 judges were specialized in examining this category of criminal cases by the Chairperson of Chisinau Court of Appeal. Thus, as of May 2018, the automated case distribution program distributes criminal cases on THB and crimes related to THB to these categories of specialized judges for examination. In November 2018, specialized judges were trained within the training seminars organized by the IOM Mission to Moldova, with the financial support of the US Embassy in Chisinau;
- The activity of the **Anti-trafficking Office**, created on the 27.12.2017 within the Prosecutor's Office of Chisinau Municipality, the main office, was also developed, by concentrating criminal cases from territorial offices of the Prosecutor's Office of Chisinau Municipality and by training prosecutors from the Anti-trafficking Office;
- Based on Order no. 5 of 08.09.2018 of the Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Causes (POCOCSC), the number of prosecutors working in the Office for Combating Trafficking and Cybercrime Investigation of the POCOCSC was increased from 5 to 10;
- On 18.12.2018, according to the Order of the Prosecutor General no. 54/28, the Orders no. 47/4 of 09.12.2016 and no. 44/15 of 24.11.2016 were amended so that to include the offences provided by article 208¹ „Infantile Pornography” and article 175¹ „Solicitation of children for sexual purposes” of the Criminal Code as part of the activity of the Unit for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings related to monitoring and coordination of activities to combat THB and related and assimilated crimes.

1.3. Development of Specialists' Professional Skills

The changing trends in the field, professionals' turnover as well as the recommendations made by international reports (GRETA; US State Department) make the state pay continuous attention to the training of professionals in the field. Thus, in 2018 approximately 1008 professionals from law enforcement, social assistance, lawyers, labor inspectors and other categories of professionals were trained, as shown in Chart no. 1:

Chart No. 1
Number of trained professionals (approximately)



The trainings were conducted in groups of professionals, but also in mixed groups of specialists from different levels of public administration. It is to be noted that most of the training courses were conducted with the support of development partners. In this context, the following events, which were organized to build the capacities and to exchange good practices, are to be mentioned:

- ***The Trans-national Workshop*** for professionals on good practices in the field of financial compensation of victims of THB – a mechanism that is to be strengthened at the national level following the passage of the Law no. 137/2016 on rehabilitation of victims of crimes. The workshop was organized by the OSCE Mission to Moldova within 12-15.12.2018, in Lisbon, Portugal;
- ***Regional Workshop „Challenges in investigating THB in Eastern Europe (Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia): New forms of exploitation”***, organized by IOM Moldova on 27.06.2018 and moderated by a SELEC representative. The event was attended by representatives of specialized police structures and prosecutor’s offices of the aforementioned countries, in order to discuss and present/debate their experiences and challenges in investigating cases of THB and related crimes where IT means were used in the process of recruiting victims of THB, of investigating criminal cases or in the process of victims’ rehabilitation;
- ***Inter-regional workshop on building the capacities for an efficient cross-border cooperation in the field of criminal justice and national mechanisms for reporting, referral and coordination in combating trafficking in human beings***, organized by UNODC jointly with the PS, with the financial support of the US State Department, within 05-07 June 2018;
- ***Autumn School on judging THB cases***, organized by the National Institute of Justice jointly with IOM Moldova within 8-10.11.2018. The training was designed for judges specialized in examining cases of THB. The topics of the autumn school were: experiences and problems in judging THB cases, international standards and ECHR aspects related to judging cases of THB, trafficking in children, related or assimilated crimes, ECHR case-law on THB cases, psychological and social profile of the victim of THB, victim’s needs, vulnerability concept, particularities of conducting financial investigations;
- ***The workshop „Building the capacities of prosecutors from territorial prosecutor’s offices to implement the legislation on combating THB and trafficking in children”***, organized by the General Prosecutor’s Office jointly with the IOM Moldova and the PS within 28-29.05.2018;

- Three regional workshops *„Strengthening the collaboration and building the management capacity of professionals working in the field, in order to implement anti-trafficking policies at the local level”*, organized by the PS jointly with the OSCE Mission to Moldova within 11-27.04.2018;
- *5 workshops with the professionals of territorial commissions for prevention and combating THB*, organized by the PS with the support of the IOM Mission to Moldova. The purpose of the workshops was to build the professionals’ capacities on the role of police officers and labor inspectors in the identification of victims and presumed victims of THB; on registered statistical data; on amendments made to the regulatory framework in the field; on the most recent trends of the phenomenon;
- *The seminar „The role of community mediators in addressing cases of trafficking in human beings and domestic violence in localities that are totally or partially inhabited by Roma”*, organized by the MHSPF jointly with the IOM Mission to Moldova within 19-20.07.2018. The purpose of the workshop was to inform community mediators and coordinators of the communitarian multi-disciplinary teams from the same localities on new legal amendments, on the methodology for the identification and assistance of cases, on monitoring of beneficiaries and creation of a platform for communication and coordination of the assistance provided by professionals at central, local and inter-regional levels;
- *Seminar „The Phenomenon of Trafficking in Human Beings – aspects and realities/perspectives”*, organized by the MHLSP jointly with the IOM Moldova on 12.09.2018. The purpose of the workshop was to inform the professionals that provide assistance to people with hearing impairments on the risks and consequences of THB;
- Training seminar for public lawyers *„Delivery of state guaranteed legal services to victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings: new trends and challenges”*, held within 20-21.11.2018, organized by the IOM Mission to Moldova, with the financial support of the US Embassy in Moldova;
- The seminar *„Measures to combat the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labor exploitation and for other purposes. Identification of victims and potential victims of THB”*, organized by the MHLSP jointly with the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova on 06.12.2018. The purpose of the seminar was to build the capacities of labor inspectors in preventing and combating THB;
- Training course *„Phenomenon of THB – general aspects, realities and perspectives”*, organized by National Agency for Social Assistance (NASA) with the support of the IOM Moldova within 13-16.11.2018. The purpose of the training course was to train the professionals within NASA in the field of preventing and combating THB, by informing them on the current legislation, working methods and the role of each anti-trafficking stakeholder in addressing cases of THB.

Building the professional capacities of specialists is an essential component in ensuring the efficient implementation of the policy in the field. National and international trainings on the application of the legal framework and investigation of THB cases, criminal proceeding and judgment of cases, as well as on the assistance and protection of victims have built the capacities of professionals working in the field. Still, the capacity building process should be a continuous one and should be tailored to the new national and regional trends.

1.4. Efficient Management of Financial Resources

Assistance and protection of THB victims involve a wide range of services and allowances aimed at preventing, mitigating or eliminating the consequences of THB. Assistance is provided by and/or via specialists from multidisciplinary territorial teams, specialized centers and non-governmental organizations. The assistance and protection services for the rehabilitation and re/integration of victims of THB are as follows:

- *Repatriation assistance,*
- *First aid and available social benefits,*
- *Health care,*
- *Psychological counselling,*
- *Assistance in restoring and issuing documents,*
- *Legal support,*
- *Integration in the primary and general educational system,*
- *Professional information and counseling,*
- *Vocational training,*
- *Placement in Centers for Assistance and Protection, etc.*

To ensure qualitative and quantitative provision of the said assistance and protection, each year the state approves funds, redirecting, for this purpose, financial resources to the relevant central and local public authorities.

In the Republic of Moldova, there are seven centers for assistance and protection of victims and potential victims of THB that deliver services such as: accommodation, food supply, social, psychological, legal and emergency medical assistance. These are: Center for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of THB (CAP) from Chisinau Municipality and from Causeni town (2); Family Crisis Center „Sotis” based in Balti Municipality; maternal centers from Drochia, Hincesti, Causeni and Cahul.

The 2018 state budget envisaged funds of MDL 8730.7 thousand for the operation of the above centers. MDL 7747,1 thousand of the planned amount were spent. The approved financial resources and the spending made in 2018 are presented in the table below for each center:

Table no.1 Approved Financial Resources and Spending

N o.	Center	No. of beds	Financial means approved (thousand MDL)	Financial Means used (thousand MDL)
1	CAP Chişinău	34	3540,4	2820,7
2	CAP Căuşeni	14	516,1	515,5
3	Family Crisis Center ”Sotis” (Bălţi)	19	1058,6	1049,4
4	Maternal Center „Pro Familia” (Căuşeni)	19	817,6	817,1
5	Maternal Center “Încredere” (Cahul)	20	671,8	554,5
6	Maternal Center ”Ariadna” (Drochia)	32	1132,2	1115,1
7	Maternal Center “Pro-Femina” (Hînceşti)	22	994	874,8
Total		160	8730,7	7747,1

The approved funds were transferred from the state budget *to level-two local budgets through earmarked transfers*. The funds for CAP of Chisinau are an exception, as they were transferred from the MHLSP budget.

At the same time, the MHLSP budget envisaged MDL 366,6 thousand *for other measure of protection and assistance to THB victims (repatriation)*. Out of these funds, 309,3 thousand MDL were spent in 2018.

II. PREVENTION

2.1. General Public Information

Information campaigns continue to contribute both to drawing citizens' attention to the phenomenon of THB and its related risks, and to changing the behavior patterns and mind-set in the society, an example in this regard is that citizens more frequently seek for help by calling to the national hot lines, ask for and sign an employment contract with the employer, get informed before accepting a job abroad etc.

In 2018 many **activities aimed at raising the awareness and informing the public** about the risks and consequences of THB were carried out, namely:

- Permanent Secretariat of the NC CTHB, with the financial support of the IOM Moldova, organized public lectures on the topic “Trafficking in Human Beings. Risks and Consequences”, for students from vocational schools of Chisinau Municipality. Public lectures were held in five vocational schools of Chisinau Municipality (Vocational school no. 4 – 3 April, No. 5 – 5 May, No. 10 – 3 April, No. 11 – 10 May, No. 2 – 17 May). Trainers were representatives of the PS, Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CCTP), National Center for Child Abuse Prevention (NCCAP). All in all, **135 students were informed**;
- Permanent Secretariat of the NC CTHB with the financial support of the IOM Moldova and jointly with territorial commissions for combating trafficking in human beings, has continued the Information Campaign “Invisible in Plain Sight” (launched in 2017) in 5 raions (Anenii Noi, Dubasari, Straseni, Ialoveni, Calarasi) and at “Otaci” border crossing point. After each launching of the Campaign in those 5 raions, a workshop with the professionals of Territorial Commission for Prevention and Combating THB was held. **205 professionals** attended these workshops;
- On the 10.06.2018, the Marathon for mobilization and involvement in prevention and combating trafficking in human beings (5 km) “Together we say NO to Trafficking in Human Beings” was organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, at the initiative of the CCTP with the support of the USA, IOM, OSCE and IC “La Strada”;
- Within 18-25 October, the 7th edition of the National Campaign “Week of Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings” was conducted both at central and local level. As a result of this Campaign, **almost 153 thousand people** were informed and the efforts of central and public local authorities in the field of prevention of THB and strengthening human rights were intensified. To reflect the Campaign's outcomes, an Information Note was developed and posted on the website www.antitraffic.gov.md;
- To mark the International Day of Migrants, which is on the 18th of December of each year, the National Employment Agency jointly with its territorial structures, organized an Information Campaign in this regard in order to raise public awareness on the risks of migration, statistic data, impact and consequences of illegal migration. Moreover, people were informed on vacancies available on the Moldovan labor market, on services provided by the territorial employment subdivisions in the field of integration in the labor market of Moldova. Thus, 20 territorial subdivisions, jointly with their partners, organized almost 57 information activities (informative seminars, roundtables, raising awareness campaigns, recruiting activities, open days, meetings of the Labor Club), which were attended by **530 people**, including the unemployed and young people that are graduating schools.
- In 2018 NCCAP continued its “*Safe Adolescence*” Campaign as well as the implementation of the program designed for teenagers “12+”, during which young people, parents and professionals working in the field were offered a range of tools to help them take the necessary steps to prevent

sexual abuse and exploitation against children, inclusively by keeping the website: www.12plus.md.

Ministry of Education, Culture and Research has an important role in informing and raising awareness of young people. **Educational institutions** carried out activities to prevent THB during the whole academic year. Thus, pupils in **the primary and secondary education system** (almost **55 000 pupils**) took part in curricular and extracurricular activities on the prevention of THB and related problems. This topic was addressed both in compulsory subjects (“Education for Society”, “Personal development” etc.) and in the optional ones (“Education for gender equality and equal chances”, “Education for Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship”).

Implementation of interactive programs on prevention of THB **in vocational educational institutions**, was done by means of different activities during the homeroom class (1 hour per week), during the compulsory subject “Civic Education” (1 hour/week) and during extra-curricular activities related to prevention of risks related to THB (training courses, seminars, round tables), which were attended by almost 2000 people, including students, teachers, class teachers, parents and psychologists.

60 activities on combating trafficking were conducted in **higher education institutions**: seminars, round tables, educational classes, conferences, attended by almost 4500 students.

The increase of the society’s level of awareness and information on THB risks is an essential tool for the prevention of THB cases, as well as for increasing the knowledge on actions that can be undertaken and, on the rights that victims can benefit from when at risk.

The phenomenon of trafficking evolves in new and diverse forms. New methods of deception are being used. Thus, it is very important that the citizens are constantly and timely informed so that they are aware of all the risks related to some actions, as well as of methods to protect and ensure the observance of human rights.

2.2. Reduction of Vulnerability

- provided consultations and information on legal employment abroad with individual employment contracts via the on-line forms submitted by citizens to the institution, by telephone and at the office, including by the free Call Center - Labor Market. In 2018, 3911 calls were received, 45,23% of which focused on the emigration process.
- consulted the economic operators who are interested in obtaining the license for activity of employing Moldovan citizens abroad. Within the legal framework, the National Employment Agency registered employment contracts of citizens who had been employed abroad. Thus, in 2018, 122 collaboration agreements and draft individual employment contracts were examined, of which 79 were endorsed.
- registered 3108 individual employment contracts of citizens employed aboard through private employment agencies, by almost 67% more than in 2017. **There is a continuous increase in the number of registered individual employment contracts, which indicate a positive trend in legal employment abroad.**
- In the context of the national campaign „The Week of Fight against Trafficking in Persons » held within 18-25 October 2018, NEA jointly with its territorial subdivisions organized raising public awareness and information activities on the risks and consequences of THB: thematic information seminars that focused on the prevention of THB phenomenon and on

THB prev

risks of illegal migration, by promoting legal employment in the country; meetings of the Labor Club and training seminars on technics and methods to find a job, whose purpose was to build the capacities of finding a job, of approaching a potential employer and of attending a job interview. The people looking for a job, including the unemployed, attended these activities.

NEA, in the context of signing and implementation of the *Moldovan-Israeli Governmental agreement on the temporary employment of Moldovan workers in Israel* (in force as of the 6th of January 2013), 1435 Moldovan citizens were safely employed abroad based on individual labor contracts in 2018.

At the same time, in 2018 the International Center “La Strada” provided counselling to **24 554 calls** made to the Hot Line 080077777, out of which 23322 calls referred to prevention of THB, and continued the management of the informational portal www.migratiesigura.md, which was accessed 18 062 times (out of which 12210 unique visitors) and by means of which **57 online consultations** were provided during the reporting period.

III. PROTECTION

3.1. Identification of THB Victims

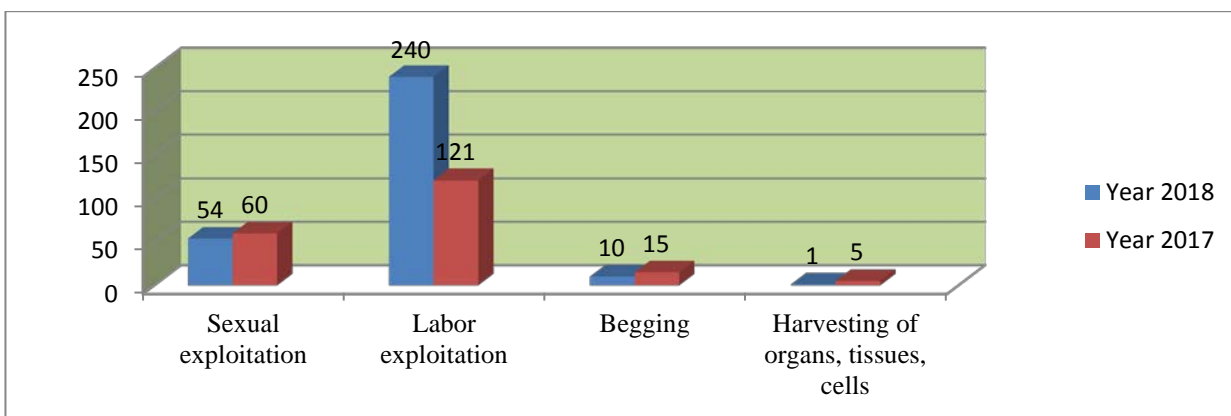
In 2018, **305 adult victims of trafficking in human beings** (*201 victims identified in 2017*) and **60 victims of trafficking in children** (*48 victims in 2017*) were identified at national level.

Compared to 2017, there is a 35% increase in the number of identified adult victims and a 25% increase in the number identified children, which is due to the mobilization of the efforts made by national authorities in the process of prevention and identification of victims of the phenomenon; to the building of professionals’ capacity and to the increase in the quality of investigations and legal proceedings.

By the **form of exploitation** in the THB offences, the situation is the following:

Chart no. 2

Forms of exploitation of (adult) victims



Source: CCTP

Of the total number of 305 victims identified, 19,3% (59 victims) of victims were exploited inside the country and 80,7% (246 victims) – abroad. The main form of exploitation of adult victims is labor exploitation (78,7% of the total number of victims identified in 2018), out of which: 80,4% - men, 19,6% - women. Exploitation of adult victims for sexual purposes recorded a 10% drop compared to previous year. As to the foreign trafficking, during the reporting period, the phenomenon of THB has suffered some changes – new countries of destination have appeared, such as: Slovakia, Spain, Ireland, Portugal. Some countries of destination disappeared. Thus, Switzerland and Great Britain are not among the countries of destination anymore.

The main country of destination for foreign trafficking (according to the number of victims) remains the **Russian Federation**, with **53 people trafficked** (92 victims in 2017 or 45,8%).

The EU Zone is a constant destination where **162 victims** of THB were identified, which is 53% of the total number of victims identified in 2018, mostly for labor exploitation (92%).

Other **countries of destination** are: **Turkey** with **18 female victims** of sexual exploitation, one of the victims was re-trafficked in the Russian Federation and Lebanon; **The United Arab Emirates** with **4 female victims** of sexual exploitation and the **Northern Cyprus region** – **6 female victims** of sexual exploitation.

Other 3 female victims were sexually exploited in two or more countries (1 victim in Ukraine-Russian Federation; 1 victim in Romania-Italy and 1 victim in the Russian Federation-Turkey-Lebanon).

Table no. 2. Number of adult victims according to the country of destination and form of exploitation

Nr.	Country of destination	Form of exploitation								Total number of victims
		Sexual purposes		Labor		Begging		Organs/tissues/cells harvesting		
		f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	
1.	Russian Federation	5	-	10	30	7	1	-	-	53
2.	Germany	1	-	3	30	-	-	-	-	34

3.	Czech Republic	-	-	4	25	-	-	-	-	29
4.	Portugal	-	-	2	15	-	-	-	-	17
5.	Spain	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	17
6.	Romania	-	-	6	10	-	-	-	-	16
7.	Poland	-	-	3	11	-	-	-	-	14
8.	Slovakia	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
9.	Sweden	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	9
10.	Italy	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
11.	Cyprus	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
12.	France	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
13.	Greece	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
14.	Ireland	0	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
15.	Turkey	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
16.	UAE	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
17.	Northern Cyprus	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
18.	Kosovo	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
19.	More than one country (1 victim in Ukraine-Russian Federation; 1 victim in Romania-Italy and 1 victim in the Russian Federation-Turkey-Lebanon)	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
20.	Republic of Moldova (<i>internal trafficking</i>)	7	-	17	33	1	1	-	-	59
Total – 305										

As regards the victims of trafficking in children (**please see Table no.3**), 71% of the total number of identified children were victims of **internal trafficking**. Sexual exploitation is the main form of exploitation (68,3% of the total number of victims identified in 2018), out of which: 92,7% - girls, 7,3% - boys. Exploitation of children for labor purposes has also recorded a 29,4% increase compared to the previous year, 58,8% - girls and 41,2% - boys were identified.

Another destination of trafficking in children is Romania with 8 child victims, 6 out of which were exploited for labor purposes (5 girls and 1 boy) and 2 boys – for sexual purposes.

Moreover, a boy victim exploited for begging was identified in Ukraine and a girl victim of forced labor and begging was identified in Ukraine/Belarus.

Other **new countries of destination** for trafficking in children are: Greece with 4 victims (one girl and 3 boys) of labor exploitation; UAE, Turkey and Kosovo – per 1 victim of sexual exploitation in each. Most of the children come from social and economic vulnerable families, deprived of real parental care.

Chart No. 3
Form of exploitation of victims (children)

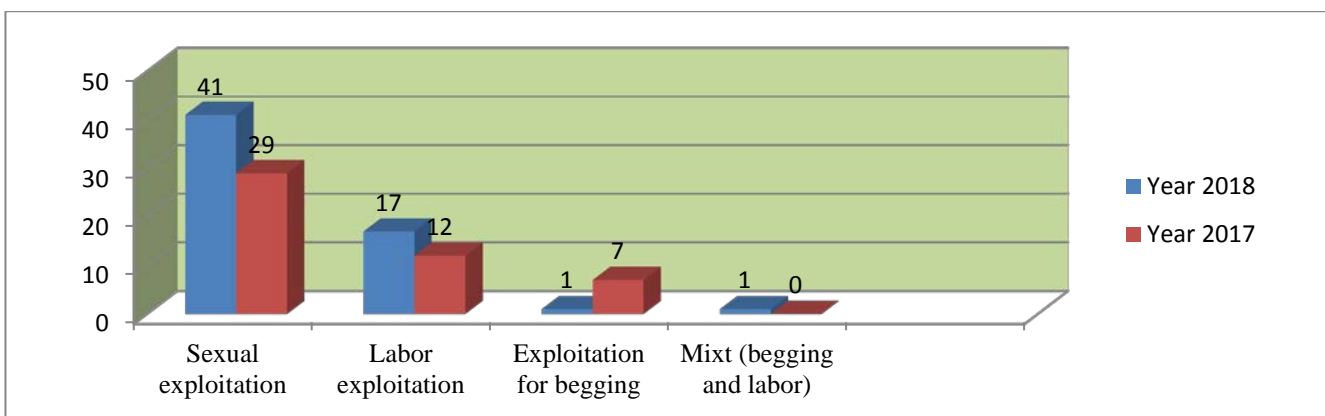


Table no. 3. Number of child victims according to the country of destination and form of exploitation

No .	Country of destination	Form of exploitation								Total number of victims
		Sexual purposes		Labor		Begging		Mixt (labor/begging)		
		f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	
1.	Romania	-	2	5	1	-	-	-	-	8
2.	Ukraine	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
3.	Belarus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4.	Greece	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	4
5.	UAE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
6.	Turkey	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
7.	Kosovo	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
8.	Republic of Moldova (<i>internal trafficking</i>)	35	1	4	3	-	-	-	-	43
Total – 60										

3.2. Statistics on Victims of THB and of Trafficking in Children that Received Assistance.

Profile of Assisted Victim¹.

In 2018, the centers of Chisinau Municipality and Causeni raion rendered assistance to 79 victims, out of which 60 adults and 19 minors.

The profile of assisted (adult) victim of THB

- Of the total number of 60 victims of THB, 35 are women and 25 are men.

¹ The victim's profile was drawn up in accordance with the MHLSP data.

- Analyzing the age of the victims, we notice that most of female victims (19 women) are aged 18-25, and the majority of male victims (14 males) are aged 26-35.
- As to the level of education, 70% of the victims have secondary education, 17% of the victims have completed secondary and specialized education, 5% of the victims are without education, followed by 3% of the victims who have primary education, and 5% of victims have special studies.
- Most victims, about 70% of the victims, come from *rural areas*.
- Analyzing the civil status of the victims, we note that 46,7% of victims are unmarried, 26,7% of victims are married, while 1,6% (1 victim) of victims are divorced, 23,4% live in cohabitation, and 1,6% of the victims are widowed.
- Referring to the type of exploitation, we note that 21,7% of the victims were sexually exploited, 60% were subjected to labor exploitation, 16,7% for begging, and 1,6% were exploited in another form.
- Of the total number of victims, we mention that 20% of the victims were exploited on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, while 80% of the victims were exploited abroad.
- As regards the type of service provided to the victims, we note that 100% of the victims have received social assistance, 30% health care, 22% legal aid, 26% psychological assistance and only 1,6% (1 victim) vocational training.

Profile of Victims of Trafficking in Children that Received Assistance

- Of the total number of 19 victims of child trafficking, 79% (15 victims) of victims are female, and 21% (4 victims) of victims are male.
- 73,7% of child victims are from rural areas.
- Most of the victims, about 79%, were exploited on the territory of the Republic of Moldova,
- As to the type of exploitation, we mention that 58% of child victims were sexually exploited, 26% of child victims were subjected to labor exploitation, 5% for begging, and 11% were exploited in another form.

3.3. Repatriation of Victims of THB

The repatriation missions targeting citizens of the Republic of Moldova are organized and carried out in accordance with the *Regulation on Procedure for Repatriation of Child and Adult Victims of Human Trafficking, People in Difficulty and Unaccompanied Children, approved by the Government Decision No. 948 of 07.08.2008*.

According to the Regulation, in 2018, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection held 10 repatriation missions of children, repatriating 20 children, of which: 8 children from Ukraine (4 missions) and 11 children from the Russian Federation (5 missions) and 1 child from Romania (1 mission). Out of the total number of children repatriated in 2018, 6 children were reintegrated into biological/extended families, 4 children - placed in the foster care service, and 10 children were placed in temporary placement centers.

Moreover, 28 adults from the following countries were repatriated from the state budget: Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Spain, Lithuania, Italy, United Arab Emirates.

3.4. Assistance, Protection and (Re) integration Services for THB victims

Specialized social services within the Centers that provide social services, which also assist the victims of THB, are provided in accordance with the Government Decision no. 898 of 30.12.2015 approving the *Framework Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Service for Assistance and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and the Minimum Quality Standards*.

According to the normative framework, the Service for Assistance and Protection of Victims of THB provides assistance to the following beneficiaries: victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings (women, men, children (boys/girls), parents/children) citizens of the Republic Moldova, as well as persons who do not hold the citizenship of the Republic of Moldova or who are stateless.

During the assistance within the platform of specialized centers, to ensure vocational training and employment, victims of THB are referred to the territorial employment offices. At the same time, the Center's case manager provides patronage assistance to ensure the victim's access to such services.

The Center for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of THB in Chisinau (the public institution under the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection), during the reporting period, provided assistance to 26 repatriated victims of THB (9 women and 17 men), of which 2 female victims benefited from placement services, 7 women victims and 17 male victims received assistance outside the Center. Of the total number of repatriated victims: 1 victim received assistance in issuing identity papers, 2 victims received psychological assistance, 6 victims -health care and 26 victims - social assistance.

IV. PUNISHMENT

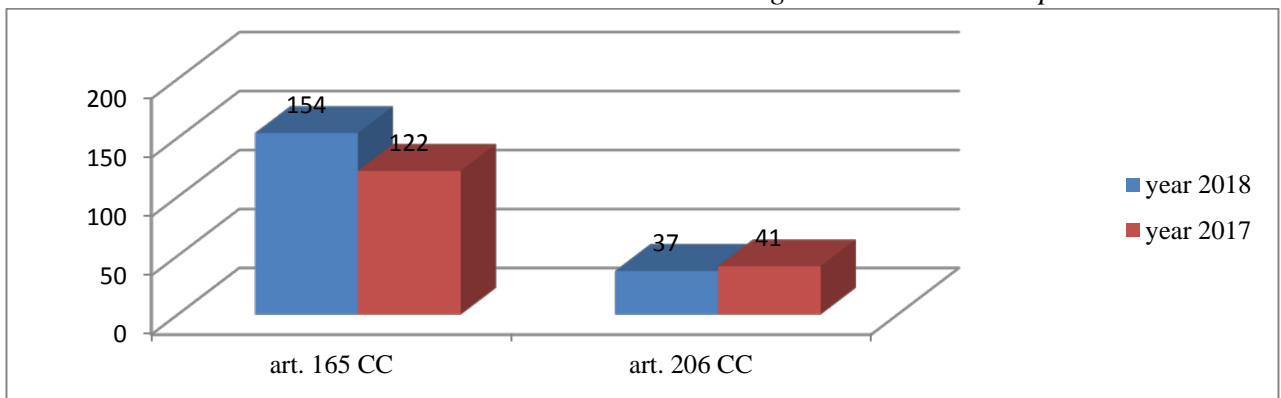
4.1. Criminal Investigation and Judgment of Cases

In ***punishing*** human traffickers, particularly referring to *criminal prosecution*, it was found that in 2018 - 191 cases of human trafficking were recorded in the whole country, including:

- **Trafficking in human beings - 154 crimes,**
- **Trafficking in children - 37 crimes**

Chart no. 4

Criminal cases registered in 2018 compared to 2017

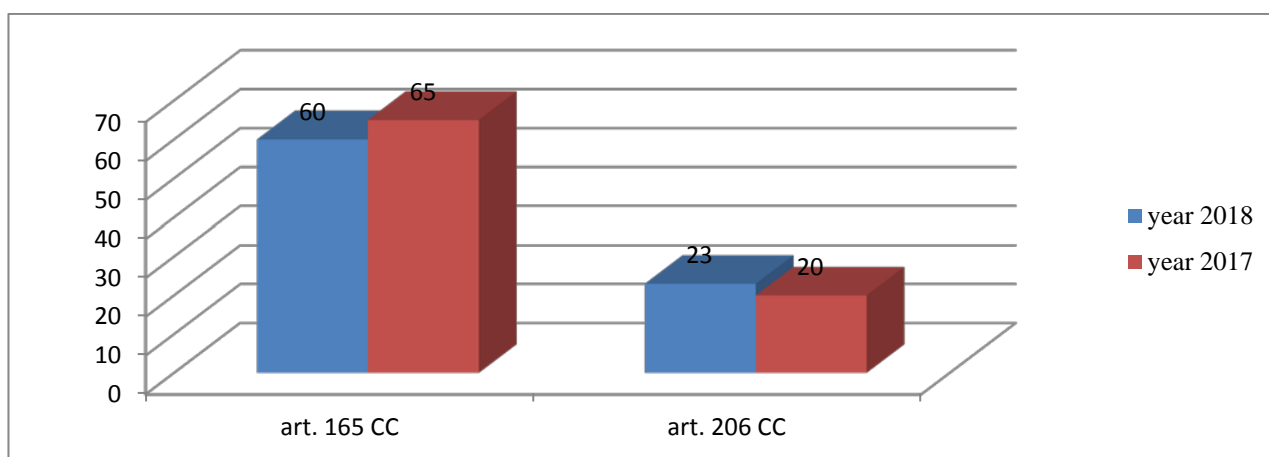


Analyzing the activity of detecting crimes related to trafficking in human beings in 2018, there is an almost 20% increase in the number of cases of trafficking (article 165 of the Criminal Code) identified during the reporting period as compared to the same period of 2017. At the same time, there is a 31% decrease in the number of cases of trafficking in children (article 206 of the Criminal Code), which is due to the mobilization of efforts made by national authorities, to the increase in the quality of investigation and procedural actions.

During the reporting period, indictments were completed for 83 criminal cases and the cases were sent to court for examination (a figure similar to the figure from 2017 – 85), including:

- 60 criminal cases referring to the crime of *human trafficking*,
- 23 criminal cases referring to the crime of *child trafficking*.

Chart no. 5
Number of criminal cases sent to court



Following an analysis of the *judicial practice* in 2018 in respect to trafficking in human beings and trafficking in children, it was found that:

During the reporting period, the courts issued a total of 59 convictions on cases of trafficking in human beings, of which:

- 40 convictions on *trafficking in human beings* for 31 defendants;
- 19 convictions on *trafficking in children* for 30 defendants.

Of the total number of convicted persons, 34 persons have been convicted for committing trafficking in human beings, and 25 have been convicted of committing child trafficking. 32 people and respectively 24 people were sentenced to imprisonment.

Referring to the *punishments applied* for crimes under Article 165 and Article 206 of the Criminal Code, it was found that all sentenced defendants have been convicted to imprisonment - from 3 years and 4 months to 25 years.

It is to be noted that in 2 cases persons accused of committing trafficking in human beings (paragraph (1), article 165 of the Criminal Code) and in one case of child trafficking (paragraph (1), article 206, Criminal Code) were sentenced to imprisonment with conditional

suspension of the sentence. All these sentences were appealed by the prosecutor, who asked for a more severe penalty to be applied to the defendants.

In order to ensure the continuity of parallel financial investigations, while convicting the defendants, during the reporting period, courts have ordered *seizure* of proceeds resulting from criminal activities or used for committing criminal activities related to trafficking in persons as well, under Articles 106 and art.106¹ of the Criminal Code. Thus, in 8 criminal cases, special seizure of assets of an estimate value of more than 1.350.000 MDL (cars, computers, money, etc.) was ordered.

Table no. 4
Statistics for enforcing the provisions of the Criminal Code, trafficking in human beings/children (art.165/art.206 of the

Year	Criminal cases registered	Criminal cases sent to court	Defendants (Traffickers) for whom convictions were issued	Persons sentenced to imprisonment	Persons sentenced to imprisonment with conditional suspension of sentence	The number of victims according to CCTHB
2010	142/23	45/10	48/5	27/4	11/1	-
2011	111/24	45/14	35/2	7/1	11/1	131
2012	151/20	60/5	21/10	13/9	8/1	266/24
2013	135/20	43/8	27/12	20/4	1/0	233/29
2014	151/24	42/7	34/9	28/9	6/0	238/26
2015	151/38	52/24	29/10	27/9	0/0	242/68
2016	123/28	22/11	48/8	39/8	1/0	197/35
2017	122/41	65/20	31/28	25/21	1/0	201/48
2018	154/37	60/23	56/30	32/24	2/1	305/60

In line with Art. 12¹, paragraph (2) of the Law No. 160/2011 on *regulation of entrepreneurial activity authorization*, the following activity is to be subjected to regulation by licensing by the PSA: “*citizens’ employment inside the country and/or abroad; students’ enrollment in educational and cultural programs that include a component related to students’ employment for a fixed period of time, during their summer vacation*”. According to the Registry of Permissive Acts (licenses), under the Law no. 160/2011 on regulation of entrepreneurial activity authorization, 7 licenses were suspended and 15 - withdrawn.

4.2. Protection of Victims and Witnesses in Criminal Proceedings

In 2018, all identified victims of THB were provided with informational assistance on their criminal and procedural rights.

In 2018, to avoid repeated victimization of victims of THB and of child trafficking, following the requests submitted by the prosecutors, 29 victims were heard in special conditions, of which – 8 victims were heard under the conditions provided by article 109, paragraph (3) of the Criminal Procedure Code, 21 victims were heard by the investigating judge in dedicated facilities equipped with audio/video recording devices, via an interviewer, pursuant to art. 110¹ of the Criminal Procedure Code.

At the same time, it was found that during the reporting period, prosecutors did not adopt orders on applying special measures to ensure the security of victims of trafficking whose life, physical integrity, freedom or property were endangered, since no cases of victims' threatening due to the fact that they had information that they had agreed to provide to judicial bodies and which constituted conclusive evidence of committing the crime of trafficking, were identified.

In accordance with national and international legislation, as a special protection measure, victims and potential victims are informed about their rights in such situations. Prosecutors were cautioned to provide explanations on the right of victims to receive protection (Article 58 para. (5) of the Criminal Procedure Code). During the reporting period, 41 victims of trafficking were referred to institutions responsible for providing social and legal assistance.

Moreover, the information on the rights of victims of THB were updated on the official website of the Prosecutor's Office <http://www.procuratura.md/file/spot%20drepturi%20victime.pdf>.

In addition, the response of law enforcement bodies was increased in all cases of intimidation aimed at changing statements reported by victims/witnesses of trafficking cases. In this regard, during the reporting period, 7 criminal cases were initiated under art.314 of the Criminal Code - "*determination to submission of false statements*" (on cases of human trafficking and child trafficking).

As a result of explaining procedural rights to victims of trafficking, they filed civil actions worth 3,2 million MDL.

V. PARTENERSHIP

The development of **national partnership** and strengthening the interaction between different institutions responsible for preventing and combating trafficking and development partners remains a priority. In 2018, development partners (OSCE and IOM Moldova, US Embassy in Moldova, IC "La Strada" NCPCA, ICMPD, UNHCR) continued to provide support in training professionals in the field and informing the general public on the risks and consequences of trafficking by developing and distributing information materials and publishing/editing them.

For the purpose of an efficient collaboration in the field of preventing and combating labor exploitation, on the 24th of April 2018 a Collaboration Agreement was signed between the Labor State Inspectorate and the Asylum and Migration Bureau, which sets the objectives of collaboration and joint activities.

As to **international legal cooperation**, during 2018, as part of criminal cases on THB and related crimes, led by prosecutors of the Office for Combating Trafficking and Investigation of Cybercrimes of the PCOCSC, a joint investigation team was created with the relevant authorities from Romania. On the 29.11.2019, a working meeting was held within

EUROJUST, during which it was decided **to create a joint investigation team with the relevant authorities of Holland.**

In 2018, the General Prosecutor's Office submitted **26 letters rogatory on cases of THB**, as follows: Hungary -1, Italy – 1, Romania – 1, Ukraine – 2, Turkey – 3, Lithuania – 1, Germany – 2, USA -1, Poland – 1, Greece -1, Russian Federation -10, of which 9 were executed and 17 are being executed. 3 letters rogatory (Russian Federation -2, Romania -1) were submitted on cases of child trafficking, of which one is executed and 2 are pending.

Moreover, 3 letters rogatory were received (per one from Holland, Ukraine, France) in connection with the investigation of trafficking in human beings. Letters rogatory in connection with the investigation of trafficking children were not received.

13 requests for extradition of persons accused of committing trafficking in human beings were submitted (Italy-1, Russian Federation -1, Turkey-1, Romania-1, Libanon-2, Armenia -1, Ukraine – 1, Serbia – 1, Belarus -1, Portugal -1, Greece-1), of which 2 persons were extradited and 11 are still under examination. In the same period, two requests for extradition of persons accused of committing child trafficking were submitted (Greece-1, Italy-1), which are under examination. Other extradition requests initiated by other countries over the investigation of trafficking in human beings and trafficking in children were not received.

The Ministry of Justice registered and executed a letter rogatory (the object was conducting some procedural actions against a citizen of the Republic of Moldova) received from the Ministry of Justice of the Spanish Kingdom.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

- As to the dynamics and trends of THB, in 2018, **305 victims of THB** (adults) (201 victims identified in 2017) and **60 victims of child trafficking** (48 victims identified in 2017) were identified. Compared to 2017, there is a 35% increase in the number of identified adult victims and a 20% increase in the number of children-victims, which is due to the mobilization of efforts made by national authorities in the process of prevention and identification of victims of the phenomenon, to building the capacity of professionals working in the field, to enhancing the quality of investigations and procedural actions;
- Of the total number of 365 victims of trafficking, **79 victims received assistance, of which 60 adults and 19 minors**, which is about 22% of the total number of victims. The main reason of the low number of assisted victims is victims' lack of interest or even their refusal to receive the necessary assistance. In this regard, gender dimension should be also taken into account, men totaling 55% of the total number of identified victims.
- As to external trafficking, during the reporting period, the phenomenon of THB has suffered some changes. New countries of destination appeared, such as: Slovakia, Spain, Ireland, Portugal. Some countries of destination disappeared, such as: Switzerland and Great Britain;
- The main form of exploitation of adult victims is labor exploitation (78,7% of the total number of identified victims in 2018), of which: 80,4% - men, 19,6% - women. Exploitation of adult victims for sexual purposes dropped by 10% compared to previous year. The main form of exploitation of minors is sexual exploitation (68,3% of the total number of identified victims in 2018), of which: 92,7% - girls, 7,3% - boys. Labor exploitation of children has also registered a 29,4% increase compared to previous year: 58,8% - girls and 41,2% - boys were identified.

- Analyzing the activity of detecting crimes related to trafficking in human beings in 2018, there is an almost 20% increase in the number of identified cases of trafficking (article 165 of the Criminal Code) as compared to the same period of 2017. At the same time, there is an almost 31% decrease in the number of cases of trafficking in children (article 206 of the Criminal Code), which is due to the mobilization of efforts made by national authorities, to the increase of the quality of investigations and procedural actions. During the reporting period, indictments were completed for 83 criminal cases and the cases were sent to the first court for examination (similar number in 2017 – 85);
- During 2018, major amendments to the regulatory framework were made on all the dimensions of fight against the phenomenon, starting with prevention, protection and assistance of victims and ending with punishment of perpetrators, namely:
 - *Approval of the National Strategy for Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2018-2023, GD no. 461/2018;*
 - *Amendment of the Criminal Code, article 165 „Trafficking in Human Beings” and article 206 „Trafficking in Children”;*
 - *Amendment of the Government Decision no. 948/2008 on the approval of the Regulation on the repatriation procedure of children and adults - victims of trafficking in human beings, persons in difficulty, as well as unattended children;*
 - *Amendments to the Law no. 273/1994 on identity documents from the national passport system;*
 - *Law no. 100/2001 on civil status documents;*
 - *Law on citizenship of the Republic of Moldova 1024/2000;*
 - *Approval of the Regulation on the Procedure for Acquisition and Loss of Citizenship of the Republic of Moldova, Government Decision no.1144/2018;*
 - *Law no.105/2018 on the promotion of employment and unemployment insurance;*
 - *Issuance of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Moldova no. 862/2018 for the launch of negotiations on the draft Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on protection and repatriation of persons who have suffered from human trafficking (adults and children), unattended children and people in difficulty.*
- In a relatively short period of time of the implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan (approximately 6 months), most of the activities aimed at attaining the overall objectives are under implementation. Progress has been made in the implementation of Strategy Objectives no. 1,2,5,7,8,10,14. The outcome indicators of specific objectives have been fully achieved for the year 2018. This shows that the coordination of activities to prevent and combat the phenomenon, the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework, the increase of the level of information and awareness raising, the capacity building of the specialists in the field are ensured in a continuous and efficient manner;
- To inform the general public, several raising awareness activities have been conducted, as a result of which more than **153 thousand people were informed**. Building the capacities of professionals working in the field is an essential component in ensuring the efficient policy implementation. The process of building professionals’ capacities and knowledge should be continuous, and it should be tailored to the new trends and forms of the phenomenon both at the national and regional level;

- There is a continuous increase in the number of registered individual employment contracts, which shows a positive trend in legal employment abroad;
- Of the total number of 79 victims assisted in Centers for Assistance and Protection, ***100% of victims benefited from social assistance, 25% benefited from legal aid and 43% benefited from medical assistance;***
- As a result of explaining procedural rights to victims of trafficking, they filed ***civil actions worth 3 217 469,37 MDL.***
- As to international legal cooperation, as part of criminal cases on THB and related crimes, led by prosecutors of the Office for Combating Trafficking and Investigation of Cybercrimes of the PCOCSC, a joint investigation team was created with the relevant authorities of Romania, and on the 29.11.2019, and it was decided to create a joint investigation team with the relevant authorities of Holland.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CENTRAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- **Conducting training courses for representatives of law enforcement bodies, judges and prosecutors on victim-centered approach of investigations and criminal proceedings;**
- **Conducting training courses for representatives of law enforcement bodies and prosecutors on conducting financial investigations, in order to be able to seize and confiscate the proceeds resulted from crime for the purpose of recovery of the damage caused as a result of a crime as well as to conduct special confiscation;**
- **Building the capacities of professionals of territorial commissions for combating THB and their active involvement in national information campaigns;**
- **Continuing the activities aimed at strengthening the protection of victims and witnesses during legal proceedings, including sanctioning for manipulation and intimidation of witnesses;**
- **Building the capacity and information of the private sector on the need to observe the legal employment procedure and avoiding the situations of labor exploitation (sensitive sectors – transport, construction, agriculture);**
- **Continuing the operation of hot lines and informing the general public about their activity;**
- **Making continuous efforts to develop social services for victims of THB in the Republic of Moldova, especially for male victims by setting up some specialized services for them, as well as development and adjustment of respective regulatory framework;**
- **Creation of some long-term reintegration services for victims of THB, by means of professional training, access to non-refundable subsidies and social assistance.**