



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR COMBATTING

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**on the implementation of recommendations of the Committee of the Parties of
the Council of Europe Convention on the Action against Trafficking in Human
Beings**

Chisinau, June 2014

ABBREVIATIONS

NEA – National Employment Agency
CPA - Central Public Authority
LPA - Local Public Authority
BMA - Bureau for Migration and Asylum
CAP - Center for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Human Trafficking
CCTP - Center for Combating Human Trafficking
CCCC - Center for Combating Cyber Crimes
IC “La Strada” - Public Association International Center for Women Rights Protection and Promotion “La Strada”
NAC - National Anticorruption Center
NC CTHB – National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking
NCCAP - National Center for Child Abuse Prevention
TC – Territorial Committee for Combating Human Trafficking
CIS - Commonwealth of Independent States
OCG - Organized Criminal Group
GRETA - Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Council of Europe
BPD - Border Police Department
TMT - Territorial multidisciplinary team of the National Referral System
EUBAM - European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine
EUROPOL – European Police Office
ICMPD - International Centre for Migration and Policy Development
NIJ - National Institute of Justice
INTERPOL - International Criminal Police Organization
GPI - General Police Inspectorate
GD - Government Decision
MFAEI - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
MIA – Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoE - Ministry of Economy
MoE - Ministry of Education
MoF - Ministry of Finance
MoH – Ministry of Health
MoJ - Ministry of Justice
MLSPF - Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family
MITC - Ministry of Information Technology and Communications
MYS - Ministry of Youth and Sports
ODIMM - Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development
IOM - International Organization for Migration in the Republic of Moldova
NGO - Non-Government Organization
IO - International Organization
OSCE – Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
National Plan - National Plan for Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings
GPO - General Prosecutor’s Office
EU - European Union
RM - Republic of Moldova
SELEC - Southeast European Law Enforcement Center
PS - Permanent Secretariat of the NC CTHB
SNR - National Referral System for the protection and assistance to victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings
VS - Vocational Schools

TdH - The Swiss Foundation “Terre des Hommes”
THB - Trafficking in human beings
TC - Child trafficking
DV - Domestic violence
VDV - Victims of Domestic Violence
VTHB - Victim of THB
SUM - State University of the Republic of Moldova
UNODC - United Nations office on Drugs and Crime
UNICEF - United Nations Children’s Fund

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INTRODUCTION

Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, was signed in Warsaw on 16 May 2005 and is in effect since 1 February 2008. The Republic of Moldova was the first country to ratify the aforementioned Convention, by Law No 67-XVI of 30.03.2006.

The group of experts on the action against trafficking in human beings in Europe (GRETA), established especially to monitor the implementation of the Convention, according to Article 38 of the Convention, became operational in 2009 and launching simultaneously the monitoring process for the first 10 states, including RM. A delegation of the GRETA visited the Republic of Moldova on 10-13 May 2011 in order to prepare the first report on the implementation of the Convention by RM.

The final text of the GRETA Report and the Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against THB for the Republic of Moldova were adopted during the 8th meeting of the Committee of the Parties (11 June 2012, Strasbourg)¹.

Following the GRETA and Committee of the Parties' recommendations, the RM authorities have correlated their policies on prevention and combating of THB and will inform by 11 June 2014 the Committee of the Parties about the measures taken in this respect during 2012 - 2014 (May).

Overview of the Anti-Trafficking Achievements of the Republic of Moldova between 2012 - 2014 (May)

Regarding the policies implemented by the Republic of Moldova on prevention and combating of THB, the RM Government has made constant and consistent efforts, together with its partners, in order to both implement the GRETA recommendations and develop a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the overall national policy, using the **4 Ps: Prevention, Punishment, Protection, Partnership**:

PREVENTION

On 25 May 2012 **Law No 121 on Ensuring Equality** was adopted. The goal of the law is to prevent and combat discrimination, as well as to ensure the equality of all persons present on the territory of the Republic of Moldova in the political, economic, social, cultural and other areas of life, without discriminating by race, color, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion or beliefs, gender, age, disability, opinion, political affiliation or any other similar criterion.

Government Decision No 463 of 2 July 2013 on the **additional measures** to the National Program for Implementation of the Republic of Moldova - European Union Action Plan in Visa Liberalization section, 2013-2016, foresees:

Strengthening of the legal framework on border management, including by adopting a new law on the state border, which would allow the Border Police Department to participate in the identification and investigation of trans-border crimes in cooperation with the relevant law enforcement bodies and to extend the responsibility area to the entire territory of the country, as well as development of the legal framework for an efficient inter-institutional cooperation among the Border Police Department, law enforcement bodies and other agencies involved in border management. This Decision also requires provision of State Border infrastructure, technical equipment, IT systems, financial and

¹ http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/Monitoring/Country_Reports_en.asp#TopOfPage

human resources according to the Strategy on Integrated State Border Management² and Action plan, as well as efficient implementation of the training programs and anti-corruption measures.

In 2013 the Ministry of Education approved Order No 77 of 22.02.2013 on *the procedure of institutional organization and interventions of the staff of educational institutions in case of abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking of children* and Order No 858 of 23.08.2013, which approved the Methodology of applying this *Procedure*.

Another prevention measure is ensured by the Licensing Chamber, according to its legal competencies³. In 2012, 9 decisions on license withdrawal were issued (2013-8, Q1 of 2014 - 9) and 13 decisions on temporary suspension of licenses for overseas employment of citizens (in 2013 - 9, Q1 of 2014 - 9). In addition, 1 decision on invalidity of the license for touristic activity was issued in 2012 (in 2013-10).

The Tourism Agency is currently working on a draft law on amendments and addenda to the Law on the Organization and Implementation of Tourism in the RM No 352-XVI of 24.02.2006, in order to introduce more efficient requests for a stricter documentation of the return into the country of the tourists traveling abroad, within the time framework set in the Touristic Services Contract.

As another measure of preventing THB, the Tourism Agency informs the Licensing Chamber regarding the failure of business entities from the tourism industry to comply with the terms of the Touristic Services Contracts, in order to suspend temporarily or withdraw the license for that particular type of touristic activity.

Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part⁴, *Article 14*. Cooperation on migration, asylum and border management provides that:

1. The Parties reaffirm the importance of a joint management of migration flows between their territories and shall strengthen the existing comprehensive dialogue on all migration-related issues, including legal migration, international protection, illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings.
2. Cooperation will be based on a specific needs assessment, conducted in mutual consultation between the Parties, and be implemented in accordance with their relevant legislation in force.

PUNISHMENT

For a comprehensive overview of THB phenomenon, it is worth mentioning the achievements related to the harmonization of the legal framework on prevention and combating of THB with the view to improve the quality of justice in anti-trafficking area, but also to exclude the risk of illegal transplant of organs:

- Approval of the draft Law on Amendments and Addenda to Law No 42-XVI of 6 March 2008 on Transplantation of Human Organs, Tissues and Cells by the RM Government Decision No 930 of 20.11.2003.
- Approval by the RM Parliament of the Law on Amendments and Addenda to Some Legislative Acts No 270 of 07.11.2013, in order to:
 - make clear delimitation between forced labor and THB for labor exploitation; between pimping and THB for sexual exploitation;
 - tighten the sanctions for child trafficking;
 - tighten the sanctions for pimping and organization of begging;
 - tighten the sanctions for committal of the THB crime by public and international officials;

²RM Government Decision No 1212 of 27.12.2010 approving the National Strategy on Integrated State Border Management for 2011-2013

³ Law No 451-XV of 30.07.2001 on Entrepreneurship Regulation by Licensing,

Law No 235-XVI of 20.07.2006 on the Basic Principles of Entrepreneurship Regulation;

Law No 352-XVI of 24.11.2006 on the Organization and Implementation of Touristic Activities in the Republic of Moldova

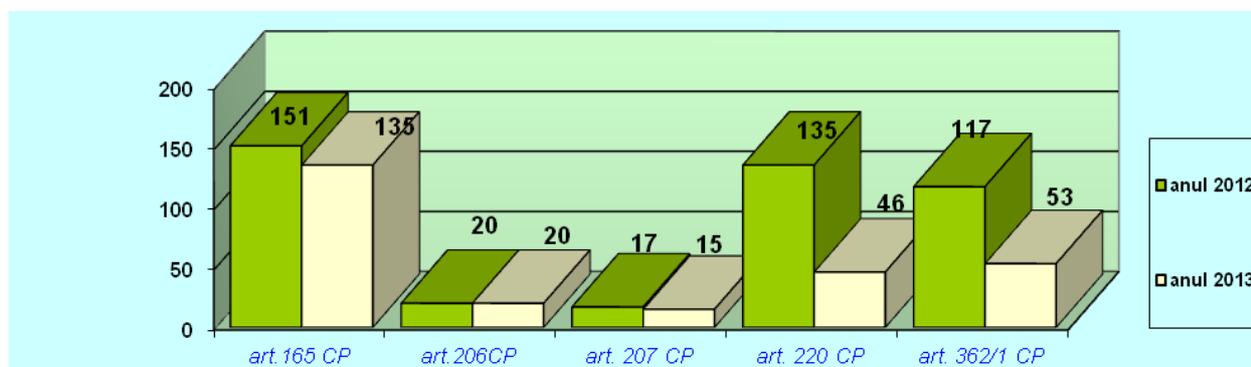
⁴ http://www.gov.md/public/files/2013/ianuarie_2014/ACORD_RM-UE_1.pdf

- criminalize the beneficiaries of services from victims of THB;
- criminalize the trafficking in organs and advertising of procurement and sales of organs.

According to GPO information regarding the ***punishment*** of traffickers in people, particularly related to *criminal prosecution*, it was found that 269 crimes were registered during 2013 in this category across the country (in 2012 - 440 crimes), including:

- *trafficking in human beings* - 135 crimes (during the similar period of the previous year - 151);
- *child trafficking* - 20 crimes (during the similar period of the previous year - 20);
- *international child abduction* - 15 crimes (during the similar period of the previous year - 17);
- *pimping* - 46 crimes (during the similar period of the previous year - 135);
- *organization of illegal migration* - 53 crimes (during the similar period of the previous year - 117).

This picture is also revealed in Diagram 1



80 crimes were recorded during **quarter I of 2014** in this category across the country, including:

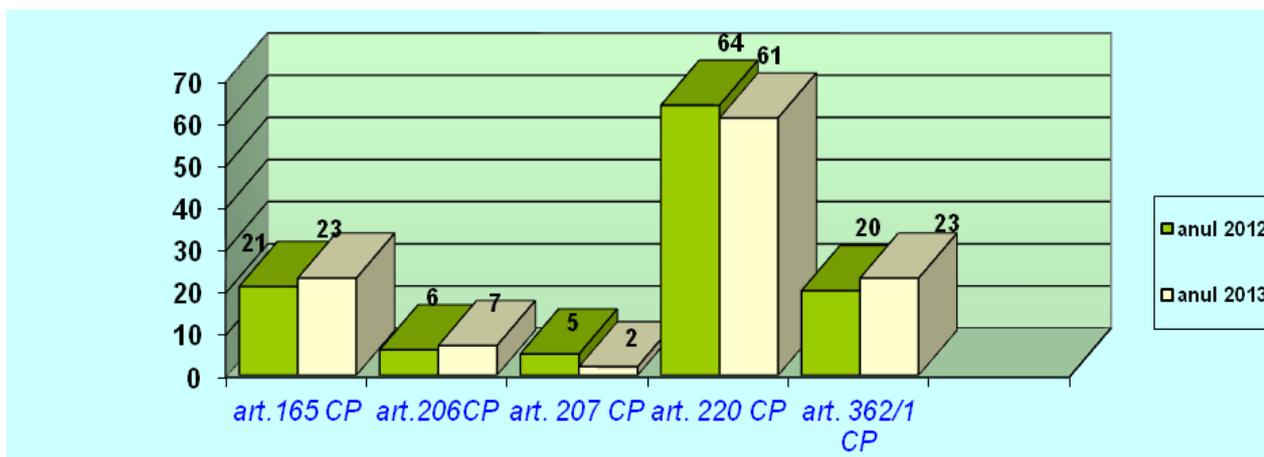
- *trafficking in human beings* - 43 crimes;
- *child trafficking* - 6 crimes;
- *international child abduction* - 2 crimes;
- *pimping* - 17 crimes;
- *organization of illegal migration* - 12 crimes.

The analysis of the ***judicial practice*** for 2013 regarding the trial of criminal cases related to THB crimes revealed the following situation.

In 2013, the courts finished the examination of 116 criminal cases of human trafficking against 151 defendants (during the similar period of the previous year there were 133 cases against 170 people), including:

- 23 criminal cases related to *THB* against 27 defendants (in 2012 – 21 cases / 21 people);
- 7 criminal cases related to *CT* against 12 defendants (in 2012 – 6 cases / 10 people);
- 2 criminal cases related to *international child abduction* against 2 defendants (in 2012 – 5 cases / 5 people);
- 61 criminal cases related to *pimping* against 81 defendants (in 2012 – 64 cases / 79 people);
- 23 criminal cases related to *organization of illegal migration* against 29 defendants (in 2012 – 20 cases / 32 people).

The comparative dynamics of the number of judgments pronounced by courts in 2013 and 2012 on cases of trafficking in human beings is shown in **Diagram 2**.



In **quarter I of 2014**, the courts pronounced 21 judgments on cases of human trafficking against 27 defendants, including:

- 7 criminal cases related to *THB* against 15 defendants;
- 1 criminal case related to *child trafficking* against 3 defendants;
- 1 case related to *international child abduction* against one defendant;
- 9 criminal cases related to *pimping* against 10 defendants;
- 3 criminal cases related to *organization of illegal migration* against 8 defendants.

PROTECTION

Legal Framework

Through Law No 263 of 19.12.2011, the RM ratified the **Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse**.

The **Guidelines for Identification of Victims and Potential Victims of THB** were defined and approved⁵. The Guidelines represent an operational tool that sets a way of work for the specialized central public authorities and other central public authorities, LPA, civil society, NGOs, service providers, regardless of the type of ownership and form of legal organization, who implement the national policy on prevention and combating of THB under NRS. The Guidelines stipulate how to identify victims and potential victims of THB and the cooperation procedures of the organizations participating in NRS, and aim at protecting the legal rights and interests of these people.

The Order of the Prosecutor General No 25/15 of 10.04.2014 **approved the Instruction on Hearing Victims of THB**, which aims at strengthening the institutional capacities of the law enforcement bodies in criminal prosecution of human beings traffickers and protecting the rights of victims of THB.

RM Government approved HG No 228 of 28.03.2014 regarding the **Regulation on the Activity of TMT** under NRS, which was determined by the lack of legal regulation of the activity of the representatives of decentralized and deconcentrated institutions and organizations, participating in the NRS, as a inter-sectoral operational tool. In this context, the establishment of TMT and development of NRS strengthened the collaboration between state institutions and civil society, in order to respect the human rights (rights of the victim of THB), which is a significant contribution to the strengthening of the rule of law in RM. Thus, the NRS model is internationally recognized as a successful policy of combating THB in RM and an example for other countries in the region.⁶ At the same time, this model can be extended/taken over to prevent and combat other negative social phenomena and support various socially-vulnerable categories, such as victims of domestic violence, sexual exploitation of children, etc.

⁵ MLSPF Order No 33 of 20 February 2012.

⁶ Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2013, U.S. Department of State, page 265

On 8 April 2014⁷, the RM Government approved the Instructions on the intersectoral cooperation mechanism for the identification, referral, evaluation, assistance and monitoring of child victims and potential victims of violence neglect, exploitation, trafficking. These Instructions represent the regulatory and methodological framework that underlies the implementation of several legal provisions related to the protection of child rights, as well as raise the responsibility of parents in fulfilling their obligations towards children. The Instructions on the intersectoral cooperation mechanism establish the role and responsibilities of public authorities/intra and intersectoral cooperation procedures for the prevention and intervention in cases of violence, neglect, exploitation, child trafficking with an emphasis on interventions by level 1 local public authorities, particularly in cases of immediate danger for child's life and safety. Likewise, the intersectoral mechanism envisages the application of specific tools that improve the quick response to all suspicions of violence and enforce the special protection and assistance measures aimed at ensuring a protective environment for the child and meeting all his/her needs.

Institutional Framework

The Automated Information System "Record-keeping of Labor Force Migration" (AIS RLFM) was established, which is used to keep records of migrant workers in RM and provides users the possibility to register, store and provide data about labor migration in the RM⁸. AIS RLFM was interconnected with the databases of MIA, Tax Inspectorate, "CRIS Registru" SOE and the Border Police Department of the RM.

MFAEI, with the support of IOM Mission in Moldova launched the "Travel Document" module of "Consul" information system. Since August 2013, this information system has a function that notifies the competent authorities (MIA and MLSPF) when a travel document is issued to victims of THB.

The General Police Inspectorate was established in 2013 as part of the institutional reform of MIA, which has a Center for Combating Human Trafficking in its structure. This unit maintained its mandate, key duties, and multidisciplinary structure consisting of investigation officers, criminal prosecution officers, seconded professionals from the National Anticorruption Center, Intelligence and Security Service, Customs Service and Border Police Department.

CCTP has the following main duties:

- 1) identify, combat and suppress THB and related crimes;
- 2) manage and analyze the data on THB phenomenon;
- 3) analyze and participate in the development of national policies on prevention and combating of THB phenomenon;
- 4) facilitate the access of victims of THB to support and social protection services;
- 5) prevent the THB phenomenon.

Anti-trafficking duties were integrated in the policy of the Center for Combating Cyber Crimes of the GPI, established as part of the MIA reform. Thus, CCCC has a Child Protection Section in charge of combating infant pornography, abuse and sexual exploitation of children by using IT. This section was established on the basis of the Section for Combating Trafficking by Internet, which used to exist in the Center for Combating Human Trafficking.

Besides, combating of THB was included in the duties of the Border Police Department of the MIA, focused on prevention by identification of cases at the border, and on investigation in cooperation with CCTP, for which a Cooperation Agreement was signed.

⁷ Decision of RM Government, No 270 of 8 April 2014.

⁸ Developed under "Strengthening the Moldova capacity to manage labour and return migration under the Mobility Partnership with the European Union" Project

During January-June 2012, as part of “Strengthening Prosecutorial Capacities to Investigate and Prosecute Human Trafficking Cases in Moldova” Project, funded by the U.S. Department of State, IOM initiated the procurement and installment of audio-video equipment for the interviewing of victims-witnesses in criminal cases in Courts of Appeal and Prosecutor’s Offices from 3 towns (regional points) - Chisinau, Balti, Cahul. The equipment was installed during the second half of the year, and included a device to record the testimonies, as requested by Article 110¹ of the Criminal Procedure Code. A system of hearing through teleconference was launched officially on 21 September 2012. This system was installed in the Court of Appeals and three Prosecutor’s Offices.

A regional hearing room for child victims/witnesses was equipped in the Rayon Prosecutor’s Office of Calarasi, which was launched officially on 10 December 2013, *thanks to the financial support of the U.S. Department of State and methodological support of IOM* as part of the “Strengthening of NC CTHB” Project. It will be also used by the professionals from the neighboring rayons of Straseni and Nisporeni. The professionals (psychologists, educational psychologist, TMT coordinators, prosecutors and investigative judges) from the three rayons were trained in hearing child victims-witnesses during the training of 29.11.2013.

The Coordinating Group of the Permanent Secretariat was established by appointing specialists by managers of the institutions, members of NC CTHB at the request of the secretary of NC CTHB. The purpose of this group is to strengthen the communication/cooperation with all the institutions involved directly or indirectly in prevention and combating of THB, as well as to improve the cooperation.

Since January 2014 the Permanent Secretariat of NC CTHB (with the status of section, 4 people) was institutionalized in the structure of the State Chancellery⁹.

In 2014 it is planned to include new representatives of state institutions and organizations in the membership of NC CTHB, such as: State Labor Inspectorate, Bureau for Diaspora Relations, General Police Inspectorate, Tourism Agency¹⁰.

During 2013 the MoH extended the youth-friendly health services at the national level. Youth Friendly Health Centers currently exist in all administrative-territorial units (38 Centers), contracted by the National Health Insurance Company. The amount contracted for 2012 constituted about MDL 7 mln 635 thousand, compared with MDL 5 mln 200 thousand MDL in 2013.

Council for Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring of Equality¹¹ is a collegiate body with the status of legal entity of public law, established in order to protect against discrimination and ensure equality of all persons who are considered to be victims of discrimination. The Council is impartial and independent from public authorities. The Council consists of 5 members, who do not have any political affiliations, are appointed by the Parliament for a 5-year period, with 3 members representing the civil society. At least 3 Council members shall have a degree in law.

Strengthening Human Resources

With the support of IOM in RM, the NC CTHB organized in 2013 four regional workshops - one in Soroca (for the Northern rayons) and 3 in Chisinau (for the South and Center regions, and for the Gagauzia TAU, Russian language speaking rayons) in order to strengthen the capacities of territorial commissions for THB combating, exchange of experience between the TC and ensuring access to community-based services for VTHB and potential VTHB.

⁹ RM Government Decision, No 657 of 06.11.2009 approving the Regulation of the Organization and Modus Operandi, Structure and Staff Limit of the State Chancellery, with subsequent amendments

¹⁰ Draft amendments to the GD No 427 of 26.03.2008 approving the nominal membership of the National Committee for the Combating of Human Trafficking and Regulations of the National Committee

¹¹ Law No 298 of 21.12.2012 on the Regulation of the Council for Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring of Equality

“Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders involved in anti-trafficking actions” is one of the strongest chapters of the National Plan for 2013, which was developed by both Government and Non-Government stakeholders. Moreover, some of the activities carried out in 2012 were extended for 2013 (such as: specialized workshops for prosecutors and judges; trainings for criminal prosecution officers on the psychological aspects of working with child victims/witnesses; training for prosecutors and policemen in charge of THB cases; trainings for the staff of MFAEI in identification of victims of THB; training of the TMT from the pilot rayons; trainings for TC members; updating of the ongoing training programs for teachers and school psychologists involved in THB prevention), carrying out other additional action (*for details see below the answers to recommendations*). This proves the need for ongoing training for the stakeholders involved in prevention and combating of THB both due to the need to update to the recent developments and due to the staff turnover in the relevant institutions.

In 2013 the institutions empowered with ongoing training in the education system trained by 47% more teaching staff than in 2012 (*school psychologists, teachers of civic education, social workers, social teachers, educators from the boarding schools, deputy headmasters for education*), who tackle contents related to preventions of abuse, neglect, THB.

More efficient use of financial resources

In 2012 the CCTP, in partnership with IOM in RM, bought the necessary software for the activity of the Section for Combating THB by Internet from the *Center for Combating Cyber Crimes of the National Investigation Inspectorate* related to the identification and investigation of infant pornography by Internet, on the basis of a needs analysis and according to the relevant standards and positive practices. Thus, with the U.S. support and via the IOM, in January 2013 the section was provided the needed equipment for its duties. The new equipment and programs installed allow connecting to the main international resources for combating exploitation and sexual abuse by Internet.

During 2013, MDL 111.210 thousand were spent from the state budget for the repatriation of victims and potential victims of THB (*in 2012 - about MDL 60.0 thousand*). For 2014, MDL 600.0 thousand are planned for this purpose.

To maintain the Center for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of THB from Chisinau, the MLSPF spent MDL 1311.9 thousand in 2013, and MDL 1117.9 thousand in 2012. For 2014, MDL 2865.8 thousand were planned from the state budget

At the same time, to maintain the Centers for Assistance and Protection of Victims of THB, MDL 959.2 thousand were used from the budgets of territorial-administrative units in 2013 to maintain 34 beneficiaries in 2 Centers for Assistance and Protection of Victims of THB (in the rayons of Causeni and Cahul), MDL 823.5 thousand were spent in 2012. MDL 1073.3 thousand were approved for 2014.

In 2013, MDL 2482.5 thousand were used from the budgets of territorial-administrative units to maintain the centers for psycho-social rehabilitation of domestic violence victims, supporting 88 beneficiaries from 5 such centers (in the rayons of Causeni, Drochia, Hincești and Balti municipality), and MDL 2229.8 thousand were spent in 2012. MDL 2825.4 thousand were approved for the maintenance of these centers in 2014.

The Ministry of Health has currently two Centers for the Placement and Rehabilitation of Young Children (Balti and Chisinau municipalities), which have 2 maternal sections with 8 beds each.

These centers are funded from the state budget. MDL 28573.7 thousand were approved for both institutions in 2013 (*MDL 81639 for 1 child per year*):

- Center for Placement and Rehabilitation of Young Children, Chisinau municipality - MDL 16211.00 approved (MDL 81055 for 1 child per year)
- Center for Placement and Rehabilitation of Young Children, Balti municipality - MDL 12362.00 approved (MDL 82418 for 1 child per year).

If compared with the previous years, the share of expenses covered from public funds under the National Plan has increased, which indicated that the system has become more sustainable, and the RM is making efforts to take over the responsibility for the assistance and protection of victims and potential victims of THB. Though a significant part of expenses is covered by donors, the public authorities allocate significant resources to pay the social benefits, material aid, social support, services for the identified and supported beneficiaries, etc.

Informing/raising awareness

The website www.antitrafic.gov.md was launched, which contains updated data and information in this area, events organized, topics reflected in mass-media, etc. The website development was funded by the U.S. Department of State under the “Strengthening NC CTHB” Project.

The Communication Strategy of PS was launched¹² (validated during the meeting of the Coordinating Group of PS of 18 June 2013) with stakeholders in prevention and combating of THB, which stipulates that the PS will ensure, through the communication platform set up by this Strategy, adequate visibility of the CPA in AC, and in the society overall. At the same time, the strategy philosophy reflects the systemic and comprehensive approach of PS communication with stakeholders of the anti-trafficking community.

In 2012 the “Anti-Trafficking Week” National Campaign was conducted for the first time, and on 15-20 October 2013 the event was organized for the second time.

PARTNERSHIP

The expression of the classical partnership between CPA, LPA, NGO and IO is best reflected during the quarterly meetings organized by NC CTHB, which approaches issues related to the implementation of the National Plan and legislation on prevention and combating of THB by the Government organizations and institutions; magnitude and state of prevention and combating of THB at the national level, etc.

In order to promote the initiative of developing and systematizing legal framework on child protection during 2011-2013 and in order to adjust the policies on prevention and combating of violence, negligence, exploitation and trafficking of children at the national level, and to improve the efficiency of the child protection system and its responses to the child needs, a Cooperation Memorandum was concluded in November 2011 between the key stakeholders: the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Center for Child Abuse Prevention, Child Rights Information and Documentation Centre, UNICEF in RM.

The anti-trafficking stakeholders strengthened the Strategic Partnership for 2012, with the MIA (CCTP) signing 2 Memorandums of Cooperation: one with NCCAP on assistance to child victims of sexual violence and another one with the Center for Investigative Journalism on raising the public awareness of THB phenomenon.

On 11 May 2012 the MoH and MIA signed a Cooperation Agreement with the view to combat THB for procurement of organs and tissues.

¹² <http://antitrafic.gov.md/libview.php?l=ro&idc=101&id=382&t=/Transparenta/STRATEGIA-DE-COMUNICARE-a-Secretariatului-permanent-cu-actorii-din-domeniul-prevenirii-si-combaterii-traficului-de-fiinte-umane>

The technical coordination meetings, organized by the OSCE Mission to RM remain a platform for the consolidation of the strategic partnership.

The Coordinating Council of law enforcement bodies under the General Prosecutor of the RM is another platform. Thus, in order to coordinate the activity of law enforcement bodies in THB combating, the General Prosecutor organized in 2012¹³ 4 meetings of the Coordinating Council, and in 2013 - 2 meetings.

CCTP signed a Memorandum of Cooperation IC "La Strada" on 7 February 2013, and the GPI signed a Memorandum with IC "La Strada" on 8 August 2013 aimed at strengthening the bilateral cooperation on alleged cases of THB and CT in order to identify THB victims and ensure their access to the needed assistance and protection.

In July 2013, CCTP signed an Agreement of Cooperation with the State Labor Inspectorate on prevention and early identification of THB for labor exploitation and forced labor. Thus, joint operations and exchange of data will be organized with this institution in order to prevent and combat such cases. Currently, they work on the enhancement of the regulatory framework for the State Labor Inspectorate, which allows for the efficient accomplishment of the set objectives.

On 23 April 2014, GPI and NCCAP signed an Agreement of Cooperation. In order to improve the work of the Police in the system for the protection of child victims of violence, the parties decided to cooperate in the following directions of joint interest:

1. Application of the intersectoral cooperation mechanism in the Police sector for the identification, referral, evaluation, assistance and monitoring of child victims and potential victims of violence neglect, exploitation, trafficking, established on the basis of Law No 140 on Special Protection of Children at Risk and Children Separated from their Parents.
2. Ongoing cooperation in order to agree on a common approach to ongoing development of the regulatory framework on prevention and combating of violence against children.
3. Cooperation on issues of common interest in cases of violence, neglect, exploitation, child trafficking.
4. Joint implementation of activities aimed at preventing the violence against children.

Currently, the work on the Memorandum of Cooperation for assistance to and protection of victims of THB is close to completion. It will be signed by: MIA (GPI), GPO, MLSPF, IOM, IC "La Strada". This Memorandum aims at fostering cooperation among Parties in order to provide assistance and protection to victims of THB under the NRS and increase the efficiency of the entire system of combating THB phenomenon.

NATIONAL RESPONSE REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON THE ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

I. Comprehensive approach and co-ordination

1. GRETA considers that the Moldovan authorities should:

- continue strengthening the Secretariat and enhancing the budget of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to ensure its effective functioning

¹³ <http://www.antitrafic.gov.md/libview.php?l=ro&idc=30&id=189&t=/Raport/Nationale/RAPORT-national-in-domeniul-prevenirii-si-combaterii-trafficului-de-fiinte-umane-pentru-anul-2012>

The amendment of RM Government Decision No 657 of 06.11.2009¹⁴ approving the Regulation of the Organization and Modus Operandi, Structure and Staff Limit of the State Chancellery since January 2014 the Permanent Secretariat of NC CTHB (with the status of section) was included in the structure of the State Chancellery, and the head of the Permanent Secretariat also performs the function of secretary of the NC CTHB. The Secretariat consists of 4 persons (head, lawyer, social worker, monitoring officer), and the expenses for its organization and operation are covered from the state budget.

- encourage a more effective participation of all public bodies involved in the implementation of anti-trafficking measures at the national and local levels, and increase the co-ordination of their activities

According to RM Government Decision No 472 of 26.03.2008 approving the Nominal Membership of NC CTHB and its Regulation, the NC CTHB consists of the following state organizations and institutions:

Ministry of Internal Affairs;
Ministry of Justice;
Ministry of Health;
Minister of Labor, Social Protection and Family;
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration;
Ministry of Education;
Ministry of Information Technology and Communications;
Ministry of Culture;
Ministry of Finance;
Ministry of Youth and Sports;
Border Guards Service;
Licensing Chamber;
General Prosecutor's Office;
Intelligence and Security Service;
Autonomous Territorial Unit Gagauzia (Gagauz - Yeri);
State Chancellery.

By an amendment to the above-mentioned decision, it is planned to include since 2014 new representatives of state institutions and organizations in the membership of NC CTHB, such as: State Labor Inspectorate, Bureau for Diaspora Relations, General Police Inspectorate, Tourism Agency. This initiative was supported in unanimity by members of NC CTHB during the meeting of 18 April 2014.

Taking into account that since January 2014, the PS is part of the Government structure (with the status of section), and in order for the RM Government to implement its constitutional prerogatives on the implementation of the foreign and domestic policy and perform the general management of public administration, the State Chancellery has the following duties according to item 7), which are also relevant for the PS:¹⁵

- d) ensure the coordination of the public policy planning and policy paper development in accordance with the priorities of the governance program and development strategies, as well as monitor their implementation by Government agencies;
- e) establish the methodological and organizational framework for the development, implementation, monitoring and assessment of public policies and provide consultative and informational support to public authorities for them to respect the rules of justifying and presentation of policy documents and regulatory documents, including the procedure of public consultations with citizens and civil society during the decision-making process.

¹⁴ Amended by Government Decision No 33 of 22.01.2014 on Amendments and Addenda to a Government Decision

¹⁵ RM Government Decision No 657 of 06.11.2009 approving the Regulation of the Organization and Modus Operandi, Structure and Staff Limit of the State Chancellery

A new Article 81 is introduced in the draft Law on Amendments and Addenda to Law No 241-XVI of 20.10.2005 on Prevention and Combating of THB, by which the RM Government will assign new duties to the PS, specifically:

- “a) coordinate the development and monitoring of the Government policy on prevention and combating of THB;
- b) monitor the implementation of the legislation on prevention and combating of THB”.

- enhance the role of NGOs active in the field of combating THB in the Republic of Moldova, by providing them with the possibility to participate in the decision-making process, including through membership in the National Committee

The RM Government Decision No 472 of 26.03.2008 approving the nominal membership of NC CTHB and its Regulations stipulates in item 4 that “Representatives of Non-Government and international organizations that have representative offices in the RM and are combating THB and supporting victims of THB, may attend the meetings of NC CTHB with the right of consultative vote”.

Note that along with the public bodies¹⁶ in charge of the implementation of the **National Plan for Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2012-2013**¹⁷ the civil society also got involved and participates actively in each stage of implementation and monitoring: IOM in RM, OSCE Mission in RM, IC “La Strada”, “Terre des Hommes” NGO, NCCAP, CRIC, “Partnerships for Each Child” NGO.

Besides, the civil society participated in the development of the **National Plan for Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2014-2016**, which includes an activity related to “identification and cooperation between NGOs and level 1 and 2 local public authorities in order to encourage and support them, development of services for victims and potential victims of THB”.

The RM authorities make sure to include meetings with civil society representatives in the agendas of international officials who visit the country on issues related to prevention and combating of THB. In this context, we note the meeting of Myria Vassiliadou, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator with representatives of NGOs specialized in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

- take practical measures to improve co-operation and communication between the police and NGOs at the local level, especially as regards identification of victims of trafficking.

In 2013 the MLSPF updated the booklet “NRS - Framework of Cooperation between Public Authorities and the Civil Society for Prevention and Combating of THB” and printed 1000 copies (in Romanian). Subsequently, this booklet was disseminated during forums and conferences on prevention and combating of THB and protection of the rights of victims and potential victims of THB. A remarkable event in this context was the forum “*Enhancing the cooperation between the Government and civil society to combat THB in RM. Good practices of protection of the victim’s rights, prevention of corruption and impunity*” (27-28 June 2013), which also served as a platform for the dissemination of information materials. The booklet will be printed also in Russian and English.

The Communication Strategy of PS¹⁸ (validated during the meeting of the Coordinating Group of PS of 18 June 2013 with stakeholders active in prevention and combating of THB) stipulated that the

¹⁶ GPO, MIA, MLSPF, MFAEI, MoJ, MITC, ISS, MoEd, MoE (ODIMM), Institute of Educational Sciences, NAC, Superior Council of Magistracy, MoH, NIJ, MoF, MYS, MoC, Tourism Agency, PS

¹⁷ RM Government Decision No 559 of 21.07.2012

¹⁸ <http://antitrafic.gov.md/libview.php?l=ro&idc=101&id=382&t=/Transparenta/STRATEGIA-DE-COMUNICARE-a-Secretariatului-permanent-cu-actorii-din-domeniul-prevenirii-si-combaterii-traficului-de-fiinte-umane>

PS will ensure, through the communication platform set up by this Strategy, adequate visibility of the CPA in the anti-trafficking community, and in the society overall.

At the same time, the strategy philosophy reflects the systemic and comprehensive approach of PS communication with stakeholders of the anti-trafficking community.

The main communication instruments of the PS with partner NGOs are the following: *Website, Anti-Trafficking Messenger, Subgroup of anti-trafficking communicators NGO*. The following set of instruments will be used in parallel with the one described above to strengthen the communication of PS with the partner NGOs, as well as to ensure a higher visibility of the anti-trafficking activities carried out by NGOs: *printed informative bulletin, anti-trafficking social networks used* (Facebook, Odnoklassniki, YouTube) - promotion of the activities/major results of NGOs, *placement of the banner with the PS website (or the generic video clip) on the websites of NGOs, anti-trafficking week, joint public events, etc.*

On 8 April 2014¹⁹ the RM Government approved the Instructions on the intersectoral cooperation mechanism for the identification, referral, evaluation, assistance and monitoring of child victims and potential victims of violence neglect, exploitation, trafficking. These Instructions constitute the regulatory and methodological framework that underlies the implementation of several legal provisions related to the protection of child rights, by strengthening the efforts of all relevant stakeholders. Likewise, the instructions establish the role and responsibilities of public authorities/intra and intersectoral cooperation procedures for the prevention and intervention in cases of violence, neglect, exploitation, child trafficking with an emphasis on interventions by level 1 local public authorities, particularly in cases of immediate danger for child's life and safety.

However, we must note that, so far, there practically aren't any specialized NGOs/ active in prevention/combating of THB and provision of support to victims of THB. Some rayons of the country have Victims Support Centers that are managed jointly/ with the participation of some NGOs and LPAs. These Centers serve as contact points for TMT from the NRS, being also members of these teams.

Thus, to foster social partnerships at the local level, during 2013 the CCTP organized three round tables with members of NRS' TMT from all rayons, which were attended both by the CCTP management and all representatives of regional offices responsible for combating of THB, identification of victims and facilitation of their access to assistance. These workshops aimed at exchanging data and information on the situation in the respective region/area, (re)establishing of focal points, reviewing the mandate of each institution and its role in identification and provision of assistance to victims, and reviewing the procedures or communication and case referrals, etc. As a result, the police officers specialized in THB combating submitted requests, asking these teams to perform social inquiries for each (alleged) case of trafficking for purposes of criminal prosecution and to THB to provide support and social protection to these people. Besides, these workshops encouraged specialized police units to refer the alleged victims to these services, if the victims want to cooperate with the police.

2. GRETA invites the Moldovan authorities to consider commissioning an independent evaluation of the implementation of the National Plan as a tool for assessing the impact of the activities and for planning future policies and measures to combat human trafficking

To plan the activities in this area, the RM takes into account the international evaluation reports, such as: the first GRETA Report 2012, Trafficking in Persons Report by U.S. Department of State for 2011, UN Recommendations as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), OSCE Report of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating THB as a result of the visit made to the RM in 2011, etc.

¹⁹ RM Government Decision No 270 of 8 April 2014.

The recommendation of the Parties Committee was implemented. Thus, the Assessment Report of the National Plan for 2013 was produced by an independent expert under “Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings - Stage 1 (THB/IF/1)” Project, thanks to the financial support of the European Commission, implemented by ICMPD in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, RM and Turkey.

A deeper assessment of the National Plans for 2010-2011, 2012-2013 will be conducted in 2014 by another independent expert, with the financial support of OSCE in RM.

Data collection and research

3. GRETA considers that, for the purpose of preparing, monitoring and evaluating anti- trafficking policies, the Moldovan authorities should develop and maintain a comprehensive and coherent statistical system on trafficking in human beings by compiling reliable statistical information from all main actors and allowing disaggregation (concerning sex, age, type of exploitation, country of origin and/or destination, etc). This should be accompanied by all the necessary measures to respect the right of data subjects to personal data protection. In this context, the Moldovan authorities should enhance information exchanges among the agencies responsible for the supervision of migration, employment and combating THB.

In 2012, under the *Danish Program against Human Trafficking in East and South-East Europe, implemented by IOM in RM* with the financial support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an experts of IC “La Strada” developed a report on “Management of Government Anti-Trafficking Policies. Experience of the RM”²⁰. This study was carried out at the initiative of the PS and contains a comparative analysis of the practical experience of the RM in developing and monitoring anti-trafficking policies during 2001-2011, various aspects of the existing legal and regulatory framework (*over 30 documents*) and relevant international and regional standards. The report ends with some recommendations for the outlined problems, aimed at increasing the efficiency of anti-trafficking policies.

PS uses a number of instruments in order to implement the RM Government Decision No 472 of 26.03. 2008 approving the Nominal Membership of NC CTHB and its Regulation, in particular item 9¹ para 3 (“monitor and evaluate the policies on prevention and combating of THB by all empowered institutions, at all level of public administration, as well as by IO, NGO active in this area”), such as:

- **minutes and decisions issued by NC CTHB** as a result of the meetings organized each year, focused on issues like: submittal of the Trafficking in Persons Report of the U.S. Department of State (Launched on 19 July 2013)²¹, presentation of recommendations from Block 3, item 1b regarding prevention and combating of THB from the Report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Visa Free Regime for RM, submittal of specific documents of the cooperation of the RM Government in prevention and combating of THB with the involvement of CoE etc.

- **national annual reports** in prevention and combating of THB.

- **gathering of primary information** provided by CPA, LPA, NGO and IO in a reporting form, containing:

- information about the actions taken to prevent and combat THB, according to the requirements and responsibilities set forth in the National Plan for each separate year²².
- additional information about the actions taken to prevent and combat THB, in additional to the National Plan, for each separate year.

- **gathering of secondary information obtained on the basis of:**

²⁰ <http://antitrafic.gov.md/lib.php?l=ro&idc=30>

²¹ <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/index.htm>

- results of bilateral and multilateral meetings with anti-trafficking stakeholders;
- reports on the national and international round tables;
- statistical data obtained by the PS.

In order to have statistical data correlated at the national level, which could provide a conclusive image of the THB phenomenon and taking into account the recommendations of international organizations²³, PS with the support of IOM in Moldova²⁴, initiated the data harmonization procedure, aimed at strengthening the PS duty of data collection²⁵. For this **6 forms** were developed and piloted²⁶. Three forms cover all stages of the criminal process and the statistical data were provided by the PGO²⁷, which invests huge efforts to fill in qualitatively these forms. The MIA (CCTP) and MLSPF provided information about victims of THB on the basis of two forms, and the MoJ (Department of Penitentiary Institutions) provided information about the persons who serve their punishment for THB on the basis of another form. The data from the forms are stored in a software, and are used when needed.

Besides the still existing deficiencies, this exercise proved to be useful, and it must be continued, because the data provided by the participants serve as a reference point in the reporting process.

At the same time, the CCTP:

- analyzed overall the informational needs to evaluate the size and profile of the THB phenomenon;
- carried out a study on the existing mechanisms of data collection and identification of opportunities of enhancing the data collection, storage and analysis. In this respect, the integrated information system of MIA (IIS) was identified as a national platform to accumulate and store relevant data and information;
- analyzed the compatibility of the parameters of the database “Register of Forensic and Criminological Information” from the IIS with the parameters needed for the analysis of the THB phenomenon and developed the list of the additional necessary indicators, which would allow collecting, storing and analysis data broken down into several categories: age, gender, type of trafficking, country and some aspects of the *modus operandi*.

With the support of Information Technology Service of the MIA the IIS database was adjusted to the specific indicators of trafficking in human beings. The database is being piloted now, and it is expected to provide syntactical data to the PS of the NC CTHB to be processed together with the data provided by the MLSPF on the assistance and protection of victims and development of complex national reports.

After the adjustment and verification of the database efficiency, at the end of quarter I of 2013 the first pilot report on strategic analysis of THB phenomenon was produced, which aimed at revealing the nature and trends of the THB phenomenon, on the one hand, and at providing information about the possible strengths and weaknesses of the main stakeholders involved in prevention, combating and provision of the necessary assistance to victims of THB, on the other hand. The report also served as a basis for the enhancement of the data collection and analysis system. Thus, a second pilot Analysis Report for 2013 will be produced in the first quarter of 2014.

In March-April 2013, under “Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings - Stage 1 (THB/IF/1)” Project, funded by the European Commission and implemented by ICMPD in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, RM and Turkey, the experts of IC “La Strada” developed the *Assessment Report of the current situation of the anti-trafficking data collection system in the RM*. The report contains data

²³Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Republic of RM (GRETA Report), pag. 19, Strasbourg, 22 February 2012. Trafficking in Persons Report, U.S. Department of State Publication, June 2012.

²⁴Financial resources provided by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

²⁵“Approving the nominal membership of the National Committee for the Combating of Human Trafficking and Regulations of the National Committee”.

²⁶Computer Program (http://www.un.md/tenders/2012/11_IOM/index.shtml)

²⁷The THB Combating Section from the GPO

about the relevant legislative and institutional framework, description of the existing databases of anti-trafficking stakeholders, as well as recommendations for decision-makers.

In March 2014, under the above-mentioned Project, two independent experts developed for the PS:

1. The list of gaps and needs for the enhancement of the system of statistical data on prevention and combating of THB, managed by the PS of NC CTHB.
2. Practices and procedures used by the PS of NC CTHB in collection, processing and storage of information and statistical data on prevention and combating of THB.
3. Concept of the anti-trafficking monitoring and evaluation procedure, managed by the PS of the NC CTHB, with a recommendation to develop three harmonized questionnaires: one for the national level, another one for the local level, and the third one for NGOs.

The **National Plan for Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2014-2016** stipulates the following in this regard:

- Improve the software used by the PS by automating the collection of statistical data on THB.
- Improve the mechanism of collecting data about the THB phenomenon and combating of THB.
- Develop and implement the information system in order to inform immediately about the THB cases, identified abroad.

4. GRETA considers that the Moldovan authorities should conduct and support research on THB, in particular for the purpose of labour exploitation, within the Republic of Moldova, child trafficking and trafficking for the removal of organs. The results of the research should be used as a source of information for future policy measures in the field of action against human trafficking.

Note that the anti-trafficking community, through the partnerships established between Government and Non-Government organizations, and with the support of the external evaluators, make the following researches and studies:

- *The Report “Mapping the current situation in RM in child victimization through abuse and sexual exploitation”, 2012, developed with the support of UNICEF in RM.*
- *Feasibility study “Rights, Restoration and Recovery: Compensation for Trafficked Persons in the Republic of Moldova” with the methodological support of IOM in RM and financial support of the U.S. Department of State.*
- *Study on the impact of the policy on fighting THB of the Republic of Moldova on the rights of the trafficked persons, implemented by IC “La Strada” with the financial support of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark.*
- *Study “Child Victims of Crime and Legal Proceedings: The Republic of Moldova Case”, at the initiative of NCCAP, 2013.*
- *Sociological study on the impact of campaign “Protect me! I am small!”, 2013, at the initiative of NCCAP.*
- *2013 Assessment Report of UNODC in the context of implementation of “Strengthening law enforcement capacities for fighting human trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, in particular for the RM” Project.*
- *2013 Assessment Report in the context of implementation of “Strengthening law enforcement capacities for fighting human trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, in particular for the RM” Project.*
- *The Assessment Report of the current situation of the anti-trafficking data collection system in the RM, developed as part of the “Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings - Stage 1 (THB/IF/1)” Project, funded by the European Commission and implemented by ICMPD in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, RM and Turkey in cooperation with the France Expertise Internationale and International Foundation of Public Policies Administration of Spain, following the assessment mission of 18-19 April 2013.*

- *The fifth Progress Report of the European Commission on the implement of the Action Plan RM-UE on visa liberalization.*
- *Report “Evaluation of migration risks and cross-border crime, containing a strategic analysis of THB according to the data accumulated during the first quarter of 2013”.*
- *Study on the assessment of the regulatory framework and practices in child justice in RM, March 2014, developed with the support of UNICEF in RM.*
- Research to evaluate the needs in prevention and combating of domestic violence, developed by Brigitt Haller with the support of OSCE in RM, 2013.

During 2013 NCCAP published and disseminated the booklet “Labor in adolescence”, publication for professionals (teachers, psychologists, labor inspectors, owners of enterprises, LPA representatives, social workers, etc.). The booklet is an instrument to guide/inform the children willing to perform various works, as well as to prevent involvement of children in dangerous and heavy works²⁸.

International co-operation

5. GRETA considers that the Moldovan authorities should enhance international co-operation in the criminal and non-criminal fields by concluding agreements with countries where Moldovan nationals are trafficked to

On 5-6 December 2013, under “Improving criminal justice responses to Trafficking in Persons in South Eastern Europe with a focus on Moldova” Project, UNDOC in partnership with the RM Government organized in Chisinau the regional conference “Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in South Eastern Europe – Combating Abuse of the Internet and Strengthening Cross-border Intelligence Sharing”.

The regional conference, with particular geographical focus on the South Eastern Europe region aimed to improve coordinated answer to the most recent trends of THB through approaching the available modus operandi and to enhance cooperation between national and international anti-trafficking stakeholders by the means of:

- criminal intelligence analysis;
- joint investigation teams, awareness-raising campaigns on abuse of on-line technologies;
- cooperation mechanisms between all stakeholders involved in assisting and protecting the victims of THB, including children, through human rights based approach;
- address the abuse of the Internet for trafficking in persons;
- best practices regarding the modalities of overcoming the existing challenges;
- strengthening the transnational cooperation between law enforcement agencies on protection and prosecutions issues.

The purpose of the Regional Conference was also to improve formal and informal regional cooperation between existing national coordination mechanisms and their criminal justice institutions that deal with human trafficking in the RM and other countries of the SEE region and the EU. For this purpose, relevant national representatives, as well as the representatives of international and regional organizations and institutions exchanged their expertise and best practices in the effective use of formal and informal mechanisms for international law enforcement cooperation.

The Conference was attended by: Mr. Nicolas LE COZ, President of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms. Joy NGOZY EZEILO, UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, as well as national experts and other specialists from more than 15 countries.

²⁸ http://issuu.com/adelinas/docs/brosura_munca_in_adolescenta?e=6696510/2321272

MFAEI initiated consular consultations with the United Arab Emirates, planned for the second quarter of 2014.

At the same time, the opening of the RM Embassy in Doha facilitated the consultation and cooperation with the authorities from that region.

Strengthening the consular presence of the RM in Northern Italy is a subject of high importance. Thus, the General Consulate of the RM in Milano and the RM Consulate in Padova were opened in November 2013. Given that most of the Moldovan citizens are located in Northern Italy, these missions provide access to consular offices to over 106.000 RM citizens settled in this region of the country, of the 147.519 citizens domiciled formally in Italy.

In addition, diplomatic missions were opened in the countries with a significant number of RM citizens, such as Netherlands, Qatar and Canada.

The Cooperation Agreements between the RM and EU Member States on European integration envisage cooperation and experience sharing, including in prevention and combating of THB.

During the MIA reform, in order to improve the international police cooperation a Center for International Police Cooperation was established in the GPI, which encompasses Interpol, Europol and SELEC/GUAM Virtual Center and has the mission to facilitate international sharing of police intelligence and interstate cooperation for crime prevention.

During the first round of negotiations on the Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation between the RM and European Police Office the final draft Agreement was agreed and was submitted for inter-agency endorsement. It is expected to be signed by the end of 2014.

In addition, the RM is part of a series of international acts that regulate the international cooperation in criminal area and combating of crimes, such as: European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 20 April 1959, Strasbourg; Convention of CIS Member States on Legal Assistance and Legal Relations in Civil, Family and Criminal Matters, 22.01.1993, Minsk; Cooperation Agreement of Ministries of Internal Affairs of CIS Member States in Combating Crimes, 24.04.1992, Almaty; Convention on Police Cooperation for South-East Europe (Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Macedonia, RM, Romania and State Union of Serbia and Montenegro). The exchange of intelligence, international rogatory commissions and joint team investigations are done on the basis thereof.

Awareness raising and education

6. GRETA considers that the Moldovan authorities should continue their efforts to raise the awareness of the general public concerning THB. In parallel to this, the authorities should take steps to design and implement tailor-made preventive measures for groups particularly vulnerable to THB with a view to informing them in a convincing manner about the dangers of trafficking. Awareness-raising campaigns, education in schools and training of relevant professionals should aim at promoting gender equality and eradicating gender-based violence and the stigmatisation of victims of THB

Launching of the website www.antitrafic.gov.md was the largest action conducted in 2013 with the view to *raise public awareness and educate the large public*. In addition, PS came up with an innovative approach to the implementation of the relevant subchapter from the National Plan on the organization of the *“Anti-Trafficking Week” National Campaign* in 2012 (for the first time) and then in 2013, which consisted of a wide range of anti-trafficking actions, such as: public courses, round tables, information and awareness raising spots, movies, exhibitions of photographs, TV programs. Two instruments launched during the “Anti-Trafficking Week” National Campaign were the screening of “The Path of Shame” movie for 350 viewers by IC “La Strada” in partnership with

PS, and the Forum Theater entitled “Act on the Stage for Security in Life”, made by “Youth for the Right to Life” NGO from Balti, promoted and supported by the PS. The play was staged in Chisinau municipality and in the rayons of: Donduseni/ Taul, Drochia, Soroca, Orhei, Balti, and Ungheni.

During 2013 a number of information and communication activities on visa liberalization were carried out, which also approached issues related to the combating and prevention of THB.

During 2012-2013, MIA and the relevant Non-Government Organizations, organized and carried out over 80 informational seminars in educational institutions of the country.

During March-June 2013, the LPA and IC “La Strada” organized the awareness raising campaign “Any trafficked person has the right to be protected”. This campaign aimed at informing the large public and trafficked persons about the opportunities of legal protection in case of trafficking and exploitation. Two video spots were produced during the campaign, that reflect the new trends in trafficking of women and men, and debriefings were organized in the rayons of Soldanesti, Nisporeni, Calarasi, Hincești, Causeni and Telenesti for 164 professionals, representatives of LPA, social assistance services and law enforcement bodies from these rayons. The hotline 0800 77777 was promoted during this campaign as an instrument to access the assistance and protection for victims of THB, as well as to encourage victims to contact the law enforcement bodies, including by providing legal assistance to victims of THB, especially to children.

On 7 February 2013, IC “La Strada” signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with CCTP in order to establish a partnership that would improve the operation of the National Hotline, which provides information about issues related to migration.

At the same time, during the second quarter of 2013, the hotline from CCTP received 10 notifications of crimes, which were recorded in the Register of Crime Notifications “R-2”. The received information was examined, which resulted in four decisions issued, two notification sent to relevant authorities, 3 notifications are still under examination, and one criminal case started.

The Hotline 0800 77777 received over 5100 calls. Of all calls, 4400 were made to get information about the danger and consequences of the THB phenomenon in order to prevent potential exploitation, and over 300 were SOS calls from (alleged) trafficked victims.

PS, in cooperation with IC “La Strada”, carried out a number of activities aimed at promoting a safer internet for children, thus preventing online abuse and exploitation of children.

In its turn, the MoH conducted in 2013 ten consultations on reproductive health, with the participation of health workers from the Reproductive Health Offices and Youth-Friendly Health Centers. The meetings focused on a series of subjects related to reproductive health, including THB and the social danger of this phenomenon, as well as other related issues. This information was disseminated to the population via health workers.

MoEd, via the volunteers of IC “La Strada”, conducted in educational institutions 13 workshops for 690 people (665 students and 25 teachers) on THB and the social danger of this phenomenon.

The leaflet “Heavy words hurt” was published and distributed during the campaign with the same name, which was organized by NCCAP and was launched on 5 October 2013. The leaflet is a source of information for parents, explaining to them how to avoid the emotions abuse of adolescents²⁹.

The MFAEI places periodically information on prevention and combating of THB on social networks and on the official website of the ministry, diplomatic missions and consular offices. In addition, the banner of www.antitrafic.gov.md was placed on the above-mentioned websites.

²⁹ http://www.cnpac.org.md/files/Poster/poster_cretin.JPG

During the reference period, over 1100 events and about 2100 extracurricular activities focused on prevention and combating of THB were organized in **educational institutions**. Taking into account the cyclical nature of the educational process, compulsoriness of *Civic education* and *Class Master's Hour*, and the compulsoriness of curriculum implementation, all students, including those from residential institutions, were included in curricular and extracurricular activities aimed at informing them about the dangers of THB.

In mainstream educational institutions, THB prevention is tackled based on the Curriculum, both during compulsory courses (*"Civic Education"*, *"Class Mater's Hour"* etc.), and optional courses "Education for family life", "Education for human rights", etc., which contribute directly or indirectly to THB prevention.

In cooperation with social partners, the **pre-university educational institutions** carried out various curricular and extracurricular anti-trafficking activities:

- about 20,000 academic hours of *Civic education* and *Class Master's Hour* on this topic and over 3200 extracurricular activities were reported, which involved about 85,000 pupils;
- the parents' associations were involved in the organization of thematic meetings with parents and activities for pupils.

The interactive programs of THB prevention were implemented in **secondary vocational and middle specialized educational institutions** via various activities:

- 1) *Teaching-learning activities* during Class Master's Hour, during the compulsory course *Civic Education*; based on a trans-disciplinary approach;
- 2) *Extracurricular activities* - organized courses, workshops, round tables on prevention of THB-related dangers, attended by teachers, class masters, educational psychologist; implemented information-education-communication projects on THB-related dangerous; developed information/educational materials on THB prevention (wall papers, leaflets, posters and booklets, etc.).

During 2012-2013 the **secondary vocational and middle specialized educational institutions**, which include **41** state-owned colleges, **4** private colleges and **67** secondary vocational educational institutions, coordinated and carried out the following activities:

1. "What is THB?" round table in 9 colleges and 35 VS, attended by 680 pupils;
2. Class Master's Hours: "Place and role of young people in preventing and combating THB" in 19 colleges and 21 VS, attended by 3200 pupils; "CT - the most sinister crime" in 19 colleges and 15 VS, attended by 2300 pupils; "How to stop a trafficker and help prevent the trafficking", in 11 colleges and 27 VS, attended by 1080 pupils; "We have one life only, so do not miss the opportunity to breathe the freedom", in 12 colleges and 9 VS, attended by 700 pupils;
3. Training "National and international legal framework on HBT prevention", in 22 colleges and 45 VS, attended by 5200 pupils;
4. Teachers' Council "Solving the THB problem via the taught courses", in 5 colleges and 3 VS, attended by 480 teachers;
5. "Safeguarding and assisting victims of THB", in 11 colleges and 24 VS, attended by 1170 pupils;
6. Meetings with parents on "Place and role of families in preventing and combating THB", in 22 colleges and 19 VS, attended by 2340 parents;
7. The play "La vita e dolce", staged in 11 colleges and 9 VS, seen by 850 pupils.

During the second quarter of 2013, the secondary vocational and middle specialized educational institutions coordinated and carried out the following activities:

- round table "THB - a severe violation of human rights", in 11 colleges, attended by about 305 pupils;
- Class Master's Hours: "Role of young people in preventing and combating THB", in 3 colleges and 35 secondary vocational educational institutions, attended by about 5000 pupils; "Preventing and combating the most sinister crime - CT", in 5 colleges and 17 secondary vocational educational institutions, attended by about 2500 pupils; "Stop the trafficker!", in 10 colleges and 31 secondary

vocational educational institutions, attended by about 2100 pupils; “We have one life only, so do not miss the opportunity to breathe the freedom”, in 9 colleges and 14 secondary vocational educational institutions, attended by about 1000 pupils;

- Workshop “National and international legal framework on HBT prevention”, in 19 colleges and 23 secondary vocational educational institutions, attended by about 900 pupils;
- meetings of Teachers’ Council entitled “Solving the THB problem via the taught courses”, in 8 colleges and 5 secondary vocational educational institutions, attended by about 320 teachers;
- workshop “Safeguarding and assisting victims of THB”, in 8 colleges and 23 secondary vocational educational institutions, attended by about 1070 pupils;
- meeting with parents “Role of families in preventing and combating THB”, in 16 colleges and 21 secondary vocational educational institutions, attended by about 2340 parents;
- meetings with the staff of the Center for THB Combating under the PS, in 19 colleges and 31 secondary vocational educational institutions.

During 2014 the interactive programs of THB prevention were implemented in *secondary vocational and middle specialized educational institutions* via various activities: during Class Master’s Hours (1 hour/week) and compulsory course *Civic education* (1 hour/week), as well as during extracurricular activities focused on prevention of THB-related dangers (*courses, workshops, round tables*), attended by teachers, class masters, parents, educational psychologists. At the same time information-education-communication projects on THB-related dangers were implemented; information/educational materials on THB prevention (wall papers, leaflets, posters and booklets, etc.) were developed.

In 2013, the **higher educational institutions** coordinated and carried out the following activities, aimed at prevention and combating of THB:

- information campaigns for students about the dangers and consequences of THB, in 30 universities, attended by about 30.0 thousand students;
- working meetings with students, monitored by the academic groups’ curators and professors, in SUM, attended by about 1000 students;
- round tables “Indifference in the present-day society” and “Essential values and concepts of the modern society” at the Academy of Economic Studies, Applied Foreign Languages Chair, attended by representatives of academic groups;
- meetings with representatives of law enforcement bodies at the State University of Taracilia, attended by university management and students;
- workshop “An informed woman cannot be trafficked” at the State University of Tiraspol, Debates Club, which includes students from all departments;
- during extra-curricular courses, by studying additionally at *Basics of State, Law and Labor Legislation* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, European Court of Human Rights, European Social Charter;
- annual meetings with parents about the danger of THB and other form of human exploitation, in 30 universities.

The university libraries arranges stands with books and publications, informative materials about the national legal framework on prevention and combating of THB.

In general, all higher educational institutions organize public thematic classes, workshops, extracurricular courses on this topic. Anti-trafficking activities, periodical university publications, trainings, contests are held, thematic T-shirts are produced, wall papers are developed, etc.

The **National Plan for Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2014-2016** includes a separate section “Awareness raising and education of the large public”, which shall be implemented through a series of activities.

Social, economic and other initiatives for groups vulnerable to trafficking in human beings

7. GRETA urges the Moldovan authorities to strengthen the aspect of prevention through social and economic empowerment measures for groups vulnerable to THB. Such measures should be based on the identified root causes of THB (economic and social conditions, poverty, inadequate education, absence of employment opportunities, etc.) and should aim to decrease and ultimately eliminate these causes

Taking into account that THB is caused by the socially-economic situation of the population and the limited opportunities in the country, during 2012, 2013 and 2014 (1st quarter), the MoE developed a series of economic programs via ODIMM, aimed at preventing THB via small and medium investments. Thus, the following results were achieved during this period:

1. Efficient Business Management (EBM) is a program designed for entrepreneurs of any age, with any form of legal organization, who want to improve their entrepreneurial skills for an efficient management of their businesses.

During the reporting period, under GEA Program 4429 people were trained in 148 training courses. Off all trained, **2220 were women (50%)**.

Indicators	2012	2013	2014
Trainings	57	91	-
Trained persons, including women	1732	2697	-
	737	1483	
Localities	14	25	-

2. The National Program of Economic Empowerment of Youth (PNAET) is a program designed for young people, aged between **18 and 30** years, who was to develop their entrepreneurial skills, start up or extend their own business in the rural area in agriculture or production, creating thus new jobs.

As part of PNAET, 51 training courses were held, where 1409 people were trained, including 705 women.

Indicators	2012	2013	Q1, 2014
Trainings	20	26	5
Trained persons, including women	577	680	152
	266	374	65

3. “PARE 1+1” pilot program of attracting the remittances into the economy is intended for the migrant workers or their first-degree relatives who want to invest in launching or expanding their own businesses. The Program objective is to mobilize the human and financial resources of Moldovan migrants by fostering the establishment and development of small and medium enterprises.

Under “PARE 1+1” **40 trainings on entrepreneurship** were held, attended by **474** migrants and their relatives of first kinship.

Migrant workers and/or their relatives submitted **488** investment projects under “Funds for Businesses/1+1 Rule”. All requests for funds were reviewed and **370** business ideas were accepted for funding, within the available budget, concluding Grant Agreements in the value of about **MDL 69 million**.

Indicators	18.10.10-31.12.10	01.01.11-31.12.11	01.01.12-31.12.12	01.01.13., 31.12.13	Q1, 2014	TOTAL (18.10.10-31.03.2014)
No of Training Requests	40	240	99	323	228	930
No of Trainings	1	12	5	15	7	40
No of Trained persons	20	215	101	260	151	747
No of Requests for Funds	10	89	148	184	57	488
No of Signed contracts	0	73	69	171	57	370
Women Entrepreneurs	-	23	13	47	11	94
% Women Entrepreneurs	-	31.5%	18.8%	27.4%	20%	25%
Young Entrepreneurs	-	23	24	103, including 66 under 30 years of age and 37 - between 31 and 35 years	35	185
% Young Entrepreneurs	-	31.5%	34.7%	60.2%	61%	50%
Amount of accepted grants, according to contracts (MDL th.)	-	13.14	12.57	32.0	10.97	68.68

4. Business incubators

ODIMM during 2011-2013, in partnership with MoE, local public administration, with the financial support of the European Union, on the basis of the Policy Matrix for the Sector Policy Support Program “Economic Stimulation in the Rural Area” created active incubators in the following rayons: Stefan Voda; Leova; Rezina; Singerei; Dubasari (Cosnita village). At the same time, the business incubator of Soroca has been in operation since 2009. ODIMM coordinates the activity of these incubators.

These **6 active incubators** incubate **85 companies**, which generate together **371 jobs**, including **197 for women**, having the trend to extend the production and service provision process, increase the turnover and generate new jobs. Note that the incubators from the rayons of Singerei and Dubasari (Cosnita village) were opened in 2013 and are during their first year of activity. It is planned to open other 2 incubators in 2014: Nisporeni and Ceadir-Lunga.

NEA also takes measures to modernize and develop its communication channels (*website, portal www.angajat.md*), which inform the target groups about the legal and regulatory framework on employment, services provided, implementation of practices and performance of public activities for beneficiaries of Law No 102/2003³⁰. These channels of information allow to access online information about employment services and employment opportunities in the RM. These channels of information may be accessed by people who are abroad, but want to return back to the country.

One of the measures of THB prevention, implemented by NEA, consists in informing and consulting people via the Call Center - Labor Market. This is an information service intended both for citizens in the country and abroad, which offers a standard package of information about the labor market, services designed for job seekers and employers.

The most frequent calls for information about vacancies, by concrete professions, method of registration with employment agencies, information about social protection measures in case of dismissal; information about jobs in EU countries, method to get employed abroad. The services of the Information Center and Call Center - Labor Market are free. During 2013, the Call Center -

³⁰ Law on employment and social protection of job seekers

Labor Market received 6731 calls, including 12 from abroad, providing thus a standard package of information about the labor market. During the same period the Center staff answered 42 inquiries received by skype and to 66 inquiries received by email.

Though the RM is making efforts to empower economically the vulnerable groups, not all RM citizens are currently using these opportunities. Taking into account that in this situation some of them are leaving for abroad, in order to ensure a process of legal, equitable, transparent and well-informed employment for RM citizens, the RM Government is concluding Cooperation Agreements for temporary employment of all RM citizens who are abroad, thus:

The Agreement between the RM Government and the Government of the Israel on temporary employment of Moldovan workers in constructions in Israel and its Implementation Protocol were enacted on 6 January 2013. During 2013, a total of 217 people were employed with the support of NEA and logistical support of IC "La Strada". These agreements stipulate that the RM citizens, employed on the territory of other states, shall enjoy the same rights and protection as the national workers of the employing country, including with respect to working conditions and fundamental rights of workers, according to the legislation of the employing country.

The main provision of the Moldo-Italian Bilateral Agreement and its Implementation Protocol consist in providing to RM citizens the opportunity to learn Italian, with the possibility to be employed later. In 2013 trainings were held (in Chisinau municipality, Balti municipality and Floresti town) by 4 employers from Italy, with a duration of 1.5 months, for 294 people from RM. The Project beneficiaries will be introduced in the database of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies of Italy, as potential candidates for employment in Italy, for the future vacancies that meet their qualification and/or abilities.

The National Employment Plan for 2014-2016 stipulates:

- Collaboration with specialized NGOs to disseminate information amount THB dangers via the employment agencies.

- Enhancement of the participation of Roma children, in particular Roma girls, in the preschool and pre-university educational system.

 - Identification of Roma children who do not attend regularly the kindergarten and school.

- Development of the network of community centers/services of mental health at the level of rayons.

 - Development of youth-friendly health services.

- Development of child protection and assistance services (mother-child sections, "Respiro" service).

 - Implementation of the ongoing training program "Effective Business Management" (GEA).

 - Implementation of the Pilot Program for Attracting Remittances in Economy (PARE 1 +1).

- Organization of the leisure time activities (development of live skills and prevention of social risks) for children from residential institutions and their peers.

- Support and assistance to adolescents, graduates from boarding secondary school, for them to continue with vocational education and find a job (potential victims of THB).

- Implementation of the National Program of Economic Empowerment of Youth, training component.

 - Provision of mediation services to find a job for unemployed victims of THB.

- Provision of professional orientation and training services, correlated to the labor market needs, according to the current legislation on employment.

- Provision of information and professional counseling services in order to increase the professional integration changes for victims of THB.

- Provision of social protection in case of unemployment according to the current legislation on employment.

RM Parliament's **Law No. 270 of 07.11.2013** on Amendments and Addenda to Some Legislative Acts was adopted, which provides for amendment of Article 168. Forced Labor, Criminal Code³¹ of the RM, which stipulates that:

³¹Law No 270 of 07.11.2013

“(1) Forcing a person to work against his/her will by means of coercion or deception, unless this action meets the elements of THB or CT, shall be punished by imprisonment from 2 to 6 years.

(2) The same action carried out:

a) against two or more people;

b) against a child able to work or a pregnant woman;

c) by two or more people;

d) by a public person, a person in position of accountability, a person in position of public dignity, by a foreign public person or an international official

shall be punished with imprisonment between 6 and 10 years, with deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or to exercise certain activities for a period of 2 to 5 years, and the legal entity shall be punished with a fine from 1000 to 2500 conventional units³² with deprivation of the right to conduct a certain activity or with the liquidation of the legal persons.

(3) The actions stipulated in para (1) or (2):

a) conducted by a criminally organized group or by a criminal organization;

b) resulting in severe bodily or health injuries of victim’s death,

shall be punished with imprisonment between 7 and 15 years, and the legal entity shall be punished with a fine from 1500 to 3000 conventional units, with the liquidation of the legal entity.”

8. GRETA also urges the Moldovan authorities to ensure the registration of all children at birth as a prevention measure against trafficking

In order to implement Article VII (3) of Law 187 on the Amendment and Supplementing of Certain Legislative Acts, Law 167 of 11 July 2012, GD No 125 of 18.02.2013 approving the Regulation on Issuance of Identity Documents and Records of the Population of Moldova was approved.

When issuing identity documents, the minors and persons placed under guardianship or trusteeship shall be identified by the legal representative on the basis of the affidavit submitted in writing to the person in charge from “CRIS Registru” State-Owned Enterprise or from the Diplomatic Missions and Consular Offices of the RM.

The children left without parental care or maintained by the Government shall be identified by the guardianship authority or by the management of the respective institution, according to the legal provisions.

The statement birth registration can be made:

- at the Civil Status Office, serving the jurisdiction where the birth took place or where the child’s parents are domiciled;
- at the Mayor’s Office of the jurisdiction where the birth took place or where the child’s parents are domiciled;
- at the Diplomatic Missions and Consular Offices of the RM is the birth took place abroad.

Since 2008, the Child’s Birth Certificate can be obtained before release from the health care facility³³. For this it is necessary to contact the Specialized Office of Civil Status Documents Registration from the health care facility where the birth took place.

The persons who have attained the age of majority, and have not been identified before contacting the Civil Status Office, or whose previous identification cannot be proven, shall be identified on the basis of a written affidavit submitted by the applicant ‘s spouse or a relative of 1-3 kinship. In such cases, if possible, additional supporting documents shall be submitted, issued by the local public

³²The conventional unit for the fine is 20 MDL. Criminal Code, Article 64(2)

³³Joint Order of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Information Development No 114/476 of 12.12.2008

authority or another Government agency, which has information about the respective person (service record, pensioner's card, certificate from the place of education or work, travel document, etc.), if this helps to identify the person's identity.

If the persons, who should be identified, owns an identity document issued by the authorities of another stated, this document shall be equivalent with the statement of the applicant's spouse or relative of 1-3 kinship.

Since 1 January 2012, the Moldovan citizens who live abroad can submit applications to diplomatic missions and consular offices of the RM to receive a biometric passport. All embassies and consulates of the RM, with no exceptions, have been equipped with special devices to collect biometric data from applicants. The new biometric passport is aligned to ICAO standards and contains a series of security elements recommended by ICAO 9.

To ensure implementation of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of New York, Article 32 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and Article 34 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which the RM is part of, Law No 24 of 13 March 2014 approved the amendments to the Citizenship Law of the Republic of Moldova No 1024-XIV of 6 June 2000. According to these amendments:

- On 5 July 2014, the procedure for foreign citizens to obtain the RM citizenship was simplified, by excluding the request to give up on the citizenship of the other state.

- A larger significance was assigned to the notion of "legal and habitual residence", by specifying that the quality of citizen through naturalization is offered to those who "live legally" on the territory of the country. This clarification was necessary in order to meet the requirements of Article 6 of the European Convention on Nationality of 1997.

- In addition, besides the categories of stateless persons and refugees, the beneficiaries of political asylum were granted the right to obtain the RM citizenship through naturalization, provided that they respect the requirement of legal and continuous stay during 8 years on the territory of the country.

- In order to establish the mechanism to count the naturalization period for aliens who request the RM citizen through naturalization, the Law was complemented with the provision stipulating that the period of legal and continuous stay shall be calculated from the date when the RM authorities authorized the stay on the territory of the country.

- The stay authorization date is the date then the competent authorities issued the document confirming the alien's right to stay on the territory of the RM. The legal and continuous stay is proved by presenting official documents, issued by the competent authorities of the RM on the basis of information from the State Population Register.

9. GRETA urges the Moldovan authorities to take steps to secure the registration of all persons from vulnerable groups for social services, both as a prevention measure and in order to avoid re-trafficking

Community support service³⁴ that operates at the level of each rayon and aims at identifying persons in difficulty and facilitating their access to social benefits and services, as well as mobilizing the community in order to prevent and solve the situations of difficulty.

Likewise, the MLSPF is implementing the project "Software for the automation of "Social Assistance" information system. The project has the general objective to develop, install and obtain a safe operational system, ensure guarantee services for the use of modern technologies in order to

³⁴ Order of the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child No 54 of 10 June 2009

develop a software for the informational system for social assistance service, that include social benefits and social services.

According to the specific objectives of the “Social Assistance” Automated Information System (SAAIS) will perform several tasks, including: serve as a working tool for social workers, integrate indispensable sources of information needed for the management, analysis and planning of social assistance system, provide to users information in the form of reports, keep records of data about applicants and beneficiaries of social assistance, record requests for social aid or private of public social services, allow viewing of the stored information.

SAAIS is developed as part of the Strengthening the Effectiveness of the Social Safety Net Project, implemented by the MLSPF with World Bank support. The system will also allow selective interrogation in order to obtain the necessary information for the development of a specific policy. Additionally, the system will offer the entire package of budgetary and accounting information.

As a result of project implementation, the MLSPF will develop a more targeted and better managed system of cash benefits, and an enhanced system of social protection.

Border measures to prevent trafficking in human beings

10. GRETA considers that the Moldovan authorities should make further efforts to:

- detect cases of THB in the context of border controls

According to **Law on Border Police** No 215 of 28.12.2011, the Border Guard Service of the RM was reorganized into the Border Police, which is a public administration authority subordinated to the MIA, and was assigned new duties related to combating cross-border crime, criminal prosecution and expert review of travel documents.

Besides the duties of the Border Guard Service, the Border Police was assigned duties related to combating cross-border crime, criminal prosecution and expert review of travel documents.

In order to improve the activity of BPD related to the identification of THB and CT cases, the BPD focused on:

- strengthening of the border police capacity by developing relevant training modules and integrating them in the curriculum of the Police Academy and National College of Border Police;
- signing of the Cooperation Agreement with CCTP for sharing information and strengthening the risk analysis and integrity of the analytical resources in the activity of the border police, aimed at identifying cases. The Agreement also provides for the organization of joint operations for prevention and combating of THB at the border.

Improving the cooperation with EUBAM Mission in order to strengthen the identification capacity and develop the standard operational procedure for case identification and work with victims at the border.

Note that MFAEI, with the support of IOM Mission in Moldova launched the “Travel Document” module of “Consul” information system. Since August 2013, this information system has a function that notifies automatically the competent authorities (MIA and MLSPF) when a travel document is issued to victims of THB.

- introduce a checklist to identify potential trafficking-related risks during the visa application system

MFAEI, together with the IOM Mission in RM, IC “La Strada” and PS, organized two trainings³⁵ for the staff of the diplomatic missions of the RM abroad in identification of victims of THB (02.07.2013 and 12.12.2013). The first training was intended exclusively for the diplomats detached to work in the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the RM abroad, and the second training was intended for the staff of the MFAEI head office.

The discussions focused on the role of diplomatic missions in identification of victims of THB, provision of assistance and eventually prevention of such situations abroad and the expectations of the central specialized public authorities from the staff of diplomatic missions and consular offices for identification of THB cases.

- provide employees of the Border Guard Service with training in order to increase their capacity to proactively detect cases of human trafficking

During 2013, the BPD of MIA organized seminars, trainings, workshops on THB combating, and representatives of BPD were delegated to participate in round tables and seminars, organized in this area by various international organizations.

Thus, we underline the following:

- on 18.04.2013, representatives of BPD participated in the workshop “Assessment of the system of collecting, analyzing and exchanging data on THB in RM”, held under “Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings - Stage 1 (THB/IFS/1)” Project, funded by the European Commission and implemented in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, RM and Turkey by ICMPD ;

- on 13.09.2013, representative of BPD participated in the workshop “Rights, Rehabilitation, and Restitution: The Compensation of the victims of THB in Moldova”, organized by the PS of NC CTHB;

- on 17.09.2013, managers of special investigation and criminal prosecution divisions of BPD participated in the bilateral meeting with representatives of the PS of NC CTHB in order to develop the new National Plan for 2014-2016;

- on 4 October 2013, in Chisinau municipality the border police participated in the training on human trafficking in management of migrants flows, organized by EUBAM;

- on 1 November 2013, Chisinau municipality, representatives of BPD participated in the joint meeting with CCTP in order to improve the activity of both institutions;

- during 08-14 December 2013, representatives of BPD participated in the workshop “Combating THB and Human Rights”, held in Minsk, Belarus;

- during 20-24 January 2014, in Chisinau, representatives of the Border Police participated in trainings on THB;

- during 02-04 April 2014, in Iasi, Romania, a representative of BPD participated in the fourth workshop for professionals from Romania, Ukraine and the RM, part of the cross-border project for THB prevention.

Identification of victims of trafficking in human beings

11. GRETA urges the Moldovan authorities to:

- develop and implement further measures to identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable groups, including women from socially disadvantaged families, women subjected to domestic violence, young people leaving residential care institutions, as well as men in economically disadvantaged situation

³⁵ <http://antitrafic.gov.md/libview.php?l=ro&idc=94&id=319&t=/Presa/Stiri-si-Evenimente/PROGRAMUL-DE-INSTRUIRE-Identificarea-si-referirea-catre-protectie-si-asistenta-a-victimelor-si-potentialelor-victime-a-trafficului-de-fiinte-umane-Rolul-functionarului-consular>

Pro-active identification of victims and potential victims of THB is extremely important and represents a priority vector in actions taken against THB phenomenon. It both prevents re-victimization of trafficked persons and the THB phenomenon by providing the necessary assistance to potential victims.

For purposes of pro-active identification of victims of THB, *Guidelines on identification of victims and potential victims of THB* were developed with the support of IOM and IC “La Strada”, approved by Order of the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family No 33 of 20 February 2012. These Guidelines are an operational tool that establishes the way of intervention of central public authorities, local public authorities, civil society, nongovernmental organizations, social service providers, who have responsibilities related to prevention and combating of THB. These Guidelines provide the methodology on how to identify victims and potential victims of THB and the inter-sectoral cooperation procedures, and aim at protecting the legal rights and interests of the beneficiaries.

In 2013, at the initiative of MFAEI, with the support of IOM Mission to RM and in partnership with IC “La Strada”, 2 training sessions were organized (*7 July 2013 and 12 December 2013*), on identification and referral of victims and potential victims of THB to assistance. The training sessions were attended by about 50 professionals from various divisions of the MFAEI, who were supposed to be delegated to the diplomatic and consular missions of RM during 2013-2014. A specific element of these trainings, compared to the similar ones in the previous years, was that the agenda included a topic on collaboration of diplomatic and consular missions with the specialized institutions from the country of destination and RM on adoption and investigation of THB causes.

Development services for the potential staff are provided as part of the programs implemented by the Centers of assistance and protection to victims of THB, nongovernmental organizations and IO. A positive example in this respect is the Public Association “Insula Sperantelor” (Island of Hope), which aims at socializing via professional development: assistance to adolescents and young people from socially-vulnerable families, orphans, victims of THB, persons with behavior disorders, former inmates, people with disabilities. “Insula Sperantelor” deals with training young people from socially-vulnerable groups (orphans, social orphans). After finishing the studies they are helped to find a job. The graduates of “Insula Sperantelor” courses are demanded on the labor market of the RM, because competitive training allows forming professional knowledge, skills and competences requested at the workplace in line with employer requirements, even during the economy crisis, when the competition of labor force increases because of job scarcity.

RM Government Decision No 732 of 16.09.2013 established the Republican Center for Psycho-pedagogical Support and 35 rayon/municipal psycho-pedagogical support services that provide assistance to the professionals within services; support teachers; psychologists within preschool, primary and mainstream secondary educational institutions; other professionals involved in educational inclusion; local public authorities; children and their families.

In order to optimize the identification of THB-specific risk groups, CCTP improved the mechanism of data collection in their area of competence and strengthened their analysis skills. As a result, in late 2013 they started working on a report of strategic analysis of this phenomenon based on the data accumulated during the entire year. It will be launched at the end of semester 1 of 2014. This report underlies the development of the specific risk profiles, which will be subsequently sent to all stakeholders with responsibilities in prevention and combating of THB.

RM Government Decision No 557 of 17.07.2013 approving the framework regulation on the organization of community mediator’s activity regulates the organization and conduct of community mediator’s activity in the localities with compact or mixed Roma population, responsible to efficiently ensure the access of beneficiaries to social assistance, education, health care, employment, documentation, living standard improvement, as well as to other services if needed, by means of efficient communication with the line institutions from the locality.

- improve the actions for a better identification of victims and potential victims of THB among children left without parental care, orphan children placed in institutions and any other categories of children susceptible to trafficking in human beings

During 2011-2013, MLSPF together with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies of Italy and IOM in RM implemented the project “Addressing the Negative Effects of Migration on Minors and Families Left Behind”. A quantitative survey was conducted during 2012, under the Project, aimed at identifying children in difficulty, including the ones left without the care of their family members who are abroad; as a result of it, an electronic database was created, disaggregated by localities and administrative-territorial units, which includes the assessments of over 168 thousand children. The following was found after the electronic processing of questionnaires:

- 168,081 - total number of children respondents from 65,534 households.

Out of all households, 53% have one child, 31% have two children, 11% have three children, 5% have four or more children.

Out of the total number, 105,270 (62.6%) children have one or both of their parents abroad:

- 21,625 children without both parents – 20.5%;
- 53,695 children with the father abroad - 51%;
- 29,950 children with the mother abroad – 28.5%.

Out of all the children, 62,811 (37.4%) children are in difficulty.

Out of all surveyed children:

- 56,448 children live with both parents, of whom about 20 thousand have had migration experience;
- 61 thousand children live with the mother;
- 29,377 children live with the grandparents;
- 12,349 children live with the father;
- 5,297 children live with relatives of III-IV degree of kinship;
- 2,010 children live with adult siblings;
- 670 children live with third parties;
- 374 children live with minor siblings;
- 175 children live alone.

In order to optimize the identification of THB-specific risk groups, CCTP improved the mechanism of data collection in their area of competence and strengthened their analysis skills. As a result, in late 2013 they started working on a report of strategic analysis of this phenomenon based on the data accumulated during the entire year. It will be launched at the end of semester 1 of 2014. This report underlies the development of the specific risk profiles regarding children, which will be subsequently sent to all stakeholders with responsibilities in prevention and combating of THB, including to police in the territories and border police.

- enhance efforts to identify victims of THB subjected to exploitation within Moldova (both Moldovan and foreign nationals)

Another tool used in this respect is the project “Strengthening Republic of Moldova capacity to manage labour and return migration within the framework of the mobility partnership with the EU” under which the Automated Information System “Record-keeping of Labor Force Migration” (AIS RLFM) was established, which is one of the elements used to keep records of migrant workers in RM and provides users the possibility to register, store and provide data about labor migration in the RM. The Automated Information System “Record-keeping of Labor Force Migration” (AIS RLFM) was interconnected with the databases of MIA, Tax Inspectorate, “CRIS Registru” SOE and the Border Police.

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Through Law No 236 of 26.10.2012 amendments were made to the Law No 241-XVI of 20.10.2005 on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Law No 200 of 16.07.2010 on the Regime for Aliens in the Republic of Moldova, in order to regulate the mechanism of providing residence permits for foreigners that are victims of THB.

Given the provision of Article 20 of the Law No 241-XVI din 20 October 2005 on Prevention and Combating of THB, there was approved RM Government Decision No. 210 of 24.03.2014 on facilities for the issuance of identity documents in order to provide protection and assistance for the envisaged category of citizens. Thus, victims of THB were included in the list of beneficiaries of facilities for the issuance of the identity card and temporary identity card.

In July 2013, CCTP signed an Agreement of Cooperation with the State Labor Inspectorate on prevention and early identification of THB for labor exploitation and forced labor. Joint operations and exchange of data will be organized with this institution in order to prevent and combat such cases. Currently, they work on the enhancement of the regulatory framework for the State Labor Inspectorate, which allows for the efficient accomplishment of the set objectives. Optimizing the functionality of this agreement is one of the activities foreseen in the Action Plan for the prevention and combating of THB for 2014-2016.

In 2013 a THB case was registered, where the victim, a Lebanese citizen was exploited on the territory of RM by another citizen from the same country. This person requested asylum in the RM, not being conditioned by the participation in a criminal trial.

In terms of countries of destination, we found that though in 2013 the geographic dimension of the trafficking offence is different, the largest share - 94% - belongs to THB outside of the country, however compared to the similar period of the previous year, the internal trafficking is slightly increasing, accounting for about 6% of the number of victims, compared to 5% in 2012.

- provide regular training to members of the multidisciplinary teams, employees of the Border Guard Service, labour inspectors, social workers, staff of special institutions for children and other professions who may come into contact with victims of trafficking

With the support of the partners the MLSPF had during the training of social workers, TMT members, including CCTP employees in North, South and Center regions, it was also possible to estimate the cost of these trainings for around 700 professionals.

In this respect, we believe that for future actions it would be necessary to have this good practice replicated by the institutions responsible the capacity building. At the same time, this exercise provides a complete picture of the costs that need to be justified in the medium-term budgetary framework.

Table 1.

Type and number of trainings organized by MLSPF, 2013

Organization in charge	Partners	Organized activities	Target group	Allocated financial resources
PSF In partnership with International		Trainings for members of territorial TMT at rayon and community levels. At the rayon level , in the 5 workshops additional modules were included on the	TMT members	MDL 69900

<p>Organization for Migration, on joint platforms with “Women's Law Center”.</p>	<p>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC);</p> <p>U.S. Department of State;</p> <p>Ministry of External Affairs of Denmark; Red Cross Moldova.</p>	<p>psychological profiles of men, women and children - trafficked victims. The Workshops were held in the following rayons:</p> <p>Soroca (26-27.04.2013); MDL 16961</p> <p>Leova (28-29.05.2013); MDL 9237</p> <p>Riscani (15-16.10.2013); MDL 15716.08</p> <p>Briceni (13-14.11.2013); MDL 19500</p> <p>Ungheni (26-27.11.2013). MDL 8486</p> <p>At the community level 8 training workshops were organized for TMT members from villages and communes:</p> <p>Comrat (19-21.02.2013); MDL 27760</p> <p>Calarasi (26-28.02.2013); MDL 17199</p> <p>Chisinau (04-05.02.2013);</p> <p>Dubasari (16.05.2013); MDL 18096</p> <p>Dubasari (17.05.2013); MDL 12900</p> <p>Orhei (22-23.05.2013); MDL 23940</p> <p>Basarabasca (24.05.2013) MDL 19060</p> <p>Soroca (24-27.09.2013) MDL 46185</p>		
			<p>TMT members from villages and communes</p>	<p>MDL 165140</p>
<p>MLSPF</p> <p>CAP</p>	<p>In partnership and with the support of IOM</p>	<p>5 monitoring workshop for the rayon and community TMT, with the involvement of trainers from the Center for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of THB from Chisinau municipality.</p> <p>Stefan-Voda – 16.08.2013; MDL 5755</p> <p>Causeni – 19.08.2013; MDL 6400</p> <p>Cimislia – 21.08.2013; MDL 6843</p> <p>Orhei – 22.08.2013; MDL 3603</p> <p>Criuleni – 23.08.2013. MDL 6505</p>	<p>Rayon and community TMT</p>	<p>MDL 29106</p>
<p>MLSPF</p> <p>CAP</p>	<p>In partnership and with the support of IOM</p>	<p>3 monitoring sessions of rayon TMT:</p> <p>4 December 2013: Singerei rayon; Dubasari rayon; Florești rayon - MDL 2675</p> <p>5 December 2013: Cantemir rayon; Leova rayon; Rezina rayon. - MDL 3200</p> <p>17 December 2013: Hincesti rayon; Cimislia rayon; Causeni rayon - MDL 3000</p>	<p>Rayon TMT</p>	<p>MDL 8875</p>

<p>MLSFP</p> <p>Center for Combating Human Trafficking (CCTP)</p>	<p>In partnership and with the support of IOM</p>	<p>three round tables entitled “Cooperation of police officers with the district TMT coordinators within NSR”, for the TMTs from Center, North and South regions.</p> <p>Goal: improve the cooperation between specialized police officers and the TMT coordinators;</p> <p>Center Region, 24 April 2013: MDL 3600</p> <p>Rayons: Dubasari, Calarasi, Orhei, Straseni, Hincești, Nisporeni, Ialoveni and Criuleni;</p> <p>North Region, 13 December 2013: MDL 14372</p> <p>Rayons: Balti, Briceni, Donduseni, Drochia, Edinet, Falesti, Floresti, Glodeni, Ocnita, Soroca, Singerei, Telenesti, Soldanesti, Riscani and Rezina;</p> <p>South Region, 20 December 2013: MDL 15900</p> <p>Rayons: Cahul, Basarabasca, Cantemir, Causeni, Cimislia, Ciadir-Lunga, Comrat, Leova, Stefan-Voda, Taraclia and Vulcanesti;</p>	<p>Officers of the “Center” Investigation Office of the CCTP.</p> <p>Officers of the “North” Investigation Office of the CCTP.</p> <p>Officers of the “South” Investigation Office of the CCTP.</p> <p>Coordinators of the rayon TMT</p>	<p>MDL 33872</p>
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During May 12-16 2014, the training within NRS for the multidisciplinary community team from Hincesti was held.

During 2013, training sessions were organized and implemented for the **health workers** from Chisinau and rayons of Comrat, Calarasi, Dubasari, Ceadir Lunga, Orhei, Basarabasca, Soroca on: Protection and assistance of victims of THB and domestic violence within NRS. The training for health workers in protection and assistance of victims of THB and domestic violence within NRS was supported by IOM in Moldova, in partnership with the Red Cross Society Moldova. A total of 433 doctors/medical workers were trained.

Also, the responsible persons from the MoH, experienced in development and monitoring of the prevention and combating of THB policy, participated on 7-8 November 2013 in the training on approaching the anti-trafficking action from a human rights perspective in the context of developing the National Plan for 2014 - 2016.

The revision activities and the adaptation of the continuous learning programs, under the supervision of the **Institute of Educational Sciences**, are continuous, including the prevention issues of THB, the labour exploitation of children, domestic violence, school abandonment, health education, etc.

According to the Order of the Minister of Education No 975 of 03.12.2012 on the “Approval of the continuous professional training of the academic and management staff for 2013 in the institutions responsible for continuous education, during the respective time period, the following teaching staff categories were trained on to specific educational issues for abuse, neglect and THB prevention.

Table 2.

Number of trained specialists from educational institutions

Trained teaching staff categories	2012	2013	2014 (May)
<i>School psychologists</i>	25 persons	100 persons	57 persons
<i>Civic Education</i>	75 persons	75 persons	35 persons
<i>Social assistance</i>	25 persons	50 persons	14 persons
<i>Social Pedagogy</i>	25 persons	75 persons	38 persons
<i>Boarding school educators</i>	25 persons	25 persons	15 persons
<i>Deputy Directors in charge of Education</i>	50 persons	50 persons	20 persons
Total	225 persons	375 persons	179 persons

The general rayon/municipal departments for education, youth and sport have coordinated at the local level the training on the respective topics, developing action plans whenever needed, programs, informational materials for the teaching staff involved in the educational process. Taking into account the specific education problems and the need to include all categories of children in programs of prevention and combating of destructive social phenomena, the responsible institutions for professional training in cooperation with the Child Rights Information and Documentation Centre have organized several training sessions on various topics for the teaching staff: School Psychologists, Civic Education, Social Work, Social pedagogy, Boarding school educators, Deputy Education Manager, the praxis of class masters, stress management, inclusive education, management of school - family - community partnership”, the prevention of the deviant student behavior, psycho-somatic methods of self-regulation, the narrative psychotherapy in counseling, etc.

During 2012-2013 the professionals from SUM and IC “La Strada” developed the curriculum for the optional course “Promotion of harmonic relationships while courting”. The curriculum is interdisciplinary, and can be taught during the classes with the class master, civic education or as an optional course and extracurricular one. The curriculum was validated during two consulting workshops with the teachers, who have experience in teaching *Civic Education* from 7 rayons and Chisinau municipality. Based on the curriculum, the course materials were developed.

In June 2013, the Rayon Councils from Leova and Orhei in partnership with NCCAP organized 15 sectoral training workshops for the TMT members from all the rayons, where the intersectoral cooperation mechanism was extended. During the workshops, 338 professionals were trained on how to apply the mechanism: 17 representatives of the level one LPA (of whom 14 were mayors), 81 social workers, 35 inspectors of community interaction, 125 persons from the staff of medical - sanitary institutions, 80 teaching staff (educational leaders/ coordinators of activities on prevention, identification, reporting and referral of cases of child abuse, neglect and exploitation cases).

During September-November 2013, the Rayon Councils of Leova and Orhei, in partnership with NCCAP have organized 14 regional workshops of supervision for the multidisciplinary teams from 10 locations from these rayons, where the intersectoral cooperation mechanism was extended for the identification, referral, assistance and monitoring of children, victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation, and trafficking. During the workshops, the specialists had the

opportunity to exchange experience on the results and problems related to identification within the application of the intersectoral mechanism and to practice as a team using this mechanism. 263 specialists from 63 localities have participated at the supervision activities: 54 representatives of level one LPA (22 - mayors and 32 secretaries of the local Councils/local councilors), 59 social workers, 23 policemen, 37 staff representatives of the health care facilities, 85 teaching staff (headmasters/educational leaders/coordinators of activities on prevention, identification, reporting and referral of cases of child abuse, neglect and exploitation, 5 representatives of other institutions/services (priests, psychologists, NGO).

In the **National Plan for Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2014 - 2016** several specific activities are planned.

- ensure that the multidisciplinary teams, local police officers, social workers and other relevant stakeholders adopt a more proactive approach and increase their outreach work to identify victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

In 2013 the Regulation and the Minimum Quality Standards on the organization and functioning of the Free Telephone Service for children were developed and approved (the MLSPF Order No 99/2013).

The child's telephone is a highly specialized social service that provides free services to children and their parents or caregivers.

The provided services will include psychological-emotional counseling, information, and consultancy regarding the protection of the child. In addition, this service will represent an information mechanism for third parties, who want to notify a case of a child in need of assistance. A Mobile Team will be established in the Call Center, which will be responsible for the cases notified through the Child's Telephone, reachable by the unique number 116(XXX). The service will be implemented in 2014, for which financial sources were planned in the state budget, in the value of MDL 794.2 millions.

During 2013, 3 round tables were organized, aiming at strengthening the capacities of the rayon TMT coordinators in the context of cooperation - identification and reciprocal and unconditional referral of the beneficiaries and the inclusion in the identification process of the THB victims of the police officers from the mentioned structured, etc.

The experience of the CCTP and regional offices in risk analysis, cooperation with the social services during 2012-2013 are projected at the level of territorial inspectorates by improving the standard operational procedures in identifying and working with the victims, and are included in the National Plan for 2014-2016.

During 12-13 June 2013, an international working session was organized jointly with the EC/ISEC Payoke Project, entitled "Joint efforts of the police and health authorities from the EU member states and third countries for combating and preventing THB, assistance and protection of victims". During this workshop, various subjects were addressed, including topics concerning the medical and psychological profile of the victims of THB, women, men and children.

- encourage NGOs to enhance their proactive involvement in the identification of victims and potential victims of THB

Throughout March - November 2012, IC "La Strada" organized an awareness raising campaign "Travel carefully, taking care of children". The goal aimed at promoting child-friendly tourism and IT in RM and at raising travelers' awareness of the issue of sexual exploitation of children.

During the campaign informative materials and posters were distributed by the partner companies, placed in the aircrafts managed by “Air Moldova” and in the waiting, arrival and departure rooms at the International Airport Chisinau, at the ticket offices of the touristic agencies, which participated in this initiative.

GPI signed a cooperation agreement with IC “La Strada” on 08.08.2013, on the basis of which information on THB cases and THB trends is exchanged. To ensure an efficient cooperation mechanism for the identification, protection and assistance of victims of THB and related crimes, a joint meeting was held, where the practical responsibilities of each part and the efficient work mechanism were agreed upon.

Around 90 informational seminars were organized by the trainers of the Peer to Peer Program in the summer of 2013 in almost all summer camps from the country. Volunteers of IC “La Strada” were the guests and partners for the informative activities for over 2000 pupils and educators, who, during the national campaign entitled “A Safer Internet for Children from RM”, talked about safe Internet navigation to the children from the camps “Dumbrava” (Volovita, Soroca), “Vifania” and “Olimpiet” (Slobodca, Balti), “Dumbrava” (Balti), “Miorița” and “Andrieș” (Ivancea, Orhei), “Dumbrava” (Soldanesti), “Romantica” (Moscovei, Cahul), etc. Initiated in partnership with UNDOC, PS, MoEd and the National Center for Fighting Cyber Crimes of MIA, under the EU program “Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in South Eastern Europe – in particular for the RM”. The campaign’s goal is to inform the target group (*children and adolescents between 10-17 years old*) about the methods of online recruiting, applied by traffickers, as well as about the manipulation methods they use in the cyberspace, to council and encourage the reporting of child’s sexual exploitation, and online abuses.

In 2013 IC “La Strada” also launched an interactive platform www.SigurOnline.md, as well as a national campaign of informing children about the advantages and dangers of Internet.

Assistance to victims

12. GRETA considers that Moldovan authorities should take further legislative and practical measures aimed at providing all victims and potential victims of THB adequate assistance and protection, and in particular to:

- ensure that the multidisciplinary teams and public bodies involved in the implementation of victim assistance and protection measures have the necessary human and financial resources to ensure their unhindered and effective functioning

The institutional level

Following the institutional reform of MIA in 2013, the General Police Inspectorate was established, which includes a CCTP. This unit maintained its mandate and key duties, and its multidisciplinary structure, consisting of investigation officers, criminal prosecution officers, seconded professionals from the National Anticorruption Center, Intelligence and Security Service, Customs Service and Border Police Department.

According to the internal regulation, CCTP has a national mandate in investigating and documenting the THB and related crimes.

As part of the MIA reform, a review of the CCTP mandate was initiated, in order to mobilize the investigation and documentation efforts, especially of organized, complex, trans-border cases of THB, CT and connected activities. Thus, the investigation efforts of the THB and CT cases by the CCTP increased by almost 50%, a considerable share refer to the documentation of criminal groups.

These results were determined by the following actions:

1. Continuous monitoring of the general activity of the territorial police inspectorates.

2. Introduction of the policy of taking (over) the cases, taking into account the organized, complex, trans-border nature of THB crimes and of the complex cases.
3. The development of the critical analysis skills of the criminal aspect of THB phenomenon, following the new trends and the integration of the analytic review in the decision making process.
4. The continuous training of staff.

In terms of outcomes sustainability, such a strategy (*on the orientation of the CCTP resources for the documentation of THB crimes on the territory of the country, related to the organization of illegal migration and pimping, as well as the assimilation or taking over of cases in the field*) allowed accumulating and a more qualitative analysis of information and data on such crimes, the profiling of a clear picture of the organized nature of the phenomenon, which represents the basis for the complex investigation of the crimes and finally, for establishing and apprehending the prolific perpetrators.

Statistically, during 2013, 169/111 suspects were investigated (PGI vs CCTP), 233/110 victims were identified (PGI vs CCTP) and 7 OCG (CCTP) were documented, of which 2 were annihilated by identifying and apprehending all the members of the grouping, including the heads and the main accomplices, as well as the referral of these into justice.

These results were achievable thanks to the optimization of the international police cooperation, including data exchange, implementation of joint operations, and provision of mutual assistance in organizing the procedural activities. They mainly cooperated with USA, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Germany, Romania, and through the international police cooperation platforms - Interpol, SELEC, exchanged data with Turkey and Greece, which materialized in the apprehension of perpetrators and the identification of victims.

As regards the national legal,

Law No 140 of 14.06.2013 on Special Protection of Children at Risk and of Children Separated from their Parents, which became effective on 01 January 2014, requires that a specialist in protection of the rights of the child be included in the structure of the local public authorities, responsible for the coordination of the monitoring of families with children at risk and of the children separated from their families, as well as for the coordination of the analysis at the local level.

RM Government Decision No 228 of 28.03.2014 on the Regulation of the Territorial Multidisciplinary Teams' Activity in the National Referral System, was approved as a need determined by the lack of a juridical regulation of the activity of the representatives of the decentralized and dis-concentrated institutions and organizations, participating in NRS as an intersectoral operational instrument. The TMT was established in order to prevent and combat THB by implementing a systemic approach to the protection and assistance of NRS beneficiaries, respecting the fundamental human rights in the process of assisting the victims and potential victims of THB.

Following the successful achievement of all the conditions of the Action Plan, Regulation No 259/2014 of the European Parliament and of the EU Council of 3 April 2014 amending the Council Regulation (CE) No 539/2001 regarding the removal of the visa regime for the short stays in the Schengen area for the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, which became effective on 28 April 2014. Some of the actions from the RM Government Decision No 463 will be included in the Action Plan Implementing the Association Agreement.

As regards the financial resources

Any National Plan envisages financial resources both from the state budget and additional sources to cover the expenses related to the implementation of the planned activities, stipulating that the financial reporting by LPA and CPA on the evaluation of the costs for the implemented activities is yet insufficient and is indicative only for some segments, but does not have a holistic approach. At the first glance, this proves that the implementation of the National Plan still depends to a high extent

on external sources, which is natural for the current stage of active implementation. This is a hindrance, preventing PCA from establishing a general expense framework for taking over gradually the implementation of the National Plan from financial resources of the state budget.

During 2013, MDL 111.210 thousand were spent from the state budget for the repatriation of victims and potential victims of THB (*in 2012 - about MDL 60.0 thousand*). For 2014, MDL 600.0 thousand are planned for this purpose.

To maintain the Center for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of THB from Chisinau, the MLSPF spent MDL 1311.9 thousand in 2013, and MDL 1117.9 thousand in 2012. For 2014, MDL 2865.8 thousand were planned from the state budget

At the same time, to maintain the Centers for Assistance and Protection of Victims of THB, MDL 959.2 thousand were used from the budgets of territorial-administrative units in 2013 to maintain 34 beneficiaries in 2 Centers for Assistance and Protection of Victims of THB (in the rayons of Causeni and Cahul), MDL 823.5 thousand were spent in 2012. MDL 1073.3 thousand were approved for 2014.

In 2013, MDL 2482.5 thousand were used from the budgets of territorial-administrative units to maintain the centers for psycho-social rehabilitation of domestic violence victims, supporting 88 beneficiaries from 5 such centers (in the rayons of Causeni, Drochia, Hincești and Balti municipality), and MDL 2229.8 thousand were spent in 2012. MDL 2825.4 thousand were approved for the maintenance of these centers in 2014.

Table 3.
Expenses from the State Budget and Budgets of the Administrative-Territorial Units for the Social Protection of Victims of THB

No/district	Locality	No of places	State Budget / thousand MDL	Budget of administrative - territorial units/ thousand MDL
			Executed, 2013	Executed, 2013
<i>Centers of assistance and protection for victims of trafficking in human beings (type 453)</i>				
1	Chisinau	24	1311.9	
2	Cahul	20		534.9
3	Causeni	14		424.3
	TOTAL:		1311.9	959.1
<i>Psychosocial centers for the rehabilitation of domestic violence victims (type 449)</i>				
4	Balti	19		683.9
5	Causeni	19		739.9
6	Drochia	30		582.4
7	Hincești	18		476.3
	TOTAL:		0.0	2482.5
<i>Protection and assistance for the victims of trafficking in human beings (type 462)</i>				

8			111.2	
	TOTAL:		111.2	

Additionally, we can mention the protection and assistance services for the potential victims of THB, for the purpose of preventing the THB phenomenon provided by the Placement and Rehabilitation Centers for children of young age from Chisinau and Balti.

Table 4.
Maintenance of the placement and rehabilitation centers for children of young age, from Chisinau and Balti municipalities

Institution	State budget Planned for 2013 (MDL)
Placement and rehabilitation center for children of young age, Chisinau municipality	MDL 16,211,000
Temporary Placement Center for Children at Risk, Balti municipality	MDL 12,362,000
TOTAL	MDL 28,573,000

- provide training to all persons responsible for applying protection measures to victims of trafficking

In 2012, MoH, with the support of the "Doctors of the World" NGO, developed a training module for medical staff on the identification of and assistance to victims of THB. Implementation of this respective module will have the following outcomes:

- Medical staff will gain knowledge about THB phenomenon, and its consequences on health;
- The medical staff will assess its skills of identification and provision of qualitative medical services to the THB victims;
- The medical staff, who will participate in the training, will convey the information to their colleagues from other regions, where "Doctors of the World" NGO is active.

Under the project, supported by the European Union and implemented by "Doctors of the World" NGO, entitled "Promotion of Human Rights for Victims of THB in Moldova and Transnistria for Multidisciplinary Intervention and Prevention", between April 2011 - November 2012, 19 training sessions were organized, where 400 medical and paramedical staff participated in assisting and protecting the victims (*based on the module for training the medical staff regarding the identification and assistance of victims of THB and based on the module family planning and reproductive health, organized by UNFPA*) from Balti municipality Glodeni rayon, Singerei rayon, Falesti rayon, Riscani rayon, Floresti rayon, and Ribnita town.

During 2012, MLSPF in partnership with IOM in Moldova and the Center for Policies and Analysis in Health, with the support of EU and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, aiming at strengthening the TMT capacity of providing assistance and protection to victims and potential victims of THB, trained 130 professionals from 5 rayons. Respectively, during June - September 2012 the following TMT were trained:

- 27-29 June - Cahul rayon (29 persons).
- 5-6 July - Ialoveni rayon (27 persons).
- 24-26 July - Edinet rayon (23 persons).
- 4-5 September - Ciadir-Lunga rayon (26 persons).
- 6-7 September - Taraclia rayon (25 persons).

In June 2012, MLSPF, in partnership with IOM and “Doctors of the World” NGO organized 4 regional workshops, which represented a platform for exchange of experience and good practices among the rayon TMT professionals. Consequently, 12 TMT were involved in these events (Balti, Floresti, Rezina, Singerei, Falesti, Soroca, Drochia, Donduseni, Glodeni, Ocnita, Briceni, Riscani), as well as active local partners in prevention and combating of THB: ”Stimul” NGO from Ocnita town, “Artemida” NGO from Drochia town, “SOTIS” Center for Family Crisis from Balti municipality .

During 21-23 February and 25-27 April 2012, MLSPF in partnership with IOM and Red Cross Society, under the Project „Strengthening the National Mechanisms for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of THB victims in Belarus, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine”, organized the training of the TMT community in Telenesti and Glodeni rayons (15 communities from each rayon). Respectively, 6 one-day training sessions were organized for 30 community TMT, consisting of a social worker, doctor, policeman and representative of the Red Cross Society. During the workshops, a total of 129 specialists were trained.

During 2012, with the support of the U.S. Department of State, MLSPF in partnership with IOM, the following community TMT (social worker, policeman, doctor) were trained, as follows:

- 11-13 September - Orhei rayon - 58 professionals;
- 27 September, 9 October, 23 October – Criuleni rayon - 78 professionals;
- 24-26 September - Orhei rayon - 74 professionals;
- 10-12 October - Stefan-Voda rayon - 63 professionals;
- 24-26 October - Causeni rayon - 75 professionals.

In the Republic of Moldova the capacities of the service provider of NRS were strengthened: 100 psychologists from the Northern communities were trained in psychological counseling and therapy methods, psychological traumas, short term and systemic therapy for families, and about the importance of mental health. Psychologists have learned about the risks of “professional burnout” and had a special session on methods that can avoid this.

- ensure that the local district authorities are active within NRS, as as to facilitate the assistance provided to victims of THB

In 2012 a new implementation stage of NRS started by:

- organizing monitoring visits of the specialists from the Centers for Assistance and Protection and the specialists from MLSPF to the TMT and vice-versa, by organizing meetings with the TMT coordinators, the heads of social work and family protection departments regarding the monitoring of concrete cases;
- extending NRS at the community level.

During 2013, with the support of the U.S. Department of State, the materials of NRS, including booklets for (potential) service providers, partners in NRS and booklets for system beneficiaries and envisaged risk groups, were updated and published. The booklets for service providers represent an informational material about the structure and functioning of NRS, and targets the organizations and specialists, which can become NRS participants. These also represent a good source of information for the general public.

Another booklet is intended for (potential) beneficiaries - victims of THB or at risk of being trafficked (*because of their vulnerability or other types of victimization*). This offers the necessary information regarding the ways of accessing the NRS services, the protection and assistance offered within this crisis.

Another measure is the approval by the RM Government on 28.03.2014 of the Regulations on the Activity of the Territorial TMT in the NRS³⁶ according to the provisions of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova Decision No 257 of 05.12.2008 on approving the NRS Strategy, item 18

- carry out an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the operation of the NRS, in particular as regards assistance to victims of trafficking

On 6 March 2013 the round table entitled “Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation stage of the NRS Strategy for the protection and assistance to victims and potential victims of THB. Results and perspectives” was organized by MLSPF in partnership with IOM and IC “La Strada”. At this event the project of the fourth monitoring report of NRS Strategy implementation for the protection and assistance of victims and potential victims of THB for 2012 was presented. The goal of this round table was to provide information about the new working instruments in the field, which currently are applied in the daily professional activity of the specialists. As a result, the finalized report was developed for the fourth year of monitoring the implementation of the NRS strategy. Not the least, this event serves as platform for the exchange of experience and good practices.

At the initiative of the PS and with the financial support of the U.S. Department of State, the expert from IC “La Strada” developed the first draft concept on management of the state anti-trafficking policy. The recommendations from the national reports, the indicators from the National Plan for 2014-2016, the proposals of the experts will be added to the draft.

In 2013, a “La Strada” expert developed a study on the impact of the RM anti-trafficking policy on the rights of the trafficked persons, which is part of the Program against THB in Eastern and South-East Europe (*Program against Human Trafficking in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe*), implemented with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark. The research component of the program focuses on the development of the role and capacities of the civil society to make an independent evaluation of the THB policy in Moldova, focusing on the evaluation of the level of compliance of the THB rights in practice.

On 7 May 2014, MLSPF organized the round table “Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation stage of the NRS Strategy for the protection and assistance to victims and potential victims of THB. Results and perspectives”, when the 2013 NSR Strategy Monitoring Report was presented.

Compensation and legal appeal

13. GRETA encouraged the Moldovan authorities to step up their efforts to provide information to victims of THB about their right to compensation and ways to access it, and to ensure that victims have effective access to legal aid in this respect. Moreover, GRETA encourages the Moldovan authorities to take into consideration the creation of a system of state compensations accessible to all THB victims

On May 3-4 2012, PS in cooperation with the IOM Mission in Moldova and with the technical support of the permanent mission of the French Government within the International Organizations Office in Vienna, Austria and the OSCE mission in Moldova has reunited the CPA, NGOs and IO representatives in the framework of the seminar “Assistance and Protection Mechanism of the THB victims. Establishment and management of the Compensation Fund for Victims of Terrorism and Other Crimes. The French Experience”.

³⁶ GD 228 of 28.03.2014 on the Activity of the Territorial Multidisciplinary Teams within the National Referral System,

The goal of the seminar was to familiarize the PCA, NGO and IO representatives with the development of a guaranteed compensation for the THB victims and of other crimes, which could ensure an assistance and protection platform, according to the international requirements.

From September 2012, the “Strengthening of the PS of the NC CTHB” Project, funded by the U.S. Department of State, initiated the selection and contracting of an international expert (selected from the United Kingdom) to carry out a feasibility study of the implementation of a compensation mechanism for victims of THB in Moldova.

In this context, the Report „Rights, Rehabilitation, and Restitution: The Compensation of the victims of THB in Moldova” was developed, presented and validated with the anti-trafficking community during a meeting on 13.09.2013. The study contains a thorough analysis of the RM regulatory and policy framework in this field, of the best international and regional practices, and contains a series of recommendations, including some concrete models, which could be used for the development of the future national compensation mechanism concept.

Currently, the Ministry of Justice, in order to achieve the objectives set in the Strategy of Reforming the justice sector for 2011-2016³⁷ is working on a draft law that addresses the protection and rehabilitation of crime victims. Though the draft was initiated in order to create a regulatory framework needed for the rehabilitation of victims of torture and other ill treatment, it was decided to avoid discriminating, even if positively, as it was more effective to create a general legal framework for the victims of various types of crimes. Note in this context that victims of THB, taking into account the severity of these crimes, are identified as beneficiaries of the services envisaged by this bill.

The draft law strengthens the procedural rights of crime victims, will set the support and rehabilitation services provided by the state, the victims categories that are entitled to these services, the conditions and the procedure of providing them, as well as to set a financial compensation mechanism by the state for the prejudice caused through crime.

The Action Plan on preventing and combating the trafficking in human beings for 2014-2015 stipulates an activity referring to “The coordination of the development and validation of the concept for the program of state-guaranteed compensation for victims of THB”.

Repatriation of victims

14. GRETA considers that the Moldovan authorities should improve the procedure of practical application of the current legal framework for the repatriation of victims of THB, with due regard to their safety, dignity and protection, paying special attention to the needs and best interest to the children of the victims

Analysis of the data submitted by the MLSPF for 2012 and 2013 reveals that the number of children identified abroad and repatriated in Moldova is increasing and it is assumed that this is due to the skills of the specialist in identifying potential victims and THB victims, of the intensified international cooperation in this field, and of the implementation of the informational system regarding immediate information about THB cases identified abroad.

Consequently, if in 2012, 18 repatriation mission were organized (48 children), then in 2013 - 31 missions (59 children, two of which trafficked children), of whom: 31 children from Ukraine (16 missions), 24 children from the Russian Federation (12 missions), one child from Austria (1 mission), one child from Hungary (1 mission) and 2 children from Romania (1 mission). Of the total number of repatriated children in 2013: 23 children were reintegrated in biological

³⁷ Adopted by Law No 231 of 25 November 2011

families/extended, one child - placed in foster care, 4 children - placed in family-type children's home and 30 children - in temporary placement centers.

In addition, in 2013, 30 victims (adults) of THB were repatriated (28 women and 2 men), of whom: from IOM funds – 28 persons (26 women and 2 men); from the State Budget – 2 persons (women).

Information on the involvement of the MLSPF, MoH, IOM and TdH in the organization of joint repatriation missions is presented below.

Table 5.
Repatriation of beneficiaries in joint missions, 2013

Country of destination	Number of repatriated beneficiaries				Source of funding		
	Female		Male		State Budget	Terre des Hommes	IOM
	children	adults	children	adults			
Russian Federation	6	1	6		- Airline ticket, - Per diem for the accompanying person (MLSPF), - round trip (accompanying person), - return ticket (children).	- Per diem for the accompanying person, - Other expenses for children	-
Ukraine	8		17		- Per diem for the accompanying person (MLSPF), - Oil, - Hotel Accommodation,	-	- Transportation, - Daily allowance attendant (MLSPF), - Oil, - Hotel Accommodation.
Romania	2				Oil	-	Transportation
Serbia		1			Airplane ticket	-	-
TOTAL	16	2	23				

Regarding the adjustment of the mentioned repatriation mechanism by the MLSPF, though efforts are made in order to improve it, there are still aspects that need to be finalized in the future, such as the amendment of the Repatriation Regulation³⁸, which will improve the financial mechanism of public financial management for repatriation.

The need to *improve* the repatriation mechanism, depends on the fact that since 2014, Terre des Hommes Foundation will withdraw its funds from the children repatriation program from the Russian Federation, which has been main partner of MLSPF in repatriating children since 2008 (*most of them repatriated from this country*), but also on the engagement of the RM Government for the repatriation of victims of THB for the next period.

³⁸ GD No 948 of 07.08.2008 approving the Regulation on the repatriation procedure of children and adults - victims of THB, trafficking of illegal migrants, as well as of unattended children,

15. GRETA considers that the Moldovan authorities should develop the international framework for co-operation and set up of work contracts with the countries, where Moldovan citizens are repatriated from, in order to facilitate the identification of potential victims of THB among illegal migrants and minors unattended before repatriation, and to ensure an effective and comprehensive risk assessment and enable their safe return to Moldova

In order to set up bilateral relationships with Ukraine on combating and preventing THB, the draft Agreement between the RM and Ukrainian Government on the cooperation for repatriation of victims of THB, CT, illegal trafficking of migrants, unattended children and migrants in difficulty was developed and approved by the national institutions of RM³⁹, and was afterwards, on 10.12.2013, submitted to the Ukrainian counterpart for review.

Besides, during 2013 the intention of cooperation on the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Russian Federation (*Government Decision no.926 of 31.12.2009*) with the governmental institutions of the Russian Federation, and especially with: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Federal Migration Service was reiterated. Authorities of the Russian Federation have expressed their agreement to initiate the discussions regarding the identification of the bilateral cooperation mechanism for identifying, assisting and repatriating the victims of THB and migrants in difficulty, identified on the territory of the Russian Federation or of the RM (through the Russian Federation Embassy in the Republic of Moldova No 13 of 12 February 2014).

Other aspects of the cooperation are presented in the chapters above.

Investigation, prosecution and procedural law

16. GRETA urges Moldovan authorities to take measures to:

- step up proactive investigation measures of potential cases of THB

Analysis of the data on THB phenomenon is based on the National Crime Recording System (Central Data Bank) of MIA. Based on the information from this system, each Criminal Investigation Body shall be questioned in order to obtain detailed information. The information presented by the criminal investigation body derives from the procedural documents for each prosecution separately (*the orders to launch the criminal prosecution, the verbal examination processes, the orders of acknowledging the accused, etc.*). The analysis process takes into account the CCTP recordings as trustworthy and robust data for an effective analysis. Thus, the analysis of data obtained during 2012-2013 revealed that 80% of the THB cases are identified through proactive investigative measures.

At the same time, in the context of the MIA reform, the integration of the Intelligence Led Policing concept in the management model of the police is examined, including by strengthening the management system of data, which will increase the proactive investigation efforts of crimes, including THB.

To support the implementation of this desideratum in practice, during 2013 various study visits and workshops with experts from the countries where this concept is successfully implemented were organized in order to learn from their practice and adapt the most relevant practical models in the RM. Several training sessions were organized on data analysis and its use in proactive investigations.

Methods of data collection, storage and digital management are being analyzed now.

³⁹ GD No 874 of 6 November 2013 launching the negotiations of the Agreement between Government of the RM and Government of Ukraine on the cooperation for repatriation of victims of THB and CT, unattended children and migrants in difficulty

As a result of the activities organized during 2013, 135 THB cases were registered, of which approximately 80% were launched as a result of the pro-active investigative measures of the police officers, and the other 20% representing complaints and denunciations.

- prioritize the identification of gaps in the investigation procedure and the examination of cases in court in order to ensure that crimes related to THB are investigated and prosecuted efficiently, leading to severe sanctions

The criminal prosecution on THB is often difficult because of the status of the victim, who has a specific position in the criminal procedure. Often, after filing the charges against traffickers, the victim does not want to participate in the criminal prosecution and leaves again abroad or negotiates with the traffickers and hides from the criminal prosecution body or the court, changes the statement, or takes other actions which all together create difficulties for the criminal prosecution and the condemnation of the criminal cases.

Having mainly a trans-border nature, trafficking in human beings, as a rule, takes place in two or more countries, which complicates the process of the criminal prosecution.

One of the barriers that hinder the effective action against THB is the impossibility of contacting directly the law enforcement bodies abroad in order to identify the location of the victims, to set their repatriation to Moldova, to apprehend the persons suspected of having committed the respective crimes.

The rogatory letters submitted by the judicial bodies of Moldova are executed slowly, and in some cases they are not executed at all. Moreover, some prosecutors lack the possibility to submit rogatory letter because the crimes took place on territories, which are not recognized by Moldova (Northern Cyprus, Kosovo).

Besides countries of destination, it is difficult to continue the criminal prosecution on the left bank of the Nistru river, which is not under the de facto control of the Government and law enforcement bodies of the Moldova. There are also difficulties in identifying the persons, who reside on the territory on the left bank of the Nistru and are not registered in the State Population Record.

Further, the international cooperation activity encounters difficulties due to the lack of financial means which are necessary to translate the rogatory letters. In order to eliminate this barrier, measures are taken to involve the potential of international organizations and NGOs.

Simultaneously, measures are taken in order to use the options offered by the new amendments introduced in the criminal - procedural legislation regarding the option of creating international investigation teams for investigating the trans-border crimes.

Inefficient legislative regulations approving proactive investigation of THB and CT crimes by the law enforcement bodies - the implementation of special investigation measures, as telephonic tapping and/or video-audio recordings are possible only when the suspected person is recognized or when the efforts and the resources oriented toward the documentation of the criminal actions are canceled.

Also, during the NC CTHB meeting on 18 December 2013 information was presented on the opportunity to increase the sanctions for the crimes of organizing illegal migration. MIA in partnership with PS will examine if it is necessary to amend the legislation on this subject.

- investigate and prosecute with priority cases of THB with the alleged involvement of public officials

During 2012 the law enforcement bodies from Moldova have organized a criminal prosecution action against 12 persons, from the category of public persons and persons in positions of accountability; against 7 persons from this category the criminal causes were sent to court of justice, and one case of criminal prosecution was canceled due to the lack of elements of the criminal act, in the other cases the criminal prosecution continues. Referring to the circumstances of the cases of criminal prosecution in the mentioned period the following were concluded:

In one case an operations inspector of the CCTP service of MIA was investigated for organizing together with other accomplices illegal migration to Israel of Moldovan citizens (Article 632/1, Criminal Code - Organization of Illegal Migration). Currently the criminal cause is pending in the court of Botanica district, Chisinau municipality at the stage of judicial investigation. The case examination was delayed because it was filed to the Court of the Centru District of Chisinau municipality, which has declined its attribution in favor of the Court of Botanica District of Chisinau municipality. In its turn, the Court of the Botanica District of Chisinau municipality sent the criminal cause to the Court of Appeal to solve the conflict of territorial attribution. According to the decision of the Chisinau Court of Appeal, the attribution was given to Botanica Court and in November 2013 the judicial action was taken over by the Court of Botanica District.

In another case was investigated the head of the housing department from Cahul municipality, who created an organized criminal group in order to recruit and transport 15 victims from Moldova into Northern Cyprus and the Arab Emirates for commercial sexual exploitation. (Article 165, Criminal Code - Trafficking in Human Beings). The cause was indicted in court for substantial examination. By the decision of the Court of the Centru District of Chisinau municipality, dated 04.03.2013, all the accused (6 persons), including the public servant, were found guilty in committing THB crime by a criminal group (Article 165(3) Criminal Code). The leader of the criminal group, including the civil servant, was condemned to 13 years of imprisonment and deprived of the right to work in tourism and employment abroad for a period of five years, and the other members of the group were sentenced to different prison terms of 11 or 10 years, and each was deprived of the right to exert activities in tourism and employment abroad for a period of three or respectively four years. The decision will be appealed by the prosecutor, stating that the judgment was too soft.

In another case an officer of the National Army (major) was prosecuted criminally, who together with another person (*who previously worked as a criminal prosecution officer at a police commissariat, and currently is a taxi driver in Moscow, Russian Federation*) who encouraged four persons to practice prostitution in the respective country and have organized their transportation to the country of destination (Article 220, Criminal Code - Pimping). The criminal prosecution continues.

During the criminal prosecution, the witnesses have declared that they discussed about the goal of travelling to the country of destination only with the former police officer, who persuaded them to travel to Russian Federation to practice prostitution and who was supposed to arrange the trip. Regarding the officer of the National Army, witnesses declare that he did not participate in the discussions and did not seem to know about the real intentions of the former police officer. Other evidence confirming that the National Army Officer committed the crime of pimping or THB were not found. Based on this, the criminal prosecution against the officer was canceled, and the criminal case against the former police officer was sent to court, as he was incriminated to have had committed the crimes under Article 220(2), Criminal Code - pimping of several persons.

Based on the decision of the Court of the Central District of Chisinau municipality, of 22.03.2013 the former police officer was condemned to 4 years of imprisonment for pimping against several persons, with a 2 years suspension of punishment. Grounds for this punishment were the following circumstances: the case was judged under the special procedure, stipulated in Article 364¹ Criminal Code Procedure (the trial on the basis of the evidence obtained during criminal prosecution), the accused recognized his blame, no prejudice was made, he is maintaining a minor child, and has no previous criminal records.

It is also important to mention that a criminal case was initiated against the two witnesses, who have initially denounced the involvement of the National Army Officer in the crime, and have later changed their statements, based on Article 312 of the Criminal Code (false statements), the case being investigated by the Central District Prosecution Office, Chisinau, based on its territorial attributions. The Prosecutor's Office has decided to drop the criminal prosecution action, bringing them to contraventional liability (Article 55, Criminal Code).

In another case three employees of the police criminal department of the General Police Commissariat of Chisinau have requested the amount of USD 10,000 from an Ukrainian citizen and from an United Kingdom citizen to avoid examining a THB notification. (Article 324, Criminal Code - Passive Corruption). The cause was sent to court for substantial examination. Currently the criminal prosecution continues at the Court of the Central District of Chisinau municipality.

In another case, criminal prosecution was initiated against a bailiff, who encouraged and facilitated the practicing of prostitution of two persons. (Article 220, Criminal Code - Pimping). The cause was sent to court for substantial examination. Currently the criminal case is pending in the Court of the Central District of Chisinau municipality, which has declined its attribution on this case to the Court of the Buiucani District of Chisinau municipality.

In another case, during the respective period, a decision was issued by the Court of Botanica District, Chisinau municipality on a criminal case, where an employee of the National Anti-Corruption Center was accused for committing, together with another person, a THB crime, recruiting through threats and violence for commercial sexual exploitation. The court of law has re-qualified actions from Article 165, Criminal Code to Article 335, Contraventional Code and stopped the process, motivating with interference in the limitation period. The decision was appealed by the prosecutor. Through the decision of the Chisinau Court of Appeal of 03.04.2013 the sentence of the Court was maintained. The decision was appealed by the prosecutor. By the decision of the Supreme Court of Justice, dated 12.11.2013, the appeal of the prosecutor was admitted, and the criminal cause was returned for re-examination to the Chisinau Court of Appeal. By the judgment of the Criminal College of the Chisinau Court of Appeal, dated 27.03.2014, the appeal of the prosecutor was admitted, the sentence canceled and a new judgment was adopted, according to the procedure established for the first instance court through which two persons were found guilty for committing a crime under Article 220(1) of the Criminal Code, and were fined with 800 conventional units each. The judgment of the Court of Appeal of 27.03.2014 will be appealed by the prosecutor at the Supreme Court of Justice.

In another case, during the respective time period, a decision was issued by the Court of the Ciocana District, Chisinau municipality on a criminal case, where an employee of the MIA was accused for committing together with another person (*with criminal record*) a THB crime, recruiting through false statements a victim from the Russian Federation for commercial sexual exploitation (Article 165 (2), letter d, e, g of the Criminal Code). The court of law has re-qualified actions from Article 165, Criminal Code to Article 172(2)(c) of the Criminal Code – 5 years of imprisonment, Article 90, Criminal Code - 5 years probation period. The decision was appealed by the prosecutor. Currently the criminal case is pending in the Chisinau Court of Appeal. On request of the parties, the Court of Appeal submitted a request of rogatory letter in the Russian Federation, which delays the judgment.

In 2013 the prosecutors from the GPO and the BPD officers of MIA finalized the criminal prosecution on a case of committing THB and CT for exploitation through begging in the Russian Federation by an organized criminal group under the leadership of a person who was simultaneously leading an NGO, which has the mission of “contributing to the achievement and protection of civil, economic and social rights of the citizen”. Thus, the respective official, by involving in the crime more than 10 persons has distributed among them membership cards of the respective NGO, which he was leading and using as a cover, has organized the recruitment and transportation of persons and

socially vulnerable children in the Russian Federation, where they were exploited through begging; from the perpetrators a total of about MDL 36,764,000 of illicit income was received.

In another case, the prosecutors from a department for combating THB from the PGO and the officers of the CCTP of NIJ of MIA finalized the criminal prosecution and sent to court the criminal case against a person who holds the position of vice-president of an NGO for the protection of citizens rights and who is accused of committing THB on the territory of the Republic of Moldova for labor exploitation.

In 2013 the Anticorruption Prosecution Office, together with the Internal Security and Corruption Combating Service (ISCCS) of MIA have investigated and sent to court the criminal case involving an investigation officers from the THB Office of the southern branch of the GPI of MIA, who was accused of committing influence peddling connected to a THB case. Note that the criminal prosecution of the THB case was finalized, and the case was sent to court.

In another case, in 2013, related to the establishment of new circumstances, the Anti-Corruption Prosecution Office resumed the criminal prosecution of the former employee of the CCTP of MIA (who worked in the CCTP until 2008) and who requested from a person suspected of illegal migration the amount of EUR 6000 for giving up on arrest charges.

In another case, in 2013, the prosecutors from Anti-Trafficking Section of the GPO ordered the criminal prosecution of two persons, who were accused of committing pimping in 2011, while employed at CCECC. The decision to stop the criminal prosecution was taken based on the conclusions of the investigating magistrates, who have declared that the deadline for keeping the respective persons under the suspicion was infringed, though they were legally summoned, but intentionally did not present themselves within the timeline set by the criminal procedure for filing the accusation and were hospitalized for medical treatment. The respective conclusions of the investigative judges were contested by the General Prosecutor with action for annulment, however the action for annulment was dismissed by the Supreme Court of Justice as being inadmissible. Thus, a gap was identified in the criminal procedural legislation regarding the impossibility of appealing some judgment of the investigative judges, though these are clearly illegal and do not refer to certain stages of the process but to adoption of the solution on the case.

In another case, in 2013, the judgment of the Supreme Court of Justice admitted the appeal of the prosecutor and ordered the re-trial of the criminal case regarding an employee of the National Anti-Corruption Center by the Court of Appeal, who was accused in 2011 of committing THB together with another person for sexual exploitation purposes.

We reiterate, that previously, in 2012, the First Instance Court working on this case has re-qualified the actions of the accused from the THB crime to the arbitrary administrative contravention and stopped the process, pleading that the limitation period for contraventional liability has elapsed. Subsequently, the decision of the First Instance Court was supported by the judges from the Chisinau Court of Appeal.

Regarding the officials, it is important to mention that the **case of accusation against the employee** of the Bureau of Migration and Asylum of the MIA and the professor of “Nicolae Testemiteanu” State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, who were accused together with other persons of using deception and abusing the social vulnerability and minor age (under 14) to recruit a number of children, who they sheltered and abused sexually:

- Regarding the professor from “Nicolae Testemiteanu” State Medicine and Pharmacy University and another person, the First Instance Court ruled to acquit due to lack of evidence, though the victims have indicated, including during the court hearing, that the accused were the persons, who sexually abused them. The decision was appealed by the state prosecutor in a hierarchically superior court. Currently, the criminal case is under examination in the Chisinau Court of Appeal.

- By the decision of the First Instance Court the former employee of the Bureau of Migration and Asylum of MIA was condemned for child trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation to 15 years and 6 months of imprisonment, the actions of other three accomplices were re-qualified by the court of law from child trafficking (Article 206, Criminal Court) to sexual relations with a person under 16 years of age (Article 174, Criminal Code) and were condemned to 4 years of imprisonment each with suspension of executing the punishment for three years each.

- ensure that judges, prosecutors and other legal professionals have regular training on THB and the situation of victims, including issues of gender equality

Following this train of thoughts, according to the provisions of Article 29(3) of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, measures for strengthening the level of professionalism of the criminal prosecution officers and of the prosecutors who are responsible for investigating THB cases were taken.

In 2012, IC “La Strada” in partnership with the National Justice Institute developed and institutionalized a curriculum for continuous training of judges and prosecutors on hearing child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. In 2012-2013 a number of training sessions for prosecutors and judges were held on the examination of child victims- witnesses, with the participation of trainers from IC “La Strada”. Thus:

During 21-22 February 2012, NIJ in partnership with IOM in Moldova organized a workshop entitled “Development of Prosecutors’ Practical Skills of in the field of Legal Classification of THB Cases and Victim Protection”, where 24 prosecutors were trained.

During 2-4 May 2012, NIJ in partnership with IM, IC “La Strada” and with the financial support of the USA Government organized a training course called “Hearing of the Victim and Judicial Debates in THB cases”, where 5 judges and 25 prosecutors were trained.

On 15, 23 May and 5 June 2012, NIJ in partnership with OSCE organized workshops entitled “Classifying the crime, specificities of criminal prosecution and trial of cases related to combating and prevention of THB”, where 53 judges and 23 prosecutors were trained. At the request of NIJ, one of the IOM experts presented during the seminar the main conclusion of an IOM study of several criminal cases from Moldova on THB and related crimes, and the relevant recommendations, presentation which was very useful for the prosecutors and contributed to the strengthening of the investigation and trial of these categories of crimes.

Other 6 prosecutors (from Briceni, Cantemir, Edinet, Leova and Ungheni) participated between 21 October - 1 November 2012 in an workshop focused on the legal classification, on issues linked to the protection and interviewing of the victim and on issues of trafficking investigation, as well as in order to be able to train other representatives of law enforcement bodies. The workshop was organized by IOM in Moldova in partnership with CCTP, IC “La Strada” and with the support of the USA Government.

At the “Stefan Cel Mare” Academy, on 3-7 December 2012 a seminar was organized for 14 officials responsible for THB from Vulcanesti, Dubasari, DAI Găgăuzia, Taraclia, Ungheni, Hincești, Donduseni, Riscani, Straseni, Leova, Calarasi, Soldanesti, Chisinau municipality, Ciocana PC. According to the curriculum, the participants in the training benefited from 40 classes (14 courses, 14 workshops and 12 practical classes), and attended an exam, two differentiated quizzes and four ordinary quizzes.

Between 5-6 March 2013 the representatives of the General Prosecutor’s Office together with the judges from the Supreme Court of Justice and representatives of the Center for Combating Human Trafficking from MIA participated, acting as trainers, in the seminar “Aspects of Investigation and Legal Classification of THB Crimes. Hearing techniques of the victims/witnesses of THB”,

organized by NIJ in partnership with NORLAM, ROLISP and IC “La Strada”. 10 prosecutors, 10 judges (from various Court Instances) and 10 criminal prosecution officers from MIA have benefited from training in THB as part of this activity.

Also, in order to optimize the SNR mechanism, on 6 March 2013 the representatives of the GPO participated in a round table on the presentation of the annual Report on the implementation stage of the SNR strategy for the protection and assistance of victims and potential victims of THB, developed by MLSPF.

At the same context, representatives of the GPO participated in a workshop financed by ISEC “Joint efforts of the law enforcement bodies and health authorities in the EU Member States and third states for prevention and combating of THB, the protection and assistance of THB victims”, organized by MLSPF between 12-13 June 2013, implemented by Payoke NGO, Belgium in cooperation with MLSPF, EUROPOL, FRONTEX and Danube University Krems, Austria.

Taking into account the impact of corruption on the anti-trafficking activity, on 17.06.2013 the prosecutors participated in the International Conference “Fighting Corruption in RM. Promoting good practices from Italy, Romania and USA. Challenges, achievements and learned lessons.” Organized by ABA ROLI Moldova.

In June and September 2013, NIJ in cooperation with IC “La Strada” organized 2 two-day trainings on “Hearing of child victims-witnesses of sexual abuse/exploitation”, attended by 46 professionals (25 prosecutors and 21 judges). This workshop was organized for applying the institutionalized curriculum for 2012. In 2013, several other training sessions for prosecutors and judges were held, which addressed the hearing of child victims/witnesses, attended by trainers from IC “La Strada” (10 prosecutors and 7 investigative magistrates).

In June 2013, at the invitation of CCTP, IC “La Strada” participated as a trainer during the training session of criminal prosecution officers, newly employed at CCTP, on the psychological-social profile of the victim (victimology), on the means of manipulation used by recruiter and examination technique of the THB victims, vulnerable witnesses (20 collaborators of CCTP were trained).

Simultaneously, within the project “*Preventing corruption and impunity in the action against trafficking in human beings through media skills and strengthening the cooperation between civil society and law enforcement bodies 2010 - 2013*”, financed by the Government of USA, IOM in Moldova has presented during the National Forum *the Analysis regarding the investigation and judging of THB causes and related crimes*, which represents a deep analysis of the THB and related crimes, conclusions and recommendations for improving the situation of the investigation and trial of trafficking cases and related crimes and the protection of victims during criminal prosecution. At the same time, based on this study, the „*Practical Guidelines for the investigation of THB crimes*” was developed and published.

During this time period, NIJ, GPI and GP in cooperation with IOM in Moldova and with the financial support of the USA Government, has organized and developed three specialized seminars, which were organized in three modules. Thus:

1) On 26 and 27 September 2013 the training session “Problems with Classification and Victim Manipulation by the Trafficker, Aiming to Change the Statements” was held for prosecutors and investigators. 25 representatives of the law enforcement bodies (13 prosecutors and 12 investigators) participated at the seminar. The training program contained 4 modules: correct legal classification of the crimes of (1) THB and pimping, and (2) THB, forced labor and organized begging; (3) minimizing the risk of manipulating the victim and (4) the actions that shall be taken if the victim is manipulated by the trafficker.

2) On 24 and 25 October 2013 the practical training workshop for prosecutors and judges

“Hearing of victims, victims as witnesses and judicial debates in THB cases” was organized; 10 prosecutors and 7 judges participated in the program, which had the following training modules: (1) First hearing of the victim; (2) The preparation for the court process. The workshop was based on the previous good practices, focusing on exercises and role plays to develop more efficient practical skills.

3) On 6 November 2013 the workshop “Team work techniques and preventive arrest in THB cases” was organized, attended by 8 prosecutors and 13 criminal prosecution officers. The workshop was focused on the practical problems arising during the criminal prosecution of THB cases. An essential aspect, which was addressed was the strengthening of the cooperation between prosecutors and criminal prosecution officers to make the team work more efficient throughout the criminal prosecution and to demonstrate the cooperation character needed to solve THB crimes.

Table 6.

Number of trained representatives of law enforcement bodies 2012 - 2013

	2012	2013
Prosecutors	149	56
Investigators		12
Judges	82	28
Prosecution officers	17	13
Total	161 persons	109 persons

In 2013, SUM in partnership with IC “La Strada” developed **the Masters Program in Judicial Psychology**. The graduates of the masters program are able to mediate the interaction of children - victims/witnesses of different types of abuses with the juridical system, to assist the children who have committed offences, to elaborate criminal profiles, to participate and provide psychological expertise within the probation groups, to assist the teams of law enforcement bodies in investigating the offences, to contribute to the prevention of criminal behaviors, by developing tailor made programs for children in conflict with the law. The program was approved by the SUM Senate and presented to the MoEd in December 2013.

On 11-12 November 2013, GP representatives together with NIJ organized and participated as experts in a seminar for prosecutors and judges on the investigation and legal classification of THB crimes. Hearing methods of THB victims.

On 26-27 November 2013 the representative of the General Prosecutor’s Office participated in the seminar “THB Victims Protection Mechanisms”, organized by OSCE Office in Baku. The training was divided in 4 modules - “Differences between THB and pimping”, “Differences between THB, forced labour and organized begging”, “Evaluation and reducing the risk of victim manipulation” and “Adjusting changes and interventions”. This seminar had a great impact on the strengthening of the prosecutors’ and criminal prosecution officers’ skills.

The results of the “Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in South Eastern Europe, in particular for the RM”, coordinated by PS and implemented with cooperation with MIA, GP and NIJ. Among the activities, which were organized are: three seminars for police officers, prosecutors and judges (18-20 June, 08-19 July and 16-18 July 2013); two study visits in United Kingdom and Netherlands (23-27 September, 28 October - 1 November 2013) for the specialists from GP and MIA, aiming to strengthen the police and judicial international cooperation skills of the specialists.

Between 23-27 September 2013, the employees of GPI from Moldova have participated in a study visit in the United Kingdom (London), within the project “Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in South Eastern Europe, in particular for the RM”.

The visit was organized by UNODC in cooperation with PS, and the goal of the visit was to study the components and the resources of the system, and the general organization of the activity; the analysis methods of the operative information, the goal of the analysis and the type of reporting; the process of data collection and of the necessary needs; the technical resources, which facilitate data and information collection, storing and analysis; the needed human resources for developing the data and information analysis process.

During the study visit of the IGP employees, visits were organized to the Metropolitan Police of the United Kingdom and to the authorities of the criminal prosecution service, to the center for action against THB in United Kingdom, to the Agency for fighting severe organized crimes (SOCA), Salvation Army, the European Police College (CEPOL) and other relevant institutions. Thus the gained knowledge will be directly invested into the GPI efforts of developing an analytic system and of the technical, human and institutional capacities of GPI and of CCTP, as an element of GPI.

During 8-19 July 2013, the investigation officers and the analysts of operative information have participated in the “Training on criminal operative analyses” under the project “Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in South Eastern Europe, in particular for the RM” implemented by UNODC in cooperation with PS. The training’s goal was to strengthen the capacities of the investigation officers and operative information analysts by developing the necessary skills for the analysis of large information sets, from different sources and for transforming them in exact operative information.

On 16 July 2013, a team of national and international experts started the work of **the Workshop “Joint Investigation Teams”** for the police officers and prosecutors from the rayons of Moldova, specialized in fighting THB. The workshop was organized within the “**Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in South Eastern Europe, in particular for the RM**” Project, implemented by UNODC in cooperation with PS of the NC CTHB and had the goal of developing knowledge on the application of the legislative framework in the development of joint investigation teams and their activity, as well as identifying the gaps in the cooperation process for improving this investigation instrument in the future.

On 18-20 September 2013, the training “Development of the skills of fighting cyber crimes” was held in Chisinau as part of the “Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in South Eastern Europe, in particular for the RM”. The event was organized by UNODC in cooperation with PS. The goal of the training was to improve the knowledge and the technical skills, as well as to strengthen the capacities of the law enforcement bodies in the field of cyber crimes.

The prosecutors attended the seminar “The trans-border cooperation in preventing THB”, which took place in Iasi (Romania), **between February 2-4 2014** organized by the Department for Social and Assistance and Family Protection Ungheni in partnership with the Community Assistance Department Iasi and the Philanthropic Association “Trup si Suflet” Iasi, Romania, the District Council Herta, Ukraine, within the framework of the project “Transborder cooperation in preventing THB”, financed by EU through the Joint Operational Program Romania - Ukraine - Moldova 2007 - 2013.

On 13 March 2014, the prosecutors participated as trainers in a workshop organized by NIJ with the financial support of the IOM Mission in Moldova, where various presentations on legal aspects of prevention and combating of THB were made.

On 10-15 March 2014 the prosecutors made a field work in Serbia, which was organized by the OSCE mission in Moldova. During the visit, the members of the delegation met with the representatives of MIA, of GPO, of the specialized agency in fighting organized crime. During these

meetings joint cases, investigated parallel by the Serbian and Moldova law enforcement bodies, were addressed. Also, the members of the delegation visited the THB victims home and have learned about the activities organized by the specialized NGOs in the prevention of THB cases.

The training on combating THB is organized at all the stages of professional development. The Academy “Stefan cel Mare” of MIA has dedicated 40 hours for the initial training in the field of investigation and documenting THB and related crimes.

CCTP developed its own training module for the anti-traffic officers. The module was developed for a two (16 hours) days of training and includes the following topics:

- current legislation in the field;
- crime classification;
- victim identification;
- victim hearing;
- victim protection.

The module is based on case studies of CCTP and is taught by the more experience officers of this division. The trainings are organized regularly, twice a year.

17. GRETA also considers that the Moldovan authorities should make full use of the available victim protection measures. In this context, Moldovan authorities should take additional measures to ensure that victims of THB are adequately informed and assisted during pre-trial and court proceedings

According to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code ⁴⁰ the criminal investigation body must to inform and explain to the trial participants their procedural rights and obligations, as well as the non-procedural ones.

Thus, before the victim is investigated and acknowledged as a victim, the rights and obligations, including those foreseen by Law No 241 of 20.10.2005 on Prevention and Combating of THB, should be brought to her attention through a signed protocol, which shall be attached to the criminal case; thus the victim has the right to benefit from a period of reflection of 30 days, to receive assistance for physical, psychological and social recovery, to be accommodated at the assistance and victims of THB protection centers, to receive priority assistance from Employment Agencies for professional integration and free legal assistance.

On 11 April 2014, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted in first reading the Law amending the Criminal Procedure Code, Article 110¹, Hearing of Minors. Through this modification it is recommended to avoid the contact of the child-victim with the perpetrator in order to avoid re-victimization, which is possible if the minor has to be repeatedly make statements, repeating the same feelings.

These amendments will bring the national provisions in accordance to the international instruments which Moldova has signed, for example, the European Convention of Human Rights, the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Abuses and Exploitation (the Lanzarote Convention), etc.

Together with IC “La Strada”, GP developed the draft Regulation of the Hearing Room for Children. Currently, the project of the Regulation is finalized; its application will start after the amendment of the legislation on hearing of minors (Article 110¹ from CPC).

⁴⁰ Law No 122 of 14.03.2003, with subsequent amendments.

Regarding the psychological counseling and the state-guaranteed legal assistance, there are effective regulations which are stating the rights to these services and the way of providing them. In this sense we want to mention Articles 16, 17 from Law No 241 of 20 October 2005 on Prevention and Combating of THB, according to which the provision of the respective services is ensured by the state through the centers for the protection and assistance of THB victims.

At the same time, taking into account the severity of the facts stipulated in Article 165 (2) and (3) of the Criminal Code (trafficking in human beings in severe forms), which represent very severe offences, and based on Article 58 (4) 2) of the Criminal Procedure Code, these victims have the right during a criminal trial to receive state-guaranteed legal assistance, if they cannot afford hiring a lawyer. This right is applicable regardless of the fact if the victim was or not acknowledged as the hurt party in the trial.

At the same time, the THB victims have rights to other forms of juridical assistance ensured by the state, according to law No 198-XVI of July 26 2007 on State-Guaranteed Legal Assistance.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above we can conclude that the RM Government has made efforts to implement the GRETA recommendations, and other activities, aimed at improving the situation with prevention and combating of THB.

In spite of these achievements, the anti-trafficking community continues to make big efforts in order to overcome certain deficiencies/difficulties, among which the most relevant are:

- The gradual increase of the engagement of the public institutions in ensuring a good implementation of the anti-trafficking policies from the public budget.
- More active involvement of local NGOs, working in this field or which need strengthening, as partners in implementing the prevention and combating of THB policy.
- The continuous harmonization of the legal framework and developing the secondary framework for implementing the relevant policies:
 - approval of the guidelines on how to avoid accusing potential victims, when there are certain motives to suspect the intervention/ intimidation/ determination upon the submission of false statements by other persons (including the trafficker);
 - development and testing of the monitoring and evaluation methodology of national anti-traffic policies;
 - development of the e-learning program for the employees of the diplomatic mission and consulates of Moldova abroad;
 - adjusting and improving the mechanism for the repatriation of children from abroad by the MLSPF;
 - development of the Concept for creating a THB victims compensation fund, guaranteed by the state (a concept, which can be extended for all the crimes).
- Strengthening the capacities of the law enforcement bodies in monitoring and controlling the financial transactions at all the stages of criminal prosecution.
- Evaluation of the skills of applying the TC competencies in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the relevant policies.
- Improving the electronic data collection program in the PS.
- Enhancing the investigations in order to fight the activities of the trans-border criminal groups specialized in THB and CT.
- Applying more often the legal provisions referring to financial investigations, in order to prosecute and seize the goods obtained from THB activity.
- Intensifying the international cooperation of the law enforcement bodies from Moldova, specialized in combating THB, with identical institutions from the countries of transit and destination.
- Enhancing the information sharing and public awareness raising concerning the dangers and the consequences of THB, the new trends of this phenomenon and related phenomena, especially in the rural areas.