



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL POLICY



NEWSLETTER

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES - EQUAL BENEFITS

No.2
August
2012

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Sector for equal opportunities

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www.mtsp.gov.mk

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1. THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA RANKED IN TIER 1 THIS YEAR ONCE AGAIN

The annual report of the State Department for 2011 ranked the Republic of Macedonia in the group TIER 1, respectively the group of countries that comply with the standards for the fight against human trafficking.

The Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Mr. Spiro Ristovski, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mrs. Gordana Jankulovska and the Deputy Chief of Mission of the USA in the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Brian Aggeler held a press-conference in which they stated that this represents a recognition of all efforts of the Macedonian authorities had made in this field in the past years.

The Minister Ristovski noted that the high ranking of Macedonia in the global report is a result of the preventive activities, namely the establishment of the legal and institutional framework.



From 186 countries in total, that were ranked in the report, the U.S. State Department placed the Republic of Macedonia in the group of the 33 countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Holland, USA, Great Britain and others) that comply entirely with the standards.

On this occasion Ambassador Volers emphasised the important progress of Macedonia in its fight against human trafficking which was reflected in the report and invited all interested parties to continue with this fight, promising a continuous cooperation and support by the USA.

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2. PROMOTION OF STUDIES RELATED TO THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The Minister of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Macedonia with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) promoted three studies related to the social dimension of human trafficking.



The aim of these studies is improvement of the understanding of protection and fight against human trafficking, detection of the deficiencies in the system in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as giving proposals for overcoming the deficiencies in the system for help and support, which need to be provided by more stakeholders on local and national level.



Pictures from the Press-conference and the awarding of Certificates

The countries from our neighbourhood such as Albania, Greece, Serbia, Kosovo and Bulgaria are placed in the so-called TIER 2 zone and ranked in the group that does not entirely comply with the standards for combating human trafficking.

„Unfortunately human trafficking became our reality which needs to be studied and understood in order to confront it adequately. Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia has joined the countries in the region and beyond that in the fight against this organised crime and reacts decidedly in order to achieve a higher level of efficiency and joint acting” emphasised the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Mr. Spiro Ristovski.



The study „International legal frameworks and Macedonian laws related to poverty with focus on human trafficking” refers to the international and national policies for poverty with special emphasis on human trafficking. This study includes the relevant aspects of the international conventions and protocols that are related to these problems, compared to the solutions in the domestic legal solutions and other solutions. On the other hand, this gives an additional impulse and encouragement to the entire institutional efforts and activities of the civil society in the field of prevention, social inclusion and reintegration of human trafficking victims. In order the fight against human trafficking to be efficient, it must, at the same time, include the measures related to the detection of the roots and reasons which encourage or facilitate the recruitment of new victims. In this case that is the poverty of the population, especially the poverty of individuals and groups that are exposed to a higher level of risk, the socially excluded, marginalised and unemployed people.



According to the findings of the study “Poverty assessment and mapping of vulnerable groups, with focus on human trafficking” the most vulnerable groups or potential human trafficking victims are coming from the eastern and central region, namely:

- ☞ Children and youth with low educational background or without educational background at the age of 10 to 22;
- ☞ Children and youth from poor and dysfunctional families;
- ☞ Families with domestic violence, drugs/alcohol addiction;
- ☞ Children without parents and without parental care;
- ☞ Women and girls from poor families and families without income;
- ☞ Single mothers;
- ☞ Women at the age of 18 to 35;
- ☞ Men at the age of 18 to 35+;
- ☞ Youth from rural areas and small towns and from socially marginalised families.

The study „National programs and benefits in the frame of the social protection system in the Republic of Macedonia”, first of this kind, is oriented to analysis and presentation of the programs for exercising the rights of the poor population. It elaborates the categories of poor and vulnerable groups, as well as the policies and measures for finding a solution to fight against poverty.



The study identifies the rights and the method for exercising rights. All programs have been analysed in respect of: program's principles, target groups, opportunities for access, benefits enjoyed by poor population and necessary documentation. This kind of analysis facilitates the perception of the rights and the methods for their exercise. „The studies shall serve as basis for further support of the reforms in this field in order to identify the factors that cause the human trafficking and to decrease the risk that the vulnerable groups are exposed to, which are the most frequent victims of this organised crime” noted Dr. Wolfgang Jessen, Manager of the GIZ project: Regional Program on Social Protection and Prevention of Human Trafficking.

At the same event, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Republic of Macedonia, Mrs. Gudrun Steinacker, on behalf of the German Development Cooperation donated a vehicle to the Inter-Municipal Centre for Social Work in Skopje for the needs of the Day care centre for street children, as well as for the field work of the social workers.



The studies have been prepared with the support by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) as part of the Regional Program on Social Protection and Prevention of Human Trafficking.

3. SEMINAR WITH THE DIRECTORS OF CENTRES FOR SOCIAL WORK

The role of the social work centres in the prevention and protection of human trafficking victims was the subject of the seminar held in Ohrid on 26-27 of April 2012, organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in cooperation with the German Organisation for International Cooperation (GIZ). The participants at the seminar, namely the directors of 24 inter-municipal centres for social work were introduced to the concept of human trafficking, international and national legislation, institutional mechanisms for prevention, detection and prosecution of the offenders, as well as the necessary measures for prevention and protection of human trafficking victims. The State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Mr. Muedin Kahvedzi noted the importance of the social work centres in the prevention and early detection of human trafficking victims. He emphasised that the directors of these Centres, as responsible people for the work management and organisation, should address this topic responsibly and dedicated.

The seminar gave the opportunity to exchange information, experiences, proposals and suggestions with regard to the promotion of the situation and the conditions for the activities of the centres for social work in relation to improvement of the social status of the citizens, and especially of the vulnerable groups from which the human trafficking victims are mostly recruited.

The conclusions from the seminar were directed to the following issues:

- ☞ Increase of the capacities of the centres for social work, especially in the part of human resources, namely experts;
- ☞ Systematic approach to a work case at a communal level, i.e. higher level of coordinated cooperation with other institutions in the local self-government with the purpose of re-integration of victims and their monitoring;
- ☞ Improved field work which will enable early detection of the problems of the vulnerable groups and prevention of becoming human trafficking victims.



Seminar with the directors - Ohrid



Seminar with the directors - Ohrid

4. SEMINAR WITH THE SOCIAL WORKERS

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in cooperation with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) on 7-8 of June 2012 in Bitola organised the first regional seminar (from 3 planned seminars in total) aimed for the social workers who are assigned to work on the problems with human trafficking.

The social workers had the opportunity to acquire new knowledge and information about the work of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration, international and national legislation, new modus-operandi and human trafficking trends, the role of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Internal Affairs / Unit for combating trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, standard operating procedures for dealing with human trafficking victims, as well as the social dimension of human trafficking.

As a general conclusion, the participants at the seminar emphasised the need of reorganisation of the social work centres in relation to separation of the expert work and the basic rights. This separation shall ensure mobility of the social workers and dedication to the field work.

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

VISIT BY THE GERMAN ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALER BUND

The organisation Internationaler Bund visited the Republic of Macedonia in the period from 14th to 18th of May 2012 in cooperation with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in order to develop a program through which the experiences from Germany will be shared, adjusted to the needs of the professionals who work in the social sphere of human trafficking.

The Internationaler Bund is a non-governmental organisation from the Federal Republic of Germany in which work more than 12.000 people in more than 700 buildings at 300 locations in Germany. This organisation

is one of the leaders in providing educational and professional trainings in Germany and it has professionals from all spheres of social services. Within their mission in Macedonia they visited the centres for social work in Kumanovo, Probištip, Gostivar and Kichevo and NGO's and held a one-day workshop in the frame of which were specified the directions and the priorities of the Program that will be implemented by GIZ in the next period.

Workshop IB



STUDY VISIT OF A MACEDONIAN DELEGATION TO BULGARIA

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in the frame of the TRM II Project – Improvement of transnational cooperation on cases of human trafficking in Southeast Europe – organised a study visit to the Republic of Bulgaria on 27/28 of May 2012 by a delegation of the Republic of Macedonia.

The study visit of the delegation composed of representatives of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration was realised in order to share and exchange good practices between the delegations of the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of new trends in human trafficking, prosecution of offenders and prevention, as well as protection of human trafficking victims.

Study visit to Bulgaria





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**Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Republic of Macedonia**

2012, Number II august

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Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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for Economic Cooperati
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