



Romania

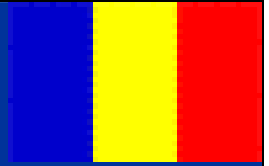
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Human Trafficking – the battle continues

Trafficking in human beings is a key criminal phenomenon, often supported by endemic corruption, fraud and well-established money laundering practices. The current growth of transnational criminal organizations, and free flow of people, money and goods creates conditions that facilitate the illicit movement of drugs, weapons, people and money. Human trafficking affects the lives of hundreds and thousands of people all over the world. By generating new and more refined forms of slavery, the criminal networks violate basic human rights and contribute to a demographic and economic destabilization of the countries affected by such criminal activities, irrespective of their status as destination, transit or origin countries.



Regional Seminar on Human anti-trafficking in Austria

UNDP Romania has played a prominent role over the past few years in supporting anti-trafficking efforts in South Eastern Europe (SEE), mainly through developing a best practice manual for specialist anti-trafficking investigators. Launched in Vienna (2003) this manual has been officially endorsed by 13 countries in SEE (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, FYR of Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and Serbia & Montenegro, UN administered territory of Kosovo) as regional training standard. Together with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD, based in Vienna), UNDP Romania has recently started a joint follow-up project on police training in SEE. Over 18 months UNDP will be updating/upgrading the training materials for both general police and specialist investigators and will support participating countries to go into full-scale implementation of this type of training for their law enforcement staff.

“Strengthening law enforcements capacities for fighting human trafficking in South East Europe” project jointly run by UNDP Romania and ICMPD Vienna was launched in Stadtschailing, Austria between 11 – 17 June 2005 for SEE participating countries and the first regional seminar of the project was held. Police officers, prosecutors, trainers and NGOs representatives from SEE Countries attended the seminar. Experts from SEE and other regions, observers from South East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Regional Center and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and delegates of beneficiary countries shared their experiences with the aim of elaborating a comprehensive best practice manual adapted to the SEE region, as part of a joint response to a joint problem. “The seminar focuses on a proactive approach from the participants to actively contribute to the finalization of the training manuals for each South East European Country respectively”, said Adina Cruceru, Project Manager in her opening remarks.

UNDP Romania has also been involved in anti-trafficking efforts at the country level in Romania. Last year, UNDP Romania supported the Ministry of Administration and Interior in developing the legal framework to set-up a National Anti-trafficking Agency - National Agency for Prevention of Human Trafficking and Victims' Protection. Now, UNDP Romania is implementing this project in partnership with Ministry of Administration and Interior.



The project will update the existing manuals, strategize a training curriculum and implement the training strategy adapted to the local needs of each country. This will result in well trained law enforcement agencies in these countries, efficient in identifying the victims, deal with their treatment, protection and improved investigation techniques and cross-border operational cooperation. For more information, please contact UNDP Romania at antittraffic@undp.ro.