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SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TRAINED TO FIGHT ALL FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In support of their commitments, South East Europe countries have dedicated considerable efforts to the training and proficiency of their law enforcement agencies in fighting all forms of human trafficking. As background material for these initiatives stands the "Best Practice Manual for Fighting Human Trafficking", which is being currently updated by UNDP Romania and the International Center for Migration Policies Development (ICMPD) Vienna. Part of the UNDP/ICMPD project "Strengthening law enforcements capacities for fighting human trafficking in South East Europe", the recent pilot training sessions implemented in Albania, Kosovo, Moldova and Romania once again indicated that only common standards and approach in investigating human trafficking can support the combating and eradication of this phenomenon.

9 November 2005, Stefan cel Mare Police Academy, Chisinau, Moldova. 60 cadets benefited of one day anti-trafficking training focused on general issues about the phenomenon, the identifications of victims of human trafficking, and the cooperation among law enforcement agencies at the local, national, regional and international level. Trainers from the Police Academy and field police officers combined theory with practical examples for a better understanding of the dimension of the problem.



14-18 November 2005, Kosovo Police School, Vushtrri, UN-administered territory of Kosovo. 25 specialized police officers from several regions shared experience and best practices regarding the investigation of human trafficking cases. National and international trainers pointed out the importance of victims' identification process as a first step in investigating such crimes. The human rights approach was tackled by attending guest speakers from the civil society.

28-30 November 2005, Brasov, Romania, Second Annual Meeting of law enforcement agencies specialized in combating human trafficking. 200 specialized police officers (Organized Crime Directorate, Border Police and Intelligence Unit) and prosecutors tested and validated at national level the new anti-trafficking regional manual, which is to be shared with correspondent law enforcement agencies in SEE. Once again, the critical importance of all levels cooperation was raised. The presence of SECI Regional Center representatives and liaisons officers appointed in Bucharest was a clear indication of strengthened cooperation in the field.



30 November - 1 December 2005, Police Academy, Tirana, Albania. 20 specialized police officers from several Albanian districts were updated on various forms of human trafficking. Although Albania has not yet faced cases of trafficking for forced labor, the law enforcement agents stand now ready to fight it as well.

"Strengthening law enforcements capacities for fighting human trafficking in South East Europe" project was launched early 2005. UNDP Romania and ICMPD Vienna continue to support SEE countries to develop new pilot training sessions in 2006, and to adapt the regional anti-trafficking manual to national particularities.

For more information, please contact UNDP Romania at antitraffic@undp.ro.

(click [here](#) to see full gallery of pictures from training sessions in Moldova, Kosovo, Romania and Albania)