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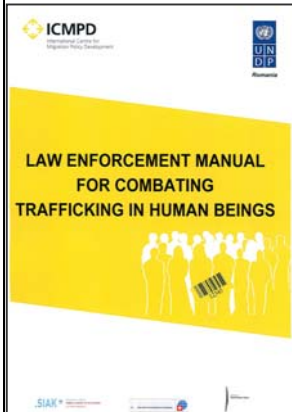
Newsletter

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## SEE Countries Join Forces in Fight against Human Trafficking

In 2005, UNDP Romania and the Vienna-based International Center for Migration Policies Development (ICMPD) jointly launched a regional project "Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacities for Fighting Human Trafficking in South Eastern Europe," in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior (MoAI) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior.



The project is a follow-up to the regional initiative implemented by ICMPD and UNDP in 2002-2003, where two complementary training packages were elaborated and endorsed as SEE regional training standards. The "Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking Training Strategy for Law Enforcement in SEE countries," designed for general and specialized police, was adopted by the beneficiary countries/territories (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Kosovo.) Under the current project, a new "Law Enforcement Manual for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" has been produced by consolidating the two previous manuals to create a comprehensive training scheme with specific modules for different target groups.

The key phases of the project implementation included: (i) introduction of modern training delivery techniques, review/validation by national teams of a draft-training module for police officers, design of comprehensive training plans (regional seminar in Austria, June 2005); (ii) national pilot training sessions conducted by all participating countries/territories; and (iii) review/validation of the new version of the law enforcement Manual during the Regional Concluding Seminar, organized by UNDP and Romanian MoAI in Bucharest, 4-6 May 2006.

The Concluding Seminar was attended by representatives of the SEE beneficiary countries, same national teams that participated in the validation seminar of June 2005 (police investigators, representatives of the police training institutes, prosecutors and NGO representatives.) Other governmental, non-governmental, national and international organizations actively involved in fighting human trafficking were also present. Participants provided experiences, feedback and inputs from the respective national pilot rollouts of the updated anti-trafficking manual, to finalize the "Law Enforcement Manual for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" and the training curricula. They also had the opportunity to share experiences of multi-disciplinary trainer teams and good practices in the institutionalization of anti-trafficking training based on the updated manual and curricula. Modalities for strengthened law enforcement cooperation and effective follow-up measures were also discussed.



Press conference, closing of seminar (l to r): Colonel Peter Lamplot, Austrian MoI, Mr. Gottfried Zurcher, General Director of ICMPD, Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UNDP RR/UN RC, Mr. Gabriel Solitrescu, National THB Coordinator Romania, and Mr. Razvan Cirica, Head of UNDP Governance Section

"Human trafficking is a multi-faceted challenge that affects hundreds of thousands of people around the world. From a human rights perspective, trafficking is modern day slavery, unacceptable by any standards. It is a threat to our fragile democratic society in the region, to demographics and political and economic stability, and a huge blow to human security" stated Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UNDP RR/UN RC, at the press conference. Mr. Gottfried Zurcher, ICMPD Director, emphasized the fact that "continuous efforts, as well as a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach are needed to support the law enforcement personnel in developing a common strategy to combating new type of crimes". Ms. Adina Cruceru, UNDP Project Manager, added: "Well-trained law enforcement agencies are an indispensable component of an effective strategy to counter human trafficking. SEE Governments have therefore reaffirmed their commitment to establish regular training programmes as part of the curriculum for law enforcement agencies."

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