GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

NATIONAL PLAN FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2009 TO 2011

Zagreb, 2009
INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in human beings is one of the most unscrupulous examples of human rights violations aimed at reaping an illegal profit. Because of its global character, no country is excluded from it. The victims have their human rights violated because their movement is limited, they are not allowed to communicate with their families and their surroundings, and in such circumstances they are exploited in different ways. Human trafficking victims are most commonly women and children, but men are becoming more frequent as well.

On December 13, 2000, the Republic of Croatia signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, with the corresponding protocols: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea. Since then, it has taken part in the activities of the international community in the field of suppressing trafficking in human beings. The aforementioned UN Convention with its corresponding protocols represented an extremely important international document in this field for two reasons: first of all, it characterizes trafficking in human beings as the most blatant human rights violation on the global level. Secondly, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children includes an internationally recognized definition of trafficking in human beings, which was fully adopted and integrated into the legislation of the Republic of Croatia (Article 175 of the Penal Code).

In addition to the aforementioned Convention, the Republic of Croatia is also a signatory of all relevant international documents in the field of suppressing trafficking in human beings, including the following: Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Special attention in the Republic of Croatia is paid to children as a particularly vulnerable and endangered group. In order to protect them from human trafficking, and to integrate the provisions of the aforementioned international documents into the national system, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Children, October 2005 – December 2007.

Furthermore, in June 2007, the Republic of Croatia ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This Convention is extremely important since its provisions are aimed not only at criminally prosecuting and punishing offenders. To a large extent, they are dedicated to defining high standards in offering help and protection to victims of trafficking in human beings.

An integral system of suppressing trafficking in human beings has been created in the Republic of Croatia, including activities from the moment human trafficking victims are identified until they are fully integrated into society. A national referral system has been established to this end, as well as the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human beings as an umbrella body whose members are representatives of all relevant institutions in the field of combating trafficking in human beings (Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Family, Defenders and Intergenerational Solidarity, Ministry of Finance, Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia and civil society organizations). The Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia in charge of foreign affairs, social affairs and human rights presides over the National Committee. A national coordinator for combating trafficking in human beings (who holds the post of Head of the Human Rights Office) is appointed for managing the operations and coordinating the work of the National Committee. Since the National Committee is an advisory body, an Operative Team for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was established in order quickly and efficiently to solve problems which arise in concrete cases.
Since 2004 until now, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has adopted a whole series of strategic and operational documents in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, most notably the National Program for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings from 2005 to 2008, four annual operational plans which contributed to the implementation of the aforementioned National Program, and the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Children from 2005 to 2007. When the four-year term of the implementation of the National Program for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings ended, all the accomplishments were revised and the preparation was initiated of this national strategic document which encompasses the period from 2009 to 2011. The National Program for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011 encompasses all areas of the current national documents which deal with the topic of suppressing trafficking in human beings (the normative framework, victim identification, discovering, processing and punishing the perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings, helping and protecting the victims, prevention, education, international collaboration and activity coordination) and adopts measures and activities of all relevant State administration bodies, civil society organizations and international organizations.

The aforementioned document is a continuation of the already initiated activities in this area and represents an extension of the already established system of combating human trafficking in the Republic of Croatia. It includes the operational experience of all relevant institutions. Even though the system for combating human trafficking established in the Republic of Croatia is in accordance with the standards of the most developed European countries, the Government of the Republic of Croatia is aware of the fact that constant improvements of the already established system, as well as adjustments to new trends, are extremely important for an efficient fight against this global problem. Because of the aforementioned reason, the new national strategic document pays particular attention to the area of repatriating and reintegrating human trafficking victims.

The following areas are included in the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011:

1. Normative framework
2. Identifying victims of trafficking in human beings
3. Discovering, processing and punishing the perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings
4. Helping and protecting victims of trafficking in human beings
5. Prevention
6. Education
7. International cooperation
8. Activity coordination
NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

A normative framework has been established in the Republic of Croatia, enabling criminal prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings. This framework also enables the provision of help and protection to victims of human trafficking. The normative framework needs to be appropriately strengthened in a constant effort to keep improving the established system.

In the upcoming three-year period envisaged by this National Plan, particular attention was paid to drafting documents on the repatriation procedure for human trafficking victims and their social and economic reintegration into society, since the aforementioned activities represent one of the main requirements for their successful recuperation. Similarly, in order to protect children as a particularly vulnerable group from exploitation, the creation of a National Strategy for Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect and a National Plan against the Sexual Exploitation of Children is planned.

Objective:
1. Improve the normative framework in order to protect the victims and to discover, process and appropriately punish the perpetrators of a criminal offence of trafficking in human beings.

Measure 1. Adopting a Protocol on proceeding during the voluntary return of human trafficking victims

Activity:
1. Designing and drafting a Protocol on proceeding during the voluntary return of human trafficking victims

Beneficiary: Ministry of Internal Affairs
Co-executors: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, International Organization for Migration and civil society organizations
Funds needed: HRK 10,000.00
Implementation indicators: Protocol on proceeding during the voluntary return of human trafficking victims created

Measure 2. Adopting a Protocol on the integration and reintegration of human trafficking victims

Activity:
1. Designing and drafting a Protocol on the integration and reintegration of human trafficking victims

Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Co-executors: Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations
Funds needed: HRK 10,000.00
Implementation indicators: Protocol on the integration and reintegration of human trafficking victims created

Measure 3. Adopting the National Strategy for Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect

Activity:
1. Designing and drafting the National Strategy for Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect

Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
Implementation indicators: National Strategy for Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect created

Measure 4. Adopting the National Plan against the Sexual Exploitation of Children

Activity:
1. Designing and drafting the National Plan against the Sexual Exploitation of Children

Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
Implementation indicators: National Plan against the Sexual Exploitation of Children created

Measure 5. Creation of an Ordinance regulating the provision of care outside the family for children and adults – human trafficking victims.

Activity:
1. Designing and drafting an Ordinance regulating the provision of care outside the family for children and adults – human trafficking victims

Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
Implementation indicators: An Ordinance created regulating the provision of care outside the family for children and adults – human trafficking victims
IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Strengthening the proactive methods of identifying human trafficking victims is a basic requirement for the successful functioning of the entire system of combating trafficking in human beings.

Efficient identification of human trafficking victims is the beginning of the work on the protection of the victims’ rights and the provisions of necessary help. The Republic of Croatia is mostly a transit and destination country, although recently it has been noted that the Republic of Croatia has also been a country of origin for human trafficking victims.

Trafficking in human beings is a criminal offence characterized by exceptionally high profit, usually committed within organized crime networks which use increasingly more sophisticated and more brutal methods of work. Because of the aforementioned, it is crucial constantly to improve human trafficking victim identification methods. Proactive victim identification methods include studying new trends in this area, as well as acting on time and applying the appropriate measures aimed at suppressing this global problem. In view of this, it has been noted that recruiting victims over the internet is on the rise. Consequently, the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011 recognizes this area as exceptionally demanding. Because of this, particular attention is paid to increasing the proactive work of police officers in discovering victim recruitment through the internet.

Objective:
1. Strengthening proactive human trafficking victim identification procedures

Measure 1. Perfecting the application of proactive methods of discovering and identifying human trafficking victims

Activities:
1. Holding meetings between the 26 police officers in the organized crime line of work that deal with trafficking in human beings and 10 State attorneys specialized for the problem of human trafficking

Beneficiary: Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia
Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: HRK 20,000.00
Implementation indicators: meetings held between 26 police officers dealing with organized crime and in charge of identifying human trafficking victims and 10 State attorneys specialized for the problem of trafficking in human beings

2. Holding meetings between 27 border police officers who deal with combating trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Ministry of Internal Affairs
Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: HRK 20,000.00
**Implementation indicators**: meetings held between 27 border police officers who deal with organized crime and are in charge of identifying human trafficking victims

3. Application of standard operative procedures in processes aimed at combating human trafficking and application of a proactive approach according to the police work model guided by criminal intelligence information for the purpose of improving the identification of human trafficking victims and discovering criminal offence perpetrators pursuant to Article 175 of the Penal Code.

**Beneficiary**: Ministry of Internal Affairs  
**Deadline**: continuous  
**Funds needed**: no additional funds necessary  
**Implementation indicators**: consistently applied standard operative procedures in processes aimed at combating human trafficking

4. Strengthening the proactive work of police officers in discovering victim recruitment through the internet and other open sources

**Beneficiary**: Ministry of Internal Affairs  
**Co-executors**: Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia  
**Deadline**: continuous  
**Funds needed**: no additional funds necessary  
**Implementation indicators**: increased number of discovered and processed cases of victim recruitment through the internet

**Measure 2. Strengthening mobile teams**

**Activities**:
1. Professional training of mobile team members in accordance with the Protocol on identifying, helping and protecting human trafficking victims  
2. Organizing two annual two-day joint training sessions for mobile team members

**Beneficiary**: Human Rights Office and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
**Co-executors**: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations  
**Deadline**: continuous  
**Funds needed**: HRK 20,000.00  
**Implementation indicators**: professionally trained mobile team members and professional training held

**Measure 3. Continuation of cooperation with civil society organizations in connection with activities in the area of identifying human trafficking victims**

**Activities**:
1. Regularly updating data on calls received on the SOS line
2. Regularly updating members of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings about the activities undertaken based on the information received regarding the calls to the SOS line

**Beneficiary:** Human Rights Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs  
**Co-executors:** civil society organizations  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** no additional funds necessary  
**Implementation indicators:**  
- regular information regarding calls to the SOS line  
- regular information about the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs undertaken in response to the calls to the SOS line  
- regular information of the members of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings about the activities undertaken based on the calls to the SOS line

3. Concluding a Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and civil society organizations which operate the SOS telephone line

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Internal Affairs, Human Rights Office  
**Co-executors:** civil society organizations  
**Deadline:** 31.12.2009.  
**Funds needed:** no additional funds necessary  
**Implementation indicators:** Cooperation Agreement concluded between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and civil society organizations which operate the SOS telephone line

**Objective:**

2. Regional and international cooperation

*Measure 1. Participation in the implementation of international and regional field operations and operational projects oriented at identifying victims and combating the crime of human trafficking (Interpol, Europol, SECI, regional and international police cooperation based on bilateral agreements)*

**Activity:**

1. Participation in field operations and operational projects

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Internal Affairs  
**Co-executors:** Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** no additional funds necessary  
**Implementation indicators:** executed field operations and created reports on the results of the executed field operations and operational projects
DISCOVERING, PROCESSING AND PUNISHING THE PERPETRATORS OF THE CRIMINAL OFFENCE OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Discovering, processing and applying efficient legal sanctions on perpetrators of the criminal offence of human trafficking is an important part of the successful functioning of the system for combating trafficking in human beings.

During the implementation period of the previous National Program for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings from 2005 to 2008, a legal framework was developed through the work of the relevant bodies, which fully corresponds to the highest European standards in this area and which also represents an efficient legal framework for the successful processing and punishing of perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings. In order to monitor the achievements as well as possible, and to create a statistical database on processed cases of human trafficking at the Office of the National Coordinator – the Human Rights Office of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The National Plan envisions measures whose objective is developing new methods of collecting statistical data on processing the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings and punishing the perpetrators. In this area, it is crucial to establish full cooperation of the institutions involved in the process from the moment the victim is identified until the perpetrator is processed. Thus, the measures of this National Plan are aimed at strengthening the already existing cooperation between the police, judges and State attorneys.

Objective:

1. Develop new methods of collecting statistical data on this phenomenon and its processing

Measure 1. Creating a form for the statistical database on processed cases for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code

Activities:

1. Creating a form for the statistical database on processed cases for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code

Beneficiary: Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Justice
Co-executors: Ministry of Internal Affairs
Funds needed: HRK 10,000.00
Implementation indicators: Created form for the statistical database on processed cases for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code

2. Analysis of the number of cases, criminal proceedings and legally valid verdicts for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code

Beneficiary: Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia
Co-executors: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice
Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary

Implementation indicators: Analysis carried out of the number of cases, criminal proceedings and legally valid verdicts for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code

3. Quarterly reporting of the Operative Team on the existence of verdicts for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code

Beneficiary: Ministry of Justice
Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
Implementation indicators: received and processed quarterly reports on for the criminal offence under Article 175 of the Penal Code

Objective:
2. Strengthening the cooperation between the police and State attorneys in order to discover and appropriately punish perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings and their abettors

Measure 1. Developing advanced methods of discovering the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings by strengthening the investigative techniques, including the execution of financial investigations

Activity:
1. Systematically implement new investigative techniques in discovering the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Ministry of Internal Affairs
Co-executors: Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia
Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
Implementation indicators: increased number of discovered and processed perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings
HELPING AND PROTECTING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Offering adequate help and protection to human trafficking victims is a central part of the system of combating trafficking in human beings. A system which primarily takes care of the interests of human trafficking victims has been established in the Republic of Croatia. For the aforementioned reason, all activities of the relevant institutions from the moment of identification are aimed at offering adequate help and protection to human trafficking victims. This includes the work of 2 national safe-houses, the provision of health care, psychological help, social welfare assistance and legal aid and protection, as well as ensuring a safe and voluntary return to the country of origin.

Providing help and protection to human trafficking victims must be carried out in such a way as to protect the victim from secondary victimization. The provision of adequate help does not end only with work in a safe-house and the provision of health care, psychological help, social welfare assistance and legal aid and protection. Rather, one of the important elements of providing help and protection is also ensuring the human trafficking victim is reintegrated into society, as well as preventing the person from once again becoming a human trafficking victim. Civil society organizations play the most important role precisely in the area of the provision of help and protection to victims. Because of the complexity of the issue and the traumatic experiences of the victims, the creation of individual programs requires a high degree of expertise and cooperation between the relevant authorities with the civil society organizations working in this sensitive part of the national system of combating trafficking in human beings.

Objective:
1. Ensure the protection of the best interests of human trafficking victims

Measure 1. Creating individual programs for helping and protecting each identified human trafficking victim in accordance with the Protocol on identifying, helping and protecting human trafficking victims

Activities:
1. Designing and creating individual help and protection programs

Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Co-executors: Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations
Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
Implementation indicators: designed and created individual help and protection programs

2. Application of the created help and protection programs to each identified human trafficking victim
Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
Co-executors: Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations  
Deadline: continuous  
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary  
Implementation indicators: implemented individual help and protection programs

*Measure 2. Ensure the protection of the confidentiality of the data on human trafficking victims*

**Activity:**
1. Systematically apply the provisions of the Data Protection Act in regards to human trafficking victims

Co-executors: Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations  
Deadline: continuous  
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary  
Implementation indicators: protected identity and personal information for every identified human trafficking victim

*Measure 3. Ensure the continuous operation of official and alternate safe-houses for children and adult human trafficking victims*

**Activities:**
1. Ensure the financial resources for the operation of safe-houses
2. Ensure professional staff for working in safe-houses

Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
Co-executors: Human Rights Office, Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations  
Deadline: continuous  
Funds needed: HRK 900,000.00  
Implementation indicators: successful and continued operation of safe-houses for children and adults

Objective  
2. Ensure the recovery and reintegration of human trafficking victims into society

*Measure 1. Ensure cooperation with health care facilities*

**Activity:**
1. Appointing health care coordinators in health care facilities

Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary  
Implementation indicators: appointed health care coordinators
Measure 2. Ensure county coordinators are appointed as members of mobile teams

Activity:
1. Appointment of county coordinators

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
**Deadline:** 31.12.2009.  
**Funds needed:** no additional funds necessary  
**Implementation indicators:** appointed county coordinators

**Objective**  
3. Capacity building State institutions in combating trafficking in human beings and providing help and protection to human trafficking victims

Measure 1. Capacity building of the administrative capacities and human resources of State institutions in the area of combating trafficking in human beings

**Activities:**
1. Capacity building of the national coordinating body for combating trafficking in human beings

**Beneficiary:** Human Rights Office  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** HRK 30,000.00  
**Implementation indicators:** administrative and professional capacities built of the national coordinating body

2. Capacity building of the State administration bodies involved in the system of combating trafficking in human beings

**Beneficiary:** Human Rights Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** HRK 360,000.00  
**Implementation indicators:** administrative and professional capacities built of the national coordinating bodies involved in the system of combating trafficking in human beings

**Objective**  
4. Ensure cooperation between State institutions and civil society organizations on the national and local level
Measure 1. Cooperation of civil society organizations which are involved in combating human trafficking and State administration bodies on the local level

Activities:
1. Organizing a tender for financing projects and programs of civil society organizations which are involved in combating human trafficking on the local level
   **Beneficiary:** Human Rights Office and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
   **Co-executors:** civil society organizations
   **Deadline:** continuous
   **Funds needed:** HRK 450,000.00 – Human Rights Office
   **Implementation indicators:**
   - tender announced for financing projects and programs of civil society organizations which are involved in combating human trafficking
   - financed projects and programs of civil society organizations
   - cooperation effectuated

2. Organizing thematic sessions of county coordinations for human rights on the issue of trafficking in human beings

   **Beneficiary:** county coordinations for human rights, Human Rights Office
   **Deadline:** continuous
   **Funds needed:** no additional funds necessary
   **Implementation indicators:** Organized thematic sessions of county coordinations for human rights
PREVENTION

Although the problem of trafficking in human beings has been recognized in the Republic of Croatia since 2002 and the relevant bodies and civil society organizations are active in an effort to suppress it, the fact remains that human trafficking is still a serious global problem. During the implementation period of the National Program for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, 2005 - 2008, the Government of the Republic of Croatia paid great attention to measures aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings and raising public awareness of this problem. Numerous public awareness campaigns, seminars, round tables and training sessions were held. In addition to educating target groups, preventive action is an extremely important link in the comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in human beings. In fact, being informed and aware of the issue is one of the key requirements for suppressing this phenomenon.

The objective of preventive action is not only to make the public aware the problem exists, but also to provide information to target groups so they may be able to recognize this phenomenon in critical moments.

In addition to potential victims, preventive campaigns and activities need to be addressed to the wider public, as well as to State administration bodies which are working on the legal framework, the identification and provision of help and protection to victims. Furthermore, it is crucial that preventive campaigns attempt to address the whole human trafficking chain, from the country of origin, through the country of transit to the destination country, since the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings usually does not involve only one country.

In view of the aforementioned, the said National Plan Program for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has paid particular attention to measures and activities aimed at carrying out research on the issue of trafficking in human beings and the most recent trends in this area.

Objective:

1. Raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in human beings

Measure 1. Campaigns aimed at raising public awareness on the different forms of exploitation of human trafficking victims

Activity:

1. Design and organize public awareness campaigns on the different forms of exploitation with special emphasis on work exploitation

Beneficiary: Human Rights Office
Co-executors: civil society organizations
Deadline: December 31, 2010
Funds needed: HRK 60,000.00
Implementation indicators: - organized and implemented public awareness campaign
- carried out assessment of the public campaign on raising the public awareness

**Objective:**

2. Carrying out scientific research on the issue of trafficking in human beings and the most recent trends

**Measure 1. Identify the most recent trends in the area of trafficking in human beings**

**Activity:**
1. Carrying out scientific research on the most recent trends in the area of trafficking in human beings

**Beneficiary:** Human Rights Office, Ministry of Science, Education and Sport  
**Co-executors:** Ministry of Internal Affairs, International Organization for Migration and civil society organizations  
**Deadline:** December 31, 2011  
**Funds needed:** HRK 150,000.00  
**Implementation indicators:**  
- developed scientific research parameters  
- research carried out and a study created  
- the research results taken as parameters for further work on combating trafficking in human beings

**Measure 2. Determine the influence of the civil society organization projects on the prevention of trafficking in human beings**

**Activity:**
1. Carry out an evaluation of the implemented projects of civil society organizations in the area of combating trafficking in human beings

**Beneficiary:** Human Rights Office and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
**Co-executors:** civil society organizations  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** no additional funds necessary  
**Implementation indicators:**  
- evaluation carried out  
- results compiled and used as indicators in prioritizing tenders for civil society organization programs and projects
EDUCATION

Along with prevention, the education of target groups represents another crucial non-repressive part of the overall strategy for combatting trafficking in human beings established in the Republic of Croatia. Constant work on education is closely tied in with the prevention of human trafficking and contributes to a greater visibility of this phenomenon.

During the implementation period of the previous National Program for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings from 2005 to 2008, the Government of the Republic of Croatia systematically worked on educating all relevant groups. Within this, relevant State administration bodies and civil society organizations held seminars for the following groups: police officers, members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia which are sent on peace-keeping missions, social welfare system employees, family centre employees, health care employees, judges, State attorneys, diplomatic and consular staff, journalists, students and civil society organizations.

The National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011 also includes measures and activities aimed at educating target groups. The awareness of the human trafficking issue by all relevant institutions and persons who are directly tasked in their professional capacity with combating trafficking in human beings is a significant precondition for creating and implementing measures aimed at suppressing it.

In order to implement the aforementioned, the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011 envisages the continued implementation of educational programs. Particular attention is paid to implementing education of the following target groups: editors and journalists, with an emphasis on the protection of personal information of the victims, preventing sensationalism and secondary victimization of the victims; tourism sector workers, and children and the youth in juvenile correctional facilities as a particularly sensitive and vulnerable group.

Objective:

1. Continue the education of target groups on trafficking in human beings on a national and international level

Measure 1. Implementing education on the subject of combating trafficking in human beings within the preparation programs of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia personnel for participating in peace-keeping missions

Activity:
1. Addressing the subject of combating trafficking in human beings in the preparation programs of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia personnel and Ministry of Internal Affairs personnel for participating in peace-keeping missions

Beneficiary: Ministry of Defence
Co-executors: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Human Rights Office, civil society organizations and international organizations
Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
Implementation indicators: Expert topics in connection with combating trafficking in human beings addressed within the preparation programs of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia personnel and the Ministry of Internal Affairs personnel for participating in peace-keeping missions

Measure 2. Continued education of family centre staff, social welfare workers and health care coordinators and mobile team members in the area of providing help and protection to human trafficking victims

Activity:
1. Implementing education for family centre staff, county coordinators from social welfare centres, health care coordinators and mobile team members

Beneficiary: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Funds needed: HRK 40,000.00
Implementation indicators: educated county coordinators, health care coordinators and mobile team members

Measure 3. Continued joint education of the police, Office of the State Attorney, judges and civil society organizations aimed at developing cooperation in the area of identifying and providing help and protection to human trafficking victims

Activity:
1. Organizing a joint seminar for judges and employees of the Witness and Victim Support Office

Beneficiary: Human Rights Office and the Ministry of Justice
Co-executors: Ministry of Internal Affairs and UNDP
Funds needed: HRK 10,000.00
Implementation indicators: seminar held for employees of the Witness and Victim Support Office

Measure 4. Holding a seminar for editors and journalists on the issue of trafficking in human beings

Activities:
1. Holding a seminar for editors of daily, weekly and monthly magazines on the issue of human trafficking, with an emphasis on the protection of personal information of the victims, preventing sensationalism and secondary victimization of the victims

Beneficiary: Human Rights Office
Co-executors: civil society organizations, Ministry of Internal Affairs
Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: HRK 4,800.00
Implementation indicators: - seminars held
- journalists educated on the issue of trafficking in human beings
2. Holding a seminar for editors of daily, weekly and monthly magazines and staff of the Croatian Employment Office with emphasis on fake employment ads as one of the ways of recruiting victims

**Beneficiary:** Human Rights Office  
**Co-executors:** Ministry of Internal Affairs and civil society organizations  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** HRK 4,800.00  
**Implementation indicators:** seminars held and editors of daily, weekly and monthly magazines and staff of the Croatian Employment Office educated

*Measure 5. Continue addressing the topic of «Suppressing trafficking in human beings» within the regular education program carried out by the Judiciary Academy.*

**Activity:**
1. Holding seminars for judges and State attorneys in regional county education centres

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Justice  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** HRK 40,000.00  
**Implementation indicators:** - seminars held for judges and State attorneys in regional county education centres  
- educated judges and State Attorneys

*Measure 6. Continue implementing the education program of diplomatic and consular staff and Diplomatic Academy participants regarding combating trafficking in human beings*

**Activities:**
1. Continue educating diplomatic and consular staff about combating human trafficking within regular education programs of the Diplomatic Academy – the one-year and the two-month diplomatic courses

2. Continue educating about combating human trafficking within the preparation program of diplomatic and consular staff before leaving for duty, especially heading into countries identified as countries of origin and destination countries of human trafficking victims

3. Organizing, if needed, specialized education about combating trafficking in human beings (consular courses, training of existing trainers, meetings and conferences and cooperation through current international projects)

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration  
**Co-executors:** international organizations, civil society organizations  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** HRK 25,000.00  
**Implementation indicators** – education held of diplomatic and consular staff within regular education programs of the Diplomatic Academy and within preparation programs before leaving for duty  
- Diplomatic Academy participants educated on subjects in connection with combating trafficking in human beings
- carried out, if needed, a program for improving the knowledge of current trainers, consular staff and employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

**Measure 7. Educating tourism sector workers (bartenders, waiters, receptionists) and workers in other service industries**

**Activity:**
1. Holding seminars for tourism sector workers and workers in other service industries

**Beneficiary:** Human Rights Office  
**Co-executors:** Ministry of Tourism  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** HRK 4,800.00  
**Implementation indicators:** seminars held for tourism sector workers and workers in other service industries

**Measure 8. Continue educating those employed in the field of education and students about combating trafficking in human beings**

**Activities:**
1. Holding seminars for children, the youth and educators in elementary and high school education, pre-school education and secondary education.  
2. Distribution and usage of educational materials

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Science, Education and Sport  
**Co-executors:** Human Rights Office and the Croatian Red Cross  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** HRK 40,000.00  
**Implementation indicators:**  
- seminars held for elementary, high school and kindergarten teachers, as well as secondary education professors  
- distributed educational materials

**Measure 9. Educating children and young adults in juvenile homes without appropriate parental care and in juvenile correction facilities**

**Activity:**
1. Holding seminars for children and young adults in juvenile homes without appropriate parental care and in juvenile correction facilities

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
**Co-executors:** Human Rights Office  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** HRK 30,000.00  
**Implementation indicators:** Seminars held for children and young adults in juvenile homes without appropriate parental care and in juvenile correction facilities
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Despite the fact that the system for combating human trafficking established in the Republic of Croatia is in accordance with the most recent trends and the European standards in this field, all relevant institutions have shown willingness to continue working on improving the established system for combating human trafficking with the objective of providing even better help and protection to human trafficking victims and establishing an ever more efficient legal framework for processing and punishing criminal offenders. With this in mind, active participation of all relevant institution in regional and international initiatives for suppressing trafficking in human beings and further improvements of the already established bilateral and multilateral cooperation are exceptionally important in order constantly to revise the established mechanisms and implement good practice examples into the Croatian system of combating human trafficking.

The new National Plan envisages continued systematic cooperation of the Republic of Croatia with other countries and international organizations and the participation of State administration representatives and civil society organization representatives in initiatives in the area of combating trafficking in human beings.

Objective:
1. Systematic cooperation of the Republic of Croatia with other countries and international organizations in the area of combating trafficking in human beings

Measure 1. Continue the active participation of State administration representatives in regional and international projects and initiatives for combating trafficking in human beings

Activities:
1. Attendance and participation of State administration representatives in regional and international initiatives for combating trafficking in human beings
2. Participation of State administration representatives in international projects in the area of combating trafficking in human beings

Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
Implementation indicators: reports on participation in the activities of international bodies and organizations in the area of combating trafficking in human beings

3. Informing representatives of civil society organizations about regional and international initiatives for combating trafficking in human beings

Beneficiary: Human Rights Office
Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
Implementation indicators: Participation of representatives of civil society organizations in regional and international initiatives for combating trafficking in human beings
ACTIVITY COORDINATION

During the previous program period, bodies were formed tasked with coordinating the activities of all institutions involved in the system of combating trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Croatia. The National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings as the central coordinating body and the national coordinator, who holds the post of Head of the Human Rights Office, have invested great effort in the successful coordination of activities in this area. The complexity of the human trafficking issue requires the participation of institutions with varied jurisdiction and expertise in order to successfully combat this problem. Their cooperation is invaluable. Since a large number of institutions and civil society organizations are involved in the system for combating human trafficking in the Republic of Croatia, the coordination of their activities towards a common goal is necessary for more efficient operations.

The office of the national coordinator – the Human Rights Office plays a significant role in this, since it is the coordinating body at the national level which has an operational role in coordinating the activities of all participants.

The National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011 further strengthens the already established successful coordination of activities through the development of regular cooperation with institutions and civil society organizations in the area of combating trafficking in human beings. Informing all participants and the national coordinating body in particular, about all cases of trafficking in human beings and the help and protection offered to victims is extremely important for further improving the system. For this reason, this National Plan envisages holding regular sessions of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and its Operative Team.

Objective:
1. Further development of cooperation between State officials in the ministries and institutions and non-governmental organizations and the national coordinator in order to improve the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011

Measure 1. Holding regular sessions of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Activity:
1. Regularly convening and organizing sessions of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Beneficiary: Human Rights Office
Co-executors: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice, Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia, USKOK and civil society organizations
Deadline: continuous
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
**Implementation indicators:** convened and held sessions of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

**Measure 2. Holding regular sessions of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

**Activity:**
1. Regularly convening and organizing sessions of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

**Beneficiary:** Human Rights Office  
**Co-executors:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice, Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia, USKOK and civil society organizations  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** no additional funds necessary  
**Implementation indicators:** convened and held sessions of the Operative Team of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

**Measure 3. Informing the national coordinator about all the activities undertaken in the area of combating trafficking in human beings**

**Activity:**
1. Reporting to the national coordinator about all the activities undertaken in the area of combating trafficking in human beings

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice, Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia  
**Co-executors:** Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations  
**Deadline:** continuous  
**Funds needed:** no additional funds necessary  
**Implementation indicators:** the national coordinator informed about all the activities undertaken in the area of combating trafficking in human beings

**Measure 4. Submitting regular annual reports to the Government of the Republic of Croatia about the work of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011**

**Activities:**
1. Gathering data on the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011  
2. Creating a report on the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011  
3. Sending the Report to the Government of the Republic of Croatia for its approval

**Beneficiary:** Human Rights Office
Funds needed: no additional funds necessary
Implementation indicators: The report on the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2009 to 2011 approved