



Preventing Child Trafficking and Empowering Young People:
Project in St. Petersburg

Stocktaking the number of suspected child victims of
trafficking in Denmark 2007 -2008

Morten Hjorth Jahnsen, Save the Children Denmark

Mr Jahnsen clarified that the status report 2007-2008 covers the Copenhagen area (pilot). Information about some cases was inaccessible because of the secrecy (though there is a law allowing use of information for scientific purposes).

According to the present regulation a social worker has to be present when a child is arrested. The number of arrests of children without the Danish security number is growing.

Status report, statistics 2007:

- 41 cases concerning suspected child victims of trafficking
- Largest two groups of children are from Romania and Bulgaria: 14 and 5 children respectively.
 - Youngest child aged 12
 - All cases except 2 involve children presumably exploited for theft/begging

Status report, statistics 2008:

- 28 cases concerning suspected Child VOT
- Largest group consists of 11 children from Romania
 - Youngest children - two boys aged 10
 - All cases concern children involved in theft/begging

Conclusions from the report:

1. Children are released to family members apparently without undertaking an assessment of the child's status as a potential VOT.
2. Children are placed in custody or at a Young Offenders Institution apparently without authorities undertaking an assessment of the child's status as a potential VoT.
3. Children with indications of being VoT disappear from the specialized asylum centre for minors (11 cases in 2007-2008).

Recommendations:

- Increased focus on trafficking in children for all types of exploitation-not only prostitution.

- Unclear division of responsibility must be replaced by clear guidelines for the actors in the field
- Residential care unit targeted at children who are or suspected of being VoT.
- There is a need for more education and training for the professionals involved, as well as a need to sharpen the rules and structure the procedures

We also need to understand the ‘business’ side of trafficking: money involved in child exploitation amount to hundreds of thousands EURO. By theft and begging a child can bring about EUR 150 000 per year.

The project in St. Petersburg: **Preventing Child Trafficking and Empowering Young People**

The objectives of the project are:

- To have young people design and develop their own anti-trafficking awareness raising campaigns with support from the local and international resource persons (not just another governmental/IOM project).
- To develop methodology as to strengthening the involvement and participation of children in a Russian context (together with psychologists and media professionals).

Organization of the project:

Project Steering Group – Nordic Save the Children, CBSS and local project manager.

Target group – Children and young people in Saint Petersburg

Child Forum – Consists of 15 children/young people from an orphanage in Saint Petersburg. This is the project core group who will develop and formulate the campaign messages.

Project trainers

- Local project manager (Psychologist)
- Psychologist from Wallenberg institute in St Petersburg
- One journalist/media trainer

Partners

- Raoul Wallenberg –International University for Family and Child- adm. support, trainers and contacts
- Ngo Stellit-will provide locally based expertise and trainings for trainers (ToT)

Other relevant actors:

- NCM office in Saint Petersburg
- Local authorities
- The Orphanage

The project also plans to involve prosecutors and local authorities and aims at absolute transparency. The topics for the trainings and sessions will include the CRC, understanding the terminology and nature of trafficking, etc...

Activities of the project will include:

- Training of Trainers (ToT)
 - 10-12 trainings sessions
 - Launch of campaign
 - Summer camp
 - Closing conference
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CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings.
Update on the programmes of the TFTHB

Anna Ekstedt

International Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea
States

Ms Ekstedt briefly described the organisational structure of the CBSS and presented the TF-THB.

The TF-THB has existed since 2006 and was developed out of the work of the Nordic Baltic Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings. In contrast to the Nordic Baltic Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, the TF-THB provides an encircled regional area by including Germany, Poland and Russia into the network. In March 2008 the mandate of the TF-THB was prolonged until 30 June 2011.

The TF-THB consists of national experts from relevant ministries in all the CBSS capitals. The Chair function rotates among the Member States on an annual basis following the CBSS Presidency (from July 1 to June 30). The TF-THB is currently chaired by Denmark and will be followed by Lithuania in July. There are around three to four meetings yearly in order to achieve concrete results. Decisions are taken by consensus by the Task Force Experts. The CBSS TF-THB Secretariat functions from Stockholm.

Overall objective:

- The CBSS TF-THB strives to counteract trafficking in human beings in the Baltic Sea Region and its near vicinity through preventive and protective activities
- The emphasis is on practical hands on work- information sharing between the Member States and project implementation
- Mandated to fight human trafficking for all forms of exploitation
- Regional cooperation mechanism to fight human trafficking with partnership and coordination with other relevant actors as priority – represented in the OSCE AECT

- The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings serves as a point of departure for all efforts and proposals for the CBSS TF-THB

Funding:

- In July 2008 the Swedish Government pledged funds for the work of the CBSS TF-THB during the period 2008 – 2010
- This financial contribution comes from the Swedish National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Exploitation

THB Trends in the CBSS Region:

- Constant changes in the patterns of human trafficking and the forms of victimization due to global economic changes and the inventiveness of organized crime structures
- Countries which used to be predominantly countries of origin are now more and more also becoming countries of transit and destination for human trafficking
- An increased number of internal trafficking, for various forms of exploitation, can today be observed in many of the CBSS countries.
- Trafficking for sexual exploitation is still the major problem a majority of the CBSS countries are reporting a substantial increase of trafficking for labour exploitation of men and women – we need to improve our joint knowledge on how to combat all forms of exploitation. Sweden witnessed recently the first conviction for trafficking for forced labour.
- Countries are also reporting on an increase of trafficking for multiple forms of exploitation. Often incomes from one form of exploitation, notably begging, supports another.

Strategic goals 2008-2010:

- Trainings on human trafficking for diplomatic and consular personnel in order to provide the consular sections with tools in order to know when to react and how to act (as they constitute the first ‘filter’ for the VOT to be identified already on the stage of the visa issue). A Handbook to be used in the embassies will be developed. A training will take place in each of the CBSS member states plus some other relevant countries (upcoming 2009: Belgium, Lithuania, Finland)
- Joint Project with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on Fostering NGO-Law Enforcement Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking in, from and to the Baltic Sea Region. The project will include country assessments (done by a consultant) of the current cooperation mechanisms between civil society and state actors, especially law enforcement, in assisting victims of trafficking in the CBSS region. A regional conference in Stockholm is planned for November 2009. Second phase - possible Regional Cooperation Model.

- Regional Information Campaign against Trafficking in Human Beings – start in Sweden together with the county of Stockholm
- Improved Data Collection and Support to Research on Human Trafficking in the Region
- Comparative Regional Legal Analysis on Human Trafficking (with special focus on protective legislation)

The TF-THB Secretariat also produced a photo exhibition “*hidden*” to accompany its activities. The exhibition shows that trafficking is something that is ongoing in ordinary environments.



Experiences from Berlin specialised police force

Mechthild Maurer

ECPAT Germany

Ms Maurer presented some statistical data as well as relevant activities of ECPAT Germany. She mentioned that there are almost no children in the criminal statistics, few registered cases involve children between 15-17. On the other hand, children under 14 that have been sexually abused can be found in a special database. Various authorities (child welfare, youth, social, asylum) as well as NGOs have their own data.

ECPAT, together with a Dutch partner, is now working on implementation of a training series. This is a long-term project based on a multi-stakeholder approach.

In Berlin there is a specialized police unit for child VOT. In response to the new trafficking trends an NGO started a project called “Berliner Jungs” focusing on boys in trafficking. The data about boys tell us that:

- they are mostly victims of internal trafficking
- a large number of them do not come from poor families
- migrant children in 2nd and 3rd generation are often involved
- Roma boys are mostly found in economic exploitation
- multi-exploitation is becoming more common
- none of them see themselves as victims
- many Chinese and Vietnamese boys (often come from a family, which lost the permanent residence permit but didn’t return to the home country)

It is clear that we now need to:

- Focus on *all* forms of trafficking
 - Clarify who is responsible for what
 - In Germany: work more consistently on the federal level
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Ingrid Åkerman: It is very interesting that you focused on boys in your presentation. Is there any more information about boys?

Answer: Numbers are not easily available but everyone can contact Berliner Jungs directly:

<http://www.subway-berlin.org/index.php?id=9>



Assisting children victims of trafficking

Evaldas Karmaza, National Coordinator and trained expert in the BSR CACVT project

NGO Childhouse, Lithuania

For professionals working with child victims of trafficking it is not enough to know that trafficking exists, you need to know about the coping skills. In its turn, in order to know that we need to have a clearest possible picture of what these children actually experience. Much of it we learn from the children's stories. Thus, we have some information about the sex market they are working in. We also know something about the techniques their traffickers use in order to keep them helpless (threats such as “you are dead”, “where is my money?”, “I will find you”, “I know all the police officers”, “No one will help you”).

The questions we need to ask ourselves may be the following:

- Why the victim is avoiding the counselling meetings or is difficult to talk to?
- Why does the victim seek contact with the traffickers again?
- Why sometimes there is little advance in the assistance process?
- Is it the real person you heal?
- Does the child like to be a victim?

What do we know about the victims and their coping skills?:

Every person who has experienced a trafficking situation has lived through a trauma and may suffer from PTSD showing itself in:

- At the beginning – acute stress reaction
- Attention
- Social isolation

- Nightmares
- Anxiety
- Emotional distance
- Insomnia
- Startle reactions
- Headaches
- Stomach disorders
- Stomach illnesses
- Back pain
- Tremor
- A feeling of suffocation or nausea
- Difficulty remembering
- Avoidance of certain places or people
- Anger outburst

There is also another phenomenon – the so-called Stockholm syndrome – often characteristic of VOT. The essence of this is the attachment to the aggressor. It is a psychological defence mechanism used in order to protect oneself from even more negative events and emotions. (A. Freud called it the self-protection phenomenon when a person identifies himself with an outer danger source in order to avoid the sense of being targeted).

Another important characteristic is the learned inability. After traumatic events, persons who could not control the environment and the damage, start feeling disabled and despaired. Later it reflects in the inability to organise personal life and reluctance to seek for assistance, preconceived attitude of failure.

Often child VOT experiences fear and anxiety attacks. It shows with physical symptoms, such as dizziness, increased heart rate with uncontrolled anxiety; sweating, avoidance of various activities (like counselling), etc.

A coping method used by VOT is disassociation. This is an emotional and cognitive detachment (escape) from the situation you cannot avoid physically. Various forms of it are:

- Dissociative amnesia (cuts out the whole period of life)
- Dissociative “escape” (while coming to new place comes as a new person)
- Depersonalization (feels like he/she is in a fairytale, some sort of movie, everything around is unreal)

The depression can also take various forms: victims might show low mood, low self-esteem, loss of interest, avoidance of normally enjoyable activities. This affects all aspects of life (family, schooling, eating, sleeping etc.) and leads to a higher risk of suicidal behaviour.

The self-victimisation is also sometimes characteristic: some VOT 'accept' the situation forwarding all the responsibility for their recovery to the protective institutions. Basic attitudes of such victim are:

- I am not responsible for what happened
- I am morally right
- I may do nothing
- I should be sympathised with
- I may be angry at everyone

Unfortunately there are cases when victims do not get the professional assistance they need due to various reasons:

- Unsuccessful time management
- Unclear goals
- Unclear responsibilities
- Different attitude towards the victim
- Conflicts between the institutions
- Avoidant behaviour
- Cooperation is not paid
- Overload of work

The BSR CACVT programme help a lot since it took up and taught how to use various practical techniques to achieve better results with the children in need. One of such techniques is the motivational interview – goal- and client oriented. (Traditional interviewing techniques often do not lead to any change. Often they make professionals feel helpless; they make the helpers feel frustrated that the client is not making any progress. MI is trying to create an environment of learning).

Some trends in Lithuania:

- Recently we can see more and more cases of children involving other children in trafficking.
 - There is a lack of psychologists
 - Children disappear
 - Some VOT ask for help much later, sometimes years after their escape from the traffickers
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Short- and long-term follow-up in Belarus of the BSR CACVT¹ training project

Andrey Makhanko, INGO 'Ponimanie'

Mr Makhanko informed that the implementation of the follow-up activities was one of the preconditions for participation in the projects. He also reminded that the project consisted of 5 trainings, which took place within a year and focused on different aspects of assistance provision to the child victims of violence and/or trafficking. The target group was psychologists assisting victimized children in difficult situations – placed in shelters, living in dysfunctional families, etc. More than 120 participants took part in the Belarusian follow up to the trainings. As a result, local professionals were introduced to the topic of child trafficking, received knowledge gained by professionals in other countries and formed a resource team of BSR Trainees in Belarus.

Mr Makhanko also noted that different Belarusian NGOs are involved in the follow-up activities, including La Strada Belarus, Children not for Abuse and Ponimanie. He introduced activities foreseen for the mid-term follow-up.

One of them is the project organized by the IOM and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republic of Belarus: “Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: Republic of Belarus”. The project involves 14 NGOs and started on the 1st December 2008. The NGO Ponimanie is one of them and is part of the consultative board. This provides an opportunity to discuss concrete cases and receive support from a governmental body.

Characteristics of the project:

- Objective: To prevent child trafficking through improvement of interdisciplinary cooperation in target regions of the country
- Target regions: Minsk-city, Brest Oblast, Vitebsk-city and Kalinkovichi District of Gomel Oblast
- Type of action: training for interdisciplinary groups of professionals helping children
- Participants: Law Enforcement, Psychologists, Social Pedagogues, Physicians and Nurses, Social Workers

Types of interdisciplinary groups:

¹ Comprehensive Assistance to Children Victims of Trafficking Training Program, <http://www.childcentre.info/12836>

- Minsk – district based resource group for Minsk-city
- Brest – region based resource group for Brest Oblast
- Vitebsk – city based group for Vitebsk-city
- Kalinkovichi – district based group for Kalinkovichi district and potentially for Gomel Oblast

By trying different configuration the project partners are hoping to understand which works best. All the 4 places are now regarded as places of origin, transit and destination, even though Belarus was only regarded as a country of origin before (this still dominates).

Cases characterizing Belarus as a country of destination:

- Case of brothers L., 8 and 10 years old, came to Belarus and became unaccompanied and exploited for solicitation – 2007-08
- Minimum 5 other cases were reported on accompanied and exploited children who came to the southern regions of Belarus from Ukraine – 2008

Belarus and Ukraine have a very well established cooperation.

As for the long-term perspective, following activities have been planned:

- To establish information exchange channels and networking between regional-, district- and local-level trainees and between trainees and the INGO “Ponimanie” on the basis of Information System in the Best Interest of the Child started to be developed by INGO “Ponimanie” in 2005-06
- To improve trainers’ skills of participants of the regional resource teams
- To provide teams with more resources for sustainability and capacity-building
- To formalize the activities of the groups through the Ministry of Internal Affairs/ Consultative Council on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and the republican Commission on Under-age Persons
- To disseminate the project experience throughout the country



Assisting children victims of trafficking

Mariana Yevsyokova, International Women Rights Center
“La Strada-Ukraine”

EICYAC representative for Eastern Europe & CIS

Ms Yevsyokova presented the BSR CACVT follow-up activities in Ukraine and some data on the rehabilitation of child VOT in the country. She noted that there are no special centres for trafficked children. Comprehensive assistance depends on the regional context, strong NGOs and networking and cooperation.

Trafficked children can be placed to:

- State shelters for children in crises situation
- Centres of social rehabilitation for children
- Detention centres for minors
- NGO shelters for trafficked persons and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) (9)

Example: transit detention centre in Kyiv. Children may stay up to 30 days. Exploited in pornography and prostitution. Often Ukrainian, Moldavian.

The experts trained during the BSR CACVT project can use their skills and knowledge in both direct and indirect assistance.

Direct assistance:

- Identification of children victims of trafficking
- Needs assessment
- Psychological, medical, legal help
- Finding ways for rehabilitation
- Cooperation inside All-Ukrainian network against CSEC, anti-trafficking NGOs, foreign NGOs
- Express School. In 2008 volunteers set up Express School for children in transit centre regularly teaching them Ukrainian language and literature, mathematics, history and geography of Ukraine, music and art, as well as carrying out preventive games on human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, online safety of children, and prevention of HIV/AIDS. In total 40 lessons were conducted during 2008. Lesson program was developed for one-month period based on time spent by children in transit center.
- Consulting trafficked persons and family members over National Toll Free Hot Lines on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and on Child Rights Protection

Indirect assistance:

- Participation in the process of improvement of the national anti-trafficking legislation
 - drafting the anti-trafficking law (separate part about assistance to trafficked children, child friendly investigation procedures, specialized rehabilitation centers for trafficked children)
 - proposals to the Action Plan on Implementation of CRC
 - developing standards of work with victims of trafficking
- Seminars for specialists as follow-up of the BSR CACVT
- Project “Improvement of State Protection System of Homeless and Neglected Children”. A number of trainings were carried out on the topic of “School of Children’s Rights: Response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children” for

experts of transit centers for children of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (teachers, psychologists, and law-enforcement agents).

New initiative – Youth Partnership Project for Child Survivors and Youth at Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (YPP) in 11 countries:

- Target group: Children and youth victims of commercial sexual exploitation and those children who are at risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking
- Overall Objective: To ensure children’s right to actively and meaningfully participate particularly in social changes and work against CSEC
- Young people participating in the project will be trained by experts from BSR CACVT training programme



Assisting children victims of trafficking

Natalia Vladimirova

Women and Children First, Russia

Ms Vladimirova informed about some new legislation introduced in the Russian Federation, recent statistical data and projects of the Women and Children First Fund.

She informed that the Palermo protocol was ratified in 2004, but it has not efficiently used since then. The national legislation has been gradually transformed accordingly (such as division of responsibilities) but still there are things to be done (e.g. criteria).

The main reasons leading to trafficking in children:

- Poverty (relative). Wages have been significantly higher in Russia than in Moldova, Tajikistan and parts of Ukraine
- Limited economic possibilities
- Big disparities in the standards of living
- Domestic violence and social orphanage
- Anti-social behaviour in the family
- Orphans

Statistics of the regional departments of the Ministry of Interior:

Article 127.1 of the Criminal code 'Trafficking in human beings'	2004	2006
Number of crimes registered	17	106
Number of persons identified to have committed the crime	39	45

Number of criminal cases initiated	14	
Number of victims	67	Minors 10%
Article 127.2 of the Criminal code 'Use of slave labour'		
Number of crimes registered	8	19
Number of criminal cases initiated	6	
against persons who committed the crime	9	15
Number of victims	18	Minors 8%

Of the accused according to *Article 127.1 Trafficking in human beings*
men 59% women – 41 %

Of the accused according to *Article 127.2 Use of slave labour*
men 92% women – 8 %

This type of crime has a commercial character, the basis of it is the business interest.

Unfortunately there is still no central database, only the regional ones. Some of the criminal cases are at some stage being converted to administrative, which may lead to inaccuracy of the statistics. In addition, some changes in legislation were introduced in 2008.

IOM Statistic for VOT 2002-2006

Russia as a country of destination	Russia as a country of origin
1331 VOT have been identified on the territory of RF -	170 VOT (citizens of Russia) have been identified abroad -
65% — women, 35% — men.	99% — women 1% men
95% — from Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova	46% — in Turkey; 23% — in Bosnia and Herzegovina
45% - between 18 and 25 years old	70% — between 18 and 25 years old
10% — minors	8% — minors
50% sexually exploited, 50% — forced labour	50% sexually exploited; 50% — forced labour

Some examples of risk factors leading to the increase of the number of VOT

<i>What kind of work is most attractive for you?</i>	Astrakhan region %		Moscow and Moscow region %	
Answer	School children	Students	School children	Students
Higher wages but there is a risk to get into a difficult situation	53,0	52,3	62,0	46,1
Lower wages but safe	44,0	44,4	34,0	51,8

<i>Would you agree to work illegally (unofficially)?</i>	Astrakhan region %		Moscow and Moscow region %	
Answer	School children	Students	School children	Students
I don't care if it's legal or not	9,1	12,6	28,8	11,0
If there is no legal work I would	14,8	27,5	1,9	12,0
I would go for higher wages	10,8	26,8	0,4	12,0
I would not agree	47,6	25,5	42,4	47,0

Currently the activities against trafficking in children can be divided into the following categories:

- Improvement of the current law and regulations
- Annual monitoring of child trafficking
- Working towards a unified strategy to combat trafficking in children
- Creation of an effective system of service provision both for the preventive work with young people and families and also for rehabilitative purposes
- Creation of possibilities for social workers and others working with children to improve their skills, acquire new knowledge

The Women and Children First Fund is presently implementing a project with the aim to create an efficient model of state assistance to child victims within the system of social support and education (2007-2010). The sub-project is called 'Rehabilitation' with the objective to create a model institution with a professionally designed rehabilitation space for child victims of violence and/or trafficking.

Within the project the following has been/is being done:

- A conceptual model for a rehabilitation institution has been created and is being tested in state-run institutions for child victims of violence (the concept included standards, regulations, methodology)
- The institutions have received assistance to acquire and start using the special equipment for the rehabilitation rooms
- Innovative methodology to render assistance to child victims of violence and trafficking has been introduced in the Moscow city institutions for social support and education
- New methodologies in working with children have been included in the study programmes for Moscow institutions for higher education which provide education for those wishing to improve their qualification
- A system of support and supervision has been created for professionals working with children (within the state system of social protection)
- The Women and Children First Fund became member of coordination council of the Moscow city government
- Presently, in the framework of the project 'Child's Voice', the fund is implementing a new model which will ensure accessibility of the Children's Ombudsman for all children in institutions

The institutions which take part in the project have different specialization. One is dealing with foreign children and is the only institution in Moscow providing safe return for children to the countries of CIS. Another institution takes care of the youngest children. Yet another one is focusing on working with families. Several children's homes are also taking part in the project.

The Women and Children First Fund is producing and disseminating professional literature and regularly organizing seminars and workshops for professionals.



Assisting children victims of trafficking

Aliona Stepan

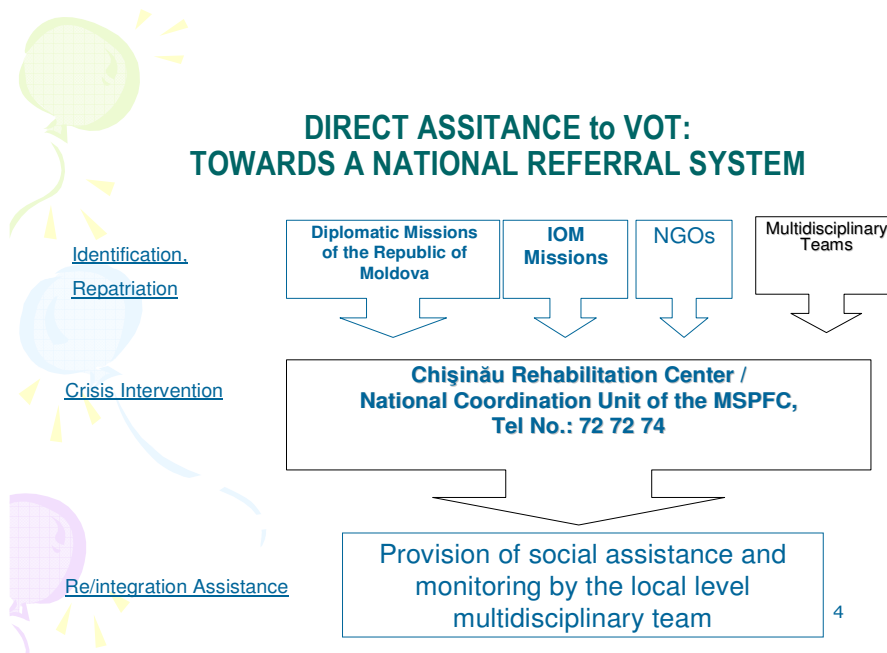
Child Rights Information Centre (CRIC) Moldova

Ms Stepan started her presentation by presenting some data about the citizens of Moldova.

- The population of the country is 3 572.700 persons (excluding Transnistria)
- Officially about 500 thousand adults left to work abroad, unofficially 1 mln. (Russia, Spain, Italy, Portugal)

- 38% are children and youth aged 0-24 (Annual Statistic Report for Moldova 2007)
- 27,6% have one of their parents abroad, 9,3% have both parents abroad
- 11 500 children live and study at 67 residential institutions
- 8.7% are orphans
- 10 % of overall repatriated victims are from residential institutions

There is so far no well/established national governmental system of support to VOT, much work is being done by the IOM mission. In each of the 35 regions there is a multidisciplinary group of experts to work with VOT.



Some statistics:

Trafficking in Moldova: figures and trends

Total (potential) VoT assisted by IOM since 2001	VoTs – 2443 including 158 in 2008,
Main countries of destination in 2007	Turkey – 38%, Russia – 23%, Ukraine – 7%, Balkan countries – 4%,
Age of VoTs assisted in 2007	over 30 year-old – 22%, from 19-24 year-old - 24% , under 16 – 5% in 2006 and 2005 by 3% ,
Types of exploitation (2007)	sexual – 63%, labor exploitation - 22%, begging - 6% mixed – 3%, organ removal – 1%

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Trafficking in Moldova: figures and trends

Area of residence (2007)	Rural areas – 59% , Urban areas - 34%, Capital – 6%
The education of VoTs tends to be lower that of general population. Most of them have been educated up to grade nine.	13% - have professional education. The situation can be explained by lack of attractive employment opportunities, unfavorable conditions for young specialists/"beginners" and unfair treatment on the part of employers.
Victim/recruiter relationship (2007)	56% recruiters are female. (acquaintance - 43% , friends - 27%, relatives- 9%)

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Services provided to VOT:

- Social, medical, psychological, legal assistance;

- Improvement of living conditions;
- Family counselling;
- Vocational training;
- Employment mediation

The **Child Rights Information Center (CRIC)** is a non-governmental, independent and non-political organization, founded in 1998. CRIC's mission is to contribute to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in the Republic of Moldova by spreading the information and by supporting children's participation initiatives.

CRIC's programs:

- Psycho-social integration of children from boarding schools
- Social integration of children left behind because of migration of their parents
- Children's Participation
- Monitoring by children of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Profile of institutionalized children

- Orphans / semi-orphans / social orphans
- Aging 3 – 20
- Unstable behaviour
- Verbally and physically aggressive
- Don't care for education, but interested in learning and find out new things if their needs and interests are taken into consideration
- Are tempted to tell lies and manipulate
- Use vulgar language
- Are tempted to run away and become beggars
- Start alcohol and drug consumption at an early age
- Are involved in various law violations: robberies, stealing, etc
- Feel need of commitment and attention
- Are dependent on staff and protection system
- Life skills are not developed enough
- Have low self-esteem, are not sure of their own strengths and uncertain in making choices
- Desolated and don't know what they are to do next. They look with great uncertainty towards finding a job or entering an educational institution

CRIC is implementing a **special project** on preventing trafficking in women from Moldova through developing sustainable living conditions for a priority group of girls living in boarding schools and in this way creating an understanding of an alternative to their going abroad in search of happiness.

Project objectives:

- 90 teenage-girls will be trained annually in the field of LSE and vocational orientation and professional development;
- 30 graduates girls will receive support and assistance during 3 years in continuing their professional studies necessary for the integration in community;

Partners of the project:

- International
 - FOKUS Norway
 - Soroptimist International, Union of Norway
 - International Organization for Migration (IOM)
 - CARITAS Czech Republic
- National
 - The Secretariat of the National Council for Child's Rights Protection
 - Ministry of Education and Youth of the Republic of Moldova
 - National NGOs for children and youth
- Regional
 - District General Departments for Education, Youth and Sport
 - Regional NGOs for children and youth
- Local
 - Local Public Administration
 - Residential and community educational institutions
 - Local NGOs for children and youth

The project consists of several components:

1. Yearly life skills development workshop for teenage girls (13-16 years) from 4 boarding schools
 - Self-esteem
 - Assertive communication and constructive conflict resolution
 - Teamwork and relationships with peers and adults
 - Participation and making informed decisions
 - Healthy life style, HIV/AIDS and other STD prevention
 - Working legally and illegally in the home country and abroad
 - Choosing a profession and the educational institution
 - Finding and keeping a job
 - Preventing trafficking in human beings and other types of abuse
2. Ongoing training for the team of social assistants employed to provide support to the graduates of boarding schools
 - The social assistants learned to use various methods and techniques of evaluating children at risk and exercised behaviours and abilities that would help realize counselling meetings and motivational discussions with

the beneficiaries, parents and/or tutors. In addition, the social assistants received training in: education for health, child and youth participation in their own reintegration, integrating post-institutionalized young people in the community, etc

3. Assisting boarding school graduates in continuing high school/professional education
 - Support during admissions to high schools or vocational institutions: turning in the profile, admissions contest
 - Accommodation: identifying space for living, furnishing the living space
 - Allowance, materials and equipment required for studying; materials and equipment required for daily life
 - Profound information and life skills development program: hygiene, food, healthy life style, house holding, self-respect, communications and relations with peers and adults, orientation and communication, preventing social risks (abuse, delinquency, traffic, illegal migration) and health risks (smoking, drugs, unprotected sex, undesired pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other STDs), searching for a job, employment and keeping the job
 - Network of community actors (governmental institutions, NGOs, community/local institutions) involved integration/reintegration of post-institutionalized children
4. Evaluation and continuous monitoring. How do the beneficiaries change due to being involved in the project?
 - Get acquainted with the surrounding world by themselves, but monitored by trained persons
 - Develop their life skills independently, “live” experience
 - Make informed decisions with regard to education, the work they are supposed to be doing or getting back in touch with their biological or extended family
 - Become “resource person” for other peers, adults from the environment where they live, study, work
 - Set short- and long-term goals and develop steps towards achieving them
 - Positive thinking
 - Become more talkative, gain more acquaintances amongst peers and adults
 - Are socially active, are involved in various extra-curricular activities
 - More self-confident and trusting the ones around
 - Volunteer in various social, medical projects, etc.

Risks / problems:

- Closed-type residential institutions
- Staff flow within the authority institutions (Ministry of Education and Youth, Regional departments for Education)
- Minimal quality standards for social services
- The national network of social assistants just started its activity (created in 2007)
- The activities towards prevention of trafficking in human beings and other social and health risks is mainly performed by NGOs and international organizations

- Educational system is very theoretic, the educational component is left in the shadow
- Not enough child-friendly social services of a high quality and sustainable at local/regional level
- Not enough specialists prepared to provide high quality child/youth friendly services
- Project's reduced capacity, the requirement of involving only girls in the project
- Risk that the experience will not be overtaken and developed further

Proposals/suggestions:

- Multiplying project's experience to vocational institutions and higher education institutions
 - Training all community actors for integrating /reintegrating institutionalized/post institutionalized children
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Conclusions

Ms Lars Lööf thanked all the participants for the highly interesting presentations and discussions. He emphasized that everyone had a chance to take part in the meeting both as a presenter and a listener. He also suggested that some general conclusions, or rather topics for further consideration, can be drawn from the discussions:

- More work needs to be done ensuring that information on children in migration, children at risk of exploitation and children suspected of being trafficked is passed on and acted upon by national actors.
- Criteria: there may be a need to work out some more precise criteria for the identification of child VOT?
- If a child is not recognized as a VOT we still have a responsibility to make sure that his/her rights are not violated. He/she may still be at risk.
- We have to be better prepared to the new forms of trafficking that occur