

(Draft)

**MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL CO-ORDINATION MEETING (TCM)  
8 July 2009**

**Site:** OSCE Mission to Moldova, first floor conference room, Mitropolit Dosoftei, 108, MD-2012, Chişinău, Moldova.

**Date/Time:** 8 July 2009, 11.00 – 12:30

**Chair:** Judy Hale, Senior Anti-Trafficking and Gender Advisor, OSCE Mission to Moldova.

**Present:** ABA/ROLI (Nadejda Macari, Leslie Reed); “AGWM” Project Rescue (Heidi Darrin, Sara Tady); AIM (Mihaela Copot); Better Opportunities for Youth and Women Project (Viorel Albu); CCF-Moldova (Stela Padure); Gender-Centru (Tamara Ciocoi); IOM (Stella Rotaru; Blaec Kalweit); Interaction NGO (Oxana Alistratova, Yulia Yundina); ILO/IPEC (Viorica Ghimpu); Law Centre-Causeni (Ion Oboroceanu); MSPFC (Corneliu Tarus); Medecins du Monde (Geraldine Cazorla); Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (Radu Cucos, Pavel Croitoru); National Child Abuse Prevention Centre (Daniela Popescu); OSCE Mission to Moldova (Irina Ilies, Veaceslav Balan); Regina Pacis (Emilia Moraru); UNICEF (Sorin Hanganu); Winrock Moldova (Doina Munteanu); UNODC (Eleonora Grosu); UNFPA (Oxana Lipcanu); USAID (Diana Cazacu); US Embassy (Michael Mates, Olga Crivoliubic); UNTFHS (Viorica Cretu); Walker Frahm (Yale University); Dyck Sherry.

**Absent:** Amnesty International; Children’s Emergency Relief International; CRS; Border Guard Service; Beginning of Life NGO; EUBAM; Casa Marioarei Shelter; CPTW; CPD; CRIC; CCTiP/Ministry of Interior Affairs; Centre for Support and Development of Civic Initiatives “Resonance”; Delegation of the European Commission to Moldova; General Prosecutor’s Office; Il Ponte Foundation; ICJ; IREX/PPP; IM/SOIR; International Women Forum GTZ; IREX/Institute for Democratic Initiatives; Peace Corps Moldova-TIP; Medecins Sans Frontiers; La Strada; Moldavian Christian Aid; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; National Committee; Organization for the Reform and Development of the System of Education NGO; Office of EU Special Representative; Police Academy; Precept Ministries International; Save the Children; Renal Foundation; Salvation Army; Sida/Asdi; SDC; Turkish Embassy; Terre des Hommes; Women Solidarity of Moldova NGO; UNDP; UNIFEM; Vivere NGO; Step Forward NGO.

**Absent with Written Submission(s):** None.

**Documents Distributed:** Minutes of the Technical Co-ordination Meeting from 10 June 2009; Agenda for 8 July 2009 TCM; “Maltreated child – multidisciplinary interventions” by NCCAP (CNPAC) and UNICEF in Romanian; Minutes of Meeting of the National Committee Meeting from 25 June 2009 in Romanian and English; Without TABU – Informative Bulletin by UNFPA in Romanian; It is very good to work – brochure about the child labour between 7 – 12 years old in the Republic of Moldova; Little children with big worries – a brochure for parents about the child labour in the Republic of Moldova by ILO/NCCAP (CNPAC) in Romanian; Corporal punishment applied by parents means VIOLENCE (a handbook for professionals) by UNICEF in Russian; ATG factsheet in English, Romanian and Russian; 2008 ATG Annual Report in English and Romanian; 2008 TCM Minutes of Meeting in Romanian and English; side presentation on combating the worst forms of child labour, including trafficking by NCCAP (CNPAC) in Romanian; 2009 TiP report extracts on Moldova by US Embassy in Romanian and English; Guide on child labour monitoring by ILO-IPEC in Romanian.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS AS PER AGENDA**

### ***1. Call to order, welcome, attendance list, introduction, new participants***

1. Ms. Judy Hale welcomed the participants to the July TCM. She explained how to use the equipment for simultaneous translation into English and Romanian and asked the participants to introduce themselves before speaking. Ms. Hale passed around the attendance list and asked everyone to check and, if necessary, update their details. Ms. Hale introduced the co-chair of the TCM, Mr. Corneliu Tarus from the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child. Ms. Hale invited new and returning participants to also briefly introduce themselves and their organizations.

2. Mr. Walker Frahm from Yale University announced that he is doing a research on trafficking, domestic violence and corruption in Moldova and he would contact some of the TCM participants in the nearest future for interviews. Ms. Heidi Darrin introduced herself as representing the project “Rescue”. Mr. Sorin Hanganu introduced himself as the new Child Protection Officer in charge mainly with juvenile justice issues with UNICEF Moldova. Ms. Geraldine Cazorla from Medecins du Monde announced that she would be leaving Moldova soon and the new coordinator of Medecins du Monde will be Ms. Laura Pasquero. Mr. Radu Cucos from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) introduced Mr. Pavel Croitoru who would represent the Ministry at the TCMs starting with September.

### ***2. Adoption of Draft Minutes from 10 June 2009 TCM***

3. Ms. Hale moved to review the minutes from the 10 June 2009 TCM and asked participants if they had any comments or changes to propose. Ms. Hale specified that her comment regarding the availability of the UNICEF’s report on violence in schools on the UNICEF’s web-site was wrong and would be removed from the June TCM Minutes. As there were no other additions or changes from participants, the draft minutes of the June TCM were adopted.

### ***3. Updates on activities of the Ministry of Social Protection, Child and Family; National Committee; NC Sub-Working Groups, and other relevant National Authorities***

4. Mr. Tarus, the Head of the Child and Family Protection Department of the MSPFC, reported that at the end of June the draft bi-lateral agreement with the Government of the Russian

Federation on assisting trafficking victims and unaccompanied children was submitted to relevant ministries and civil society organizations for review and endorsement.

5. Mr. Cucos announced that the Department of Consular Affairs of the MFAEI is planning to open a call centre that would include a line for consultations in consular affairs and a tall-free line for Moldovan citizens who became victims of human trafficking. The donors confirmed funding for this project and in July the Ministry will start recruiting the personnel for the call centre, the operators will be trained and a media campaign will be organized to promote the new services. The innovation of this call centre (compared to the existing hot-lines) is that Moldovan citizens, victims of trafficking, will be able to call tall-free from any country.

6. Ms. Hale asked where the call centre will be located. Mr. Cucos answered that the call centre will be placed in the office of the Department of Consular Affairs (80, Mateevici Str., Chisinau). There will be four operators working on two telephone lines: one line for anyone who needs information on consular affairs (such as how to get a passport or a visa, etc.), the second line will be tall-free and will serve the victims of human trafficking who need help.

7. Ms. Oxana Alistratova, Transnistrian NGO “Interaction”, asked how those who are abroad will find out about the existence of this hot-line. Mr. Cucos answered that the MFAEI has experience in organizing information campaigns. Different means will be used: posters at Moldovan embassies abroad, in the airports and at the Department of Consular Affairs; information will be placed on the Ministry’s web-site and on the web-sites of all Moldovan embassies abroad; each Moldovan embassy has the contact details of Moldovan citizens in those respective countries, so they would send them the information via e-mail; the information will be spread through mass-media in Moldova and abroad (for instance, through TVM International).

#### ***4. Updates from all participants on new activities, initiatives, interventions***

9. On behalf of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Ms. Hale announced that the project implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) started in June 2009. The project has duration of 18 months, with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as responsible organization for the implementation. It will contribute to the combating irregular Migration in Moldova through the following objectives:

- Strengthening the capacity to detect forged and falsified travel documents of staff of the agencies involved in the fight against irregular migration.
- Improving cooperation and information exchange between the agencies involved in the fight against irregular migration.

10. The main beneficiaries of the project are the Border Guard Service (Document Examination Service, Department for Continuous Training), the Ministry of the Interior (Bureau of Migration and Asylum, Technical and Criminalities’ Department, Migration Office - Chisinau International airport), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (General Consular Department) and Ministry of Informational Development of Moldova.

11. The 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Group Meeting and Kick-off Conference of the project took place on June 18, 2009 in Chisinau, Moldova. The events gathered participants from the project partner states

(Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic) and associate partner (DCAF), the key Moldavian authorities, representatives from embassies, ongoing projects and international organizations to officially launch the project implementation phase.

12. The next steps will be an assessment mission to Moldova (planned for July 2009) to meet relevant national institutions and international stakeholders; in addition to that two study visits to Hungary and Poland are foreseen. Project activities will be divided into two modules, which will be implemented in parallel, each focusing on one of the specific objectives of action:

- Module on Training: development of a comprehensive training concept in the field of document security, including curriculum, training manuals, training of trainers and supported national pilot trainings.
- Module on Information Exchange: increased quality and quantity of information exchange in the field of identification of forged/falsified travel documents as well as on methods of falsification between relevant authorities.

**5. *Focal Issue Presentation on 2009 Trafficking in Persons (TiP) report by US Embassy***

13. Mr. Michael Mates from the US Embassy to Moldova briefly explained that in the 2009 TiP report Moldova was placed on Tier 2 Watch List, because the Government of Moldova does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Despite initial efforts to combat trafficking-related complicity since the government's reassessment on the Tier 2 Watch List in September 2008, and increased victim assistance, the government did not demonstrate sufficiently meaningful efforts to curb trafficking-related corruption, which is a government-acknowledged problem in Moldova.

14. The full report can be found on the web-page of the US Embassy to Moldova: <http://moldova.usembassy.gov/> (click on Policy News). Mr. Mates pointed out that the 2009 Trafficking Report has a great deal of praise for Moldova, especially on the shelter, NGO co-operation, and on repatriation. The report recommends continuing and increasing the efforts to ensure the implementation of anti-trafficking law. The US Embassy is strongly engaged with the Government of Moldova to undertake the actions and reforms needed to do better, Mr. Mates concluded.

**6. *Side presentation on combating the worst forms of child labour, including trafficking by the National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention***

15. Ms. Daniela Popescu reported that in 2005-2009 the National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention (NCCAP) worked in five areas of the country (Chisinau, Balti, Orhei, Ungheni and Sangerei) to pilot models of preventing and combating child labour. The project was implemented with the financial support of the International Labour Organization / International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC) and in co-operation with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child and the Ministry of Education and Youth.

16. The implemented models were developed based on the international experience and included monitoring of the child labour and helping young people to find employment. A system to monitor child labour was developed in order to ensure access to information and raise awareness,

contribute to child protection, keep children in the educational system, facilitate youth employment, diversify services provided to children and impose sanctions for those who exploit child labour.

17. The child labour monitoring system:

- identify - evaluate - refer	Multidisciplinary team (Labour Inspection, MSPFC, MEY, MoH, National Employment Agency, local public administration, NGOs, etc.)		- consult - recommend - inform / document
Family, school, community	Places where children could work	Legal and policy framework	National Steering Committee
Enterprises, agricultural markets, shopping centres			National Council for the Child Rights Protection, National Committee to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking
Informal sector			International organizations, local NGOs, local public administration

18. The project facilitates youth employment by offering young people vocational orientation services and helping their long-term professional integration. This is done systematically and involves multiple social actors: local public administration, school, vocational education institutions, National Employment Agency and employers.

19. Services provided to children and adults are an indispensable element of the child labour monitoring system. These services include:

- access to information – seminars, publications for children, parents and professionals,
- referral to educational system – involving children in educational activities, individual lessons, and material support to keep children in school,
- development of parental skills – Parents’ School,
- recreational activities and re-socialization – clubs, cultural and artistic activities, support groups,
- educational and vocational counselling – individual and in groups,
- assisting children’s registration for professional training,
- material support for training and successful professional integration,
- mediation with employers.

20. As a result of the project, 2.158 children (255 rescued and 1.903 prevented from being trafficked or exploited in other ways) directly benefited from different services provided within the project: referral to educational system, training, support groups, individual educational and vocational counselling, referral to vocational training, mediation with employers, and extracurricular activities. Indirect beneficiaries – 28.120 children and 1.134 adults – were involved in information activities, educational and vocational counselling and extracurricular activities.

21. 176 multidisciplinary professionals from the five target-regions were trained. 1.716 students were informed about the worst forms of child labour and child labour monitoring system. 542 community-based social assistants were trained on preventing and combating child labour. Best practices were documented and shared at national and at regional level. A number of materials were developed and distributed:

- Guidelines on child labour monitoring
- Best practices guide
- Brochures for children, adolescents and parents,
- Manual on psycho-social rehabilitation of children rescued from trafficking and other worst forms of child labour,
- Pastoral Guide of Moldovan Orthodox Church on elimination of child labour,
- Documentary film on child labour in Moldova,
- Posters,
- Leaflets for members of the multi-disciplinary teams.

22. Speaking about the impact of the project, Ms. Popescu reported that the project contributed to building the partnership between different institutions within the referral system (counselling services, training and employment, social assistance, local public administration, police, departments of education, Labour Inspection, and NGOs, including children's and youth centres). Also the project brought changes in working with children at risk or exposed to worst forms of child labour and had a positive impact on the situation of child and adult beneficiaries of the project.

23. Several problems were identified during the implementation of the project. Child labour is accepted by our society, it is viewed as a method to educate and discipline children, source of income, and part of our tradition. It is difficult to identify and determine the status of victim / child at risk. There is insufficient official data about the number of potential beneficiaries and information about the identity and social situation of potential beneficiaries. There are no standard procedures for the identification and referral of children in need of assistance.

24. There is not enough co-operation between relevant partners in the view of protecting identified beneficiaries. The mechanisms and services to ensure the security of beneficiaries and to immediately rescue them from the worst forms of child exploitation, including trafficking, are deficient. There are insufficient financial resources and relevant and well trained professionals. School is not fully involved in preventing and combating child labour and community based services for children in difficulty are underdeveloped. The employers are not enough involved in ensuring young people's access to decent employment opportunities.

25. Ms. Popescu invited those interested in more information and in collaboration to contact the National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention (61/2, Calea Iesilor Str., Chisinau, tel/fax: (+373-22) 74 83 78, web-page: [www.cnpac.org.md](http://www.cnpac.org.md)) and of the ILO/IPEC office in Moldova (27, Sfatul Tarii Str., Chisinau, office 205, tel/fax: (+373-22) 23 74 94, web-page: [www.ilo.org/ipec](http://www.ilo.org/ipec)).

26. Mr. Ion Oboroceanu intervened to specify that based on the above-mentioned statistics related to those 255 rescued children how many cases were registered by the officials of the Labour Inspection and whether the National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention informed the relevant authorities in order to prosecute the employers, who involved the minors into the worst forms of child labour.

27. Ms. Popescu replied that the biggest problem is that children are involved into the worst forms of child labour in an informal sector and therefore it's really hard to prosecute the employer, as there is no any legal/contractual relationship with the child. Obviously that the Labour Inspection, which created a Child Labour Monitoring Unit and is the designated authority for such issues, drew up relevant reports, but only in the formal sector. However, the majority of cases are being registered in the informal sector and in particular in the agriculture.

28. Mr. Cucos asked whether the Centre produced any reports, which would reflect aggregated data on the activity of all relevant state authorities in this field. Ms. Popescu answered that there is a general report of the project, which describes in general terms the activity of the project partners and will be soon posted on the web page of the project for public use.

29. Mr. Cucos addressed the US Embassy representative that based on the information he had, the US Embassy publishes an annual Report on Violence against Children and asked whether such a report contained any data on Moldova as well. Mr. Mates of the US Embassy asked that there was only one report he was aware of in this field and it's about the worst forms of child labour. Mr. Cucos added that such a report would have been extremely useful, as based on his previous experience the MFAEI would have promoted the Government's actions in this field amongst international partners. Therefore, it would have been best if such actions would have been reflected in a public document. Mr. Mates stated that US Embassy in Moldova closely collaborates with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on drafting the above-mentioned report and he suggested referring Mr. Cucos to the person responsible for this report for further details.

30. Ms. Viorica Ghimpu added that ILO/IPEC Programme closely collaborates with the US Embassy and they always provide all statistical data and information related to the child labour phenomenon. In addition to this, another reliable source of information is the National Steering Committee, which is headed by Mr. Sergiu Sainciuc, Deputy Minister of Economy and Trade, who reports and presents all information on the progress registered by the Republic of Moldova in the field of combating the worst forms of child labour at the high-level relevant meetings once in half a year. As for the representative statistical data in the formal sector, these are being published yearly on the web site of the Labour Inspection. Ms. Ghimpu also mentioned the launch of the study on child labor by the National Statistics Bureau in the framework of the Work force Survey conducted in 12.500 households from Moldova. For this study, ILO/IPEC has allocated 89.000 USD and UNICEF has allocated 10.000 USD. The final data will be available in May 2010.

31. As regards any international sources, for instance, the International Labour Organization, the Government of the Republic of Moldova additionally presents reports on the ratified conventions, including convention pertaining to the child labour – Convention 138 on the minimal allowed age and Convention 182 on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. All state institutions contribute to the preparation of reports on the last two conventions, which are responsible for preventing and combating child labour exploitation. Therefore, it reflects how the state responds to the child labour exploitation phenomenon. Ms. Ghimpu invited those interested in further details to contact the National Office of the IPEC Programme.

## **7. Any other business**

32. Ms. Hale announced that this was the last TCM she chaired as she would be leaving OSCE Mission to Moldova in August to go back to her home country, USA, and wished the participants best of luck in their joint efforts to combat trafficking in human beings in Moldova. As there were no other issues to discuss, Ms. Hale thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

*Approved by TCM:*

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*Date*

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*Judy Hale, Chair*