



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
OSCE Mission to Moldova

**SUMMARY OF THE TECHNICAL CO-ORDINATION MEETING (TCM)
10 February 2010**

Site: OSCE Mission to Moldova
Date: 10 February 2010
Chairs: Eugenia Benigni, Anti-Trafficking and Gender Officer, OSCE Mission to Moldova
Ecaterina Berejan, Senior Consultant, Department for Gender Equality and Violence
Prevention Policies, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family

Executive Summary

The Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family informed that the 2010-2015 National Programme to Ensure Gender Equality was launched; the Ministry reviewed the draft 2010-2011 Anti-Trafficking Action Plan and submitted recommendations for improvement to the National Committee on anti-trafficking; the data-bases of the Ministry will be merged into one information system (including three elements: child rights protection, domestic violence and human trafficking); the concept and the indicators for the evaluation of the National Referral System are being developed; within the last month two children were repatriated from Ukraine.

The General Prosecutor's Office reported that the anti-trafficking activities of all law enforcement agencies were evaluated and the report was submitted to the Government.

The OSCE Mission announced the forthcoming Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Gender equality and women's participation in public and political life" to be held on 11-12 March¹ 2010 in Vienna; and a new publication by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), "Guidelines for the Development of a Transnational Referral Mechanism for Trafficked Persons".

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) announced several training and awareness raising materials on human trafficking, including the International Framework for Action to Implement the UN Anti-Trafficking Protocol, and the Anti-trafficking manual for criminal justice practitioners. The International Center "La Strada" informed about the initiative on developing a monitoring mechanism for the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention (NCCAP) presented the Guide for professionals on legal interviews with children victims / witnesses of abuse and neglect.

The Swiss Red Cross (SRC) showed a documentary about their programme on violence prevention for boys (training young offenders to become mediators and violence prevention peer-trainers), and made a presentation on "Violence through the eyes of children". During the discussion, participants made suggestions regarding the replication of the SRC project in Moldova. The publications announced at the meeting were distributed; the presentations were further circulated to the distribution list.

¹ The meeting has been postponed and the new date will be announced in March.

MAIN DISCUSSION ITEMS

The summary minutes of the 13 January 2010 TCM were adopted.

1. Activity of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and other state institutions

The Ministry (Ecaterina Berejan) reported the following:

- On 3 February the 2010-2015 National Programme to Ensure Gender Equality was launched. To promote the Programme, six video spots, produced with the support of UNIFEM, are broadcasted by the National TV and Radio.
- The data-base of the National Referral System will be merged with other data-bases of the Ministry into one information system that will include three elements: 1) child rights protection, 2) protection of victims of domestic violence, 3) protection of trafficking victims.
- The Ministry finalizes the development of the concept and indicators to evaluate the implementation of the Strategy of the National Referral System (NRS) to protect and assist victims and potential victims of human trafficking.
- The draft 2010-2011 National Plan of Action to prevent and combat human trafficking was reviewed by the Ministry in consultations with partners. Recommendations for improvement were submitted to the Secretariat of the National Anti-Trafficking Committee.
- During the reporting period (one month since the last TCM) two repatriation missions were organized by the MLSPPF – two children (twin brothers) were repatriated from Ukraine, where they were exploited (forced begging) by their mother and her partner. A new mission is being prepared to repatriate six children from Russia.
- Starting with 2009, the Ministry also deals with social protection of people affected by HIV/AIDS and recently all staff members of the Ministry received necessary training in the field.

The General Prosecutor's Office (Viorel Ciobanu) reported that the anti-trafficking activities of all law enforcement agencies were evaluated in January 2010. The report, which includes statistics, analysis of existing gaps and recommendations for improvement, was submitted to the Government. Considering that the report contains no secret information, it can be shared with those interested.

Ion Oboroceanu (Causeni Law Centre) enquired about the evaluation of the previous National Action Plan on gender equality, as well as about the evaluation of the activity of gender units at central and district level. Ecaterina Berejan answered that the Ministry will organize a series of round tables with governmental officials, donors and civil society to discuss the implementation of the Action Plan on gender equality. The new members of the Governmental Commission for Gender Equality are to be approved by the Government. Civil society representatives will also be part of the Commission. Gender units exist in all ministries and other central authorities – following the changes in the Government, new people were appointed for these positions. According to the National Development Strategy, the authorities in each district are to appoint a specialist (within the Section for Social Assistance or District Council) responsible for the co-ordination of gender policy implementation. At central level, the position of gender ombudsperson will be created.

Ana Revenco (La Strada) asked whether civil society will be involved in the NRS evaluation process and have access to the final report. Ecaterina Berejan explained that civil society representatives are already involved in the development of the concept and indicators for the NRS evaluation.

2. OSCE and other announcements/interventions

The OSCE Mission (Eugenia Benigni) announced that:

- The Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on “Promoting Gender Balance and Women’s Participation in Political and Public Life” will be organized on 11-12 March in Vienna (Austria) *[at the time the present summary is finalized, the meeting has been postponed to a later date.]* The meeting will gather governmental delegates of the OSCE participating states and representatives of NGOs. Benigni mentioned that Moldova faces challenges in this field and the state needs to make more efforts to promote women’s participation. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) recently published the “Guidelines for the Development of a Transnational Referral Mechanism for Trafficked Persons”.
- UNODC (Eleonora Grosu) announced several publications / training materials:
- the film “Affected for Life” – a training material for criminal justice practitioners, which can also be used for general awareness raising. Copies (in all UN languages) can be obtained from UNODC office in Moldova.
- International Framework for Action to Implement the UN Anti-Trafficking Protocol – a publication designed for decision-makers, parliamentarians and practitioners. It provides detailed recommendations on how to improve the response to human trafficking.
- Anti-trafficking manual for criminal justice practitioners – produced in two versions: one for general public and one for restricted use by professionals (a copy of this version can only be obtained by sending a special request to the UNODC Headquarters).

La Strada (Ana Revenco) informed that state parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime discuss the necessity to develop a monitoring mechanism for the Convention and its Protocols. La Strada, as part of an international group of NGOs supporting this initiative, prepared recommendations in this respect and encourages other NGOs and international organizations to advocate for a positive resolution of Moldovan Government regarding the development of such mechanism.

The National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention / NCCAP (Svetlana Haraz) presented the Guide for professionals on legal interviews with children victims / witnesses of abuse and neglect.

Ion Oboroceanu informed about the Regional TCM organized in Cimislia in January in co-operation with the OSCE Mission. He emphasized that participants to regional TCMs mention that they have enough theoretical knowledge on domestic violence and human trafficking, but lack practical skills to identify and properly address such cases.

3. Viewing of the project documentary “Violence prevention for boys” and focal issue presentation on the exhibition “Violence through the eyes of children” (Swiss Red Cross)

Participants watched a 30-minute documentary on the project “Violence prevention for boys”, implemented by the Swiss Red Cross. Within this project young offenders are trained to become mediators and violence prevention peer-trainers.

Lina Langer explained that this project in Germany started about 10 years ago, and now such programmes exist in almost every school, especially in urban areas. In Germany judges often send young offenders to self-help groups. This project targets boys. However violence among girls is also growing in Germany.

According to the project concept, young male offenders are trained by experienced male social workers. The problem with replicating this project in ex-soviet / ex-socialist countries is that social work does not

have a long history here. For Romania the solution could be that experienced male social workers from Germany will train Romanian male social workers. In Romania SRC also works with the Police and the Ministry of Interior. In Iasi, over 7,000 children from 10 schools were already involved in SRC activities on different topics, including violence, alcohol, etc.

SRC invited TCM participants to come up with ideas about how this project could be replicated in Moldova, where most social assistants are women.

Lina Langer presented a calendar with drawings on 3 topics – domestic violence, alcohol and healthy eating –made by children from Romania, Moldova and Ukraine. During different activities organized by SRC (workshops, summer schools, etc.), children are encouraged to use art to express their views and feelings: younger children make drawings and older children make collages.

4. Final discussions, conclusions, recommendations

Viorica Cretu, Coordinator of the “Protection and Empowerment of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and Domestic Violence” Project, implemented by UNDP/UNFPA/IOM/OSCE, commented that involving young offenders as peer-mediators is a very interesting approach (in Moldova peer-educators are usually children who are actively involved in school life, have a good behaviour and good grades). Most social assistants in Moldova are women, with no experience or formal training in the field. A solution for the SRC project replication in Moldova would be to involve male students of Social Assistance Departments who have experience as volunteers in other NGO projects with children and youngsters.

Natalia Moisevici, IOM, recommended SRC to collaborate with the Department for Minors and Morals of the Ministry of Interior. They have psychologists who could be involved in this project. Another option would be to collaborate with NGOs that work with children in difficulty (e.g., Child Rights Information Centre – an NGO implementing projects for children in boarding schools, and with male social assistants on the team; several NGOs in Transnistrian region supported by IOM to implement peer-to-peer programmes on trafficking prevention, domestic violence, etc.).

Ana Revenco, La Strada, asked if the project works with the families of young offenders, as most of them come from violent environment. She also asked if SRC works with all boys, starting at a younger age, which would be of particular importance for Moldova, considering the growing number of children left without proper parental care and supervision as a result of migration. These children, especially boys, are at high risk of developing violent behaviours. Ms. Lina Langer explained that the project is focused on young male offenders as one of the most at-risk groups. It does not include massive campaigns addressing all children and does not work with the families. SRC is interested in implementing a pilot project in Moldova and it could include new qualitative (not quantitative) elements.

Ecaterina Berejan suggested showing the documentary at one of the next meetings of the National Committee for Child Rights Protection.

Approved by TCM:

Date

Eugenia Benigni, Chair