Report on the work of the inter-ministerial working group on fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG) in 2009

Ljubljana, June 2010
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In line with the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia No. 240-05/2003-1 of 18 December 2003, the Inter-ministerial working group on trafficking in human beings (hereinafter: IWG) has prepared a report on its work in 2009.

Members of IWG are representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Sport, the Ministry of Health, the Office for Equal Opportunities, the Government Communication Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs – the Police, the State Prosecutor’s Office, Specialist services of the National Assembly, non-governmental organizations: the Society Ključ, the Slovene Philanthropy, the Slovene Association of Journalists, and the humanitarian organization Slovenska karitas.

In the reporting period, the IWG convened five sessions to discuss various themes connected with planning the actions against human trafficking and resolving open critical cases. In addition, individual members gathered at shorter ad hoc working meetings on the issue. Conclusions of the discussions are stated in the minutes which were distributed to the IWG members after the meetings. Major events and activities are covered in the chapters:

Legislative framework - the focus is undoubtedly on the adoption of the Act ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. It is worth mentioning the systemic integration of non-governmental and humanitarian organizations in the implementing part of the Act;

Prevention – activities for raising the awareness of broader public have been presented, especially through electronic and printed media, radio and TV broadcasting; the awareness of professional public through elaborated forms of education; and the target population - potential victims of trafficking in human beings, through direct awareness raising. Governmental, non-governmental, and humanitarian organizations were included in the prevention activities, as demonstrated in the records of each specific organization of events. It is also worth mentioning the control and measures in issuing the work permits for the so-called high-risk group of professions (bar dancers, construction and seasonal workers);

Prosecution of criminal offences - cases of criminal offences dealt with by police and state prosecutor have been defined, either in terms of statistical records or a description of individual cases. In 2009, police has dealt with 28 criminal offences in four criminal complaints and four reports against 13 suspects of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings (these are Articles 113, 112 and 175 of the CC-1). The state prosecutor’s offices were dealing with six criminal charges against nine suspects altogether, but only for the offence of the abuse of prostitution under Article 175 of the CC-1. Judgements of conviction have been issued for four persons for criminal offences committed in previous years, of which two for the criminal offence of human trafficking under Article 113 of the CC-1;

Assistance and protection for victims of human trafficking - crisis and secure accommodation has been discussed, organized by the Slovenian Karitas and the non-governmental organization Ključ. The Slovenian Karitas dealt with 5 persons in crisis accommodation programme and provided a total of 17 days of accommodation. EUR 35,000.00 has been spent for this purpose. In addition, it participated in two cases of coordination with other institutions which concerned the cases of 13 persons in total. Within the framework of this programme, the NGO Ključ ensured a total of 55 days of secure accommodation for 3 persons, and spent EUR 24,678.15 for this purpose. Furthermore, the association provided one form of assistance for 12 other potential victims of human trafficking. This organization
was also permanently implementing the PATS project, under which 35 interviews have been conducted, and the costs in the reporting period amounted to EUR 25,200.00.

Support activities are mainly focused on the coordination required for comprehensive fight against trafficking in human beings. The chapter also lists and presents international activities participated by the inter-ministerial working group representatives at conferences, seminars, working groups, etc.

Areas related to the problem of trafficking in human beings - these areas undoubtedly deserve a special and separate treatment: illegal migration, the problem of child trafficking, and the Internet child pornography, but also the issue of unaccompanied children custody. Because of the interlinkage of these areas and their connection with the issue of trafficking in human beings, they should be included in the summary of the reporting period 2009.
I. Legislative framework

In 2009, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of the Interior actively participated in the preparation of the Act Ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (MKUTL), adopted by the National Assembly on 15 July (Official Gazette RS 62/09 - International Treaties 14/09). The major emphasis is on systemic integration of non-governmental and humanitarian organizations in the implementation part of this Act: Article 4 provides the system of cooperation of NGO and humanitarian organizations with the state in order to ensure the best possible assistance to the victims of trafficking. The proposed legislation will strengthen the assistance and prevention in this field, and increase the confidence of victims of human trafficking in the state system, particularly in the law enforcement authorities (cooperation with the police, public prosecutors). This type of arrangement does not differ from the existing level of cooperation with the NGOs and humanitarian organizations within the legislative order of the Republic of Slovenia.

The National Assembly and its competent committees also discussed the Proposal of the position of Slovenia towards the Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and the protection of victims, which repeals the Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA. It was submitted by the RS Government in line with the Act on Cooperation between the National Assembly and the Government in EU Affairs.
II. Prevention

Prevention is one of the most important activities in the fight against human trafficking in the Republic of Slovenia, helping us to preclude this form of violating fundamental rights and mitigate its consequences.

Preventive activities include, in the first place, raising the awareness of the general public, education and training of experts involved in the fight against human trafficking, and raising the awareness of target groups - potential victims. Secondly, this includes research activities, monitoring of different forms of human trafficking and last but not least, enhancing of control mechanisms, both the investigation and prosecution authorities and other institutions whose work falls within the scope of the fight against trafficking in human beings.

Raising the general public awareness

According to the available data, Slovenian media published over 40 articles covering the human trafficking issues. Many dealt with the methods of detection and prosecution of criminal offences related with this kind of trafficking. Most radio or television programs and comprehensive articles involved a national coordinator and members of the IWG. A very pro-active reporting role in was noticed in the TV programme ‘Round-table’, the RTV Slovenia night programme, the radio broadcast ‘Let us Build an Open Society’, the Sinfo magazine, daily papers Večer, Delo and Dnevnik, and the broadcasts of some local radio stations.

Raising the awareness of the general public included also the setting up of window exhibition at the Ministry of the Interior. Leaflets, posters and stories related to trafficking in human beings were presented at the same level as materials warning about domestic violence. The exhibition was organized within International days to fight violence against women and was attracting the attention of passers-by for three months.

In the context of 18 October, the European Day against trafficking in human beings, the Government Communication Office financed and prepared the round table ‘Traffickers are not choosing their victims’ in the Centre Evropa on 13 October 2009. It was participated by national coordinator of the fight against trafficking in human beings; Katjuša Popovič, the Society Ključ, Centre for fight against THB, Jurij Popov, a journalist and a publicist, Imre Jerebic from the Slovenian Karitas; Neža Kogovšek from the Peace Institute, and Goran Lukič from the Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia who sent a written contribution. The round table was attended by 85 participants, including a group of students from the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security.

The Communications Office organized advertisement on the website www.najdi.si. Their ad shows the logo ‘Let us act against trafficking in human beings’, and the logos and contact numbers of the organizations providing assistance to victims. The so-called contextual advertising is linked with keyword search hits (sexuality, prostitution, human trafficking, etc.), linking the ad to the IWG website. The total number of displays exceeded 137,000. Between 11 and 18 October, the ad appeared 490,000 times on the main menu of the web site www.najdi.si.

In 2009, the Government Communication Office was currently updating the contents of the website which presents the fight against trafficking both in Slovenian and in English.

The Web site http://www.vlada.si/delo_vlade/projekti/boj_trgovina_z_ljudmi/ is linked to the website of the Ministry of the Interior. It provides information on the activities of the IWG and access to basic documents prepared by the IWG, and other materials and international
instruments related to this field. Statistic shows that more than 4,270 people visited the site in 2009.

**Raising the awareness of the professional public – education and training**

In 2009, the Ministry of Justice carried out, in cooperation with the Judicial Training Centre, training of judges and prosecutors concerning the fight against trafficking in human beings, or criminal offences of trafficking in human beings. The trainers included a representative from the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, a representative of the Government Office for Equal Opportunities, and two representatives of the Society Ključ - all members of the inter-ministerial working group for combating trafficking in human beings. Training was held on 7 and 21 September, and 12 October.

A three-day advanced training of multipliers entitled ‘smuggling and human trafficking’ was conducted in May in the training centre Gotenica in line with the annual plan of Police training and education. The society Ključ played an active role in the process. Training was attended by representatives of this society and the Slovenian Karitas.

In the context of training international police units, an awareness raising seminar on human trafficking was organized in the training centre Gotenica on 25 September. The seminar was conducted by the NGO Ključ.

As regards training and education, a manual for teachers entitled “About you” was reprinted in 2009. It was updated with the sexual violence and THB issues.

In April 2009, a seminar on sexual education was conducted for elementary and secondary school teachers. It was attended by 90 teachers who were particularly warned of the problem of trafficking in human beings. This topic was part of the training at Head Teachers School conducted on 24 November by the Society Ključ.

**Raising the awareness of the target population**

The programme ‘Vijolica (Violet) - how to avoid trafficking in human beings’ is carried out by the society Ključ in the form of workshops for young people. It was carried out 31 times in 2009 in elementary and secondary schools for about 775 young people aged between 14 and 18. The same programme is being presented to the parents of these children and was performed six times in this form for about 100 parents.

In November and December, after the project Dependence – Independence, the Slovenian Karitas implemented prevention activities involving 360 pupils in higher elementary schools, and 90 parents.

The national coordinator against trafficking in human beings is regularly lecturing at the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security. The society Ključ carried out two lectures on human trafficking for the students of the Law Faculty and the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security.

Under the programme ‘Alliance for Nonviolence - Vow of Choosing Nonviolence, the society Ključ conducted, in cooperation with four non-governmental organizations, a workshop on all forms of violence threatening young people. Workshops were held in 122 departments of 25 secondary schools for about 3050 graduates. At the end, young people were invited to opt for non-violence and choose self-protection behaviour as presented at the workshop. Young people could show their decision by signing nonviolence vows. 2,074 signatures have been collected by 16 May 2009.
The PATS programme is being implemented in the form of informative/prevention interviews with asylum seekers in the Asylum Centre of the Ministry of the Interior. 35 prevention-information interviews were carried out in 2009 under PATS (more details about the PATS project are found in Chapter IV. Assistance and protection of THB victims).

The SOPS SNNS programme (standard operating procedures to prevent and intervene in the cases of sexual violence and gender violence) is performed free of charge in the Asylum Centre with an active participation of the PATS provider. Under this programme, several cases of sexual violence and gender violence have been dealt with. To this end, the contractor PATS carried out 15 additional interviews free of charge, and helped with coordinating and dealing with other cases.

**Strengthening of control mechanisms in granting the work permits**

Following the changed conditions in labour market and the increased number of unemployed, the Rules on procedures and evidence concerning the decisions on issuing work permits have been amended in April 2009 (Official Gazette RS No. 28/2009). The amendment refers to the procedure of issuing work permits without verifying the labour market: under this procedure, permits are no longer issued to aliens for the jobs which are lacking in the Slovenian labour market. A work permit may be granted if the Employment Service has no records of unemployed adequate native persons, or persons with the same employment rights as the citizens of the RS, if the employer has announced a vacancy and meets other statutory conditions (the employer must be duly registered or enrolled in the business register, the quota for this type of employment must not be exhausted, and the alien has to meet the conditions required by the employer; the employer has to enclose an employment contract signed by him; and neither the employer or the alien should have a ban on new recruitment or work).

In June, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a Decree on restrictions and prohibition of employment and work of aliens (Official Gazette RS No 44/2009), which further protects the domestic labour market lowering the quota of work permits.

By issuing the Decree on restrictions and prohibition of employment and work of aliens, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia intervened in the issue of work permits for dancers, limiting the possibilities of employment related to entertainment and artistic programme in night clubs for foreigners residing in the territory of the states which do not need a visa to enter the Republic of Slovenia, and for foreigners residing in the states which have visa facilitation agreements with the European Union. In addition, in order to facilitate the control, Slovenia has limited the implementation of the programme to one single night club to be determined by the employer in his application for work permit. Due to these constraints, the number of work permits for these professions dropped significantly (678 permits for dancers have been issued). By limiting the employment of “bar dancers” to the countries whose citizens can enter Slovenia without a visa, and to citizens of the countries which have visa facilitation agreements with the EU, plus limiting the programme to one single bar selected by the employer, the control will be easier, and the possibility of abuse or crime diminished.

Reduced labour force demand and the measures of the state affected the number of permits issued, the number of valid work permits, and the utilization of the issued work permits quota. In 2009, 58,750 work permits were issued or 31.2% less than in 2008 with 85,333 issued work permits. In 2009, the number of issued work permits was 39,576 or 32.8% less (58,897 work permits were issued in 2008).
Table 1: Work permits issued to various categories of occupations in 2009/08/07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROFESSION</th>
<th>The number of work permits issued</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancer</td>
<td>678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Construction worker</strong></td>
<td>29,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal work, in general</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal work in agriculture</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal work in construction</td>
<td>1,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>industry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal work in agriculture</td>
<td>1,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by contracting out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal work in catering and</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tourism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seasonal work in total</strong></td>
<td>2,962</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. Prosecution of offences related to trafficking in human beings

Activities of the Police

Police Activities in the field of prevention and detection of trafficking and prostitution abuse in 2009 were aimed at detecting crime hotspots, individuals and criminal groups who gain illegal proceeds by using all forms of exploiting the victims of trafficking and prostitution.

In 2009, the Slovenian police detected several forms of trafficking in human beings. Most of the processed cases were related to sexual and labour exploitation. No cases of servants or mendacity were discovered in 2009. However, more exploitation of workers was recorded in 2009, which reflects the current economic crisis and the increasing willingness of the people to take any kind of job, as long as they find one. In providing assistance to victims of trafficking, the police in many cases actively cooperated with the NGOs Slovenian Karitas and the society Ključ.

Article 113 CC-1 - trafficking in persons: Police have dealt with one criminal offence of trafficking in persons in 2009 (9 in 2008), and the competent public prosecutor's office received one (1) report. 1 one suspect (24) has been sued The police led the procedure connected with three injured parties - victims of crime.

In addition to cases of trafficking in persons in respect to which the police submitted a criminal complaint or a report to the competent prosecutor, nine other suspected cases of trafficking have been treated. In some cases, the process of gathering information and evidence is still going on, and in others, criminal proceedings have been brought for other offences based on the collected information and evidence, for example the abuse of a minor, or violation of the rights of workers. Four minors were also handled as potential victims of trafficking.

Article 112 CC-1 - placing in a slavery condition: no offences have been processed (6 in 2008). One report (0 in 2008) has been sent to the competent prosecutor's office. Information and evidence are being collected on one case of labour exploitation, violating the international treaties concerning the exploitation of persons and the violation of human rights.

Article of the CC-1 - abuse of prostitution: 27 (5 in 2008) criminal acts were treated in the reporting period. In statistical terms, 32 (7) suspects were sued, which actually means 12 (6 in 2008). 25 injured persons - victims were identified, of which 12 agreed to cooperate with the law enforcement authorities. Two reports were sent to the competent prosecutor's office. In investigating and prosecuting criminal offences - abuse of prostitution, it was found that many victims were citizens of Slovenia; others originated in Slovakia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. This form of exploitation is characterised by being carried out in rented apartments and tourist facilities.

Table 2: Criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings dealt by the Police in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criminal Offence</th>
<th>The number of criminal offences (criminal charges)</th>
<th>The number of reports to the District Prosecutor's Office</th>
<th>The number of suspects</th>
<th>The number of victims</th>
<th>The number of minors affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Trafficking; Article 113 of the Penal Code</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Placing into slavery conditions  
Article 112 of the Penal Code

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Abuse of prostitution -  
Article 175 of the Penal Code

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>27 (3)</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

TOTAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>28</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>28</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Activities of the State Prosecutor’s Office

Good practice from previous years when the annual work plan provided for prosecutors in charge of processing the crimes of trafficking in human beings in all district offices continued in 2009. The work was monitored and coordinated by the Supreme State Prosecutor who promptly received reports from the prosecutors on criminal matters where they steered the pre-trial phase, or conducted the criminal proceedings. This collaboration provided answers to many legal issues, often associated with the actual situation of various criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings. Management and follow-up of work contributed to the creation of a uniform prosecution policy in this area.

In 2009, the regional public prosecutors and the Group of state prosecutors for the prosecution of organized crime in fact received no new criminal charges for offences of trafficking in persons under Articles 387 and 113 of the Criminal Code, and placing in a slavery condition under Articles 387 and 112 of the Criminal Code, but this does not mean that the fight against this kind of trafficking was suspended. When the new Slovenian Penal Code came into force on 1 November 2009, it opened the legal question of a more lenient criminal law. The comparison of the description of the offence of trafficking in Article 387(1) of the Criminal Code with the description of the same offence in Article 113(1) of CC-1 shows that the required quantity in the CC-1 is larger, as the executive form "due to prostitution or other forms of sexual abuse" also requires the purpose of "exploitation". This means that the description of the offence is added a legal feature which has to be proved.

This question was answered in a specific criminal case completed before the Court of First Instance in December 2009. Upon submitting the charge in 2008, the state prosecutor charged the defendants for trafficking in persons under Article 387a of the Penal Code, while in her final word she defined the offences according to Article 113 of CC-1, as she established that the latter was more lenient. In the concrete case where the trial went on throughout 2009 and was closed at the trial after 11 hearings, the prosecutor managed to prove all the elements of the offence of trafficking in persons under Article 113 of the CC-1. The Court followed her charges and declared (2) two defendants guilty of trafficking in persons under Article 113(1) of CC-1, and the abuse of prostitution under Article 175(2) and (1) of CC-1. One of defendants was declared a single sentence of three years and two months of imprisonment, a monetary lateral penalty of EUR 5,884.30, and was deprived of proceeds equalling EUR 13,487.00. The second accused person was sentenced two years imprisonment and a lateral monetary penalty amounting to EUR 2,787.30; he was deprived of EUR 13,487.00 of proceeds and his mobile phone and EUR 1,500.00 have been seized. Both had to pay the costs of criminal proceedings. The third defendant was acquitted of the offence of assisting in human trafficking, and the fourth defendant was acquitted of the offence of assisting in the abuse of prostitution.
The case in question showed that the identification of trafficking in human beings is vital for protecting the people sold in this way, and for a successful criminal-judicial prosecution of the "sellers" - the perpetrators of this crime. The main characteristic of this type of crime is extremely difficult to prove because the injured persons – the victims often do not recognize themselves as such, and as a rule, they are intimidated by perpetrators who take advantage of their emotional and existential dependency.

In the case of criminal act of trafficking in persons for the purpose of prostitution, incriminated in the CC-1, it is essential to prove that the victims are economically exploited. Exploitation may exist despite the fact that the victims cannot or will not perceive their role as such, and despite the fact that they may have a properly concluded employment relationship with the appropriate social security, salary and accommodation. The concrete circumstances on the side of the victim, and the conduct or exploitation of these circumstances by the offender determine whether it constitutes a criminal offence.

In 2009, the investigation was suspended against one of the accused who died, and in another case, the court after the filing the charges against two defendants in 2006 returned the case back to the investigation phase where it is now. In 2005, another charge was filed against one defendant after the completed investigation, but the court has not convened the main hearing yet.

Considering the nature of human trafficking offence and the usual lack of information and material evidence pointing to such an act, in 2009 the state prosecutors approached broadly to combat this trade, so that they paid special attention to criminal offences which are related to the offence of trafficking in human beings and whose object is the protection of human freedom and its dignity. Thus, the prosecutors appointed by the annual working plan to process human trafficking generally treated also criminal offences of the abuse of prostitution, placing the persons in a slavery condition; presenting, producing, possessing, and transmitting the pornographic materials.

The state prosecutor's offices received six complaints against nine persons for the offences of the abuse of prostitution under Article 175 of CC-1. Criminal complaint was dismissed against one person; investigations were required and initiated against two persons, and an investigation was launched in one case where the complaint had been filed in the previous reporting period. Indictment was brought in two new cases and one, initiated in the previous period. Judgements were delivered against four persons in cases initiated already in the previous reporting periods.

Table 3: Offences connected with trafficking in human beings processed by District State Prosecutor’s Offices in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criminal offence</th>
<th>Number of criminal complaints / reports</th>
<th>The number of persons under criminal complaints</th>
<th>Dismissed criminal complaint(Number of persons)</th>
<th>Launched investigation (Number of persons)</th>
<th>Indictment was filed (Number of persons)</th>
<th>Withdrawn prosecution</th>
<th>Delivered judgement against (Number of persons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Trafficking Article 113 CC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placing in a slavery condition Article 112 CC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4* persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostitution Abuse Article 175 CC</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 + 2*</td>
<td>2 + 1*</td>
<td>4* persons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8* persons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Cases from previous periods
IV. Assistance and protection for the victims of trafficking

The Project ‘Care for the victims of human trafficking’

- Crisis Accommodation Programme

The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs issued a public tender in 2008 on implementing the project ‘Care for the victims of human trafficking in the Republic of Slovenia - Crisis accommodation for the years 2008 and 2009’, for an indicative amount of EUR 35,000.00 in 2008, and EUR 35,000.00 in 2009, and selected the Slovenian Karitas. The project consists in providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings for their physical, mental and social recovery, and ensuring their initial and urgent withdrawal from the existing environment. Based on the contractor’s requests, EUR 35,000.00 was paid from the budget of the said ministry for the implementation of the project ‘Care for the victims of human trafficking - crisis accommodation’ in 2009.

The Slovenian Karitas dealt with 5 people under the crisis accommodation programme, and participated in two cases of coordination with other institutions, which were related to 13 persons in total.

The contractor presented the project in six plenary councils of Karitas and three seminars of the Karitas. The project manager was also responsible for maintaining and upgrading the accommodation standard of the crisis centres. In addition to the 24-hour telephone counselling, the Slovenian Karitas offered full supply to five (5) persons who were sent there by the police (accommodation, meals, mental, social and medical assistance, counselling, information on victims’ rights, cooperation with the local Social Work Centre, advocacy, social commitment, work activities, socialising, establishment of international expert network, preparation for return to the home country, escort, providing security ...). Two persons were transferred on to a safe location. The total number of days of the care provided was 17.

Specific cases:

A Slovenian citizen, 36 years old female, identified as a victim of trafficking by the police in Serbia and Kosovo where she had been previously placed in shelters. After the intervention of the Serbian police and NGOs from Serbia and in collaboration with the Slovenian police, she was sent to the Slovenian Karitas shelter. After a five-day crisis accommodation she was transferred to a safe accommodation of the Society Ključ.

An adult Slovak citizen, potential victim of trafficking, dealt with by the Slovenian police, social services and the psychiatric hospital in Ljubljana, was sent home as a beneficiary of the Slovenian Karitas services. In addition to arranging personal documents in collaboration with the Slovak Embassy, she was provided with material support and the return costs.

A citizen of Ukraine, potential victim of human trafficking dealt with by the police, has been in contact with the provider of the crisis accommodation programme, but this has not been implemented.

A Slovenian citizen, 29 years old; a while ago the police identified her as a victim of human trafficking; she benefitted from the crisis accommodation because of threats, after she testified against an offender during a pre-trial procedure. The person in question is addicted, and during the five-day accommodation she was provided with a methadone therapy, and
the cooperation with the Association Stigma has been established. Crisis accommodation was suspended at the end of the threat.

A Citizen of the Dominican Republic, 22 years, victim of trafficking and forced prostitution. The police sent her to the crisis accommodation of the Slovenian Karitas, which lasted seven days, and afterwards she was transferred to a secure area of the Society Ključ as a witness in the criminal proceedings.

In addition to these five cases, the Slovenian Karitas was informed of the treatment of

- Seven (7) persons, potential victims of trafficking for labour exploitation, who were placed under the police procedure, but trafficking was not confirmed, so the crisis accommodation did not take place. There was only a coordinating correspondence with the police;

Six (6) minors, potential victims of trafficking, violence and sexual abuse, who were dealt with by the appropriate social services and the police. However, as this concerned another form of criminal offence against minors, they were not identified as victims of trafficking, and therefore there was no crisis accommodation. In this case, coordination and cooperation also took place at the meeting convened by the Social Work Centre Vič.

*Table 4: Activities of the Slovenian Karitas connected with victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings in 2009*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Users of crisis accommodation</th>
<th>Number of persons</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Accommodation (Days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1* Female adult SLO 5 days</td>
<td>1 Female adult Slovakia</td>
<td>1 Female adult Ukraine</td>
<td>1 Female adult 29 SLO 5 days</td>
<td>1 Female 22 Dominican Rep. 7 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual cases</th>
<th>Other activities of the programme</th>
<th>Number of persons</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Suspicion of trafficking in human beings - labour exploitation</em></td>
<td>Mutual communication with the Police</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>adult</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Abuse of Minors</em></td>
<td>Participation in the coordination meeting of the Social Work Centre</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>minor</td>
<td>Ghana, Kosovo, Albania, Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*: Cases where both contractors of the care for victims participated (the crisis and the safe accommodation)

- **Safe accommodation programme**

Within the framework of the same project, the society Ključ implemented the programme of safe accommodation financed by the Ministry of Interior from its own budget under the public tender in the amount of EUR 37,000.00. The project includes assistance to victims of
trafficking in their physical, mental and social recovery, regularization of housing, and help in securing the rights of representation and treatment during criminal prosecution against the offenders. The victims have to be provided, within a safe space, all the necessary protection to testify in court proceedings. Based on the contractor’s claims, EUR 24,678.15 has been assigned for the implementation of the project Care of the victims of trafficking - secure accommodation in the year 2009.

The Society Ključ dealt with 3 persons - victims of human trafficking in the programme Care - accommodation in a safe place, of which one was a citizen of Slovenia, one of the Dominican Republic, and one of Ghana. In addition, the society provided one of the forms of assistance to 12 people, possible victims of human trafficking.

Specific examples:

- **A Slovenian citizen, 36 years old, was taken to a secure area of the Society Ključ after a preliminary crisis accommodation in the Slovenian Karitas. The findings of the previous NGOs who offered aid confirmed a neglected condition of the person and her reduced mental capacities. She obtained a passport of the Republic of Slovenia, which stated that she has no permanent residence in Slovenia. She expressed a desire to return to Germany, where he previously lived with her two daughters. With the help of the society Ključ, she was sent to Germany. The local safe houses have been contacted where she might find accommodation. The society Ključ kept these contacts in order to forward possible additional information required in the prosecution in Serbia against the perpetrators.**

- **A Citizen of the Dominican Republic, 22 years old; previously in crisis accommodation at the Slovenian Karitas; victim of trafficking for forced prostitution. At the competent police station she made a criminal complaint against the perpetrators, who are now under criminal proceedings. After the expiry of work permit, she was granted a permission to stay. She agreed to cooperate with the investigation and prosecution authorities and testify in criminal proceedings at court. Because of real threats and her fear of the former employer, additional physical protection was provided in the safe house, which was connected with additional material costs.**

– **The third person placed in the safe room was a citizen of Ghana, 18 years, previously accommodated in the asylum home as seeker of international protection. The police lead the procedure of collecting information on the suspected trafficking in persons, because it was allegedly found during the interview that he was sold to Italy as a minor and managed to escape. The police have not collected enough evidence to justify the suspicion of the alleged crime.**

One of the other forms of direct assistance provided by the society Ključ involved 12 other persons; one of them was a Slovenian male citizen, seven were Slovenian female citizens (one minor), a minor citizen of Romania, a citizen of Nigeria, a minor citizen of Ghana, and an adult citizen of Ukraine. None of them were placed in a safe house. In addition, the Society was contacted by 2,368 indirect users from the so-called professional and lay public.
Table 5: Activities of the Society Ključ related to victims and potential victims of trafficking in humans in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Users of safe accommodation</th>
<th>Number of persons</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Accommodation (Days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>SLO</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>55 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual cases</th>
<th>Other activities of the programme</th>
<th>Number of persons</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example of excursion 2007/08 - placing in a slavery condition</td>
<td>Advisory interviews with the victim, monitoring and preparation of witnesses at court</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>SLO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various cases of suspected trafficking reported by third parties</td>
<td>Advisory interviews, information, forwarding data to the contact person at the police</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>SLO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported case by the mother of a minor who was abused for the purpose of prostitution and potential victim of trafficking</td>
<td>Interview and counselling of the minor’s mother and the person itself; talk with the pimp, meeting with the police and the medical staff</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>SLO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report by another body in case of potential victim of trafficking, hospitalized in the paediatric clinic</td>
<td>Cooperation with the consular mission of Romania, social work centre, paediatric clinic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspicion of trafficking in human beings, perceived by the asylum home</td>
<td>Interview with the person in the asylum home, elaboration of the opinion for the asylum home</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Niger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspicion of trafficking in human beings, perceived by the asylum home</td>
<td>The interview in the asylum home, elaboration of the opinion for the asylum home</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspected abuse of the vulnerable position of a foreign citizen and the person she should marry.</td>
<td>Gathering information, cooperation with the contact person at the police</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*: Cases in which the contractor cooperated with both care to victims (and safe crisis accommodation)

The PATS Project

In line with the IWG Action Plan to combat trafficking in human beings for the period 2008-09, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs financed for the fifth consecutive year in 2009 the project
‘Introducing a mechanism to identify, assist and protect victims of trafficking and/or sexual violence in asylum procedures in Slovenia’ (PATS) amounting to EUR 25,200.00.

The project aims to provide the PATS users with as much information on trafficking as possible, while ensuring that they can accept and understand them. From January up to and including December 2009 35 PATS-information interviews were carried out (hereinafter referred to as II), and the contractor PATS performed a total of 50 II (and 15 follow-ups).

34 II were carried out in the asylum home, and only one in the centre for foreigners. Informative interviews were conducted with 35 persons, of which 21 were men, or 60% of all this year’s users of the project PATS, and 14 were women, i.e. 40% of PATS users. It should be noted that this statistics concerns first interviews with the international protection seekers, and some of them were in fact included in the subsequent curative work, and several additional interviews were conducted with them (15 in total). Of all 35 users of the PATS Project in 2009, 63% were minors. Nine of them came from Afghanistan, three from Turkey, two from Iraq, Iran, and Ghana, and one from Bosnia and Morocco, respectively. There was one minor girl in the reporting period, namely from Russia. Most users in the reporting period came from Afghanistan (ten users) and Bosnia (seven female users and one male - a total of eight), and a surprisingly small number from the areas where most PATS users traditionally come from (Albania, Kosovo).

In 2009, the PATS contractor was actively participating in the so-called SOPS and SNNS carried out in the asylum home. In the context of this commission, several cases of sexual violence and gender violence were treated. PATS performed 15 additional interviews free of charge and assisted in the coordination and implementation of the remaining cases. In one case - a textbook case of trafficking minors - the Ključ society also arranged a safe accommodation. As regards the latter case, it should be noted that the Social Work Centre Vič did not respond adequately in terms of its statutory responsibility, and it is not adequately prepared and trained for more difficult cases of violence and safe accommodation of minors who are not citizens of the Republic of Slovenia.
V. Support activities

Coordination of the IWG work

As mentioned initially, the IWG against human trafficking met five times in 2009: on 13 February, 9 April, 27 May, 29 September, and 22 December. The Government at its 30th regular meeting on 4 June discussed the Report on the work of the inter-ministerial working group against human trafficking in 2009 (Decision No. 01201-10/2009/3).

The National Coordinator coordinated the preparation of responses to the questionnaires in the field of human trafficking and related topics requested by various international organizations. Thus, answers were sent to questionnaires on the systemic organization for the preparation of the joint EU conference of national rapporteurs in Prague on 30-31 March 2009. On the request of the UNODC, Slovenian positions on the issues of human trafficking in Slovenia were prepared in February. In May, the answers were sent to questionnaires of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in children, child prostitution, and child pornography. In May, equally, answers were prepared for the special rapporteur of the United Nations on the contemporary forms of slavery. In the context of the Day of EU’s fight against trafficking in human beings, a paper was drafted in October for the Minister who attended the ministerial conference in Brussels.

The National Coordinator maintained regular contacts with the US Embassy in Slovenia and coordinated annual reports for the preparation of the US State Department Report on Human Rights, and a special report on human trafficking. On this basis and due to its achievements, Slovenia is placed, for the third year in a row, among the so-called TIR 1 - Top rated group of countries reaching satisfactory standards in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

Coordination of activities was conducted at the operational level, especially among Police, NGOs and the State Prosecutor, and between the NGOs and the ministries which funded specific projects. The latter mainly concerned the position to additional material costs occurred in two cases due to objective risks of victims of trafficking who were placed in a safe house. IWG members have met at small informal meetings intended to address specific issues, such as regular consultations and information to the carers of contracts by operators of individual projects, the participation of NGOs with volunteers and external experts, etc.

Participation in the regional and international organizations

- Slovenia’s activities in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - OSCE

Slovenia participated in 2009 in the OSCE activities related to fight against trafficking in human beings, either through representatives of the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the OSCE (MDU) in Vienna, either with representatives of the Slovenian authorities and the inter-ministerial working group against trafficking in human beings.

In February 2009, a special OSCE representative of fight against trafficking in human beings, Eva Biaudet, was supposed to visit the Minister of the Interior, Ms Katarina Kresal. The visit was cancelled in the last minute for reasons of Ms Biaudet’s health condition.

The Office of the Special Representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to combat trafficking in human beings, Ms Eva Biaudet, organized the conference ‘Alliance against trafficking in persons’ in Vienna from 14 to September 2009. The questions addressed the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on the
reduction of legal employment opportunities and the increasing exposure of millions of people to sexual and labour exploitation. The conference was attended by more than 300 participants, including representatives of the OSCE countries, international organizations and NGOs. Slovenia was represented by Ambassador Stanislav Raščan and Ms Ana Petrič from the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the OSCE, and two members of the inter-ministerial working group against trafficking in human beings, the supreme state prosecutor Ms Savica Pureber, and mag. Andrew Eror from the Research Department of the National Assembly. The National Assembly representative prepared a report on the conference; it was presented at the meeting of the inter-ministerial working group and published on the National Assembly website.

- **Activities of Slovenian embassies abroad**

Embassies of the Republic of Slovenia abroad regularly remind the competent authorities in Slovenia on the issue of human trafficking, which could in some cases be carried out by obtaining residence permits. This was confirmed in 2009 by abusing the process of obtaining work and residence permits for the citizens of Kosovo in particular. The measures taken consisted in setting up an inter-ministerial working group led by the Directorate of Migration and Integration, whose member is the National Coordinator for Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings. A Decree on restrictions and prohibition of employment and work of aliens has been adopted.

- **Other international activities**

On 30 April 2009, the Austrian Ministry of Interior completed a two-year project *Development of guidelines for the collection of data on trafficking in human beings, Including comparable indicators* with the financial support of the Commission and in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Partners in the project included the Belgian Federal Police, the Hungarian Ministry of Justice, the Italian Ministry of the Interior, the Luxembourg police, the Swedish Ministry of Justice, Europol, and ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development). Its purpose was to establish guidelines for collecting data on trafficking, including comparable indicators. The project was followed-up by Andrej Eror, the Slovenian member of the IWG and representative of the Research Department at the National Assembly.

Between 30 and 31 March, a conference of national rapporteurs on trafficking was organized in Prague by the Czech Presidency. The debate was focused on the division of roles and responsibilities of national rapporteurs and national coordinators. Various models of national organizations were presented, and the views of the EU Commission, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the IOM, and some other institutions have been put forward. Because of the diversity of models, the OSCE has proposed minimum standards meeting the needs of the 'national rapporteurs or similar mechanisms'.

The National Coordinator and the representative of the police attended between 16 and 19 September the fourth meeting under the project "Ilaeira", which is managed and coordinated by the Greek police. The meeting was in Crete, and representatives of various delegations informed the participants with the investigation of notable criminal offences of trafficking in persons in the last period.

The National Coordinator attended the third meeting of the Committee of Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which was held in Strasbourg on 21 September 2009. A Representative of Georgia, Zurab Čibbereašvili, was elected Chairman of the committee. Election of the President was followed by the point on the agenda - the exchange of views with the president of the supervisory body of GRETA
Ms Hana Sophie Greve (Norway), who presented the activities of this body in terms of setting the rules and launching the operation. Further on, the discussion highlighted the lack of coordination with other international organizations which have also foreseen the implementation of control mechanisms (OSCE and UNODC), though it was not possible to avoid the impression of competition among them. As regards the operation of GRETA, the process of submitting the questionnaire was explained again. It will be followed by evaluation and based on preliminary assessment also the visit of the evaluated countries. The order of evaluating the countries will take into account the intended sequence of ratifications, but will take place no sooner than two years after the date of ratification. Questionnaires will be addressed to government representatives (coordinators, rapporteurs and other relevant institutions), and the situation will be examined also in cooperation with NGOs.

The delegation of Slovenia, led by the Minister of the Interior Ms Katarina Kresal, attended the International Conference of the European Day against trafficking in human beings (18 October), this time in the organization of the Swedish Presidency of the EU Council, the European Commission, the International Organization for Migration, and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. The event was held at a high political level, with the participation of many ministers and directors of European agencies in the field of justice and home affairs. This reflected the importance of the problem of trafficking in human beings, and its place among the priority issues of the Swedish Presidency and other EU institutions in the field of fight against organized crime. The conclusions of the conference, summarized in the statement, include the improvement of cooperation measures - partnerships, prevention, protection of victims, the investigation and prosecution of the acts of trafficking with human beings. The focus should be above all on the cooperation with third countries, regions and international organizations, and the integrity of the phenomenon of human trafficking which, in addition to the active role of justice and home affairs bodies, requires the integration of actors in the areas of external relations, social care, employment, equal opportunities, and of course, non-governmental organizations and the civil society. In this context, the need for a coordinating mechanism at the EU level has been suggested (Anti-Trafficking Coordinator).

At the international level, the Slovenian police cooperated with Interpol, Europol and particularly actively with the SECI Centre, in the preparation of the annual report on human trafficking in the Balkans. It actively participates in the preparation of criteria for identifying the victims of human trafficking at the external borders of the EU, prepared by FRONTEX.

For the purpose of preventing human trafficking and illicit migration, a consultation visit has been organised with the appropriate investigation unit for the prevention of human trafficking in Moldova. This has contributed to the establishment of a better and more efficient cooperation among police forces in investigating the criminal offences of human trafficking and illegal migration.
VI. Aspects of the issue of human trafficking

Illicit migration

The IWG statistically monitored the offences of illegal migration, more specifically prohibited crossing the border or the territory of countries under Article 311 of the Criminal Code (171 in 2008) criminal offences were handled and 293 (455) persons were subject to complaint. The responsible public prosecutors' offices have received 15 (23) reports.

Internet child pornography and the issues related to child trafficking

The Internet child pornography is not trafficking in human beings in terms of its substance, but is a practice which may be linked to human trafficking, specifically the children. In this context, children are always the object of an individual who abuses them, but they can also be the object of purchase and sale for the production of pornographic materials.

The Penal Code deals with internet child pornography in the context of the criminal offence of displaying, manufacturing, possessing and transmitting pornographic materials under Article 176(2) and (3) of the new CC-1.

On the day of enforcing the new Criminal Code, 1 November 2008, the description of the criminal offence of displaying, manufacturing, possessing and transmitting pornographic materials was modified so that it incriminated even the possession of pornographic material showing children (a child is a person younger than 18 years, Convention on the Rights of the Child). This change is an extremely positive development in the protection of the integrity of children in relation to criminal law norm.

The nature of the offence is the one that determines international cooperation in detection and prosecution matters, and this has successfully continued in 2009. Part of the criminal charges was namely prepared in close cooperation of the Slovenian police and prosecutors with the Interpol and the police forces in other countries. This, for example, was the case of the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Maribor which received a complaint where the Slovenian police received information from the cyber crime unit of the Federal Police in Brazil about the user's IP address in the area of the Police Unit Maribor. The same case involved the German police from the Regional Crime Office Hannover. During the house search in Maribor, the perpetrator was seized a PC with 109 CDs and DVDs, and three VHS cassettes with child pornography. The charge was filed against the defendant, and is already final.

In 2009, the number of criminal charges and persons was the same as in 2008, namely, 20 criminal charges were filed against 22 persons, of whom two were minors upon committing the offence. Prosecutors dismissed criminal charges against five persons, requested investigation of five persons, and invested indictment acts against seven persons. This included making decisions on matters from previous years, where criminal charges were rejected against three people and indictments filed against two persons who were subject to investigation in the previous years.

Courts have issued judgements in six criminal cases against six defendants, declaring conviction in all cases. Three persons were issued suspended sentences, one of which is already final. In the case of judgments against two accused persons, the prosecutor successfully appealed the sentence, so that the Court of Appeal modified one judgement and declared a prison sentence to the defendant, while the other case is still under appeal. Three accused persons received prison sentences and two of these cases have also become final. All the penalties are imposed on the lower limit of prescribed penalties ranging from six to ten months of imprisonment.
Table 6: Criminal offences under Article 187 of the Criminal Code dealt with by the District State Prosecutors in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Number of criminal complaints / reports</th>
<th>The number of the persons under criminal charges</th>
<th>Discarded criminal charges (Against ... number of persons)</th>
<th>Under investigation (Number of persons)</th>
<th>Charges filed (Number of persons)</th>
<th>Withdrawal from prosecution</th>
<th>Judgement against ... number of persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation, manufacture, possession and transmission of pornographic material (187/2 PC)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5 + 3*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7 + 2*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cases from previous years.

- for unaccompanied children in 2009

International Protection Act (Official Gazette of RS No. 111/07 and 111/08-decision of the Constitutional Court) places unaccompanied minors among vulnerable categories of persons who are provided with special care and concern. The proceedings considering the reasons to grant international protection to unaccompanied minors have to take into account the best interests of the child, providing preferential treatment of such requests and determining the child’s identity as soon as possible. Unaccompanied minor is assigned a legal representative at the time of application. He represents the minor throughout the procedure or until the minor has reached full age. The procedure of defining a legal representative is led by the territorially competent social work centre which assigns a relative as the representative of the minor, a companion or a representative of the organization specializing in work with children and adolescents. In practice, the caretaker is the Slovenian Philanthropy in most cases. The unaccompanied minors are offered further verbal explanation of rights and duties adjusted to their age and stage of mental development.

As in previous years, the Slovenian Philanthropy provided caretakers of unaccompanied children on a regular basis in 2009 in the procedures of obtaining international protection in the Republic of Slovenia, in proceedings where they were treated as illegal immigrants, and also after obtaining international protection. Custody was taken over by volunteers and employees at the Slovenian philanthropy. In addition to specific cases related mainly to the care for the child’s best interests in various procedures, the Slovenian Philanthropy implemented various forms of assistance to unaccompanied children: teaching the Slovenian language, support in learning, organization of social, cultural and sports activities, visits and excursions. Caretakers devoted special attention to possible human trafficking when talking to these children.

In 2009, the Slovenian Philanthropy took over particular case custodies for a total of 37 unaccompanied children. Most of them came from Afghanistan (13), Albania (8), Iraq, Pakistan and Turkey (3), Ghana and Morocco (2), Eritrea, Kosovo and Serbia (1). All the children were male, most of them were aged 17 years (18 children), followed by 16-year-olds (10 children), 15-year-olds (5 children), and 14-year-olds (4 children).
In 26 cases, the particular case custody of unaccompanied children was performed in the process of obtaining international protection. Among them, 11 procedures were suspended by the decision following their departure from the asylum home. In three cases, the family integration process was initiated, and one child has been granted subsidiary protection in the Republic of Slovenia. One child was identified as victim of trafficking in humans and subsequently kept in the secure place of the Society Ključ. It should be noted that until he reached 18 years, it was not possible to ensure a safe accommodation for him in Slovenia due to his minority.

In 27 cases, the special case custody (regulating the situation of unaccompanied children in Slovenia) was performed for the children placed in the Centre for Foreigners in Postojna. Out of these, 12 children applied for international protection in Slovenia, nine of them were returned to the country of origin, and six have been handed over to the authorities of the neighbouring countries (Italy, Hungary, Croatia) based on international agreements.

In one case, custody was taken care for an unaccompanied child who obtained the status of subsidiary protection in the Republic of Slovenia. The majority are boys between 14 and 18 years, who were not identified as victims of human trafficking with the exception of one case. Last year, the number of children from Afghanistan has significantly increased, while the number of children from Albania, Kosovo and Bosnia has declined. The inclusion of children coming to Slovenia from Afghanistan is more difficult due to significantly bigger differences in cultures and requires greater support from the caretakers.

All unaccompanied children have a need for special accommodation where they would be provided full-day professional treatment, the necessary security, and the appropriate psycho-social programs, tailored to their needs. Since a lot of unaccompanied children placed in asylum homes leave the asylum home, this is a matter of concern, mainly because they are easy preys of traffickers.
Conclusion

Contrary to expectations, the trafficking and, consequently, the fight against this phenomenon of the modern society at the milestone decade of this millennium have gained in significance. It is proclaimed by the crucial international instruments in this area, the actions and initiatives of international agencies, and finally, by the EU legislation. The latter was lagging slightly behind compared with other international measures.

By establishing an inter-ministerial working group, and by its policies, Slovenia consistently followed the goals and objectives it has set for itself. These have been identified in the action plans since 2004 and assessed in annual reports on the work of the IWG. Its tasks and goals were very well assessed by the international agencies, so that since 2006, the Department of the United States has been ranking Slovenia on top of the countries which are successfully combating human trafficking. Systemic regulation of this area from the point of view of the IWG is mainly on solid grounds, but deserves slight criticism for the weak involvement of some ministries, e.g. the Ministry of Health. It was noted in finding the solutions for medical assistance to victims without health insurance, and the awareness raising of health employees is also rather weak.

Harmonisation in the legislative field has achieved its objective, particularly with the last year’s Act Ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which (as mentioned above) defines in detail the cooperation with NGOs and humanitarian organizations. This is vital for coordinated participation in prevention programs, since non-governmental and humanitarian organizations are those which are expected to be innovative in raising the awareness particularly in target groups - potential victims of trafficking. Specific preventive segment includes various forms of raising the awareness of public and civil servants whose work is connected with the occurrence of trafficking in human beings. Some programs in this area have become a constant, and the ambitions set in the Action Plan 2010-2011, adopted by the Government decision 23100-4/2009/3 and approved on 7 January 2010, mean a step forward. Prevention programs have a slight deficiency as regards investigation - results of research studies could serve as a basis for further action.

Action was lagging behind in 2009 in terms of detection, investigation, and prosecution of human trafficking. Last year was not efficient enough in detecting the offences of human trafficking. Therefore, the appropriate corrective measures were adopted on the proposal of IWG, and are listed in the Action Plan 2010-2011. Slovenian police focused more attention last year to detecting the forms of human trafficking for forced labour as a reflection of the European trend in the last few years. Such cases have not been closed yet or are simply at the level of suspicion of criminal acts. Again, this points to new circumstances that have to be defined in future, especially when it comes to proving the exploitation of forced labour as a result of human trafficking.

Help for the victims of trafficking somehow reflects the number and the scope of criminal offences prosecution. In 2009, two actors offered this assistance again – the NGO and humanitarian organizations whose programme was subsidised by the state budget. There were enough resources to ensure the implementation of the programme in 2009; however, additional material cost can be expected for the secure accommodation of witnesses - victims of trafficking because of their participation in criminal proceedings.