The inter-ministerial work group for fighting against trafficking in human beings within the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (hereinafter: the IMWG) met four times in 2003; on 13 January, 18 April, 19 September and 6 October. Minutes of these meetings were taken, which were approved and sent to members of the IMWG by the national co-ordinator for fighting against trafficking in human beings.

On 18 December 2003, the IMWG of the Government was established pursuant to the Government's Decision no. 240-05/2003-1 with the new substantive and organisational definition of inter-ministerial co-operation and co-ordination in the prevention of trafficking in human beings. The appointed members are representatives of competent ministries, NGOs and inter-governmental international organisations. With this approval by the Government, the IMWG obtained a more extensive mandate for its operations and thus established the national mechanism for defining strategies for fighting against trafficking in human beings, which is comparable to that of other European countries.

In addition to exchange of information on current developments in individual ministries (organisations) with regard to fighting against trafficking in human beings, the IMWG also implemented the goals set in the Report for 2002, which were the following:

- Formalisation of procedures for dealing with victims of trafficking in human beings between competent organisations;
- Providing safe houses to victims of trafficking in human beings; and
- Preparing a study on trafficking in human beings in Slovenia for the purpose of its further use in the preparation of action plans and other important projects.

The activities of the IMWG were at the same time adjusted to current needs and the operational work of government and non-government organisations in fighting against trafficking in human beings. A summary of activities by area is presented below.

I. Prosecution of Criminal Offences Related to Trafficking in human beings

In 2003, the police processed 21 cases related to trafficking in human beings.

- In two cases criminal charges were filed against 8 persons for criminal offences of enslaving pursuant to Article 387 of the Penal Code and in two cases a report was submitted to the District State Prosecutor's Office (hereinafter: the DSPO). One criminal charge was filed for the criminal offence of procurement pursuant to Article 185 of the Penal Code and 13 criminal charges were filed for the criminal offence of facilitating prostitution pursuant to Article 186 of the Penal Code. Twenty-six suspects were charged with both criminal offences (25 pursuant to Article 186 and 1 pursuant to Article 185). One report on the case of suspected criminal offence of procurement and two reports on the suspicion of criminal offence of facilitating prostitution were submitted to the DSPO, because there was insufficient evidence confirming the suspicion to file criminal charges.

- In all three criminal offences there were 28 victims of sexual abuse of which one was a minor. Eleven of these persons were in accordance with the general criteria defined as victims of trafficking in human beings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article of the Penal Code</th>
<th>No. of cases</th>
<th>No. of suspects</th>
<th>Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The IMWG's activities were also adjusted to current needs and the operational work of government and non-government organisations in fighting against trafficking in human beings. A summary of activities by area is presented below.
Article 387  
2 criminal charges  
2 reports to the DSPO  
8

Article 186  
13 criminal charges  
1 report to the DSPO  
25

Article 185  
1 criminal charge  
2 reports to the DSPO  
1

Total  
16 criminal charges  
5 reports to the DSPO  
34  
28 / 11

Additionally the police processed 16 events and for 27 persons established that they could 
be or become victims of trafficking in human beings. These persons were travelling through 
Slovenia or were caught in attempted illegal crossing of the border or were residing in 
Slovenia and were engaged in prostitution. In the course of the procedure it was not possible 
to confirm that they were victims of trafficking in human beings.

II.  Help and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

The NGO Ključ society offered help and assistance to 7 persons on the assumption that they 
were victims of trafficking in human beings. In three of these cases the events were also 
processed by the police, these persons are also the same as those for which the police 
believes that they could become victims of trafficking in human beings. The police submitted 
a report to the district state prosecutor's office in relation with two alleged victims, one victim 
was a witness in the procedure and one was processed in the centre for aliens. In six cases 
the NGO Ključ and the police co-operated, while in one case of victims of trafficking in 
human beings only the NGO Ključ provided for the victim.

The NGO Ključ concluded in 2003 an important project called "PRIČA" ("WITNESS"). It was 
selected and approved by the Delegation of the European Commission in the Republic of 
Slovenia and was financed from PHARE ACCESS 2000 programme. The project was 
evaluated at €125,000 of which 80% was financed from PHARE and 20% was provided by 
Ključ from invitations for application in the Rep. of Slovenia and individual donations. The 
main objectives of the project were the following: Putting in place the first therapeutic group 
for work with victims, purchase of a suitable building for the safe house for victims of 
trafficking in human beings and establishing of the safe house and signing of an agreement 
on co-operation in providing help to victims of trafficking in human beings with the Supreme 
State Prosecutor's Office of the RS and the Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry of Labour, 
Family and Social Affairs in 2003 continued to co-finance the activities of the NGO Ključ 
contributing SIT 1,310,842.00 and the City Municipality of Ljubljana assisted with SIT 
2,080,000.00.

In February 2003, IOM Ljubljana started the implementation of the programme of direct 
assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings in Slovenia through the "Programme of 
Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration for Victims of People Trafficking" co-financed by 
the British Government. The project was based on direct assistance to victims and on building 
possibilities for each individual for his/her repatriation and reintegration. The project included 
funds for medical and psychosocial help to the victim, airplane ticket and pocket money. The 
non-governmental organisations Slovenska filantropija (Slovene Philanthropy) and the 
society Ključ (Key) as well as the outpatient clinic with the consultancy for people without 
health insurance also co-operated in the implementation of this project. As the IOM in 2003 
received the request for return of only one person, despite the fact that the media reported
on more victims, a special leaflet for informing the victims of trafficking in human beings was prepared. The leaflet presents in four languages all possibilities for assistance available to the victim in Slovenia and upon return to his/her country. The brochure was distributed in 2003 to the following ministries and organisations:

- The Ministry of the Interior; the police – to all 11 regional offices of criminal police, which distributed the brochure to all police stations and border crossings; the Asylum Centre, centres for aliens in Postojna, Prosenjakovci and Vidošč; the Police Academy in Tacen;
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Consular Sector – to all Slovene consulates abroad which are authorised to issue visas;
- The Employment Service of Slovenia – to all 12 regional centres and 2 national centres;
- Non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations: Slovenska filantropija, Ključ, the outpatient clinic with the consultancy for people without health insurance, Mozaik, SOS telephone, UNICEF and UNHCR;
- The Social Chamber of Slovenia, 8 safe houses and all centres for social work;
- Collection Centre;
- Infection clinic;
- Foreign embassies in Slovenia.

In 2003, the NGO Ključ continued its project "Svetovalni telefon" ("Consultancy Telephone") and established a 24-hour consultancy telephone line (++ 386 31 613 000). Approximately 100 consultancies were provided.

III. Legislation

The Ministry of Justice prepared the Act on Amendments and Supplements to the Penal Code, which in the proposed text of Article 65 (the new Article 387a) introduces a new criminal offence of people trafficking. The Act was sent to inter-ministerial co-ordination on 18 July 2003 and on 6 October 2003 the IMWG at its regular meeting proposed some minor improvements to the Article 387a, which were taken into account. On 6 November 2003, the Government of the RS sent to the National Assembly of the RS the abovementioned draft amendments and supplements to the Penal Code.

Text of the new Article 387a of the Penal Code and the explanation:

"Trafficking in Human Beings"

Article 387a

(1) Whoever, for the purposes of prostitution or other forms of sexual abuse, forced labour, slavery, servitude or trafficking with human organs, tissues or blood, buys, takes possession of, hauses, transports, sells, delivers another person or disposes with another person in some other manner or mediates in these treatments,

shall be punished to imprisonment for not less than 1 year and not more than 10 years.

(2) If the offence from the previous paragraph is committed against a minor, or with use of force, threat or with fraud or deceit, kidnapping or by abuse of position, or with the intention of forcing to pregnancy or artificial insemination, the perpetrator shall be punished with at least 3 years of imprisonment.

(3) Whoever commits the offences from paragraphs 1 and 2 in organised criminal group for the performing of such offences, or if the substantial material benefit was acquired,

Explanation:
Because of the abovementioned Protocol, Article 65 specifies the proposed new criminal offence of trafficking in human beings (the proposed new Article 387a). The basic criminal offence specified in the first paragraph defines the abstract actual position of this criminal offence with circumstances, which are explicitly mentioned in the Protocol. The second paragraph proposes the aggravated form of the criminal offence in case it is perpetrated against a minor or by force, threat, deception, kidnapping or abuse of subordinate or dependent position or for the purpose of forcing pregnancy or artificial impregnation. The last specified circumstance, which results in more severe punishment pursuant to the proposed second paragraph of the new Article 387a of the Penal Code, is a violation of Article 55 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. This Article specifies that the decision to bear children is free and that the state must guarantee the opportunities for exercising this right and create such conditions as will enable parents to decide to bear children. In accordance with the system, the third paragraph specifies the aggravated circumstances of committing the offence in a criminal organisation established for perpetrating such criminal offences or obtaining substantial pecuniary benefit.

IV. Prevention

_Raising awareness of the general public_

In 2003, members of the IMWG were interviewed in many media stories, published in electronic and printed media in Slovenia and abroad. The NGO Ključ published two publications, one was the summary of the conference organised within the aforementioned project "Priča" and the other was entitled "Psychosocial Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings".

The head office of the IOM in Geneva continues to send electronic press releases on the subject of migration including the prevention of trafficking in human beings to all interested parties in Slovenia.

_Raising awareness of the target population_

In the previous school year the NGO Ključ continued the implementation of the programme "VIOLET – How to Avoid the Traps of Trafficking in Human Beings" intended for pupils in primary and secondary schools, parents and school staff. Attendants are informed on the basic terms related to trafficking in human beings; the lecture also includes a short documentary about a true story of a minor Slovene girl, who became the victim of trafficking in human beings. In 2003, 306 people attended the lecture.

Initiatives are also being implemented with regard to the co-operation of secondary schools and colleges with the NGO Ključ, namely by encouraging pupils and students to write essays on violation of human rights, trafficking in human beings and prostitution in Slovenia.

_Raising awareness of the expert public_

IOM Ljubljana in co-operation with the British Government organised four seminars as a part of the project "Building of Capacities in the Prevention of Trafficking in human beings in Slovenia". Seminars were intended for different target groups: NGOs, the media, government officials and all people employed in education. The seminars lasted one day and took place between 9 and 17 October 2003 in the Europe Centre. The aim of the project was to improve the understanding of reality in the area of migration of competent services, organisations and offices, which could help in more efficient prevention of trafficking in human beings. Some
members of the IMWG also participated in the implementation of this project by presenting their area of activity.

IOM Ljubljana participated in preparation of the action plan for ten-year old children upon invitation from UNICEF, which was authorised by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs to prepare the action plan. IOM Ljubljana prepared the chapter on children-aliens, namely subchapters on unescorted minors, children, who are the victims of trafficking in human beings and the chapter on integration of children, who have a permanent status in Slovenia, which also included the recommendations for improving their situation.

Specific knowledge by area of work was provided to certain expert services (therapists in the psychiatric clinic – the clinical department for mental health, employees of the centre for aliens and the Asylum Centre and participants of various seminars...) for the purpose of raising awareness. This raising of awareness was in the form of seminars and conferences and by direct visits of such institutions.

At the initiative of UNHCR Slovenia, a meeting was convened in the Asylum Centre in July 2003 for the purpose of paying special attention to asylum seekers within the activities of fighting against trafficking in human beings. It is believed that the transit of future victims of trafficking in human beings takes place under cover of migration and asylum flows.

In January 2003, the Office for Immigration and Refugees, UNHCR, IOM and the NGO Slovenska Filantropija organised a seminar entitled "Unescorted Children", intended for social workers and other experts, who come into contact with these children in their work.

At the work meeting of operational safe houses in Slovenia held in February 2003, IOM Ljubljana, upon invitation from the Social Chamber of Slovenia, presented its activities in direct assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings.

A three-day workshop "Aliens among us" was organised in Tacen in September 2003 within the "Speaker" programme. The workshop was intended for employees of the Asylum centre and the centre for aliens. It was organised by the NGOs Ključ and Mozaik – children's society with the financial assistance of the US Embassy.

Research activities

In co-operation with the Peace Institute, IOM Ljubljana carried out the "Research on the situation of trafficking in human beings from and via Slovenia". The purpose of the research was to collect, review, compare and evaluate numerous data on trafficking in human beings in Slovenia. The research was co-financed by the US Government. Its results were published in a special report, which was also the first general overview of this matter in Slovenia. The book containing the report was published in October 2003 and was also presented to media at a special press conference. Additionally the results of the study were also presented to various target groups on seminars, which were organised as a part of the project. Building of capacities in the area of prevention of trafficking in human beings in Slovenia. In the course of the study, the need for setting uniform criteria for collecting statistical data and keeping records on forms of trafficking in human beings in Slovenia was again confirmed, which is also in accordance with tasks and work outlined in the work plan of the IMWG.

In 2002-2003, the NGO Ključ co-operated in the regional research on children trafficking, organised by the "Save the Children" organisation. A research on children trafficking from, via and to the Republic of Slovenia was conducted. The purpose of the research was to establish the situation in children trafficking in Slovenia.
Control and prevention of illegal employment

For the purpose of more efficient detection and prevention of illegal work and employment, the Government of the RS in 1997 established a special committee for carrying out and coordination of joint actions. It is run by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. The committee consists of representatives of the following supervising bodies, which perform direct control with regard to the Prevention of Illegal Work and Employment Act: The Labour Inspectorate of the RS, Market Inspectorate of the RS and Traffic Inspectorate of the RS and representatives from the following supervising bodies performing indirect control: Tax Administration of the RS, Customs Administration of the RS, Inspectorate of the RS for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing, Inspectorate of the RS for the Environment and Spatial Planning, Health Inspectorate of the RS, Inspectorate of the RS for Education and Sports and the police. In inspections performed in co-ordinated actions of detecting and preventing illegal work and employment, particular inspection authorities do not only perform inspections related to that area but comprehensive inspections with regard to the scope of their activities pursuant to their competence and authorisation. Thus in their work they also detect cases related to trafficking in human beings, notably in entertainment and catering industries.

One of the means for detecting illegal work and employment is the anonymous telephone for reporting such work and employment, introduced by the Labour Inspectorate of the RS. The experience so far has shown that it is an efficient form.

V. Education

In the past year the Office of Criminal Police of the General Police Administration participated in the preparation of material for training of police officers and criminal investigators within the framework of two international projects in the area of prevention of people trafficking. Both projects, namely that within the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and that within UNDP and USAID were concluded in December 2003. In accordance with the annual plan of training and within the framework of both programmes, training of criminal investigators of the Office of Criminal Police and police officers of the Police Administration of Ljubljana was carried out and will continue in 2004. The NGO Ključ was also included in the implementation of training.

VI. International Co-Operation

International co-operation in 2003 included numerous seminars, work meetings and conferences attended by representatives of the IMWG. For the purpose of defining the role of the RS in the area of fighting against trafficking in human beings within the wider regional framework, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised consultations with international/regional government and non-governmental organisations. Additionally, operational activities primarily including police co-operation and co-operation of regional NGOs were also implemented. Below is the summary of key international activities as defined above while many others are just chronologically listed.

The fifth regional meeting of the Work Group for Fighting Against Trafficking in human beings within the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe was held on 28 March in Portorož. The conference was organised by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The conference was attended by 120 representatives of countries of South Eastern Europe and international institutions working in the area of fighting against trafficking in human beings. The conference dealt with fighting against children trafficking and protection of
witnesses/victims of trafficking in human beings. The Minister of the Interior Dr. Rado Bohinč also contributed an essay.

The national co-ordinator of the RS for fighting against trafficking in human beings attended the meeting of national co-ordinators of South Eastern Europe for fighting against trafficking in human beings, which was held on 18 June 2003 in Sarajevo. Reports and assessment of the work done so far by national working bodies in the area of fighting against this phenomenon were presented at the conference. Future activities and problems, which these working bodies face, were highlighted. The purpose of the meeting was the preparation for the ministerial forum held in December in Sofia.

The ad-hoc committee of the Council of Europe for the preparation of the new European convention on fighting against trafficking in human beings began its work in September. The national co-ordinator is the representative of the Republic of Slovenia in the committee, which convened twice in 2003.

On 27 November, Dr. Helga Konrad, Head of the Work Group of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe for fighting against trafficking in human beings, was on a working visit in Slovenia. The visit was intended for discussing the role of Slovenia in the period of its leading of the OSCE, participation on the 4th ministerial forum in Bulgaria and signing of the statement on commitment. Protection of witnesses/victims and children trafficking. Dr. Konrad met with the representatives of the Inter-Ministerial Work Group and presented the concept of establishing a sub-group for prevention of children trafficking.

With regard to the operational police work, the attendance at the work meeting of the work group for fighting against smuggling and trafficking in human beings organised by SECI Centre located in Bucharest, which took place on 20 and 21 January, is worth mentioning. On that basis the Slovene police actively participated in the implementation of two international operations on the subject of fighting against trafficking in human beings with the co-ordination of the SECI Centre. Some members of the EU also participated in these operations within Europol beside countries of South Eastern Europe. The activities of the Slovene police were also visible in participation in the Interpol's work group for fighting against trafficking in human beings. The Slovene representative was invited in the preparatory committee.

Between 25 and 28 May the Slovene police in co-operation with the NGO Ključ participated in the final educational module of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the ICMPD, the aim of which was preparing of educational material by taking into account the specific situation in individual countries (listed in the chapter on education).

In 2003, the NGO Ključ co-operated in its work with several NGOs from the Balkans and other European countries. Contact was made with the Bulgarian organisation Annimus Association and the Italian organisation Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute, which were partners in the project "Priča". Important partnership was also established within the project "PENELPO I – Network Against Slavery" with organisations »ASTRA - Anti sex trafficking action« from Serbia, »SHELTER« from Montenegro, »ŽENE ROSA« from Croatia and »ŽENE ZA ŽENE« from Macedonia.

In addition to the above key international activities, members of the IMWG also participated at the following international events:

- Seminar on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual abuse, Montenegro, February 2003, organised by the Council of Europe (representative of the NGO Ključ).
- Seminar on development of prevention programme for children victims of trafficking in
Conference "Victim Support" (France, April 2003). Organised within the Phare project by the French organisation INAVEM (Paris) and English organisation VICTIM SUPPORT (London). »Reinforcement of the rule of law« (representative of the NGO Ključ).

- Expert training within the US multi-regional project Prevention of Trafficking with Women and Children, USA, June 2003 (representative of IOM Ljubljana).

- Regional seminar PACO Networking (Bosnia and Herzegovina, September 2003) in the area of fighting against corruption and organised crime for South Eastern Europe entitled: Protection of Witnesses and Victims of Trafficking in human beings (representatives of the Supreme Public Prosecutor’s Office, the police an the NGO Ključ).

- Zagreb, 24 October, meeting of national co-ordinators at the initiative of the Republic of Croatia for the purpose of closer co-operation and forming of a common strategy for work (national co-ordinator).

- Durres, 30 October – 1 November, final seminar "Lara", organised by the Council of Europe dealing with the topic of preparing national legislation (national co-ordinator, representative of the Ministry of Justice).