

Building the Capacity of Roma Communities to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings

Roundtable Report
Tirana, 18-20 September 2006



OSCE

Presence in Albania

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ALC	French NGO involved in social assistance
ARSIS	Association for the Social Support of Youth (Greek NGO)
ATPF	Anti-Trafficking Project Fund
BKTF	Albanian inter-NGO coalition against child trafficking
CDS	Social Rights House (Italian NGO network)
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CPRSI	Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues
ERRC	European Roma Rights Center
EU	European Union
FRCCF	Romanian Foundation for Children, Community and Family
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILO/IPEC	ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
LEK	Albanian currency
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPF	Help the Children (Albanian NGO)
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSI	Open Society Institute
RIC	Roma Information Centre
TACT	Transnational Action against Child Trafficking
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	4
Executive Summary	7
1. Introduction	9
2. Underlying Issues: Sensitivities, Nature of Trafficking and Vulnerability Factors	10
3. Practical Anti-Trafficking Initiatives—Good Practices and Lessons Learned	18
4. Advocacy on Anti-Trafficking with Roma Communities	23
5. References	26
Annexes	
Annex 1: Annotated Agenda	30
Annex 2: Project Ideas from the Working Groups	35
Annex 3: Participants List and Contacts	43
Annex 4: Roundtable Evaluation by Participants	53
Annex 5: Roma Anti-Trafficking Project Fund	56

Executive Summary

The roundtable “Making Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings Effective: Building Regional and Local Capacity of Roma Communities”, Tirana, 18-20 September 2006, was organized by the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues and the Anti-Trafficking Programme of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania. It was organized in follow up to a regional roundtable on “Awareness Raising among Roma Activists on the Issue of Trafficking in Human Beings” in Belgrade in 2004. Building on the findings from 2004, it focused on an exchange of practice between organizations and countries to tackle trafficking in human beings in Roma communities.

Social exclusion and a lack of official documentation make Roma ‘invisible’ to state institutions and authorities, and therefore particularly vulnerable to trafficking. At the same time, discrimination against Roma, including gender discrimination within communities, weak national child protection systems, a general distrust of criminal justice systems by Roma, and the risks faced by organizations engaging in anti-trafficking work all contribute to undermining anti-trafficking action.

The need to tailor interventions to assist trafficked and vulnerable persons to individual circumstances, and to support not only the individual concerned, but also families and communities affected by trafficking, was central to much of the discussion on exchange of practice. For instance, social interventions to protect adolescents living and working in exploitative environments are more likely to succeed when they acknowledge the willingness of Roma adolescents to work, and refrain from imposing one-size-fits-all solutions for minors, which have sometimes led to (re-)victimization, criminalization, and harm to the individual and the community.

The importance of awareness-raising within Roma communities about exploitation, including through certain traditional practices, was also highlighted. At the same time, the important role of certain traditional practices in conflict resolution and mediation, and their contribution to the protection of community members vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, was emphasized.

The importance of advocacy work on behalf of Roma issues was highlighted as a means of changing policy and practice, including on trafficking issues. Strategies on how best to undertake advocacy given the commercial and often sensationalist nature of the media were explored. The danger of the misrepresentation of Roma by the media and the perpetuation of stereotypes and prejudices was also flagged.

Of other practices exchanged during the roundtable, particular emphasis was given to:

- making access to basic rights effective for Roma as a means of preventing trafficking
- including state actors, such as social and health services and police, in responses to trafficking;
- strengthening national social-protection systems, in particular child-protection systems, to prevent trafficking and protect victims;
- the role of outreach, such as street work and the use of Roma cultural mediators;
- the use of 'open' assistance programmes, such as drop-in and day programmes;
- ensuring that Roma and non-Roma actors are equal partners in prevention and protection efforts; and
- hiring and training Roma personnel for activities targeting Roma communities.

Numerous project ideas were elaborated in the working sessions to develop project proposals. Consolidating the practices shared during the roundtable, they focus on sharing skills in street work and outreach between countries of origin and destination. Once translated into practice, they will contribute towards building the capacity of both Roma and non-Roma actors to address trafficking in human beings.

1. Introduction

The Anti-Trafficking Programme and the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI) of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) have been working together since 2003 to raise the visibility of trafficking issues among Roma communities. In 2004 in Belgrade, the ODIHR organized its first regional roundtable on Roma and trafficking, which highlighted the need to include Roma actors in the development of anti-trafficking strategies and initiatives. A second regional roundtable for South Eastern and Central Eastern Europe, held in Tirana in September 2006, aimed to enable the exchange of practices on anti-trafficking and provide a forum for the development of joint initiatives between Roma and non-Roma actors. The roundtable also provided a forum for participants to network and to enhance their co-operation as well as to discuss underlying issues, such as obstacles to trafficking prevention within Roma communities.

Around 40 Roma and non-Roma actors, mostly from civil society but also from governmental institutions, who work on anti-trafficking and broader child-rights issues, participated in the roundtable. They came from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, including the province of Kosovo, Romania, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, France, Greece, Spain and Italy. In addition, several OSCE field missions and international organizations working on anti-trafficking, child rights and Roma issues in the region attended.¹

The roundtable was divided into two parts. Part I consisted of presentations from various organizations, which aimed to generate discussion on issues affecting anti-trafficking efforts including the nature of trafficking, vulnerability factors, and structural and attitudinal issues. This was followed by detailed presentations on programmatic activities in countries of origin and destination. Part II provided the participants with the opportunity to develop project ideas and proposals, with a view to submitting them for funding to the ODIHR's Roma Anti-Trafficking Project Fund (Roma ATP Fund). The Roma ATP Fund, a joint initiative of the ODIHR Human Rights Department and the CPRSI, was established to encourage the development and implementation of local and regional initiatives to address trafficking in human beings and associated human rights abuses affecting Roma.

¹ See Annex 3 for a full list of participants, with contact details.

2. Underlying Issues: Sensitivities, Nature of Trafficking and Vulnerability Factors

2.1. Giving voice to the issue

The first session, entitled “Giving voice to the issue”, provided an overview of underlying issues that contribute to the phenomenon of trafficking and limit action to prevent it.

NGO Amaro Drom, Albania (Skender Veliu)

Roma communities in Albania face extensive and endemic social exclusion, which renders them vulnerable, including to human trafficking. For example, since many Roma are not registered with state and/or local authorities, they are deprived of social assistance, access to adequate housing, medical care and educational opportunities. This, in turn, results in poverty and unemployment, both of which make individuals vulnerable to trafficking. Amaro Drom called for action to address this social exclusion through more community-based development programmes (like those currently implemented by the NGO). Such programmes are able to provide assistance in areas where Roma are currently disadvantaged, such as housing and health care, as well as training and capacity building.

Key priorities include the registration of all Roma children, as this would facilitate identification and protection, and addressing community members’ fear of retribution from traffickers if they act and report on individual cases. At the same time, raising awareness among government officials, in particular police, about the difficulties and needs specific to Roma communities is important in order to establish trust between the communities and the local/state authorities, and to overcome internal and external obstacles to effective anti-trafficking prevention and protection within Roma communities.

OSI Joint Romani Women’s Initiative, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Enisa Eminova)

Ms. Eminova called for an end to the stereotyping of Roma and their communities in order to allow for co-operation and effective work. She stressed the importance of co-operation between Roma and non-Roma organizations, and the need for Roma to enhance their access to and analysis of trafficking-related information and material. The fact that most anti-trafficking materials are in the English language, however, has the effect of further excluding Roma organizations.

Ms. Eminova also highlighted conflicts between traditional practices within Roma communities and human rights.² She urged the Roma activist community to develop critical thinking about community practices and that leadership should be about responsibility not power. She also encouraged Roma women to speak up and contribute to the discussion on preserving a Roma identity whilst overcoming practices harmful to women.

She highlighted the need for action and intervention by state and local institutions when Roma individuals and communities suffer human rights violations. A number of cases in which Romani women were abused and exploited with no intervention or assistance by local authorities were presented. Concluding, Ms. Eminova noted the lack of attention within Western mainstream feminism to Romani women and the need to include Roma women's issues within this movement.

Plenipotentiary of Roma Communities, Slovakia³ (Andrea Buckova)

Ms. Buckova outlined government initiatives to collect reliable data on the phenomenon of trafficking within Roma communities⁴ and the creation of a network of counselling centres and institutions (both NGO and state) to meet the social assistance needs of Roma communities, in particular vulnerable Roma families. The issue of poverty among Roma communities in Slovakia is central to trafficking, with families' attention fixed on survival rather than cases of exploitation. While she felt that government and NGO initiatives have begun to yield positive results, she acknowledged that only a small number of Roma use these services because of their mistrust of state agencies and initiatives. Establishing trust is, therefore, an issue that needs to be considered and addressed.

2.2. The nature of trafficking in Roma communities

This session mapped out general trends and patterns on trafficking in Albania, Italy and Greece, including links between countries of origin and destination, such as Albania–Greece, Albania–Italy, and Romania–Italy. In each country, trafficking is related to a range of different forms of exploitation, in-

² This was an area of concern for many participants and echoes sentiments expressed at the first roundtable meeting in Belgrade in 2004. There is often confusion surrounding the difference between beneficial traditional practices and those that are harmful and are associated with severe exploitation and trafficking. At the first roundtable in Belgrade, many participants took issue with what they considered unfair labelling of traditional marriage practices like the buying and selling of brides as trafficking for marriage, and saw this as an important aspect of Roma custom. Other participants, while not equating customary marriage with trafficking, stressed the need to end traditional practices such as early marriage, which have a negative impact on the health and well being of individuals and the community (M. Karoly, 'How to Talk about This to the 'Outside'?', *Roma Rights*. Vol. 2. Issue: Rights and Traditions (2005); OSCE/ODIHR, *Report on Awareness Raising for Roma Activists on the Issue of Trafficking in Human Beings and Especially Children* (2004)).

³ The Plenipotentiary of Roma Communities is a state-level advisory board for the Slovakian government on issues related to Roma communities. The main task of this office is to propose policies and measures on issues affecting Roma, including trafficking, to the national government.

⁴ The lack of data about Roma and trafficking was also highlighted at the roundtable meeting in Belgrade in 2004 (see *ibid*). While there have been some such data-collection efforts from NGOs and international organizations (see footnote 13), governments have not been proactive in this process. Some governments in South Eastern Europe are working to collect statistics on trafficking, including on victims and from the law enforcement perspective, and some databases currently exist. However, the degree to which data about minorities is captured is not clear. It is also important to consider how data about minorities is used.

cluding sexual exploitation, labour, begging, delinquency and adoption.⁵ Roma constitute a significant percentage of those assisted by all organizations that gave presentations in this session.

Amaro Drom, Albania (Blerina Gjeka)

Amaro Drom works as a key implementing partner of Terre des Hommes' TACT 3 programmes in selected Roma communities in Albania. The two main forms of trafficking identified by Amaro Drom in their work are for the purpose of sexual exploitation and for begging, within Albania, and from Albania to Italy and Greece. In many cases, it was found that parents had allowed relatives to take their child abroad for work because of poverty and unemployment at home, and that they were generally not aware of the abuse that their child would be subjected to.

Terre des Hommes, Albania (Thierry Agagliate)

The presentation began with a brief screening of a Terre des Hommes documentary of child victim testimonials, which included accounts of children's arduous overland journeys by foot and experiences of exploitation in Greece.⁶ Roma and Egyptians⁷ are the majority of victims identified and assisted by Terre des Hommes' programmes in Albania. Social exclusion, low education and poverty is common to all those identified. It was found that more parents are now involved in trafficking their children than in the past, and that the routes have changed and are now oriented toward Kosovo⁸ and internally within Albania rather than to Italy.⁹ One continuing key concern is that there is still no state child-protection mechanism in Albania.

Association for the Social Support of Youth (ARSIS), Greece and Albania (Valbona Hystuna and Natassa Arapidou)

ARSIS is a Greek NGO that implements activities in both Greece and Albania against child trafficking. Together with Terre des Hommes-Albania, it is one of the implementing partners of the TACT project. The main working method in both countries is street work, which is considered the most effective tool for approaching street children and establishing contact with them. ARSIS has offices in Tirana and Thessa-

⁵ This is consistent with findings throughout South Eastern Europe, where victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, labour, begging, petty crime and adoption (R. Surtees, *Second annual report on victims of trafficking in Southeastern Europe* (Geneva, IOM, 2005); R. Surtees, 'Child Trafficking: Different Forms of Trafficking and Alternative Interventions', *Tulane Journal of International & Comparative Law*. Vol. 14 (2) (2006)).

⁶ It focused on the children's inhumane living and working conditions abroad, such as being forced to stay dirty all day long, being under-clothed during the winter to elicit more sympathy and earn more money, and being beaten when they did not earn enough.

⁷ Egyptian (or Jevgiit, Jevgj or Evgjits) are an ethnic minority in Albania. While often called Roma, they claim to originate from ancient Egypt, generally do not speak the Romani language, and distinguish themselves from Roma as a separate ethnic group (S. Beddies, H. De Soto, I. Gedeshi, and D. Perez, *Roma and Evgjits in Albania: From Social Exclusion to Social Inclusion* (World Bank, Soros Foundation, UNDP, United States Embassy, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Albania, 2003); cf. OSCE/ODIHR CPRSI "Assessment Trip to Albania on Trafficking in Children from Roma and Egyptian Communities" (Warsaw, OSCE/ODIHR, 2003)). In Albania, the Egyptian community is also highly represented among identified trafficking victims.

⁸ Albanian children have increasingly been identified in the province of Kosovo. They are generally found begging or selling small items on the street. Some children may be trafficked to Kosovo, while others may be 'working' en route to destinations within the EU.

⁹ Until recently, many Albanian minors were trafficked to Italy for labour, begging and petty crime. The number of Albanian children identified on the streets in Italy has decreased in recent years, although adult victims of sex trafficking continue to be identified in the country.

Ioniki, and undertakes street work (in Greece with mixed Albanian and Greek teams) and identifies and assists vulnerable children, including trafficked children.

Albania-Greece: During the 1990s the number of Albanian trafficked children to Greece was high. Today the phenomenon has changed and the children are mainly exploited by their own parents in the major Greek cities.¹⁰ Usually they beg, sell small gadgets, candles and second-hand clothes, collect cans, or play instruments in populated areas. They experience different forms and degrees of exploitation. Many of them “work” long hours and under poor and stressful conditions, and in many cases their work is the main source of income for the family. ARSIS co-operates with all the competent authorities (anti-trafficking police, prosecutor, schools, welfare authorities, etc) in order to improve the lives of the children and to implement solutions in the best interest of each child based on the will of the child. An important objective is to register the children at school and to provide them and their families with material and psychosocial support, literacy classes as well as administrative and legal assistance.

The everyday life of the Albanian Roma community in Greece is often marked by poor living conditions, health problems, domestic violence, alcoholism, and families abandoned by fathers, which puts the Roma population in a situation of high insecurity. This situation is aggravated by the lack of community spirit, the strong feeling of being different, and social exclusion due to the big disparity in living standards in comparison to the majority population. At the same time, the Roma Albanians in Greece also face all the difficulties of immigration, such as language problems, cultural differences, difficulties in integration, as well as the complicated legal framework on immigration.

Within Albania: In Tirana, more than 200 vulnerable children were identified in 2006 alone by ARSIS street workers, ranging in age from babies accompanied by their mothers to children between four and seventeen years. Over a seven-month period ARSIS identified 231 children aged 4-17 and 59 babies accompanied by their mothers. The vast majority were of Roma or Egyptian ethnicity.¹¹ Approximately half of these children were from Tirana, while the other half had moved to Tirana to work/beg. Very few had any formal education and approximately half were not registered with the Civil Status Office. On the street they would beg and “work” (i.e. washing cars, selling papers, collecting cans) and earn between 500 LEK (approx. €4) to 4000 LEK (approx. €33) per day. Some were obliged by their parents to earn a set daily sum. A small number of these children were living on the streets, while most returned home at night.

NGO Arci Solidarita Lazio, Italy (Monica Lanzillotto and Cesare Foschi)

NGO Save the Children, Italy (Giancarlo Spagnoletto and Nicola Mai)

Both NGOs assist minors in difficult situations, including trafficked and unaccompanied minors, and have noted high levels of Roma among the minors identified, primarily from Romania. Both older and younger minors are represented on the streets, and recruitment of children also takes place through family networks. These children beg and sell on the street but also steal and work in street prostitution. Where families have migrated together, begging is often a survival strategy. Some parents force their children to work long hours and focus on the money the child can earn, while others are more careful about the

¹⁰ For a detailed presentation of the situation on child trafficking between Albania and Greece and the intervention of the TACT project see P. Philippe, V. Tournecuillert, *The Trafficking of Albanian Children in Greece* (Lausanne, Terre des Hommes, 2003); D. Stoecklin, V. Tournecuillert, *Child Trafficking in South-eastern Europe: The Development of Good Practices to Protect Albanian Children* (Terre des Hommes, 2005); M. Shuteriqi, D. Pippidou, D. Stoecklin, *Transnational Protection of Children: The Case of Albania and Greece 2000-2006*. (Terre des Hommes/ARSIS, 2006).

¹¹ Of the 231 children identified on the street in Tirana, 114 were Roma and 72 were Egyptian.

child's conditions. Some children are alone on the streets, others are with their parents. Parents had often incurred debts to allow for migration (e.g. for transportation and accommodation upon arrival) and most have come to Italy to improve their economic conditions, rather than to settle permanently.¹²

One key issue highlighted by Save the Children is the difference between unaccompanied minors and 'badly accompanied' minors—those who have migrated with their families (or a member of their extended family) and are subjected to exploitation in spite of this accompaniment and/or as a result of it. Another issue flagged was that of agency among minors (termed 'precocious adults'), with minors choosing to migrate and to make decisions about work on the street. The issue of debt (incurred for migration) was also pressing in many families. These issues highlight the need to reflect upon how the existing structure of protection may infantilize and patronize certain minors in ways that are neither appropriate nor effective. They also call for action to develop a more complex plan of social intervention, which considers issues such as badly accompanied minors, agency amongst minors, a case-by-case definition of what exploitation means, and action that targets the whole family.

2.3. Vulnerability factors¹³

Roma are vulnerable to trafficking¹⁴ on one level because of discrimination and social exclusion. This translates directly into limited opportunities for education, work and assistance, which can, in turn, result in a willingness (or even necessity) to accept illicit work offers or have children work in exploitative cir-

¹² For further information about trafficking from Romania, see CDS, FRCCF, Terre des Hommes, *An increase in prostitution among Romanian minors in Rome* (Lausanne, Terre des Hommes, 2005); ILO-IPEC, *Rapid Assessment of Trafficking in Children for Labour and Sexual Exploitation in Romania* (Bucharest, 2003); C. Kovacs, "Research on trafficking in children among Roma population in Romania" (Draft Form) (Warsaw, OSCE/ODIHR, 2004); UNICEF, *Trafficking in Women from Romania into Germany* (Germany, GTZ, 2005); *op. cit.* Surtees 2005 and 2006.

¹³ Some recent trafficking studies and assessments in South Eastern Europe have targeted or included trafficking of Roma people (see Amaro Drom 2005, *Innocent Smiles, Trafficking in Persons Report in the Albanian Roma Community* (Tirana, June 2005), Bibija, *Trafficking of Human Beings: Its Consequences on Roma Communities in Serbia (Draft Form)* (Warsaw, OSCE/ODIHR, 2004); CRS, *Trafficking of Roma Women and Children from Serbia—Risk and Resiliency Factors* (Serbia, 2003); *op. cit.* ILO-IPEC; *op. cit.* Kovacs; *op. cit.* OSCE/ODIHR CPRSI PHURT, *Assessment Trip to Macedonia on Trafficking in Children from Roma Communities (Draft Form)* (Warsaw, OSCE/ODIHR, 2004); *op. cit.* Surtees 2005 and 2006; *op. cit.* Philippe *et al*; *op. cit.* Shuteriqi *et al*; UNICEF, *Trafficking in Children in Kosovo—A Study on Protection and Assistance Provided to Children Victims of Trafficking* (Kosovo, 2004); UNICEF, Save the Children, *Research on Child Trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (UNICEF, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Save the Children, Norway, 2004)). However, deeper analysis is needed to fully understand how Roma—as individuals and communities—are affected by human trafficking, in particular, how Roma culture and socio-economic realities influence their vulnerability to trafficking. However, because Roma are heavily stigmatized, it is important that research does not repeat stereotypes that reinforce general social biases. At the same time, it is important that sensitivities do not prevent an open discussion about trafficking risks for Roma men, women and children, including when Roma are involved in human trafficking, whether willingly or unwillingly. The point that the issue should not be ignored because of sensitivities was noted in the meeting and echoes sentiments expressed at the first roundtable in Belgrade in 2004.

¹⁴ Roma people and communities will not all be equally vulnerable to trafficking or to other social risks. Rather, there is diversity within Roma communities—in terms of religion, class, living patterns, integration, customs, etc.—which may amplify or mitigate trafficking risks. Further, while ethnicity is a significant factor in terms of vulnerability, it is not always the most definitive and it is worth considering how membership of the Roma community may also serve as a protective (resiliency) factor for the development of preventative and protective interventions. Cf. *Op. cit.* OSCE/ODIHR 2004.

cumstances.¹⁵ In addition, as a result of their marginalized status, Roma generally lack access to broader social assistance and support, which can serve as an effective means of trafficking prevention and crisis mitigation. Stigmatization and discrimination also means that Roma people are less likely to seek assistance from the authorities when they face difficulty, including when a family member has been trafficked or when someone has returned from trafficking.¹⁶

Romani Baxt, Albania (Pellumb Furtuna)

Specific vulnerability factors identified in Albania include poor living conditions, low employment, lack of professional training, illiteracy, gender inequality, high levels of divorce (due to migration), violence against women, lack of civil registration and lack of education. However, the presentation also focused on more structural issues that may contribute to vulnerability, such as the lack of Roma involvement in anti-trafficking programmes in Roma communities. Currently, funds aimed at benefiting Roma communities often go to non-Roma organizations; this may not always be effective, especially where there is no Roma participation or 'ownership' in the project development and implementation. Alongside the progressive shifting of funds to Roma stakeholders, co-operation between Roma and non-Roma organizations in anti-trafficking efforts needs to be strengthened.

Cultural Association of Roma in Slovakia (Jarmila Pleskova) Plenipotentiary of Roma Communities, Slovakia (Andrea Buckova)

While trafficking in human beings is not the focus of these organizations, it is a problem that has come to the fore in the implementation of social-assistance programmes. Ms. Pleskova highlighted extreme poverty as a primary element of vulnerability, with traffickers specifically targeting families in perilous economic situations. The presenter also approached the issue of vulnerability from another angle—the vulnerability of anti-trafficking actors. Because of the potential involvement of Roma community members as recruiters/traffickers and links to organized crime, the security risks for anti-trafficking actors need to be acknowledged and addressed if anti-trafficking work is to become more effective. This is especially critical for those involved in service provision and in reporting cases, as well as for trafficked Roma themselves.

Terre des Hommes South Eastern Europe Regional Office (Vincent Tournecueillert)

The presentation centred on Terre des Hommes' regional child-protection project, which covers Albania, Kosovo, Moldova and Romania, and co-ordinates with Greece, Italy, Spain and Russia. The programme has, over its five years of operation, provided approximately 1,200 children with direct protection, and approximately 37,000 children have benefited from TACT services. This includes, but is not limited to, trafficked children. Most of the assisted children are males under 15 years of age from urban areas. The majority (93%) are from ethnic minorities and come from an unstable economic background, with approximately 40% facing social problems. The majority of those trafficked are trafficked internationally for a combination of begging and selling. A key point from the perspective of Terre des Hommes is that

¹⁵ Typical root causes of trafficking—poverty, lack of economic opportunities, limited education, crisis situations, discrimination and social exclusion, displacement—disproportionately impact Roma people throughout the South Eastern European region. For example, in Albania, on average Roma attend four years of school, and as many as 62 per cent of Roma between the ages of 7 and 20 have never attended school. Similarly, Roma household incomes are less than half that of Albanian urban household incomes at the national level, over 40 per cent of Roma families do not have running water in their homes, most live in makeshift or dilapidated homes and face difficulties in obtaining social assistance (*op. cit.* Beddies et al.: 100, 15; *Cf. op. cit.* OSCE/ODIHR CPRSI).

¹⁶ *Cf. op. cit.* Karoly; OSCE/ODIHR, *Position Paper: Awareness-raising for Roma Activists on the Issue of Trafficking in Human Beings in South-Eastern Europe* (Warsaw, OSCE/ODIHR, 2006); *op. cit.*; OSCE/ODIHR 2004.

vulnerability is not directly about poverty. That is, it is not because someone is poor that they are trafficked or traffic their children. In the experience of Terre des Hommes, trafficking is more a question of trust and the abuse of trust: traffickers succeed when they are able to abuse the trust of victims and their families. Trust is also the critical issue when providing assistance and when co-operating with other organizations, in particular when this is between Roma and non-Roma organizations.

Questions, Comments and Discussion Points

How to deal with one's own prejudices and bias: How do organizations and institutions that work on human rights issues identify and deal internally with their own prejudices? Some of the participants acknowledged that no one is free from prejudices and that each of us must come to terms with them. Terre des Hommes Albania tried to address such prejudices by working together with Roma communities and actors, finding that with mutual achievements came mutual understanding. Save the Children Italy added that, in its experience, the use of peer educators allowed for communication not only between two cultures but also between the community and the complex world of organizations. Workers with Save the Children draw on their own life experiences to communicate with those living on the street and in need of assistance. This has sensitized both peer educators and the organization's staff, which, in turn, has enabled the organization to address prejudices within the programme.

Roma as professionals and staff: Some of the Roma participants raised as a concern the absence of Roma professionals or staff in anti-trafficking work and on Roma rights issues. Terre des Hommes Albania explained that for them the inclusion of Roma professionals was part of the natural development of their activities. While Roma and Egyptian children were not the original target group of their activities, it became clear that they were indeed the most vulnerable. This made a focus on the Roma and Egyptian populations necessary. Roma recruitment as project staff resulted from internal discussions and an evaluation of the project. Today the TACT programme works with a number of mediators from the Roma community. The importance of including Roma professionals in anti-trafficking work with Roma communities was raised on a number of occasions during the roundtable (see also chapters 3 and 4).

Criminal-justice issues: Criminal justice was mainly discussed in the context of two issues: obstacles to co-operation with the police and the appropriateness and usefulness of criminal-justice measures in dealing with street children.

Save the Children Italy stressed the need for both criminal-justice and social interventions. The implementation of criminal law creates boundaries and security necessary for those in need of protection. However, responses to the exploitation of minors need to offer alternatives for the minors because when they are "freed" they often face the same social environment as before and end up in the same situation.

Abuse of street children by law-enforcement officials, the corruption of law-enforcement officials and the judiciary in the context of trafficking cases, and widespread prejudices against Roma within law enforcement and the judiciary were highlighted as a serious obstacle to co-operation with law enforcement by a number of Roma organizations. Arci Solidarieta from Italy pointed out, however, that, in their experience, continuous dialogue and co-operation was able to address prejudices and allowed for meaningful co-operation with selected counterparts. They pointed out that their co-operation with the police had led to the arrest of organized crime rings that exploited children, including Roma children, and that these joint successes also reinforced the co-operation.

Some participants also pointed out that criminal-justice implementation needs to become more effective, with traffickers arrested and successfully prosecuted, and corruption within law-enforcement and judiciary tackled.

Security risks related to outreach and protection work: La Strada Czech Republic inquired about how the organizations present dealt with the safety risks for their street workers. ALC France noted that their street workers who work on prostitution and begging are instructed not to speak about trafficking in human beings on the streets. Instead the focus is on health-care issues, the prevention of violence, and access to medical care. The issue of trafficking is only approached once a street worker establishes a confidential relationship with a presumed victim of trafficking. Save the Children Italy also observed that security is a big risk when working on the street. It experiences the highest level of risk in relation to girls exploited in the commercial sex industry. Save the Children's approach is to combine health prevention, which is seen to benefit both the women and the business (e.g. the distribution of condoms), with information about assistance (e.g. distribution of hotline numbers). For Roma children exploited by criminal organizations on the streets, the relationship between the child and the exploiter is such that the children themselves tell the trafficker about offers of assistance. It is necessary, therefore, to remove the child from the situation and offer a period of 'decompression' to break this connection and control. The Roma Information Centre from Serbia noted that all anti-trafficking work is dangerous, including prevention efforts, and that staff need to be aware of this danger.

Trafficking and migration nexus: The need to disentangle migration from trafficking in human beings, and see migration as a key issue was stressed by a number of participants from countries of destination and origin. Save the Children Italy stressed that nowadays there is more mobility, because of economic needs. If people are given a choice to migrate legally, temporarily and without the need to incur debts, they would do this rather than being trafficked. Anti-trafficking responses, which are often politicized and limited to restrictive responses, overlook this reality. Restrictive migration policies, however, contribute to trafficking rather than combating it.

Bride kidnapping: The issue of bride kidnapping within Roma communities was raised with a question to the participants about whether cases are being identified and, if so, how they are being handled. In the Czech Republic so far only one case of a bride kidnapping, to the Netherlands, has been identified. In Slovakia, bride kidnapping was said to be an issue in particular communities, but very poorly documented and difficult to prosecute as it is not a specific criminal offence.

Access to funding for Roma organizations: A number of interventions highlighted that it was still difficult for Roma organizations to access anti-trafficking funding, in particular large-scale funding. Non-Roma organizations seemingly did not face these same obstacles and more easily received funding, including for work with Roma communities.

3. Practical Anti-Trafficking Initiatives—Good Practices and Lessons Learned

In a sequence of sessions and subsequent discussions (for the discussion notes see Annex 2), Roma and non-Roma organizations from both countries of origin and destination shared good practices and lessons learned in the areas of prevention and protection.

Roma Information Center, Serbia (Aleksandar Spasic)

The Roma Information Center conducts awareness-raising activities for women and children in Serbia and Montenegro. For this purpose a network of activists was trained to conduct awareness-raising workshops in various communities and implement the campaign in the field. The involvement of the community is a central component of the project: it has been a 'step-by-step' process, which takes time, especially in the context of marginalized groups, like the Roma. Network creation also takes time as trust must be established through working together on different issues. The key difficulties were: co-ordination between socially different groups, the limited time frame for project implementation, obtaining funds for such a large project and winning the confidence of the donor to approve and implement the project. Key lessons learned and recommendations were: different types of NGOs should work together to tackle the issue of trafficking in human beings in Roma communities to provide an integrated approach to prevention and protection work; Roma should be involved as facilitators and trainers; and the community should be involved in all phases of the activities.

ARCI Solidarieta, Italy (Monica Lanzillotto and Cesare Foschi) Save the Children, Italy (Giancarlo Spagnoletto and Nicola Mai)

The two organizations presented their protection and prevention work with street children and minors in Rome. Both stressed that a strong relationship with Roma communities and with local authorities is of key importance for effective work. Besides the assistance provided to children, their work has, for example, contributed to the arrest of paedophiles and exploiters of children from the Romanian Roma community.

Prevention work: Peer and cultural educators from the Roma community are being identified and trained to raise awareness within Roma communities. They are trained, among other things, to inform Roma communities about available health and social services and how to access them. This allows young Roma to become transmitters of information. It has been difficult to raise awareness about trafficking in human beings in the Roma settlements. The cultural mediators have a very important role as they help

children overcome their fear of speaking out against their exploiters. This highlights the importance of providing an area of 'decompression' to child victims of trafficking where they can separate themselves from their trafficking experiences. This decompression is possible at the Centre against Juvenile Delinquency, funded by the Municipality of Rome and run by Arci Solidarieta where minors receive short and longer-term assistance.

Assistance work: Outreach work with Roma street workers and cultural mediators has been an important means of identification, and a mechanism for building trust in Roma. Street work and street units are best suited to achieve a meaningful intervention in Roma communities where trafficking is occurring. In addition, in Italy, there is also a free telephone number to report cases. The street workers contact children and work in close co-operation with the police to get the children away from the street and assist them at the centres. However, it is very difficult to help children understand that this is being done in and not against their interest. If the family of the child is identified and the child does not object, the organization contacts the family and returns the child to the family.

One issue in terms of protection relates to minors exploited by criminal organizations. In such cases the minor often emulates the controller, aiming at a similar lifestyle (house, wealth, position of privilege). Often a certain degree of loyalty and commitment to the exploiter/organization exists as a result, as long as they are under this person's control. Only after the child has had a period of decompression, with whatever appropriate support may be necessary, can s/he have space to think about his/her situation and interventions be designed accordingly. Responding to such cases requires nuanced and tailored interventions. Social interventions will need to increasingly focus on minors as part of a family and a community (some with exploitative and some with protective features) rather than the minor in isolation. It is also important to find appropriate ways to take into account the needs of minors who, in spite of their young age, wish, and have taken steps (through migration or other activities) to help support their families. Migration may also be, at least in part, a manifestation of 'adventurism' and a desire for emancipation from the conditions of life at home. Current protection (and anti-trafficking) structures may fail to meet their needs. These remain outstanding and largely unexplored issues.

Terre des Hommes, Albania (Thierry Agagliate)

The TACT programme is a comprehensive strategy to combat child trafficking to Greece. It addresses problems at different levels—from prevention to reintegration—and operates in Albania, Greece and now Kosovo. Each team is comprised of a social worker, community mediator and co-ordinator. The TACT programme empowers children and parents to address their vital needs, needs which traffickers exploit. TACT also works in networks—within the BKTF anti-trafficking NGO coalition in Albania and also within an international network.

The presentation focused on how the organization works with the Roma community. One example is summer camps: vulnerable children in Albania spend a lot of time working and begging on the street, which limits their educational and recreational opportunities and negatively impacts on their intellectual and physical development. Life on the street is either a form of trafficking or exposes children to the risk of trafficking or other forms of exploitation. Summer camps serve as a mechanism to prevent children from going to work on the street in the summer months and instead affords them educational and recreational opportunities in their communities. The programmes have been implemented jointly by Roma and non-Roma NGOs.

A video clip shown by Terre des Hommes tried to illustrate the complex problems faced by parents and children within Roma communities and the importance of a relationship of trust between the family (including the child which had formerly been trafficked) and the social worker. It showed a family discussing

its needs (like proper housing, children's health), a discussion about family involvement in the trafficking of the child, the complexity of relationships within the family, and also the relationship between the family and the social worker.

Natassa Arapidou, ARSIS, Albania

ARSIS outlined its recent street work with vulnerable children over the summer in Tirana which included activities to help children while they are working/begging in the park. Day programmes seek to accommodate children who must continue to work on the street (whether trafficked or not) by offering them educational and recreational opportunities alongside this work. The intervention also allows street workers to detect vulnerable children on the street, to assist children who have never attended such activities, to identify the needs of street children, to establish a relationship of trust with children (and their parents), and to collect information for future interventions. The programmes have been implemented jointly by Roma and non-Roma NGOs. The beneficiaries were 106 children (and 22 mothers), 99 of whom attended the activities more than twice. Of the 106 participating children, 55 were Roma and 58 were Egyptian. Activities included drawing, collective games, learning poems, making jewellery and dancing.

Problems encountered in the implementation of the summer activities were: the location attracted people who disturbed the activities; children were not allowed by their parents to join if they did not earn a set amount of money; the difficulty in mixing children from different minorities; aggressive behaviour of many children and problems of concentration and discipline of some children. Some of the key successes of this activity were that it allowed the organization to identify at-risk children and their needs, it gave children who had never attended social activities the chance to do so, it established a relationship of trust with the children, and information was acquired that can be used to develop future interventions. ARSIS plans to continue working with 'working children' through this type of street work, to monitor children and their families, and to open a day/drop-in centre for children in Tirana.

Cultural Association of Roma in Slovakia (Jarmila Pleskova)
Plenipotentiary of Roma Communities, Slovakia (Andrea Buckova)

Roma mediator programme: This project aims at the education and placement of Roma para-professional social workers in the state administration. The aim is also to build activist capacity along with state capacity. The job of these social workers is to inform Roma community members about services and assistance available through state agencies. These para-professional social workers do not, however, offer direct services because they are not professional social workers. Currently, the programme trains 45 Roma men and women, with the long-term objective of creating jobs within municipalities for 15 Roma employees to work as Roma community mediators.

Gender equality programme: This programme targets three generations of women to address sensitive issues like violence against women and the effect of traditions on the status of women in Roma communities. The programme also aims to improve communication skills and institutional assistance to this vulnerable group. The programme was implemented with a Czech organization and a Slovak counselling centre for victims of domestic violence and included an employee of the regional police on the team. It also involved information dissemination with university students. Postcards were produced by Romani women and girls who presented their understanding of women's human rights as well as the discrimination and gender inequality they experience.

Programmes for Roma children: One regional programme targets police officers and teachers to improve safety for children by dealing with issues like drug addiction, begging, racial hatred, educational participation, etc. Another programme for Roma children engages peer educators to educate children

between 14 and 18 years on human rights issues, including trafficking. The peer educators use various tools to help the children identify situations that expose them to risk and violence, including in their own family. The project is being implemented in schools attended by both Roma and non-Roma children.

To conclude, the presenters also explored two specific issues related to trafficking in Roma communities in Slovakia, which impact on anti-trafficking efforts. Firstly, the loss of trust felt by trafficking victims makes it difficult for social workers to gain their trust and provide assistance. Secondly, there is a need to tailor and adjust prevention activities to the local needs, reflecting the differences in the specific communities where a programme is implemented.

Questions, Comments and Discussion Points

Prejudice, bias and stereotypes and gender perspective: The Terre des Hommes film showing a Roma family discussing its needs with a social worker in its home provoked anger from some of the participants who criticized the film for stereotyping Roma and not addressing them with the required respect. Some participants were particularly provoked by the social worker telling the mother in the family that she was 'always speaking rubbish'. One participant also expressed concern about inadequate attention to women's issues and rights in the roundtable discussions as well as in programme planning generally, and asked that participants speak about the challenges in addressing women in their programmes.¹⁷ Terre des Hommes' response to this criticism was that the social worker and the family had a very close relationship and what the film intended to show was the family reality as it exists and the quality of trust between the family and social worker—that they could talk openly like in a family and use such informal language. Gender discrimination exists everywhere, including in Roma communities. Recognizing its existence is a necessary precondition for addressing it. In terms of gender, most social workers within Terre des Hommes' project are women and through their daily activity they seek to address also women's rights within the family and Roma community.

Role and responsibility of the state: A number of participants raised the need for a greater involvement and responsibility of state authorities in addressing trafficking in human beings and related issues within Roma communities. They emphasized that non-governmental organizations can undertake social work but cannot and should not provide housing or other services, which are the responsibility of the state. In this context, Terre des Hommes Albania noted that the TACT project provides assistance that is not being provided by the state and that the project also initiated a bilateral agreement between the governments of Albania and Greece, which is being monitored.

Civil registration: The need for comprehensive civil and birth registration of Roma was pointed out by a number of representatives, state and non-state, in particular from Albania, as a preventive and protective measure.

Roma social workers: The Slovakian project that recruits Roma social workers for work in Roma communities was highlighted as an important step. The Roma social workers who do not have formal professional training are given a para-professional role and are offered on-the-job training. They are given the task of informing Roma communities about what assistance is available, although they cannot provide direct assistance themselves. The added value is that the social workers are Roma and know the

¹⁷ This issue was also raised at the first roundtable held in Belgrade and some discussions were divided along gender lines. For example, "the debate on customary marriage reflected the diversity of Roma and showed a clear distinction between female and male participants' reading and interpretation of traditional patterns. While men emphasised the importance of custom law marriage for the group identity, women stressed the importance to ensure the right of personal autonomy and education" (*op. cit.* Karoly).

conditions of life in Roma communities. This knowledge is often more important than formal education in this work. Secondary education is not required for applicants. Training and education are provided throughout the employment period in order that the para-professionals develop the same capacities as their colleagues with specialized secondary education. Funding for this programme, which is integrated into mainstream social work, is provided through EU structural funds until 2009.

Terre des Hommes Albania noted that since they began targeting more Roma and Egyptians for recruitment, they have found highly qualified candidates.

4. Advocacy on Anti-Trafficking in Roma Communities

Larry Olomoofe from the European Roma Rights Center (ERRC) conducted this session. It covered advocacy as a strategic tool and explored a number of advocacy tools and strategies in the context of anti-trafficking work affecting Roma communities

What is advocacy?

Advocacy refers to an effort to apply pressure to effect positive social change. Such pressure can target the state sector, the private sector, civil society or individuals. There is no single, formal definition of advocacy, and advocacy often means different things to different people.

Often, advocacy campaigns are about formal engagement with institutions and often overlap with lobbying. At the same time, some actors may not be best positioned to undertake such formalized lobbying and may wish to explore alternative forms of advocacy. Examples of advocacy outside conventional processes can be found in the United Kingdom where, during the 1980s, race-relations advocates were largely excluded from mainstream political processes. This meant that they needed to find alternative methods to participate in policy development. One method was to convene social events at the grassroots level. Examples include the Live Aid concerts to raise money for famine victims in Ethiopia and the anti-apartheid initiatives to free Nelson Mandela. While these events provided information, they did so outside the formal political process and used an alternative medium. Less traditional advocacy mechanism may be more appropriate for NGOs that are not well placed to undertake formal advocacy campaigns and lobbying activities.

Advocacy and issues of representation

Another key issue related to advocacy is that of representation: How can the intended beneficiaries be involved in shaping advocacy efforts? How can they best engage with the community to ensure appropriate representation of their interests? Who can and should speak on behalf of intended beneficiaries? How to identify the issues that are most critical in the community, ensuring that the diversity within the community (according to age, sex, class, religion, etc.) is respected and reflected? Finally, it is crucial to successful advocacy that the beneficiaries of such efforts are informed about their rights.

Issues of representation are also relevant in terms of staffing. Roma need to be included as staff in organizations dealing with Roma issues. There can, however, be a tension between what is needed and what is possible. For example, in the ERRC, there are only 22 staff members, 8 of whom are lawyers. To hire Roma staff for these positions would require finding Roma lawyers who are members of the local

bar. Nevertheless, efforts are needed to address this issue and some organizations have started to do so. The ERRRC recently created two new posts for Roma professionals. In the course of the roundtable, some anti-trafficking organizations observed that they have noticed this shortcoming with their own organizations and are increasingly seeking to hire and train Roma staff.

Ensure that advocacy is not discriminatory

It is important to ensure that advocacy and awareness-raising tools and strategies do not have a negative impact on the intended beneficiaries ('do no harm' principle), even if unintended. Such a 'do no harm' analysis should be part of the development of advocacy strategies/tools. Otherwise there is the risk that stereotypes are being reinforced rather than addressed, i.e. Roma portrayed as traffickers, non-Roma as the saviours.

Advocacy and state institutions

While non-formal and alternative advocacy efforts may be strategic in the field of anti-trafficking and Roma rights, it is important not to ignore state institutions in these initiatives.

There are a range of state actors that can be important in advocacy efforts, including ombudsman offices.

Advocacy and the media—possibilities and risks

A common advocacy tool is media outreach. However, because the media is essentially commercial, it will generally chase certain issues and focus on profit and profile. As such, the media cannot be expected to fully understand and/or advocate on a particular issue. Further, the media is fast paced and, at times, very sensationalistic. Complex issues such as social exclusion, systemic discrimination and cultural chasms cannot be easily translated into a (fast paced) media format. As such, media representation of Roma may entrench stereotypical perceptions. The media has often been complicit in creating and perpetuating misperceptions, mythologies and stereotypes of Roma people. Organizations should be wary of this occurring in the context of their advocacy efforts. It is not possible to guard against stereotyping and misrepresentations simply by sharing the message with the media. It is important that the message is not co-opted or misunderstood by the media outlet and in a way which can have unintended negative consequences for the Roma community. Further, it is not possible to control how people interpret media images and messages. Where people have pre-existing prejudices, it is possible (even probable) that media images that relate to these prejudices will simply reinforce them. For example, positive images of Roma could be read as an exceptional case rather than realistic representation. They, therefore, do not necessarily dismiss the negative image and may do little to address the stereotypes and prejudice.

Media attention is often only there when a dramatic event happens (early marriage, killing, etc.), but not to discuss and raise awareness about the broader issues and underlying factors, such as issues of social and economic discrimination. This is an ethical dilemma and one which needs to be addressed in discussion with media outlets and representatives. It is possible and useful to identify 'friendly' media, spin the story in a way that appeals to them (and the public), and work with the media to get a specific message across. There is the opportunity and the need for organizations working on issues related to Roma, Roma and non-Roma, to rethink and focus their advocacy strategy with the media. And this must be done with caution and forethought.

Repression of Roma women's voices

Some people/organizations are willing to camouflage the inequality of women as culture and it has taken some organizations, even Roma organizations, a long time to address women's issues. This is of concern given their role as human rights organizations. Larry Olomoofe acknowledged that the ERRC itself was slow to take up this important issue. He emphasized that to be truly representative, issues impacting women, like domestic violence, must be addressed by any human rights organization. He noted that the rights of women are often not taken as a priority issue among socially disadvantaged groups because many within the community argue that it is important to first address the rights of the community as a whole. This argumentation has impacted women in a range of different rights movements, including the civil rights movement in the United States, where black women were often told not to discuss problems faced as women because it would dilute the issue of racial discrimination. This same problem is still being faced by Roma women.

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Annex 1: Annotated Roundtable Agenda

Background

In October 2004, the ODIHR organized a regional roundtable in Belgrade. It aimed to raise general awareness about the issue of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) within Roma communities. A number of studies from Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Romania were also presented at that time. In early 2006, the ODIHR published a position paper based on these studies and the roundtable discussions.* In 2006, the ODIHR also supported an initiative to prevent and combat trafficking in women within Roma communities, implemented by La Strada Poland in co-operation with Slovak, Polish and Czech non-governmental organisations and social workers. The initiative aimed at building the capacity of Slovak NGOs and social workers to work on anti-trafficking with Roma women and within Roma communities.

These activities identified the continuing need to strengthen trust and cooperation between Roma and non-Roma stakeholders and to sensitize non-Roma actors to the needs of Roma communities. It identified the prevailing discrimination against Roma as a major obstacle in trafficking prevention work as well as the importance of recognizing and addressing practices within Roma communities which may constitute violations of human rights. In preparation for this roundtable a preparatory meeting was held in Budapest, bringing together Roma and non-Roma activists and organisations working on THB and human rights protection issues.

Roundtable Objectives

This second regional roundtable for South Eastern and Central Eastern Europe is organized as implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area.

The roundtable aims to raise awareness of:

- General issues of discrimination against Roma that undermine anti-trafficking prevention work, including portraying Roma as traffickers and inequality in access to social protection, justice and education, employment and community development;

* OSCE-ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues and Human Rights Department (Anti-Trafficking Programme), *Awareness-raising for Roma Activists on the Issue of Trafficking in Human Beings in South-Eastern Europe*. (Warsaw, April 2006). The position paper can be accessed at <http://www.osce.org/odihhr/18148.html>.

- Obstacles to anti-trafficking work in Roma communities, including violence against women, abusive traditional practices such as child begging and early marriages as well as a denial of support of those Roma who are vulnerable and in need of protection by their community.

The roundtable seeks to contribute to more effective anti-trafficking work in Roma communities by:

- creating a forum for Roma and non-Roma organizations and institutions to enhance their networking and capacity to work jointly on anti-trafficking prevention at the community level;
- building the capacity of Roma stakeholders to conduct anti-trafficking work; and
- strengthening non-discriminatory access of Roma stakeholders and communities to mainstream social protection and anti-trafficking assistance, by sensitizing non-Roma institutions and non-governmental organizations to the needs of Roma and empowering Roma stakeholders to claim their rights.

Participants for the second regional roundtable include key Roma and non-Roma stakeholders working on anti-trafficking from countries of origin and destination in South Eastern and Central Eastern Europe, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, including Kosovo, Romania, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, France, Greece and Italy.

Roundtable sessions

MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

14:00 – 14:30	REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS
14:30 – 14:50	OPENING PLENARY SESSION
Opening Remarks:	Shivaun Scanlan, Senior Advisor on Anti-Trafficking, OSCE ODIHR OSCE Presence in Albania Iva Zajmi, Albanian Coordinator for Anti-Trafficking
14:50 – 18:30	OVERVIEW OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AMONG ROMA COMMUNITIES
14:50 – 15:20	Giving a Voice to the Issue—Discussing Trafficking in Human Beings within Roma Communities
<i>Moderator:</i>	Frank Dalton, OSCE Presence in Albania
<i>Presentations:</i>	Skender Veliu, Amaro Drom (Albania) Enisa Eminova, OSI Joint Romani Women’s Initiative Andrea Buckova, Plenipotentiary of Roma Communities, Slovakia
<p>The presenters will share and discuss experiences and obstacles encountered by community activists, organisations and institutions when working on sensitive issues, such as trafficking in human beings, within Roma communities. To that end, the session will also identify good practices from Roma and other communities in dealing with sensitive issues, such as violence against women or harmful traditional practices, such as child begging, early marriages or informal money lending. The aim is to put these issues into a broader human rights framework and to develop non-discriminatory tools to address them in the communities. The project development sessions on Day 2 and Day 3 of the roundtable will be an opportunity to develop practical initiatives in support of this aim.</p>	
15:20 – 15:30	Questions

15:30 – 16:30 Nature of Trafficking in Human Beings: Incidents and Patterns of THB affecting Roma Communities

Moderator: Jennifer Mitchell, OSCE ODIHR

Presentations: Amaro Drom and Terre des Hommes (Albania)
 Arci Solidarita Lazio and Save the Children (Italy)
 Association for the Social Support of Youth/ARSIS (Greece)

This session will provide insight into how trafficking of Roma manifests itself and how it affects the victims and the communities. The presenters will illustrate a number of practical cases they encountered, with a focus on Albania, Italy and Greece. Recent research on the trafficking of Roma children, including research linking countries of origin and countries of destination (Albania-Kosovo, Romania-Italy, Greece-Italy, Moldova-Russia) will also be presented.

16:30 – 16:40 Questions

17:00 – 17:45 Vulnerability Factors for THB in Roma Communities

Moderator: Silda Anagnosti, OSCE Presence in Albania
 Liliana Sorrentino, Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit, OSCE Secretariat

Presentation: Pellumb Furtuna, Romani Baxt (Albania)
 Jarmila Pleskova, Cultural Association of Roma in Slovakia and Andrea Buckova, Plenipotentiary of Roma Communities (Slovakia)
 Vincent Tournecuillert, Terre des Hommes South-Eastern Europe Office

The vulnerability of Roma to trafficking in human beings is due to multiple factors. First, Roma are subject to social exclusion and negative stereotyping which isolates them from the majority population. Second, there is a lack of access to broader social support and protection services where prevention measures may be most effective, such as: social protection, including civil registration, health and education. This is compounded by the discriminatory attitude of some local institutions and organisations which perpetuates mistrust of Roma towards these institutions. This results in Roma not accessing or being included in potential support and protection services. The session will reflect on the factors that make Roma vulnerable to THB and present and discuss ideas on how this vulnerability can be reduced.

17:45 – 18:30 Open Forum for Discussion—Questions and Answers

Moderator: OSCE ODIHR

Topics for discussion may include the following:

- Issues related to the earlier sessions
 - How to address trafficking in human being issues within a human rights framework
 - Role of Roma and non-Roma stakeholders in both countries of origin and destination
-

18:30 – 20:00 Reception

TUESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

9:00 – 14:30 BUILDING CAPACITY AT THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL—ADVOCACY AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

9:00 – 10:00 Awareness-raising and Prevention of THB with Roma communities—Practical Initiatives

Moderator: Astrid Ganterer, OSCE ODIHR

Presentations: Alexander Spasic, Roma Information Center (Serbia)
Save the Children and Arci Solidarieta Lazio (Italy)

In this session, Roma and non-Roma organisations will share their experiences in prevention, outreach and protection work in Serbia, Greece, Albania and Italy. They will present successful methodologies as well as challenges experienced. This sharing of experiences could assist those organisations and institutions with less practical experience to gain insight into practical work. It will also be an opportunity to identify issues, obstacles and suggested solutions with regard to the sustainability of prevention work. This includes analyzing current gaps in linkages between prevention and protection work in countries of origin and in countries of destination.

10:00 – 10:10 Questions

10:10 – 11:10 Lessons learned from prevention and protection initiatives—Community action and how to overcome obstacles to cooperation

Moderator: Juliana Rexha, OSCE Presence in Albania
Shivaun Scanlan, OSCE ODIHR

Presentations: Jarmila Pleskova, Cultural Association of Roma in Slovakia and Andrea Buckova, Plenipotentiary of Roma Communities (Slovakia)
Terre des Hommes (Albania and South-Eastern Europe)
Save the Children and Arci Solidarieta Lazio (Italy)

The presenters will share their lessons learned from practical work with Roma communities and Roma victims of trafficking. The session will develop recommendations of how to address existing obstacles and difficulties in prevention and protection work on THB related to Roma communities. In particular it will share good practice on how to enhance cooperation between Roma and non-Roma organisations and institutions as well as between organisations and institutions in countries of origin and destination. The presenters will also provide practical examples on how to empower Roma communities and organisations to take ownership of THB issues, how to ensure prevention work is done from a human rights perspective and on why and how to move the focus of anti-trafficking work beyond THB to general protection issues.

11:30 – 12:30 Advocacy and capacity building

Trainer: Larry Olomoofe, European Roma Rights Center (ERRC)

This session will explore, in an interactive setting, how Roma and non-Roma stakeholders can overcome existing challenges to effective advocacy work and how to place advocacy work within a human rights framework. The session will also cover issues such as the distinctions between “advocacy” and “lobbying”. It will explore the various stages of an advocacy programme and establish concrete targets and goals that help to understand whether particular advocacy campaigns are successful or not. Other elements planned for the session will include recognition of advocacy opportunities, how to respond rapidly to issues of concern, and long-term planning of advocacy programmes.

12:30 – 12:50 Questions

12:50 – 13:00 Introduction into project development group work—identifying teams and objectives

14:30 – 18:00 PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS

Working Group A: Non-governmental organizations and local institutions

Moderator: Pascale Roussy, OSCE Presence in Albania
Liliana Sorrentino, Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit, OSCE Secretariat

14:30 – 15:30 Work in individual project teams

In this session, the participants have the opportunity to team up with other participants from their country or with a country of destination/origin and discuss project ideas relevant to the objectives of the roundtable and their practical work.

16:00 – 18:00 Continue work in individual project teams

Working Group B: OSCE field presences (anti-trafficking and Roma focal points)

Moderator: Astrid Ganterer, OSCE ODIHR

14:30 – 15:30 OSCE field presences: Addressing trafficking in human beings as affecting Roma and Roma Communities—Experiences, lessons learned and the way forward

16:00 – 18:00 Continue work in working group

WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

09:00 – 12:00 BUILDING CAPACITY AT THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL—PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

09:00 – 09:10 Introduction to Day 3

09:10 – 11:00 Summary of work in individual project teams

11:00 – 11:30 Evaluation Questionnaire

11:30 – 12:00 Wrap up and Concluding Remarks
Presentation: Rapporteurs' summaries
OSCE ODIHR and Presence in Albania

12:00 Departure of participants

Annex 2: Project Ideas from the Working Groups

In the second half of the roundtable, the participating organizations teamed up with each other and developed concrete project ideas, corresponding to the identified situation in their country as well as their organizational needs and capacities. This session yielded a variety of project ideas, with many participating organizations aiming to co-operate across borders and share good practices between countries of origin and destination. The project ideas are summarized below.

1. Slovakia-Czech Republic

Trilateral initiative to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings within Roma communities in Central Eastern Europe

One group—comprised of representatives from Slovakia and the Czech Republic—proposed a pilot project for awareness-raising in Roma communities in Slovakia. They had, in a previous project, developed a t-shirt which presented some of the risks of trafficking but they had not had the resources to disseminate the t-shirt. This t-shirt presents, through pictures, the story of a girl who wanted a better life and ended up in the hands of traffickers. The t-shirt also advertises assistance available through the organization and provides a contact telephone number. The idea of the project is to create a training programme for field social workers who would undertake trafficking awareness-raising in their communities with the t-shirt. The organization reported that awareness of trafficking among field social workers is almost non-existent, making it urgent that this information be shared in these communities. Many victims of trafficking in Slovakia originate from the Roma settlements being targeted. This makes it important to inform potential migrants before they travel about possible problems they may face and also assistance available for trafficked persons.

Steps in the project would include:

- draft a methodology for awareness-raising;
- field-testing of the t-shirts by field social workers and community workers;
- contacts with the Association FSW and new Roma organization (if any);
- create questionnaires for qualitative research on the level of awareness on trafficking in human beings;
- final methodology developed based on previous steps;
- seminar for field social workers on methodology;
- feedback/network; and
- evaluation and final report.

Proposed implementing partners: La Strada Czech Republic, Slovakian partners (tbc).

2. Regional project (Albania, Italy, Greece, Serbia)

This regional project would involve organizations from Albania, Italy, Greece and Serbia, in an effort to involve both origin and destination countries in anti-trafficking work and partnerships.

The objective is: to share experience between countries of origin and destination, and build capacities between Roma and non-Roma NGOs.

The activities would include:

- a seminar in Italy on practical and theoretical work with street children and on forming outreach units, peer/mentoring and culture education, and involvement of local and other relevant authorities;
- a seminar in Albania on practical and theoretical outreach work in Roma settlements and different approaches to tackle trafficking in human beings and address the involvement of local and other relevant authorities; and
- development of a manual on exchanging good practices.

Results expected:

- an increase in the effectiveness of outreach work in Roma communities;
- the creation of a network between countries of origin and destination;
- building capacities of NGO activists in countries of origin and destination to tackle the causes of trafficking (push and pull factors); and
- the fostering of better co-operation and understanding between NGOs and governmental organizations.

Impact:

- identifying the needs (root causes, risks and vulnerability, effective tools, etc); and
- to design and implement project activities tackling the phenomenon.

Proposed implementing partners: Astra (Serbia), RIC (Serbia), Amaro Drom (Albania).

3. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia–Italy

The objectives are:

- to exchange work experience and expertise in outreach work, in particular street work and the role of cultural mediators, in trafficking prevention and protection work with Roma;
- to develop a joint strategy to build leadership capacities within Roma communities in Italy to enable them to take responsibility and ownership of an effective social integration of their communities; and
- to raise awareness among social workers about harmful traditional practices, such as forced and arranged marriages and virginity testing, with the aim of prevention and empowering young Roma women.

This project would be implemented by NGOs in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Italy, to learn from the work and experiences of each other.

The activities will include:

- a study tour¹⁸ to Rome of partners from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to learn about the practical work of and the methodologies used by Arci Solidarieta, which is a centre that assists children working and begging on the street through street work, outreach with Roma communities, education programmes, etc. This exchange will also include a discussion with local institutions in Rome that are responsible for developing social policies, e.g. Department for Implementation of Social Policies of the Municipality of Rome, Department for Education of the Municipality of Rome;
- a study tour of Italian partners to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in order to familiarize the staff with local outreach, prevention and protection work, to understand how Roma communities, organizations and activists organize and represent their needs and interests, and how the type of outreach work done in Italy could be transferred to the Macedonian context;
- development of a volunteer programme for Roma social workers in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and social work students to conduct internships within the centres for social work and the Open Gate (La Strada) Macedonia shelter. This volunteer programme will be facilitated by the Office of the National Referral Mechanism in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- awareness-raising and discussions with the social workers and cultural mediators in Rome on how to raise awareness about and address harmful traditional practices in Roma communities in Italy. This will be done through visits to Italy of Roma women activists from the Romani Women's Initiative, based on their experience from a regional project in Eastern and South Eastern Europe; and
- training on methodologies and effective outreach work for social workers and social work students (including Roma) as well as specialized law-enforcement officers from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by social workers from Arci Solidarieta and Save the Children and specialized police working in partnership with them.

Proposed implementing partners: Open Gate–La Strada (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Phurt (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), LIL (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Joint Roma Women's Initiative/OSI Roma Women Network (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Arci Solidarieta (Italy).

¹⁸ Both study tours would involve 3-4 participants for a duration of approximately one week.

4. Information exchange and co-ordination (broad participation)

This project would involve organizations from destination and origin countries and would be focused on sharing information among colleagues on the situation of vulnerable children in Italy.

Key project ideas include:

- sharing information on the situation of children being exploited to distinguish types of responses between social interventions and criminal-justice responses;
- share information on the situation of unaccompanied minors;
- identifying social responses;
- identifying cases of abuse, exploitation and trafficking;
- sharing contacts with mediators in countries of origin. Cultural mediators in Roma communities in Romania will facilitate access to social and health services in Romania for abused children or women. In sharing these contacts, they will take into account the specific community the Roma belongs to;
- share information by e-mail, visit the centre in Italy to see how it works with the mediators, visit areas of interest in Romania, and visits other project countries if possible;
- promote exchange of experiences between the municipalities in order to establish similar specialized social services for children begging in the streets; and
- promote monitoring of child begging in different cities in Europe.

Proposed implementing partners: La Strada (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Accem (Spain), Arci Solidarietà/Municipality of Rome (Italy), ALC (France), OSCE (Vienna and Bosnia and Herzegovina).

5. Romania–Italy

The proposed project idea is in response to the trafficking/migratory flow of Roma people from the region of Craiova (Romania) to Rome (Italy).

The three main categories of Romanian minor migrants are: 1) children exploited by criminal organizations to steal and or engage in prostitution (they leave Romania with family consent); 2) families who migrate from Romania to Italy with their children to Italy and use the children for begging and car washing; and 3) unaccompanied children who travel to Italy and carry a declaration of consent from their parents. In Italy, organizations are faced with the need to assist these three categories of minors, while in Romania organizations must address the problems that this migration flow creates. This includes assisting the children who return to Craiova with their families after working in Italy and children who stay without parental care because their parents are working in Italy.

The objectives are:

- analysis of the situation of Romanian Roma minors from Craiova and its surroundings in Rome (based on the organization's databases);
- exchange of experience for a better understanding of the socio-political context of the country of origin and destination among social worker teams (NGO and from the municipalities);
- creation and training of teams of peer educators in order to work within the Roma community in Craiova and its surroundings.

Activities will include:

- investigation activities (family tracing and analysis of situation of the families from Craiova and its surroundings);
- training activities (exchange visits between Italian and Romanian social workers from the NGO and municipality; training of Romanian peer educators by Italian partners);
- protection activities (exchange of information from partner databases; follow-up of children in the country of origin after assisted voluntary return);
- prevention activities (prevention activities in Craiova—in schools, community, families, etc).

This project would involve transnational co-operation between 1) Italy and Romania, 2) Greece and Albania and 3) Moldova and Terre des Hommes Moldova.

Proposed implementing partners: Save the Children (Italy), Romani Baht (Albania), ARSIS (Greece), Terre des Hommes (Romania and Hungary), Roma National Center (Moldova).

6. Rights awareness of Roma community, especially women and girls (Albania)

The aim of the project is to raise the awareness of the Roma community in combating trafficking, and increasing the responsibility and capacity of stakeholders to prevent trafficking in the Roma community in Albania. The overall goal is zero tolerance for trafficking of human beings in the Roma community through legal education and assistance.

The objectives are:

- increasing the Roma community's awareness of and capacity to mobilize their legal rights, as an effective means of combating trafficking;
- increasing the access of the Roma community in the justice system through legal counselling and preparation of legal acts, for identified cases;
- increasing the capacity building of Roma NGOs;
- bringing all of the stakeholders together—Roma NGOs, anti-trafficking NGOs and representatives of municipality or local power; and
- increasing the capacity of volunteers, Social Sciences students in working with the Roma community.

The intended outputs are:

- that the Roma community is better informed about legal issues, including registration of children, marriage issues, domestic violence, child custody, trafficking of human beings, etc;
- legal assistance to women and girls at risk of being trafficked, violated in family relations, with family legal problems;
- capacity-building of Roma NGOs through joint project implementation;
- representatives of local power who are more responsible and sensitive to the Roma community's problems; and volunteers, Social Sciences students trained in how to assist Roma communities.

Activities will include: legal-rights workshops with the Roma community in 15 locations; individual legal counselling; distribution of leaflets and printed material to the Roma community; street activity through which sociologists and legal experts support Roma women and children, etc. The workshops will address issues such as early marriage, domestic violence, civil registration, rights under the family code, and will offer legal counselling for Roma women as needed. Data collected in the project will be used for future advocacy work. Roma organizations will facilitate various activities, including data gathering in the project, and will attend training sessions that will enable them to train in future. This project would be jointly implemented by several anti-trafficking and Roma organizations in Albania.

Proposed implementing partners: The Center for Legal and Civil Initiatives, Roma implementing partners (tbc).

7. Anti-trafficking advocacy campaigns

In this working group the participants discussed advocacy campaigns as a tool in anti-trafficking. Rather than developing a specific campaign, participants compiled a general template of possible target groups and topics for change to be further explored and discussed in their respective countries and organizations, as outlined below.¹⁹ For all advocacy efforts, budgets need to be considered through all stages of planning to implementation.

State sector change: structural reforms to promote transparency and increase access to justice; more effective, inclusive, enforceable and fair policies and laws (through new laws or reform); accountability and improved state agents' understanding of their role in anti-trafficking; eradication of corruption; and generation of reliable data to provide the basis for more concentrated and measured anti-trafficking efforts;

Private sector change: greater awareness of broader social issues related to trafficking; reformed business practices and behaviour; corporate policies that address trafficking; training and monitoring to prevent/address the recurrence of trafficking in society; dialogue and joint problem solving among government, civil society, and private sector to address diverse interests and needs of people vulnerable to trafficking; and representation of victim groups in the private sector;

Civil society change: better understanding of trafficking issues and the existing mechanisms to defend victims of trafficking; constructive and critical dialogue with decision makers to promote accountability and transparency; greater communication and dialogue with the public as well as the various victim groups; creation and strengthening of networks and coalitions; fostering inclusion of a broad range of constituencies, especially the interests of victims of trafficking; intervention in cases of sensationalized and erroneous media coverage;

Individual (e.g. parents, victims, etc) change: material improvement; improved skills and knowledge of Roma citizens; public education components of advocacy initiatives that will encourage people to respect and understand the law and to address discrimination.

Proposed implementing partners: Roma and non-Roma actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (tbc).

¹⁹ The advocacy approach was adapted from Lisa VeneKlasen with Valerie Miller (2002). *A New Weave of Power, People & Politics: The Action Guide for Advocacy and Citizen Participation*. Oklahoma City: World Neighbors. For more information see <http://www.justassociates.org/ActionGuide.htm>.

Annex 3: Participants List and Contacts

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Annex 4: Roundtable Evaluation by Participants

Participants were asked to complete an evaluation form assessing the usefulness of the roundtable, its impact on their understanding of the issue of trafficking and on their work, as well as its helpfulness with regard to enhancing co-operation and networking. Below is a summary of the key points and observations made by participants.

1. Did the roundtable give you a better understanding of the human rights issues relevant to trafficking in Roma communities?

Overall the participants felt that the roundtable contributed to their understanding of trafficking. According to one participant, this was achieved very efficiently through the combination of theory (presentations) and practice, and enhanced through the discussion process. For others, it was a useful introduction to the issue of trafficking. And still others felt that the scope of the discussion was broader than it had been in the past, raising important issues, such as forced marriage.

At the same time, some participants did not find that the roundtable enhanced their understanding of trafficking in human beings, largely because they had attended such meetings in the past. As one respondent explained, "I've been to some trainings on this issue before and am fairly familiar with it in a broader context".

2. How will you integrate a human rights approach in your anti-trafficking work with Roma communities?

While many respondents said that they would integrate a human rights approach in their work, it was unclear from their comments how this will be done in practice. More specific comments highlighted the need to look at rights within the community, such as the low level of education among Roma and inequities related to marriage and child custody. Another participant felt that involving men in women's rights issues was central to a human rights based approach. Others reported that they were already using a human rights approach in their work and would continue to do so.

3. Has the roundtable contributed to overcoming obstacles of co-operation between Roma and non-Roma organizations/institutions/communities?

Participants reported both positively and negatively to this question. Some organizations reported that the roundtable was an opportunity for them not only to establish contacts with other organizations but also to discuss concrete initiatives. Others were positive about how co-operation opportunities had been

fostered, not only between Roma and non-Roma organizations but also between organizations from different countries. Still others felt the roundtable was a valuable opportunity for Roma and non-Roma to discuss issues such as how to reach a common approach or existing stereotypes and prejudices.

One participant felt that non-Roma organizations needed to overcome their prejudices and become more engaged in empowering and building the capacity of Roma organizations. Others expressed some disappointment with the level of co-operation. One respondent observed that it seemed that some participants were entrenched in their positions and that these conflictual relationships were likely to continue beyond the roundtable.

4. Was the roundtable a useful opportunity to enhance your networking with Roma and non-Roma actors relevant to anti-trafficking work?

Generally the roundtable was felt to have been a useful opportunity in terms of networking and information sharing between Roma and non-Roma organizations. Some felt, in particular, that the insight into how issues are being dealt with in other countries, such as poverty, informal money lending and forced labour of children, was useful. In some instances, concrete steps were taken to establish a basis for future co-operation. Others felt that the presentations were helpful in enhancing these networking opportunities. The importance of networking was highlighted by participants and many felt that the experiences of anti-trafficking NGOs were very important in supporting the anti-trafficking initiatives of Roma organizations. That being said, a handful of respondents reported that, for them, the roundtable had not resulted in networking opportunities between Roma and non-Roma organizations.

5. Was the roundtable useful in terms of sharing practical examples on prevention and protection work?

Almost without exception the roundtable was seen as a useful opportunity to share good practices in terms of prevention and protection. Comments included:

- The opportunity to exchange experience with representatives of other countries and various Roma and non-Roma actors was very useful;
- Practical examples were sufficiently concrete, in particular on prevention work;
- Examples from work in destination countries were very good;
- It was useful to work in groups;
- There is a need for more practical work examples.

6. What was the most useful feature/part of the roundtable for your work?

The following were considered the most useful aspects of the roundtable:

- The issue-focused presentations and discussions by representatives from the various countries;
- The group work and the possibility to discuss and develop project ideas;
- The discussion and identification of root causes that partly differed from the participants' own experience;
- The discussions and concrete examples;
- Information about street children and learning about the approach of the two Italian organizations present;
- Networking;
- Discussion of lessons learned;
- Looking at the issue from different points of view;
- Similarity of approaches in different countries;
- Receiving information about Roma issues;

- Hearing the problems faced by other organizations;
- Learning about practical experiences of organizations on the ground, in particular those from Italy and Terre des Hommes.

7. What, if anything, would you suggest to change for future events?

- To move from talking about the vulnerability factors for Roma communities again and again to trying to find solutions;
- The next roundtable should focus more on particular methodologies and approaches useful for the work of local organizations, professionals and para-professionals, taking into consideration local specifics;
- Include state actors in future activities;
- Narrow the topics and have discussion on concrete problems and issues;
- Involve more destination countries and in more depth;
- Shorten the daily work load;
- Explain to participants the methodologies and objectives more clearly and in advance;
- Avoid repetition in sessions. The sessions on Day 1 tended to be repetitive;
- Make events more dynamic.

8 & 9: Do you understand how the ODIHR Roma Anti-Trafficking Project Fund works and are you thinking of applying to the ODIHR Roma Anti-Trafficking Project Fund with a project proposal?

The vast majority of participants expressed their intention to apply for funding under the Roma Anti-Trafficking Fund. Some commented that, while they intended to apply for funds, the amount of funds per project (5,000 Euro) was too limited.

10. Other comments:

- The efforts of the organizers to bring together a diverse and complex group of people was appreciated;
- Please include these same participating countries in future events.

Annex 5: Roma Anti-Trafficking Project Fund

Background

The ODIHR has established a Roma Anti-Trafficking Project Fund (Roma ATP Fund) to encourage the development and implementation of local and regional initiatives to address trafficking in human beings and associated human rights abuses affecting Roma and Roma communities. This Fund is a joint initiative of the ODIHR Human Rights Department and the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues aimed at assisting participating States in the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2003) and the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area (2003).

Through the Roma ATP Fund the ODIHR will provide support and funding to non-governmental organizations to enable them to develop and expand their anti-trafficking work in and with Roma and Roma communities and to develop and implement practical anti-trafficking initiatives at the local and regional level. A particular objective of this fund is to build the capacity of Roma NGOs to combat trafficking in human beings, to establish and strengthen partnerships between Roma and non-Roma anti-trafficking actors and to make existing anti-trafficking networks and funds more accessible to Roma actors and communities.

Projects could include, but are not limited to the following areas:

- Prevention—public awareness-raising
- NGO capacity building
- Co-operation between government and NGO actors
- Provision of assistance to victims of trafficking.

Applications for funding will be judged based on the following criteria:

- are submitted by Roma actors and Roma communities;
- establish and strengthen partnerships between Roma actors and anti-trafficking NGOs or local institutions working to combat trafficking in human beings;
- enhance co-operation between local institutions, communities and NGO actors;
- encourage regional networking and initiatives;
- have a concrete impact and are likely to show longer-term results.

Projects submitted to the Roma ATP Fund should not exceed the amount of 5,000 Euro.

Application Procedures:

NGOs should apply directly to the ODIHR. Applications by E-mail should be sent to jennifer.mitchell@odihr.pl and astrid.ganterer@odihr.pl. Applications by mail should be sent to the ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Programme.

Project proposals should be in the standard ODIHR project proposal format (details available on request). Proposals should clearly state the objective of the project and the expected results (short- and long-term), indicate the local implementing partners and lay out the timeframe for implementation. A detailed budget should be attached, indicating also financial or in kind contributions that local implementing partners contribute to the project.

Submitted projects will be reviewed for eligibility within 30 days after the receipt of the completed project proposal. Standard ODIHR financial and reporting requirements will apply to projects implemented under this Fund. Full details of the financial and reporting guidelines and of the Fund's selection procedures are available on request from Jennifer Mitchell (ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues) and Astrid Ganterer (ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Programme).