**coat net**

## 2006

## MISSION

**COATNET** is an international ecumenical network under the legal authority of **Caritas** EUROPA .

The network provides a space for Christian organisations fighting against human trafficking to learn from each other, deepen their knowledge base and consolidate their resources to ensure an adequate global Christian response to trafficking in human beings.

The **COATNET** website (**www.coatnet.org**) and the internal portal called 'Extranet' continued to be the main communication tools of the network.

'Extranet' was updated with over 170 information notices about the situation of trafficking in the world as well as actions taken by various actors to stem human trafficking. A sixth national sub page, created by French partners, was launched at the website.

Within the four working areas of prevention, assistance, advocacy and networking development, as defined in Caritas Internationalis Commitment Paper "Created in the image of God, treated like slaves…" and transposed into the annual work plan, COATNET implemented the following activities in 2006:
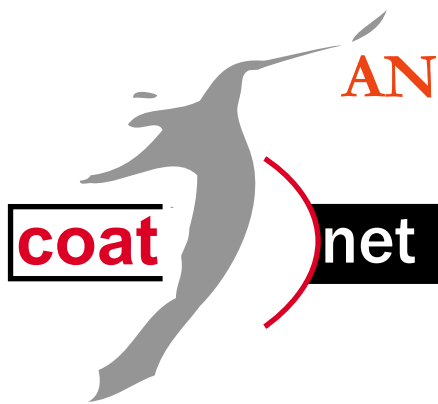
## ASSISTANCE

• The **COATNET** database of Christian and partner organisations that provide assistance to trafficked persons was updated and shared with all interested parties. Currently, the database contains 58 organisations from 28 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East;

• A survey of partners' trans-national cooperation in assistance was carried out and areas for improvement identified;

• An exposure visit to Greece was organised for users to strengthen their trans-national cooperation in assistance.

## PREVENTION

A workshop on prevention organised by **COATNET** in Prague in August 2006 provided an opportunity for the network to discuss good practices in preventing human trafficking and exchange experience in this area with other anti-trafficking organisations in Czech Republic, such as International Organisation for Migration and La Strada.

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Christian Organisations Against Trafficking in Human Beings

## ADVOCACY

**COATNET** promoted the widest possible signature and ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings through:

• Organisation of a seminar at the 4th European Social Forum in Athens in May 2006 that aimed to raise awareness about the Convention and its provisions among the general public;

• Preparation and circulation among member organisations of Caritas Europa, Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe and Conference of European Churches of a letter on the Convention calling the relevant organisations to engage in advocacy activities aiming at the ratification of the Convention by their respective country;

• Organisation of an advocacy workshop in Paris, November 2006, where users shared their experiences on advocacy efforts at national level.

## NETWORKING

The network was joined by 8 new users: Caritas Albania, Caritas Bucharest, Catholic Charities USA, Cordaid, CHASTE, National Council of Churches in Australia/Christian World Service, Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart and Sisters of the Good Samaritans Working against Human Trafficking (Australia), and has grown to include in total 45 users from 30 countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Australia and North America.

Annual Meeting of **COATNET** users, hosted by In Via Berlin on 21-23 September 2006, provided an opportunity for thirty five participants to exchange work experiences and learn from German NGOs and the German Intelligence Police Office. As the outcome of the meeting clear strategic priorities for COATNET future activities were elaborated and methods to foster cooperation within network were suggested.

**COATNET** further developed collaboration with Christian Action and Networking against Trafficking in Women (CAT) – a project of the Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) - and maintained contact and information exchange with various international anti-trafficking networks.

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT COATNET

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