



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**STATE ACTION PLAN
FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
2005-2007**

State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration

January 2005

Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| <i>I Introduction</i> | 3 |
| <i>II Overview of the current situation in the country</i> | 4 |
| 1. Legislative framework | 4 |
| 2. Institutional mechanisms | 6 |
| 3. Short overview of trafficking situation in BiH | 7 |
| <i>III Main purpose of national response to combating trafficking in human beings</i> | 8 |
| Supporting framework | 9 |
| Prevention | 12 |
| Protection of victims and witnesses | 12 |
| Prosecution and international cooperation in criminal matters | 14 |

On the basis of Article V of the Decision on Procedures and Ways of Coordination of Activities for Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Establishment of the Position of National Coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina (“Official Gazette BiH”, number 24/03), the National Coordinator and appointed members of the National Group at the meeting held on 2 March 2005 have agreed:

THE STATE ACTION PLAN FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS 2005-2007

I Introduction

Trafficking in human beings is a global problem, which particularly affects the countries in political and economic transition as well as countries which are undergoing post-war reconstruction. It is a dangerous form of organised crime, whose victims could be man and women, girls and boys. Persons who belong to socially vulnerable categories, in particularly poor countries, want to emigrate to richer countries in search of better living conditions, and thus become easy target of criminal networks which are trafficking human beings. In the entire process of trafficking in human beings, traffickers violate an array of human rights of their victims. They keep them in slavery conditions and steal the money victims earn, whilst at the same time they subject them to serious psychological and physical violence.

In the mid 1990s, trafficking in human beings appeared as a very serious and complex problem in Stability Pact countries, and so it did in Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the fall of communism, women from Central and south-eastern European countries became the biggest group on the human trafficking 'market' in the region, and most often for the purpose of sexual exploitation. When Bosnia and Herzegovina first faced this problem, solving it proved extremely difficult due to non-existence of legal framework which recognised trafficking in human beings as a criminal offence, transnational character of this form of organised crime and generally poor knowledge of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings at that time.

In regards to the problem of trafficking in human beings, Bosnia and Herzegovina was initially assessed as a transit country towards Western Europe, but also as a destination country for women from central and southeastern Europe. The latest indications show that trafficking victims are increasingly citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, meaning that BiH is now also a country of origin. It is also noticeable that trafficking in local victims occurs within the BiH borders.

Even though NGOs and international community initially dealt with the problem of trafficking in human beings in this country, having realised the dangers and complexity of this phenomenon, BiH authorities have taken a very active approach in solving this problem since 2000. They undertook a range of legal, administrative and operative measures of which majority were covered by the first Action Plan from 2001. On the basis of the Decision by Council of Ministers from 2003, the function of State Coordinator was established as well as

the structure for coordination of activities for combating trafficking in human beings.¹ Realisation of programme goals from the first action plan, such as establishment of uniformed state border service, legislation reform on both state and entity levels, as well as activities towards capacity building of relevant professional staff and awareness raising of general public about this problem has led to progress in combating trafficking in human beings, suppression of number of illegal immigration and first results of investigations and sanctioning of traffickers.

Considering progress made and taking into account that majority of measures and activities envisaged by the previous Action plan have been realised, new State Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2005-2007 (hereinafter: Action plan) defines new goals for combating trafficking in human beings for the next three years and develops new programme document with operational content for combating trafficking in human beings for 2005 (and each year thereafter in this period).

These documents maintain the structure of the previous Action plan. However, the structure of this plan has also incorporated elements on the basis of recommendations made by International Centre for Migration Policy Development, which were developed and harmonised at the regional level.

II Overview of the current situation in the country

1. Legislative framework

For successful fight against trafficking in human beings, it is necessary to create appropriate legislative framework, which will enable prosecution and sanctioning of the trafficking in human beings and related crimes as well as offering of assistance and protection of victims and witnesses. Even though there is a broad legislative framework for protection of all human rights, including victims of trafficking in human beings, there are still areas which need to be regulated.

European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which amongst other guarantees the rights of freedom and personal security, prohibits slavery and forced labour, inhuman and degrading treatment, applies directly in BiH and has overriding authority over all other laws.

In December 2000 BiH Delegation signed Stability Pact Declaration against Trafficking in Human Beings and UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its two protocols (Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea). This convention and its two protocols relating to prevention, suppression and punishment of trafficking in people and smuggling of migrants have been ratified in February 2000. In doing

¹ Decision on procedure and manner of coordination of activities on combating trafficking in human beings and illegal migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina and establishment of the function of State Coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina (“BiH Official Gazette”, no. 24/03)

so, BiH authorities undertook obligation to implement the Convention and the two Protocols, which means to criminalize the offence of trafficking and secure protection to victims of trafficking. In that regard, BiH has carried out the necessary legislative reform through enactment of the following legislation:

- BiH Criminal Code
- BiH Criminal Procedure Code
- Law on BiH Court
- Law on BiH Prosecutor's Office
- Law on Protection of Witnesses under Threat and Vulnerable Witnesses
- Law on Program of Witness Protection
- Law on State Investigation and Protection Agency
- Law on State Border Service
- Law on Control and Supervision of State Border
- Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens

and a wide range of other bylaws relating to the implementation of these laws.

In 2003, the process of harmonisation of Criminal Code, which entered into force in 2001, was completed. Criminal offence of trafficking in human beings was defined exclusively in the BiH Criminal Code, under Article 186, whose definition derives from Protocol of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. This means that this criminal offence is exclusively under competency of Court of BiH and BiH Prosecutor's Office.

Article 186 provides that:

“Whoever takes part in the recruitment, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation,”

Article 187 of BiH Criminal Code provides that criminal offence of International Procuring in Prostitution will occur when “whoever procures, entices or leads away another person to offer sexual services for profit within a state excluding the one in which such a person has residence or of which he is a citizen” and when “whoever, by force or threat to use force or deceit, coerces or induces another person to go to the state in which he has no residence or of which he is not a citizen, for the purpose of offering sexual services upon payment”.

Articles 188 and 189 define criminal acts of unlawful withholding of identity papers and smuggling of persons. Finally, it is also important to mention the criminal offence of money laundering as defined by article 209 of the BiH Criminal Code, which is also related to trafficking in human beings, because of the high proceeds traffickers make through this crime and variety of methods they use for money laundering.

All mentioned criminal acts, which relate to trafficking in human beings, within the BiH Criminal Code are in the section of Crimes against humanity and values protected by international law. This has created opportunities for special investigative measures to be ordered for their investigation.

Entity and Brcko District Criminal Codes have not defined these crimes, with the exception of the criminal offence of money laundering. Even though money laundering and incitement to prostitution have been defined as criminal offences by criminal legislation in entities and Brcko District, and other criminal offences which can be related to trafficking offences under

headings of criminal offences against sexual freedom and morality/sexual integrity, non-harmonisation of entity with state legislation is noticeable.

As a result of amendments to criminal legislation, trafficking cases have already been successfully prosecuted in the Court of BiH. When victims were prepared to testify, they were provided with secure accommodation and given status of protected witnesses. Law on Protection of Witnesses under Threat and Vulnerable Witnesses regulates conditions and rights of protected witnesses, including protection of their identity and confidentiality of their statements.

Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum and the Rulebook on Protection of Foreign Victims of Trafficking, regulate entry and residence permits and asylum to foreigners and offer some additional measures on protection for foreign victims of trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also create possibilities for granting of temporary residence permits. Rights such as granting of temporary residence permits are not limited only to trafficking victims, which are willing to take part in criminal proceedings. These rights are extended to all victims of trafficking in need of assistance and rehabilitation.

Rulebook on Protection of Foreign Victims of Trafficking regulates the level of assistance which can be given to trafficking victims. Since the Rulebook is relatively new, assistance to victims to a great extent still depends on non-governmental organisations. Victim repatriation to countries of origin or residence, has been carried out by IOM, and in some cases IOM has offered reintegration assistance to some of the repatriated victims.

The aforementioned laws on State Investigation and Protection Agency, State Border Service, Control and Protection of Borders and Program of witness protection were promulgated in the second half of 2004, and their full implementation will significantly contribute in strengthening the efforts towards efficient fight against trafficking in human beings and protection of victims.

Since Bosnia and Herzegovina has been implementing harmonisation of national legislation with undertaken international obligations at accelerated pace, there is a need to carry out a detailed assessment of the reforms for the purpose of establishing the actual level of aforementioned harmonisation. In case there prove to be any possible deficiencies, it will be necessary to undertake measures towards further harmonisation of national legislation with international standards.

2. Institutional mechanisms

The function of State Coordinator and Strike Force on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings were established by decisions of Council of Ministers. The State Coordinator, who is appointed by the Council of Ministers on the proposal made by the Minister of Security, monitors and coordinates, with the so-called 'State Group', the implementation of measures and activities foreseen by the action plan.

Taking into account that it has been generally accepted that special attention should be focused on trafficking in children, in March 2004, Sub-Group on combating trafficking in children, has been established, which deals specifically with this issue. The State Coordinator

who convenes meeting at least once a month heads both State Group and Subgroup. It is vital to strengthen this cooperation through formalisation of quarterly reporting to the State Coordinator by both of these teams, on activities undertaken in the reporting period.

Even though it has not been formalised, State Coordinator also has a very strong cooperation with Liaison Officers and Strike Force for combating trafficking in human beings, which has been established for the purpose of strengthening of activities at the highest level and includes representatives from the BiH Prosecutor's Office, State Border Service, Financial police.

In the forthcoming period it is necessary to institutionalise the role of State Group in charge of coordination of activities, and extend it to include representatives of the newly formed institutions such as State Investigation and Protection Agency, and also representatives of Ministry of Civil Affairs because of their coordinating competency at the level of BiH, in the areas labour, health and social protection, and education, which is of key importance for implementation of future activities relating to protection and support for victims of trafficking, who are BiH citizens.

State Coordinator also organises meetings which bring together representatives of non-governmental and international organisations. These meetings are a forum for representatives from all these organisations present activities undertaken towards combating trafficking in human beings.

3. Short overview of trafficking situation in BiH

Even though significant progress has been made in 2004, combating trafficking in human beings is a problem which is still very present in this country and will require significant efforts from the competent institutions for combating it successfully. Trafficking in human beings is a form of organized crime, which adjusts to the system through monitoring of the actions undertaken by the authorities. Traffickers use existing problem in BiH, which are lack of coordination of law enforcement agencies, corrupt and/or unskilled officials, insufficient knowledge on the existing mechanisms of protection and referral of victims, unstandardised mechanism for data collection and limited monitoring of developments in this field. Since trafficking in human beings is not as evident as it was in the previous years, and the number of registered cases by police, prosecutors and NGOs is far lower than before, that unfortunately does not mean that this problem is under control. It is noticeable that traffickers have changed the *modus operandi*. Available data show that the most widespread form of trafficking in human beings in BiH, for the purpose of sexual exploitation, is increasingly being carried out in private houses and apartments, and victims are being 'ordered' over the phone and 'hired' for a set period of time. In comparison to police raids, which recently used to be common, due to better cover up of these activities, it is much harder to break the chains of human trafficking. Particularly alarming are the indications that BiH victims of trafficking are on the increase. It is also important to note that entry into BiH of foreign women, from high risk countries in regards to trafficking in human beings (Ukraine, Moldova, Romania) has gone up, probably through, most likely, 'fake' marriages with BiH citizens. One can only assume, that foreign women who enter into marriages with BiH citizens they did not know from before, end up as trafficking victims.

The problem of child begging and persons with special needs, as a very common problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and as a form of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of forced labour is still inadequately unresearched.

At this moment, Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have detailed and verifiable data on the extent of the problem of trafficking in human beings on its territory due to non-existence of an adequate reporting mechanism on registered cases of identification of victims of trafficking. That is why in the upcoming period, particular attention will be paid towards establishment of system of reporting which will enable collection and analysis of relevant data.

III Main purpose of national response to combating trafficking in human beings

Anti-trafficking response, which incorporates all available structures of the government in Bosnia and Herzegovina at all levels, requires high and specific level of coordination, cooperation of all actors involved in this process. Adequate response entails establishment of general principles – guidelines for action, primarily all of the competent government structures, but also of the civil society.

Joint action is based on:

a) Principle of human rights:

Increase in number of women and children who are victims of inhuman conditions, placed in slavery-like conditions, subject to psychological, physical and sexual treatment for profit gains and reducing of human being to the level of commodity, goods to be paid for a price, are good enough reasons for action of any democratic society, since trafficking in human beings most certainly represents most serious violation of human rights.

b) Participation and responsibilities of the authorities:

The states are not only obliged not to violate rights of its citizens, but they also have a responsibility to create conditions in which all individuals will be able to realise their human rights. That is why this action plan is based on fundamental principles of protection of human rights and freedoms. Fight against organised crime is also an essential element of this strategy. Efficient strategy is being combined through implementation of different activities at all levels of authorities, such as strengthening of border control and removing of root causes of illegal migration through cooperation with countries of origin and countries of destination.

c) Interdisciplinary and multisectoral approach:

Trafficking in human beings is a complex problem and tackling it involves having well coordinated, interdisciplinary and international approach, which involves legal and other measures in the areas of prevention, protection of victims and witnesses, prosecution and strengthening of international cooperation, and which includes, and which includes all the relevant actors (local authorities, non-governmental and international organisations).

d) Principle of non-discrimination:

Trafficking in human beings is related to gender discrimination, it includes migration of the minorities and other vulnerable groups, which expands through the organised criminal networks, through violation of human rights of victims, besides the cause whose root lies in economic discrimination of certain groups, restrictive migration policies and discrimination of women and considerable number of prejudices related to the sex industry.

e) Principle of inclusion of civil society:

Civil society and raising of public awareness about how widespread the problem of trafficking is, are of particular significance. Contribution of civil society in BiH has a vital role in implementation of certain activities relating to trafficking in human beings. Participation of civil society to date has enabled all structures of governance in BiH, particularly local, to count on their support on the condition that there is a model for cooperation and way for joint development and implementation of the State Action plan.

f) Principle of sustainability:

Programme planning which are based on realistic plans and financial sources is a basic model which is further supplemented through other possible sources of finances, first and foremost confiscation of illegally gained assets and accumulation of all available financial resources and better coordination of activities through better connecting of activities arising out of other action plans in BiH.

In line with set principles and guidelines, State Action plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005–2007 further develops supporting framework which will enable adequate response to the problem of trafficking through action in following areas:

- Prevention
- Protection and support to victims and witnesses
- Prosecution and international cooperation.

Supporting framework

1. Creation of institutional framework which enables full cooperation of all the actors involved in activities being implemented in fight against trafficking is a vital first step which will allow for further successful activities of BiH in this field.

2. Legal and regulatory framework identifies which legal reforms are needed for national legislation is harmonised with undertaken international obligations (clear definition of trafficking in human beings and related crimes as criminal offence, introduction of separate provisions which treat people smuggling, criminalisation of all practices that fall under definition of trafficking in human beings, such as bondage debt, forced labour and forced prostitution and special provisions relating to child trafficking and administrative controls).

It is necessary to undertake legal reforms also in the areas of **prevention which involves:**

- amendments to the regulations relating to education, for the purpose of inclusion of the relevant content in the school curriculum

- amendments to the regulations in areas of health, social protection, police, judiciary, prosecution, State Border Service, immigration services, officials in diplomatic and consular missions for the purpose of introduction of compulsory education, exchange of information and joint education of all other government officials who work in this area;
- creation of programmes which deal with discrimination issues and gender based violence.

For legislative reforms in areas of protection it is necessary to:

- amendments to the regulation on protection of foreign victims of trafficking in human beings;
- development of programmes for protection of vulnerable witnesses and witnesses under threat and provision of required assistance;
- amendments to the regulation dealing with health and social protection of victims of trafficking;
- amendments to the regulation in regards to data protection of victims of trafficking;
- creation of new regulation on protection of local victims of trafficking;
- creation of operating procedures for courts, which will regulate treatment of protected witnesses, at all levels of competence.

In areas of prosecution, it is necessary to undertake the following:

- create new regulation on legal aid assistance;
- amend regulations dealing with seizure of illegally obtained assets;
- create regulation relating to victim compensation;
- establish Fund for assisting all actors involved in trafficking in human beings;
- harmonise national criminal legislation with international documents;
- harmonise entity and state Criminal Codes and Criminal Procedure Code in relation to the definition of the criminal act, sanctions and special investigative measures.

Capacity building, which includes:

- securing of expert, technical, financial resources within the competent ministries which are involved in implementation of activities relating to combat of trafficking;
- in Ministry of Security, strengthening of specialised sectors within State Investigation and Protection Agency, Foreigners' departments, Departments for Immigration and Asylum.
- in Ministry of Foreign Affairs, strengthening of Consular sector, and in particular of those departments in source countries of trafficking victims and opening of consular offices in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine;
- in Ministry of Civil Affairs, strengthening of education, health, social protection and labour sectors;
- in Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, strengthening and specialisation of expert staff and department for protection of local victims of trafficking;
- establishment of expert and technical resources within specialised departments of courts and prosecutors' offices;
- establishment of expert and technical resources within specialised departments of Ministries of Interior;
- establishment of expert and technical resources within institutions in charge of financial investigation - Financial Police and Tax Office;
- strengthening of Social Welfare Centres at the local level;

- explore ways of cooperation with the Registry Offices, Employment bureaux, and offices for labour, health and sanitary inspection;
- education and training for competent personnel from the relevant ministries, in the framework of education programme which is based and is being further, continuously developed as a joint model.

Information management means establishment of a centralised model for data collection and analysis which will make all the relevant information available to all of the actors involved in combating trafficking in human beings, as well as accurate reporting to the Council of Ministers, State Coordinator, competent international organisations and general public about trafficking in human beings.

Suggested model requires definition of information which should be collected, methods of data collection, information exchange, identification of reporting units, that is ensuring that all the data is regularly updated and exchanged by all the competent institutions and non governmental organisations involved in partnerships with governmental institutions.

Resource and budget mobilisation

For sustainable anti-trafficking response to trafficking in human beings, a detailed plan on necessary resources, which would ensure implementation of the State action plan and operative plan is needed. This action plan defines the following operative goals:

- Draft detailed plan of required resources (financial, personnel and technical equipment) and plan on how to mobilise them.
- Within the framework of the competent ministries, ascertain available resources dedicated to specific activities, which are a direct support for the implementation of activities relating to trafficking in human beings.
- Establish a plan of periodic reporting for the purpose of data and information exchange about the levels of planned and spent resources, whether they are for direct or indirect support of implementation of activities as part of the efforts in combating trafficking in human beings.
- Establish a plan of reporting for the non-governmental organisations, which are included in implementation of activities in the fight against trafficking in human beings about planned and undertaken projects which will also include details on spent resources.
- Ensure additional resources for implementation of the action plan from the international donors.

Review, monitoring and evaluation

Regular review of the action plan is vital in measuring success of the anti trafficking response, and to enable regular amendments of the State Action Plan as the need arises and based on the current situation. It is therefore necessary to ensure:

- Regular and systematic data collection. State Coordinator and institutionalised State Group are responsible for monitoring and process of evaluation of the implementation of the Action plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Regular evaluation of all activities covered by the action plan.

In this process, funds from international and non-governmental organisations will be used on as the need arises.

Prevention

For a successful response to trafficking, it is equally important to set up an efficient system of prevention:

1. Awareness raising about the phenomenon, as well as risks, is one of the goals of the action plan. As part of the lasting process of awareness raising, it is necessary to adapt the public campaigns to different target groups, which are in the first place, vulnerable groups, potential clients, media who are reporting about this problem, as well as all the other actors involved in its prevention. Within the framework of preventive activities, it is necessary to promote possibilities of legal migration to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Reduction of vulnerability: since, according to available data, the local victims of trafficking are on the increase in BiH, one of the goals is reduction of vulnerability through inclusion of teaching material into the school curriculum which will warn the young people on time about trafficking in human beings – methods of recruitment by the criminal networks, links to drug addiction and consequences of sexually transmitted diseases.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there have already been several campaigns for the purpose of awareness raising. Poster campaign organised by the State Coordinator in cooperation with OSCE, SFOR, EUPM, IOM and NGOs ‘Lara’ and ‘La Strada’, under the title ‘Stop the chain of human trafficking’ is aimed at law enforcement agencies working on prevention of trafficking in human beings. Besides this one, there are several other campaigns in the country, mainly from the NGOs which are aimed at the trafficking victims, general public and potential clients.

Currently, a big awareness raising campaign, which was planned from the beginning with the State Coordinator is currently being implemented by the IOM. The campaign is being implemented through promotional leaflets, TV spot, billboards and at the moment, a half an hour documentary is at the preparatory stage. Implementation of the campaign is foreseen in the upcoming period.

The State Coordinator, State Group and the Sub-group for combating trafficking in children, will also actively participate at various round tables, seminars and workshops relating to trafficking in human beings.

Protection of victims and witnesses

Victim identification

With the aim of victim identification, it is necessary to develop practical manual for those officers who would be in a position to identify the victim on the basis of the empirical method, which would ensure early victim identification.

The manual should include practical instructions aimed at the police, prosecutors, immigration, border and consular officials, social and health workers, labour inspectors, specialised school staff (pedagogues and psychologists), non-governmental organisations.

Victim referral system

Victim referral system for foreign victims of trafficking is already in place. Referral system for local, BiH, victims is yet to be established. A separate system for referral of child victims of trafficking should also be set up.

In the process of realisation of activities relating to referral of victims, it is important to develop a mechanism for teamwork and approach to victims. In order to ensure support and protection to all victims of trafficking through an all encompassing approach based on human rights and is focused on the victim, it is necessary to set up and implement effective, national and regional systems of support and protection for trafficking victims in the form of institutionalised and cooperative frameworks.

Such institutionalised and cooperative frameworks of support and protection for victims need to be focused on process of management of individual cases/victims of trafficking in human beings and have to cover complete response to the victims who have been trafficked – from identification, assistance and protection, aid in legal proceedings and compensation until repatriation and/or social integration of victims in countries of destination, origin or some other country.

System should be institutionalised and should formalise cooperation between all the actors involved, so that it clearly defines their roles and competencies (government and civil society) but it will also set out manners of the cooperation so that in the whole process adequate support, based on the principle of human rights would be ensured, as well as referral of victims to specialised services, protection and support in repatriation and/or (re) integration. In order to respond to different circumstances and needs of each individual victim, the system has to be flexible, it has to adapt to the new trends and it should continually be amended and improved through monitoring and review.

For these systems of support and assistance to victims, to function, different measures mentioned in the chapter of Supporting framework should be introduced:

- Overview of the trafficking situation, profile of traffickers, review of legislative framework, a list of all the main actors involved in trafficking response and their tasks
- Establishment and institutionalisation of cooperation of all the actors involved, including creation of all of the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks, such as regulation of the roles and cooperation between law enforcement agencies, other state actors and NGOs (e.g. through Memoranda of Understanding).
- Education and capacity building of all the actors included in the system of support and protection of victims or referral system, and finally
- Monitoring, evaluation and review of the system.

Social support and protection of victims

It is necessary to develop and improve existing system of social support and protection to the trafficking victims, who are citizens of BiH, which would enable their detraumatization and resocialisation.

Fundamental programme goal relates to:

- securing of accommodation capacities,
- psychosocial counselling and support,
- health protection,
- free legal aid and advice, education,
- possibilities of training and employment of trafficking victims, who are BiH citizens.

When it comes to local trafficking victims, it is necessary to improve the existing forms of social protection, through the following activities:

- identification of the existing forms of protection and their further development
- identification of resources of the social welfare centres
- exploration of financial resources within the competent institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Protection of witnesses and treatment of victim witnesses by the court

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska have all passed Laws on Protection of witnesses under threat and vulnerable witnesses, and only at the state level, the Law on Programme of Protection of witnesses has also been enacted. Implementation of the said laws is currently difficult due to a lack of technical, expert and financial resources.

In order to ensure implementation of the law and efficient protection of witnesses, it is necessary to develop technical and expert capacities and secure financial resources for this purpose, and primarily compete establishment of Witness protection unit within State Investigation and Protection Agency. In this process, it is vital to ensure multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach, which will include a team of social workers, health workers, psychologists, neuropsychiatrists and representatives of non-governmental organisations.

Repatriation, reintegration and integration

For the purpose of finding most adequate methods for successful repatriation and reintegration of trafficking victims, it is necessary to work on establishing cooperation with countries of origin of victims through signing of bilateral agreement, which will create conditions for safe and sustainable repatriation and reintegration, and possibly integration.

It is also necessary to find adequate mechanism for protection of trafficking victims, citizens of BiH, whether they are repatriated from other countries or trafficked within BiH.

Prosecution and international cooperation in criminal matters

Bosnia and Herzegovina has developed a legal framework, which enables efficient prosecution of traffickers, but there is still a need to work on development of technical and expert resources, as well as cooperation between law enforcement agencies and prosecution. Therefore, it is necessary to continue with undertaking of those activities, which create conditions for setting up of mechanism for enhancement of international cooperation between law enforcement agencies at regional and international levels.

With the aim of reducing corruption, it is necessary to undertake activities towards signing and ratification of the UN Convention against corruption and harmonise national legislation thereafter.

Due to transnational character of this form of organised crime, strengthening of cooperation and exchange of information at the international level is necessary. Bosnia and Herzegovina is actively involved in international and regional initiatives in this field.

The State Coordinator and the State Group participate in significant number of seminars and conferences at the international level, while regular cooperation with international organisations, such as INTERPOL and SECI Centre.