

2004 In Review: Message from the Chief of Mission

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Jeffrey Labovitz
Chief of Mission

IOM Ukraine experienced a satisfying and tremendous year of program growth, as well as increased cooperation with different Ukrainian governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the recipients of our various programmes. We will capitalize on these advances in the coming year with new projects and alliances as well as continue to build upon our existing capacity, work and partnerships.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

During 2004, the IOM Ukraine Capacity Building of Migration Management Programme (CBMMP) developed its future migration management approach and organized several events. CBMMP also commissioned two research reports, entitled "Analysis of Migration Situation in Ukraine: at the Base of State Statistics and Agency-specific Statistical Data, 2002-2003," and "Foreign Labour Migration in Ukraine: Socio-Economic Aspect," and both are available in Ukrainian and English.

In April 2004, IOM Ukraine cooperated with the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine and facilitated the international conference "The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine: Step by Step towards European Standards." 100 representatives from 30 countries participated, which confirmed the interest of the international community to build the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine capacity through cooperation, legislative reforms, and technical support reflecting EU standards.

In September 2004, IOM Ukraine hosted 7 Belgian Senators as part of a study tour organized by the Belgian Commission of Interior. This networking exchange will continue through a project funded by the Government of Belgium, "Enhancing Migration Management and Combating Illegal Migration from and through Ukraine," in partnership with IOM Brussels.

In October 2004, IOM Ukraine began the project "Assisted Voluntary Return of Unsuccessful Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants," funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). As part of this project, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began to refer unsuccessful asylum seekers to IOM Ukraine for return to their country of origin.

Over the course of 2004, IOM Ukraine concentrated on assisting the Ukrainian government in migration management through the project "Capacity Building in Migration Management: Ukraine," funded by the 2003 Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) National Action Programme. This project supported the Ukrainian government as it restructured its migration management policies and tactics to better manage migration flows and control the illegal movement of migrants to and through the territory of Ukraine. By addressing needs, carrying out various capacity building actions, the project intends to reduce irregular migration from Ukraine and promote proper treatment of irregular migrants within the territory of Ukraine. Project activities will begin March 1 2005.

In the near future, IOM will begin a project to design and implement a sustainable training program for officers at the SBGS of Ukraine Academy in order to address gaps in Ukraine's border protection and monitoring. IOM will first train the trainers for SBGS, Ministry of Interior, Security Service and State Customs Service at the SBGS Academy to ensure sustainability of the module programs and also provide equipment related to the training.

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMME

In 2004, the IOM Ukraine Counter-Trafficking Programme experienced a year filled with tremendous growth in all three counter-trafficking components, i.e. prevention, prosecution and criminalization as well as return and reintegration.

This is timely work, as a nationwide survey conducted by IOM Ukraine about Ukrainians' understanding of trafficking showed that while 99% of respondents had a clear understanding of the phenomenon, only 20% believed themselves to be at risk if they were to go abroad to work or study. Furthermore, only 20% had even a basic understanding of how to protect themselves from being trafficked when going abroad, and while 78% want to learn more about this subject, they do not know where to get such information.

The counter-trafficking programme was awarded a 2-year project by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which will strengthen Ukraine's response to trafficking. In addition, IOM Ukraine continues to work on major counter-trafficking initiatives funded by the European Union and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

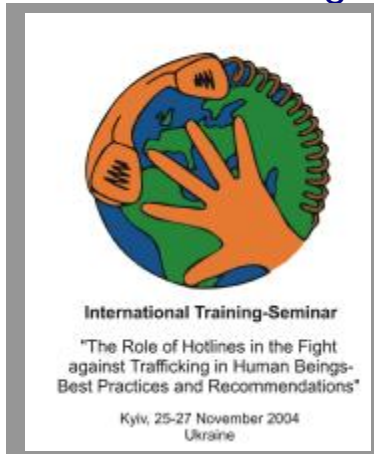
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RECENT EVENTS

Hotlines Training Seminar



In cooperation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, IOM Ukraine conducted a training-seminar for counter-trafficking hotline operators from countries of origin, transit and destination in November 2004, under the framework of the project *Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Ukraine*, financed by the European Union.

A major training seminar objective was to establish a network of NGOs and other institutions running counter-

trafficking hotlines in countries of origin, transit and destination for trafficked persons and the networking opportunity provided by the training as well as the sessions' subjects furthered this goal. In addition, the training seminar provided participants with relevant information such as identification of victims; national referral mechanisms, cooperation of civil society with law enforcement agencies, as well as to analyze advertising strategies and campaigns of hotlines.

Participants included representatives from Ukrainian NGOs and from more than 35 countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Bulgaria, Japan, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Armenia, Finland, and Kazakhstan, among others.

In addition, representatives from the Ministry of Family and Youth Affairs of Ukraine, IOM Ukraine, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also participated.

Representatives from over 10 countries of origin, transit and destination presented information about their countries' and organizations' experiences in operating counter-trafficking hotlines, and these presentations generated a great deal of discussion among the participants, as well as a deep exchange of information about how to cooperate in the future.

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING TRAINING IN FRANCE

The third and final training workshop for law enforcement officers, NGOs and IGOs in fighting human trafficking took place in Nanterre, France. The two previous ones were held in Italy and Albania.

Part of the European Commission Directorate General Justice and Home Affairs' AGIS programme, implemented jointly with IOM, the series of workshops, were destined at sharing best practices with all organisms involved in fighting trafficking in EU accession countries and countries that border the enlarged

Officers of the State Security Service and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Counter-Trafficking Unit, an NGO representative, and a IOM Ukraine Counter-Trafficking staff member represented Ukraine at the training and IOM Belarus was represented by MoI, Supreme Court and General Prosecutors Office.

The agenda of the third seminar, as well as the first two in Italy and Albania, was divided into three modules: identification and treatment of the victims of trafficking, cooperation between law enforcement, government and non-government organizations, and witness protection. Law enforcement officers, NGO and IGO workers, together with experts, could summarize the discussion into a series of recommendation, that will soon appear in a practical manual.

Ukrainian Law Enforcement Training Series – Final Workshop



On 11-12 November 2004, Ternopil hosted a seminar for law enforcement officials who work on combating trafficking in human beings.

This seminar is the last of 5 regional seminars, conducted by IOM Ukraine as part of the *Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Ukraine* project, funded by European Commission. Previous events, conducted in Odessa, Kyiv, Luhansk, and Dnipropetrovsk, allowed law enforcement officers to exchange best practices in investigation, documentation and prosecution of criminal cases under the article 149 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine on human trafficking.

The Ternopil seminar gathered operational officers of counter-trafficking units, investigators, prosecutors, and judges from Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Volyn, Ternopil and Rivne regions. The seminar was also attended by an operative officer, an investigator and two judges from Luhansk city. Luhansk representatives presented their best practices in investigating criminal cases on trafficking. The Luhansk region is the leader in Ukraine for prosecuting crimes connected to counter trafficking. By the end of 2004, 25 criminal cases concerning 31 crimes that are covered by the 149 article were in progress.

Among the experts present at the seminar was Ukrainian Supreme Court Judge Ye. Strekalov, a leading specialist on legal aspects of human trafficking, and who participated in the elaboration of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The participants of the conference discussed a wide range of issues concerning investigation, documentation and prosecution of crimes related to trafficking in human beings. The participants focused on analyzing the practice of investigation of real criminal cases, devoting much attention to specific problems that can appear during investigation, documentation and prosecution of such crimes. Another question of interest addressed was the discussion of motives of prolongation or closure of criminal cases under article 6 of the Criminal Code, and ways of preventing this from happening. Participants discovered that the problems encountered by law enforcement bodies combating trafficking are of similar nature in all regions across Ukraine. These problems were later summarized in a series of recommendations on further development of Ukrainian legislation and the improvement of practice of its application for investigation, documentation and prosecution of crimes related to trafficking in human beings. These recommendations will be given to the Ministry of Interior, as well as oblast level Ministry of Interior departments.

HIV/AIDS Management for Victims of Trafficking Workshop

In November 2004 a 2 day workshop on HIV/AIDS management for victims of trafficking was held in Odesa.

The workshop was organized by the Odessa based NGO "Faith, Hope & Love." IOM Ukraine assisted in the development of the workshop agenda and in providing facilitators. The main objective of the workshop was to improve the quality of care and services for victims of trafficking especially in the field of HIV/AIDS care and management for victims of trafficking.

Representatives of 19 NGOs that are part of the IOM Ukraine NGO network that provide return and reintegration services for victims of trafficking in Ukraine, attended the workshop.

Senior medical staff of the Kyiv city and Odessa HIV/AIDS centre, the regional HIV/AIDS representative of USAID, a representative of 'Live+', the Odessa based NGO of people

living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) and staff from the NGO 'Faith, Hope, Love' and IOM Ukraine acted as facilitators

Participants showed a great deal of interest in the topics and who were thankful to have the opportunity to improve their knowledge about HIV/AIDS and victims of trafficking. Presentations were followed by lively discussions, interesting questions and honestly shared experiences. At the end of the workshop the topics taught during the workshop were practiced in an exercise.

The workshop evaluation confirmed that this initiative was very much appreciated by the participants. The topics taught at the workshop were appraised by the participants as very helpful for improving the services provided by the NGOs for victims of trafficking. Participants also expressed their wishes to organize initiatives to improve their knowledge on medical issues and management of victims of trafficking on a more frequent basis.

THE SÖDERKÖPING PROCESS – 2005 Prospective

The Söderköping process was launched in 2001 to deal with the then-upcoming expansion of the European Union (EU), in regards to migration issues along the eastern border of an expanded EU. The Swedish Migration Board started this initiative in 2001, and the first high-level meeting was held in the Swedish town of Söderköping, which gave its name to the project. The European Commission (EC) showed its commitment to the idea by financing the project, which is implemented by IOM and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The main focus of the Söderköping process is to promote a dialogue on

asylum and irregular migration problems between the representatives of 10 countries: Belarus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The most urgent issues of common interest are brought to discussion on meetings between the high-level officials from border, migration and asylum management bodies. The overall direction and steering of the process is accomplished at the senior level meetings. In 2003 the process acquired a new span with the establishment of the Secretariat, located in Kiev, which coordinates the Söderköping process and looking for new ways to expand it.

2005 will be dense with events related to the Söderköping process. With two thematic workshops and one senior level meeting, cross-border cooperation between member countries will advance compared to previous years.

The upcoming event of the Söderköping process is the first of the 2 workshops, scheduled for 2005. It will take place in Kyiv in February and will be devoted to discussion of Reception and Detention Regimes. It will gather representatives of all 10 Söderköping process countries: border, migration and asylum management officials, and NGO representatives. Participation of international experts is also expected.

TAJIK DELEGATION NETWORKING VISIT

A delegation from Tajikistan made a networking visit to Ukraine to share and gather experience on combating trafficking in human beings.

The delegation consisted of representatives of the Ministry of Interior of Tajikistan, a representative of the Academy of the MOI of Tajikistan, investigators, prosecutors, a judge, a representative of an NGO and a representative of IOM Tajikistan.

After arriving in Kyiv, they met with IOM Ukraine counter-trafficking programme staff, the head of the counter-trafficking unit of the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine, the representatives of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, a representative of the General Prosecutors Academy, as well as several officials from the State Security Service. They also met with the members of the IOM Medical Rehabilitation Center staff to discuss mechanisms of helping the victims of trafficking in rehabilitation and reintegration.

The delegation then went to the southern city of Odessa, where they were hosted by the NGO "Faith, Hope, Love." They conducted meetings with the head of the regional counter-trafficking unit, local State Security Service officers, and a representative of the Ukrainian General Prosecutor's office.

A main goal of the visit and meetings with Ukrainian law enforcement officials was to gather experience about the best practices in investigation of trafficking crimes, to get to know Ukrainian counter-trafficking legal system and to develop the working contacts with Ukrainian law enforcement.

Awareness Raising for Religious Leaders

As a follow-up to the workshop held by IOM on 17 February 2004 titled, "Training the Trainers: Awareness Raising of Trafficking in Persons" specifically geared towards engaging the religious community, IOM Ukraine conducted a review of the training module that was developed as a direct result of the previous workshop. The purpose of the review was to get feedback on the effectiveness of the training module. 14 participants attended that represented 10 different professions of faith.

The focus of the training which is conducted under the framework of the "Countering Trafficking in Persons in Ukraine" project funded by USAID, is to inform and equip; to inform about the problem of trafficking in persons and to equip the religious community to become actively involved in both prevention and reintegration activities. Participants are provided with helpful information, including the training lesson plan that can be used by training participants to facilitate further future trainings within their own institutions.

This lesson plan incorporates materials that are user-friendly in order to facilitate their re-use by any religious institution in its own "in-house" workshop.

As the religious community plays a critical role in society and may offer an invaluable contribution to the overall counter-trafficking strategy in Ukraine, IOM is pleased to be able to develop this training.

IOM Ukraine's Humanitarian and Social Programmes

For the period of 9-13 December 2004 the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Ukraine held the 2nd annual International Human Rights Film Festival. The Festival was financed in part by IOM, in addition to several UN agencies, as well as private businesses operating in Ukraine.

In the framework of this Festival IOM Ukraine HSP took part in a public forum devoted to the issue of Roma population in Ukraine under the festival theme, vulnerable groups. Two Roma IOM partner NGOs, "Ame Roma" from Zolotonosha and "Ekgipe" from Uzhgorod were invited to facilitate a discussion during the Forum after screening 3 documentary films on the above topic.

Among participants of the discussion there were representatives of other Ukrainian Roma NGOs and interested people. The main issues discussed were about the hardships Roma face in Ukraine nowadays and ways of providing a solution to this situation.

According to Aladar Adam, of Ekgipe NGO, discrimination against the Roma population in Ukraine is rather high. Even children at school can feel different attitude from the direction of teachers and other non-Roma students.

On the other hand, so-called Roma schools where only Roma children can go have very low level of education. As the unemployment rate in Ukraine is rather high, semi-literate Roma people experience real difficulties to find well-paid jobs. As a result, they are not able to provide for their families. In the opinion of most of the Roma leaders only high-quality education for young Roma can help overcome the stigma attached to their nation in Ukraine.



"Cooperation of Non-Governmental, International and Governmental Organizations in Combating and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings" Seminar in Belarus

A 2-day seminar, "Cooperation of Non-Governmental, International and Governmental Organizations in the Field of Combating and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings" was conducted in December 2004 in Mogilev, Belarus. It was organized by IOM Belarus in partnership with the Belarusian Red Cross Society within the framework of the project, *Combating Trafficking in Women: Belarus. Prosecution, Criminalization, Protection and Reintegration Assistance*, funded by the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The seminar was designed to raise awareness among the local NGO representatives about the phenomenon of

Micro-Enterprise Trainings

As part of the Micro-Enterprise Project, funded by the European Commission, designed to empower victims of trafficking to start their own businesses, IOM Ukraine representatives visited and conducted business counseling sessions with participants from the program. The purpose of the site visits to Ternopil, Vinnitsia and L'viv was two-fold: to assist and further develop the participants' business

trafficking in human beings in general, its consequences and also victim identification and reintegration assistance. It brought together 90 representatives from NGOs, together with Red Cross district organizations from Mogilev, Gomel and Vitebsk regions and governmental bodies, including the MoI, GPO, and the Executive Committees. All participants received a package of relevant materials. The movies "Lilia 4ever" and "Elka's Dream," which was shot within EC/UNDP Project "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Belarus," were screened during the seminar.

This seminar will be followed by a series of other regional seminars targeting Red Cross district organizations.

ideas and to model the how to conduct business counseling to participants for NGOs to increase their capacity and experience in this area. IOM Ukraine representatives met with over 30 participants out the program as well as the NGO trainers and business consultants. At the end of the trip, a "lessons learned" session was conducted with the NGOs to see how the program could be improved and how they could further support the participants in this project. A target goal is to initiate 50 micro-enterprises. With the support of the EC, non-cash grants will be awarded to businesses deemed viable.

2004 In Review – IOM Ukraine Report

Within these projects special consideration has been given by IOM Ukraine to the creation of an effective referral system in Ukraine in cooperation with its NGO partners. Within this system, IOM Ukraine is currently working with and providing support to some 25 partner NGOs nationwide.

These NGOs provide direct assistance to victims of trafficking, such as medical and psychological assistance, vocational trainings, micro-enterprise grants, educational grants, housing allowances and legal assistance. After receiving direct assistance, victims of trafficking have a nearly 90% occupational rate and less than 3% of these people returned abroad in 2003. This system has provided assistance to a progressively increasing caseload, due to more effective identification and referral mechanisms, a system that to date has provided assistance to more than 1700 individuals.

In regards to criminalization and prosecution, the Ukrainian law enforcement response to trafficking continues to meet high international standards. With IOM Ukraine support, Ukrainian officials have participated in over 10 networking visits to various European countries in order to share experiences and develop contacts with counterparts, equipment provided, and specific law enforcement trainings conducted. Since the approval of the counter-trafficking legislative provisions in 1998, and with the operations of the newly established specialized counter-trafficking service, there has been a progressive increase in the number of criminal cases filed from 2 in 1998, to 289 in 2003. This development has continued in 2004 and as of 31 October 2004 there have already been 241 cases filed in 2004, bringing the total number of cases filed to date to 845 cases.

On the prevention front, IOM Ukraine continues to fund and provide training for seven regional hotlines and works in partnership to fund a national, toll-free hotline. Under the USAID project, an innovative training for religious leaders has been launched, and a nationwide information campaign in being developed for deployment in February 2005. IOM Ukraine has supported partner NGOs' prevention efforts by providing grants for such projects as journalists trainings, workshops in schools and universities,

as well as many forms of outreach to vulnerable groups.

HUMANITARIAN SERVICES PROGRAMME

During 2004, the IOM Ukraine Humanitarian Services Programme (HSP) continued to implement its ongoing projects and launch new ones to assist elderly and needy Roma and victims of Holocaust who reside in Ukraine and Belarus. HSP cooperated primarily with local, community-based Roma NGOs with established access to target Roma communities. To date, more than 8,733 HSP destitute beneficiaries throughout Ukraine and 1,806 from Belarus have been provided with humanitarian and social assistance, including food packages and hygienic supplies, winter in the form of coal/firewood, and house fixing, medical, and legal support.

MIGRATION HEALTH SERVICES

In 2004, the main activities of Medical Health Services (MHS) were migration health assessments for migrants to the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand under refugee and self-paying programmes. By end of 2004, MHS will have processed 11,000 migrants. In addition, MHS supports the ongoing migration health activities of IOM Moldova MHS. In 2004, IOM Moldova MHS will process 1200 migrants with medical screening.

In addition to medical screening, IOM Ukraine MHS provides health care for victims of trafficking who are provided return and reintegration services by IOM Ukraine. In addition, MHS together with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is conducting a research project titled, "Health of Trafficked Women and Adolescents in Service Settings."

MHS also has been actively engaged in awareness raising, prevention and capacity building projects on communicable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis by targeting outreach activities to different groups of mobile populations.

MHS also represents IOM Ukraine in the UN theme group against HIV/AIDS covering area of mobile population groups.

In addition, IOM Ukraine MHS and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) are

cooperating in the joint project, "Capacity Building on HIV/AIDS Awareness, Prevention and Counselling for the Victims of Trafficking and Migrants in Ukraine."

OPERATIONS

In 2004, the biggest IOM Ukraine migration management program was the United State Refugee Program (USRP). By the end of 2004, approximately 2800 people will have departed for the US under this program.

During this year there were 2 interviews, or circuit rides, of UNHCR refugees by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officers in Kyiv. As a result of these circuit rides, a total of 41 people received refugee status. After receiving this status, these people were given cultural orientation and medical examinations in preparation for their journey to a new life in the US.

At meetings with UNHCR, IOM Ukraine discussed the results of the second circuit ride and as a result a review of some cases denied during the 2 circuit rides will be conducted in 2005. UNHCR pledged to prepare 25-30 cases in the first quarter of 2005.

IOM Ukraine also upgraded and adjusted equipment and standards to meet new technical standards for providing photos for U.S. immigrations forms.

Moreover, IOM Ukraine assisted 138 people as part of the U.S. self-payer programme and approximately 55 additional people were provided assistance in arranging their immigration to countries such as Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Ireland.

In addition, Operations is working with UNHCR and IOM Ukraine CBMMP on the project "Assisted Voluntary Return of Unsuccessful Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants," as well as in 2005, Operations will implement a New Zealand Immigration Service (NZIS) pilot project that will provide similar services to potential migrants as under USRP.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM IOM
UKRAINE – MAY THE NEW YEAR
BRING PEACE FOR ALL AND
INCREASED SUPPORT FOR THE
PEOPLE WE WORK TO ASSIST.**



IOM Ukraine bids farewell to Olga Begchenkova, who has worked with IOM Ukraine since 1998 in the finance section.

Olga is moving to Moscow.

Olga's departure is a sad moment for her colleagues here, but we all wish her a successful transition to life in Moscow and hope that she'll back come to Kyiv to visit often.

IOM Ukraine wishes Olga continued success and happiness in her work and life.

MEETING BETWEEN UKRAINIAN SUPREME COURT JUSTICE AND TACIS

On the 25th of October 2004, Supreme Court Justice Ye. Strekalov met V. Mudruk, Tacis monitoring program expert, to discuss the progress of the counter-trafficking project in Ukraine, of which IOM is a partner.

The aim of monitoring is to make sure that the taxpayers' money actually benefits the country where they are being used. Experts, applying a standard procedure to every country, monitor how the projects are implemented, and if they yield real results and not remain just signatures on paper.

The topics discussed at the meeting concerned the role of Ukrainian Supreme Court in combating trafficking in human beings, and, in general, the advances of the Ukrainian legal system.

According to Ye. Strekalov, the judicial system of Ukraine has made considerable progress in the past few

years. Ukraine has become part to the UN Convention against transnational organized crime. The new criminal Code, adopted in 2001 includes an article on human trafficking, and since its adoption 142 people have been condemned, and 145 more criminal cases are being tried. International experts stated that the Ukrainian legislation is one of the most advanced in covering counter trafficking issues.

The Justice noted the important role of the IOM Ukraine in helping to increase the capacity of the Ukrainian state to prosecute human trafficking, especially in providing information and training to law enforcement bodies.

One of the most efficient ways to achieve this aim are seminars for law enforcement officers. These seminars facilitate the transfer of experience and information between different branches of law enforcement (operative officers, investigators, prosecutors, judges) from different regions of Ukraine, and they will soon lead to practical results in combating human trafficking.

Ye. Strekalov formulated goals for near future. The priority is further improvement of national legislation in the following directions: development of a legal basis to ensure cooperation between the law enforcement of Ukraine and other countries; amending the legislation to improve prosecution of crimes related to human trafficking and making it comply with the UN Convention against transnational organized crime. The proposals have already been prepared and are waiting to be approved by Verkhovna Rada. Another big goal to be pursued is to continue to instruct law enforcement officers to act in compliance with the UN Convention, and the participation of international experts would be very much desirable. The Justice also expressed his gratitude to IOM Ukraine and the TACIS program for their engagement into combating trafficking in human beings in Ukraine.

Information from:

<http://www.scourt.gov.ua/>

NEWS ITEMS:

Human Traffickers Sentenced to Prison in Western Ukraine

Excerpt from report by Ukrainian private radio Era on 15 December 2004

A criminal group involved in human trafficking was uncovered in Volyn Region.

The inventive residents of Vorotniv [Volyn Region] have been involved in this business for a year. Regional security officers detained them at the Ukrainian-Polish border, when the criminals were trying to take another group of women out of the country. The women, mostly rural residents, had been recruited to work in Poland. In reality, however, they were forced to work as prostitutes on motorways.

17 women from Vorotniv have become the criminals' victims. Some of them knew that they were going to be prostitutes abroad. They were promised fortunes and anticipated different working conditions. Owing to the traffickers' tricks, the women eventually became financially dependent on their pimps.

The women told a court about this during a closed hearing. The court convicted the traffickers. A woman who organized the "business" and was the leader of the gang was sentenced to five years in prison. Her husband got a three-year sentence. Their aide and a driver got respectively three and two years in prison on a conditional parole.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

***Please do not hesitate to contact the International Organization for Migration, Mission in Ukraine if you would like further information: iomkiev@iom.int
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