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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Project "Enhancement of management of the Russian Federation border checkpoints": First study visit to Finland for high profile representatives of concerned agencies for familiarization with best examples of solutions in border management in Finland. First meeting of the Steering Committee
- Launching new learning tools in support of readmission in Russia: a two volume manual and an interactive electronic training course
- Project "Development of administrative mechanisms in support of readmission of migrants in the Russian Federation": Round table. Steering committee first meeting
- Finalizing results of the pilot project of assisted voluntary return of the migrants with irregular status from the Russian Federation to their countries of origin
- Establishing organizational structure for implementation of reintegration component of the assisted voluntary return to the Chechen Republic
- Project "Prevention of Human trafficking in the Russian Federation: activities in the framework of the Project"
- Project: "Combating trafficking in human beings in the Russian federation: activities in the framework of the Project"
- Project: "Multagency model of cooperation for combating trafficking in human beings in the Russian Far-East": activities in the framework of the Project"
- Project: "Consolidation of Russian language hotline at regional level – providing information assistance to victims of trafficking from the CIS region: activities in the framework of the Project"
- Project: "Information campaign on prevention of trafficking in human beings in the Russian

Federation with a special focus on St. Petersburg region

- A round table meeting: Access of labour migrants to health services in Russia
- Review of law enforcement practices in the field of international labour migration
- Moscow migrants' processing and movement
- Migration issues

"ENHANCEMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CHECKPOINTS ON THE BORDER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION"

First study visit to Finland for high profile representatives of concerned agencies for familiarization with best examples of solutions in border management in Finland.

On November 16-21, 2009 the first study visit to Finland for high profile representatives of concerned agencies was conducted in the framework of the Project "Enhancement of the Management of the Checkpoints on the Border of the Russian Federation". The aim of the trip was familiarization with the best practices in border management.

The Russian delegation consisted of 7 high rank officials of concerned agencies: the Federal Agency for Development of the State Border of the Russian Federation, Border Guard Service of the Russian Federation and Customs. The delegation was headed by the Deputy Head of Rosgranitsa Mr. Zotov.



Participants to the Study Tour

The key goal of the study visit was to raise awareness of the Russian authorities and to familiarize high profile representatives of the concerned agencies with the best practices in border management.

The programme included a series of bilateral meetings on legal, organizational and technical issues of development and implementation of effective border management systems and control procedures with the respective representatives of the Finnish governmental services involved in the border management, such as Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Border Guards Service of Finland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, State Management Company "Senate Properties", Customs Service of Finland. Several site visits were organized to the Vaalimaa and Vantaa border checkpoints for familiarization with their structure and procedures.



Meeting at the Customs Service of Finland

The Russian participants were particularly interested in those practical issues and aspects that could be further adopted and applied in the Russian Federation.

The Finnish officials of the concerned agencies demonstrated to their Russian colleagues their advanced technologies in border management; checkpoints' operational techniques, and offered the structures and procedures accepted in border management. The Russian officials paid special attention to the detailed presentation of the procedures provided by the Finnish colleagues.



At the Boarder Checkpoint

The participants appreciated the information put forward by their Finnish colleagues and will use their experience in developing similar provisions. The results of the study visit will undoubtedly contribute to building sustainable, well equipped and organized checkpoints system in the Russian Federation.

First meeting of the Steering Committee



The first Meeting of the Steering Committee within the framework of the Project "Enhancement of the Management of the Checkpoints on the Border of the Russian Federation" was organized by IOM Moscow On December 22, 2009. The meeting gathered together the partners to the project: The Federal Agency for the Development of the State Border of the Russian Federation (Rosgranitsa), representatives the Delegation of the European Commission in the Russian Federation and IOM Project Team. The meeting took place in the office of the EU Delegation . The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress achieved during the 3 months of the Project implementation, current activities, plan of operations for the next period as well as the status of the Steering Committee, its members and working schedule.

IOM representatives provided an overview Report of the key Project achievements and activities carried out within the Project components and presented an Inception Report which reflected overall plan of operations within the Project.

The participants shared their views on the topic and content of the proposals, which would be incorporated by IOM into the Inception Report to sustain the activities at all levels.

The members of the Steering Committee and participants of the meeting esteemed the first meeting a constructive and useful event supporting the Project goals.

LAUNCHING NEW LEARNING TOOLS IN SUPPORT OF READMISSION IN RUSSIA: A TWO VOLUME MANUAL AND AN INTERACTIVE ELECTRONIC TRAINING COURSE

In December 2009, IOM Moscow in close cooperation with the Federal Migration Service (FMS of Russia) launched new learning tools – a comprehensive two volume publication, “Manual on Readmission: For Experts and Practitioners” and an e-course developed on the material of the manual.



A two volume Manual on Readmission

This Manual is the result of a close and fruitful cooperation between IOM and FMS of Russia. The idea to develop this publication emerged in 2006, when Russia concluded its Readmission Agreement with the European Community (EC) and set off on the road of establishing an entirely new legal instrument of migration management in the country within a short period of time.

The idea found its realization within the IOM-FMS of Russia jointly implemented Programme «Assistance to the Government of the Russian Federation in Establishing an Administrative and Legislative Framework for Developing and Implementing Readmission Agreements», funded by the European Commission and co-financed by the Governments of Finland and Germany. An integral component of this programme was the development of relevant methodological recommendations and the knowledge base of a practical character.

Russian and European experts and practitioners have contributed to the development of the Manual, and both its content and structure have profited as a result. The Manual consists of two volumes which cover selected foreign readmission and return practices as well as the emerging practice of readmission agreements implementation in

the Russian Federation. In particular, the Manual presents an overview of new readmission legal framework, summarizes key aspects of the bilateral readmission agreements concluded by the Russian Federation to date, and offers a series of practical recommendations in compliance with international good practices of particular relevance to Russia.

The Manual will be useful for preparing Russian readmission specialists of all levels, as well as in training those involved in migration management more generally. The Federal Migration Service disseminates the Manual among its representative offices in the Russian regions, including among the personnel of special readmission facilities being developed across the country. Further on, given historical and linguistic links, common approaches to the development of legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as the similarity of migration challenges, it is anticipated that the Manual will be of use for migration specialists in other countries in Eastern Europe and the Central Asia.

For an easier acquisition of the knowledge and information gathered in the Manual, an Interactive Electronic Training Module on Readmission was designed and produced. This Training Module includes around 100 slides and presents the material in a thematic and easy-to follow way. The thematic points-based assessment system offers a possibility to evaluate the level of the student's knowledge throughout his/her work with the material. The completion of each of the three sections brings the student to the final test, after which, if successful, the student may print out a certificate acknowledging the successful completion of the whole course.

This Interactive Training Module is a comprehensive and very useful tool that will assist the officials from relevant governmental structures in Russia and other countries in raising their skills and knowledge in the area of readmission in a quick and easy to follow way.

2000 copies of the CDs with the e-course were produced and attached to each copy of the second Volume of the Manual.



Interactive electronic training module on readmission

ROUND TABLE ON MECHANISMS IN SUPPORT OF READMISSION OF MIGRANTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

On 24 November 2009 an expert Roundtable aimed at presenting to the governmental stakeholders a new project "Development of Administrative Mechanisms in Support of Readmission of Migrants in the Russian Federation" took place in Moscow.



Participants to the Round Table

The Roundtable gathered representatives of the EU Delegation to Russia, IOM Moscow, Federal Migration Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, State Duma, and Apparatus of the Ombudsman.

FMS of Russia has expressed the assurance that the new project will contribute to strengthening its capacity in implementing the Russian Federation Readmission Agreements, especially in the part related to third country nationals which will enter into force from 1 June 2010, and will help to fine-tune some technical issues which require further development.

The project provides for a number of activities which include development of analytical materials, training programmes, technical meetings, informational activities.

The roundtable has been concluded by a press-briefing.

Steering Committee first meeting under the EC funded project "Development of Administrative Mechanisms in Support of Readmission of Migrants in the Russian Federation"

The first meeting of Steering Committee took place on 8 December 2009 in IOM Moscow premises.

The Steering Committee is a continuing deliberative body that provides managing, guidance and coordination of activities of the project as well as supervision over the whole implementation of the project "Development of Administrative Mechanisms in Support of Readmission of Migrants in the Russian Federation", implemented by IOM Moscow jointly with the Federal Migration Service of Russia.

The Steering Committee is formed by representatives of relevant Russian stakeholders as well as Delegation of the European Union to Russia and IOM Moscow. The Chairman of the Committee – Mr. Mikhail Utyatskiy, Head, Citizenship Department, FMS of Russia.

The meeting gathered representatives from FMS of Russia, EU Delegation to Russia, MFA of Russia, Federal Agency on Supervision in the field of communications and information technologies (Roskomnadzor) and IOM Moscow.

The following topics were discussed: composition of the Steering Committee including membership, its regulations, project timeframe and details of the activities and the next meeting date - it was agreed to conduct the next meeting of the Steering Committee in the course of March, 2010.

The Project Partner – the FMS of Russia – expressed satisfaction with the process of the project implementation, the proposed directions of the project work, the existing level of cooperation within the project. The FMS of Russia confirmed its commitment to actively participate in the project implementation and strategy planning.

The members of the Steering Committee and participants of the meeting evaluated the first meeting as a constructive and useful.

FINALIZING RESULTS OF THE PILOT PROJECT OF ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN OF THE MIGRANTS WITH IRREGULAR STATUS FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE COUNTRIES OF THEIR ORIGIN

As the part of a larger Programme of "Assistance to the Government of the Russian Federation in Building Administrative Capacity and a Legal Framework for the development and implementation of Readmission Agreements", the pilot project Pilot Project on assisted voluntary return to the country of origin for most vulnerable migrants in irregular status has been completed.

Under the project, assistance was provided to the migrants whose origin (or permanent residence) is not the countries of CIS, member states of OECD or EU. In particular, IOM Moscow support included information support on possibilities of voluntary return, assistance in obtaining necessary documents, as well as ticketing and departure from the Russian Federation. By the end of the project, 85 persons from Ghana, Afghanistan, Bolivia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Kenya, Burundi, Georgia, and others received assistance in voluntary return to their home countries.

On the basis of the information received from the questionnaires and during personal interviews with the migrants, four main categories of the vulnerable migrants who require assistance have been identified:

- Contract students, pursuing graduate study in Russian higher educational institutions
- Labor migrants, who arrived in Russia either with already signed working contract or without such
- Transit migrants, who arrived in the Russian Federation with the purpose of further transiting to different countries of Western Europe or America
- Asylum seekers who arrived in Russia with the purpose of receiving refugee status, but decided to return to their home.

According to the results of the profiling study, the absolutely majority of the migrants, who received assistance under the project, have entered the territory of the Russian Federation legally. However, the majority of them appeared to be economically and socially vulnerable, due to the discrepancy between personal assumptions and expectations and real conditions of living, studying and working in the Russian Federation. Analysis of the needs and risks of the above-mentioned groups allows to identify main components of the effective practical mechanism of assistance to the voluntary return. In particular, such measures need to incorporate in-time information support (incl. legal counseling)-informing on the possibility of voluntary return, as an alternative to administrative expulsion or deportation, organizational and financial support (obtaining necessary travel documents and ticketing). At the same time, the results of the profiling study of the migrants provide valuable insights as to the channels, routes and vectors of the migration in the global context.

ESTABLISHING ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REINTEGRATION COMPONENT OF THE ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN TO THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC

On October 22-24, 2009, in the framework of the pilot project "Development of practical mechanisms of implementation of reintegration component of AVR Programme to the Chechen Republic", IOM staff conducted their second visit to the North Caucasian region (Vladikavkaz, Grozny).

The main goal of the trip became working meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of the External Relations, Nationalities, Press & Information, the Ombudsman Office, Presidential Administration, Federal Migration Service, Civic Chamber and the Chamber of Industry & Commerce; international experts from DRC and Caritas. During the meetings, technical issues related to the practical implementation of the pilot stage of the project were discussed, namely, coordinating activities on providing reintegration support for the selected vulnerable 30 families who are returning voluntary to the Chechen Republic from Austria.



Dmitry Valentey, an IOM Moscow Project staff

Another significant event of the fall 2009 under the project was participation of six representatives of governmental, public and non-governmental bodies of the Chechen Republic in the Conference "Building Structures for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration in Europe: the Specific Case of Chechen Returnees". The Conference was organized jointly by IOM Vienna and European Migration Network, with the support of the Austrian Ministry of Interior and the European Commission and was held on November 16-18 in Vienna, Austria. During the course of the Conference, a wide range of the issues related to the formation of a unified strategy towards return and reintegration of the migrants to the previous places of living was discussed. In particular, the participants have exchanged the opinions on the questions of inter-state coordination of the return process, as well as the roles of international organizations, civil society and local communities in facilitating sustainable long-term return.



In front of the Presidential Administration

**PROJECT PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
(MARCH 2006 – DECEMBER 2009)**

Funded by the European Union jointly with U.S. Department of State and the Government of Switzerland

1) On 31 December the Project Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation funded by the European Union, the US Department of State and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation came to an end.

The Project was launched in 2006 as the first initiative to comprehensively counter-act the phenomenon of human trafficking in Russia. During the course of its implementation, the project has brought together state structures, international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The project has worked to promote and further develop those national initiatives which followed the signing and, later on in the spring of 2004, the ratification of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the related Protocols, including the Protocol to Prevent, suppress and punish Trafficking in Human Beings, especially women and children. The aim was to provide a model for action, in which each stakeholder would take action in order to enhance the prevention of human trafficking in the country. The project activities have been carried out in the Russian Federation at federal and local level (in the three pilot regions of Moscow-Moscow region, Astrakhan-Astrakhan region, Petrozavodsk-Republic of Karelia) with a look at Russia as an origin, transit and destination country of victims of trafficking. During the course of the project, 423 victims of trafficking identified in Russia and abroad have received assistance and an inter-agency model of assistance and referral of victims of trafficking among relevant stakeholders has been promoted, with an increased cooperation between law enforcement and non-governmental organizations working with service providers. At the same time, the extent of the phenomenon in Russia has been researched and at-risk groups, including labour migrants and young people have been targeted by a country wide information campaign. Legislative tools have been researched for further use of policy makers and legislators and the work of law enforcement including of the investigative units dealing with human trafficking crimes has been supported. Three Information and Consultation Centers in the pilot regions have worked to raise the knowledge of the population on the phenomenon of trafficking and provide information tools on how to avoid risk averting behaviors.

Overall the project has set a model of action on which new endeavors could be further built. The project has also worked as a catalyst attracting the attention of both national stakeholders, including governmental authorities and the international community on the problem of human trafficking in Russia and of its ramifications at international level. On these grounds further actions are still needed to be carried out, such as a National Plan of Action and a Federal law on countering Human Trafficking, in order to institutionalize mechanisms which have been tested within the framework of the project.

2) Final event

On 16 December 2009 a final event on the Project was held at the Delegation of the European Commission. The purpose of the conference was to inform relevant partners among Governmental institutions, non-Governmental organizations and Donor community on the progress achieved in the key areas of the Project, as well as to collect recommendations for furthering and consolidating counter-trafficking endeavors in the Russian Federation on the basis of the experience gathered by the project, as first endeavor of this kind. During the conference, the results of the research conducted in the three pilot regions were presented. Among other topics illustrated the "offer" was analyzed in terms of risk-taking behaviors which are widespread among various target groups, including young people, and labour migrants in the pilot regions, making people prone to exploitation.



The closing Conference within the Project

Among the attendees, representatives of the EC Delegation to Russia, EU member state delegates, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, the General Prosecutor's Office and others took active part in the discussions.

Participants from the diplomatic community raised questions on issues of sustainability of endeavors launched within the framework of the project such as the rehabilitation center for victims of trafficking and the information centers. A number of Embassies also indicated their willingness to get further involved in the prevention of instances of trafficking through the work of their consular departments. Representatives of the Ministry of Interior and of the General Prosecutor's Office expressed their wish to continue to cooperate on countering human trafficking beyond the end of the project period.

3) Development of a comprehensive counter-trafficking manual with a special focus on financial investigations

The manual tackles issues of investigation of trafficking crimes on the basis of innovative approaches including investigations with the use of financial tools.

The manual was developed by a group of national and international which participation of IOM CT experts.

On the basis of the manual, an educational program was elaborated by the experts and professors of the Mol Russia Economic Security

Academy. The educational program is a working tool on human trafficking issues targeted to the students attending the Ministry of Interior of the RF educational establishments for training, re-training, upgrading of qualifications as well as operative officers and investigators. The program is already in place at the Mol Russia Economic Security Academy and Mol Russia Moscow University.

Three counter-trafficking projects contributed to the development of the manual, namely: "Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation" financed by the European Union; co-funded by the US Department of State (INL) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Russian Federation" financed by Sida - Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency; "A Multiagency Model of Cooperation for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Russian Far East" (financed by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the US Department of State-INL).



4) Manual on the Activities of Information-Consultative Centers (Russian and International Experience)

In November 2009 IOM in Moscow released a Manual on the work of the Information-Consultative Centers (ICCs). The brochure contains the experience and the main approaches of the Information and Consultative Centers (ICC) established within the framework of the project. Special attention is devoted to the results of the work of ICCs, functioned within the project "Prevention of Human Trafficking in the RF", the brochure describes the strategy of organization and conduct of information campaign, tells about dissemination of information about the "hot-line" of the project for vulnerable groups of population and potential victims of human trafficking.

The Manual is developed for state structures of the RF, working in the sphere of migration and counter-trafficking, as well as for non-governmental organizations and scientific organizations.

For the period from May 2007 (the date of ICC Moscow opening) until November 2009 – more than 13400 consultations were provided by Moscow, Astrakhan and Petrozavodsk ICCs; more than 20000 leaflets were distributed (2000 in Tadjik and Uzbek languages); more

then 2600 informative posters were distributed in the public transport in project regions; more than 400 advertising billboards, light-boxes and cross-street banners informed the population and target groups on the "hot-line"; social advertising TV spot, featuring the Russian pop-star Valeria – IOM Good Will Envoy – since November 2008 was transmitted on federal TV channels.



5) Manual on Good Practices of Direct Assistance to Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) at the IOM Moscow Rehabilitation Center

In the beginning of November 2009 the Rehabilitation Center (RC) for victims of human trafficking, established within the Project Prevention of Human Trafficking in the RF completed its activities in connection with the end of the Project.

The Rehabilitation Center was opened in April,¹ 2007 for the purpose of providing medical, social and psychological assistance to trafficking victims. It was the first facility of this kind established in Russia. Similar Centers providing assistance to victims of trafficking exist in many developed countries. The experience of the Center has played a role in providing a model of reference which could be further replicated and at the same time to attract the attention around the phenomenon of human trafficking in Russia.

The Rehabilitation Center has provided victims of trafficking with qualified comprehensive assistance and temporary safe accommodation. Russian nationals identified as VoTs on the territory of Russia or abroad, as well all foreign nationals trafficked to or in Russia regardless their gender, nationality, type of exploitation, age and religion received assistance. All services have been provided on strictly voluntary basis and were subject to victim's informed written consent.

The RC personnel received specialized trainings on specifics of direct assistance to victims of trafficking in compliance with the international standards and IOM practices.

The mechanism of assistance included victim referrals from other IOM Missions located in other countries, law-enforcement units, Russian and foreign NGOs, Embassies and Consulates of foreign states, governmental and religious structures, journalists, IOM Moscow "hot-line", etc.

¹ From November 2006 to April 2007 VoTs could receive assistance in individual rooms of other wards of the same Hospital

By the end of November 2009 IOM Moscow assisted more than 423 victims of human trafficking. 38,3% of victims were referred to IOM Moscow from other IOM missions located in other countries; 22,2% were referred by law enforcement units of Russia, 3,1% - were released in course of joint operations of LE units and IOM and NGOs; 1,2% - by state structures of Moscow city; 21,5% were referred by NGOs; 4,8% - by the "hot line" of the project; 8,1% were referred by foreign diplomatic missions.

In early November a specialized Manual Good Practice on Direct Assistance to Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) at the IOM Moscow Rehabilitation Center and a the booklet Infectious Diseases were published.

The Manual summarizes good practices, results, achievements and gaps in provision of complex assistance to victims of human trafficking in the framework of the project "Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation". The materials of the Manual might be of interest for organizations, which provide such kind of assistance to victims, and in particular for structures, which are starting their activities of assistance and reintegration programmes.



6) Contest of Journalistic Works

The award ceremony for the winners of the contest among journalists of the Russian mass media (incl. Internet publications) – "Modern Slavery: Mass Media Focus", which ran from March until August 2009, was held on 28 of October 2009 in Public Chamber of the RF.

The contest was organized by IOM Moscow in cooperation with the Commission for Interethnic Relations and Freedom of Conscience and the Commission for Communication, Information Policy and Freedom of Speech in Mass Media under the RF Public Chamber. One of the aims of the contest was to focus the attention of the journalists to the importance of responsible coverage of the phenomenon in mass media.

The award ceremony was chaired by Mr. Nikolay Svanidze, Head of the Commission for Interethnic Relations and Freedom of Conscience of the Public Chamber of the RF and Head of the contest jury. Mr. Svanidze emphasized the importance of professional coverage of the phenomenon in mass media, which is the main

source of information, influencing the public opinion towards the problem.

The contest jury was co-headed by Mr. Pavel Gusev, Editor-in-Chief of the "Moskovskiy Komsomolets" newspaper and Head of the Commission for Communication, Information Policy and Freedom of Speech in Mass Media under the RF Public Chamber.

The contest included three nominations: the best press publication, the best TV work and the best radio material.



Mr. Nikolay Svanidze, Head of the Commission for Interethnic Relations and Freedom of Conscience of the Public Chamber of the RF and Head of the contest jury and Mr. Enrico Ponziani, IOM Moscow Chief of Mission

7) Student Forum YOUTH FOR THE SLAVERY FREE WORLD

On 27 October 2009 Russia State Social University (RSSU) in Moscow hosted the Student Forum YOUTH FOR THE SLAVERY FREE WORLD. The Forum was attended by more than 300 participants, including students and professors of the University Departments of Sociology, Social Work and Psychology. The event was arranged by the Russian State Social University, National Anticriminal and Antiterrorist Foundation (NAAF) and the Bureau of International Organization for Migration in Moscow within the frames of the Project Prevention of Human Trafficking in the RF.

Among others intervened the Dean of the Sociology Department, Professor D. K. Tanatova and the Head of the Department of History, Theory and Methodology of Sociology Professor T. N. Yudina. In her speech Ms. Tanatova emphasized the importance for future sociologists to study the problem of human trafficking. Welcome speeches were followed by a thematic quiz for students; the winners were awarded prizes - MP3 players. Thematic social posters were exhibited in the hall of the Forum venue. The information on the Student Forum is also posted at the RSSU Web site http://rgsu.net/news/news_611.html



Student Forum Participants

8) Manual on THB crimes typologies

The manual illustrates mechanisms of human trafficking crimes, on the basis of a typological classification while providing methodological recommendations on effective investigative approaches.

The manual focuses on judicial practice, criminal characteristics of human trafficking and typology of victims of trafficking.

The manual has been published in 1000 copies.

The manual has been developed in close cooperation with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. The authors are specialists of the Moscow University of MoI Russia, Prosecutor's General Academy and the Russian Academy of Advocacy and Notariate.



PROJECT COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (AUGUST 2007 – DECEMBER 2009)

**Funded by Swedish International Development and
Cooperation Agency**

1) Networking visits to countries of origin of victims of trafficking for Russian law enforcement specialists

On 27-30 October, 2009 a delegation of representatives of RF Investigative Committee at the Public Prosecutor's Office visited Kiev, Ukraine to familiarize with good practices of combating human trafficking and providing assistance to victims. Working contacts with respective Ukrainian authorities were established and a draft of Cooperation Agreement was passed for coordination.



Delegation from the Russian Federation

On 8-11 December, 2009 delegation of representatives of RF Investigative Committee at the Public Prosecutor's Office visited Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Working meetings with executives of the Uzbek Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office, Tashkent Interior Department, Agency for External Labour Migration at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Division for Cooperation with International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan took place. Drafts of Cooperation Agreements were passed for coordination to the Uzbek MoI and GPO.

2) Provision of equipment to the Russian Advocates' Guild (GRA)

In continuation of the cooperation set in the Memorandum of Understanding between Russian Advocates' Guild and IOM Moscow signed on 16 December 2008, IOM Moscow met the Guild's needs by equipping the Russian Academy of Advocacy and Notariate with specialized conference equipment. On 30 October the conference equipment was donated to the Russian Advocates' Guild for the future organization of legal trainings focused on countering human trafficking. It was agreed that the trainings on the topic of human trafficking would be integrated into the training agenda of the Russian Academy of Advocacy and Notariate.

3) Youth group capacity building and engagement

As a result of the Student Project Development Competition two projects out of eight participating projects were selected. One of the winning projects with the geographical focus on Irkutsk city envisaged awareness-raising activities among young people and students about the risks of human trafficking. The mini-project was completed on November 30th 2009. In the course of the implementation, 4 trainings for students on prevention human trafficking were conducted. Additionally a specialized section on prevention of human trafficking was held during the "Baikal Youth Forum". The Forum gathered over 70 delegates from the Irkutsk oblast and other Russian regions.

4) *Legal English language courses for officers involved in international-legal work and cooperation with foreign countries*

20 officers from Mol Russia and Investigative Committee of the Public Prosecutor's office were identified to take part in the Legal English language courses. The group of student was formed by the Language School of the Diplomatic Academy of RF MFA in the course of the entry language test. Students who had successfully passed the examination started training on 12 October, 2009 and will continue it till the June 2010. Those who successfully undertake the courses will receive official certificates of completion.

**PROJECT MULTIAGENCY MODEL
OF COOPERATION FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING
IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE RUSSIAN FAR-EAST**

(October 2008 – December 2009)

The Project is funded by INL

1) *Development of a manual for front line police officers*

The manual has been developed by specialists from the Mol Russia Management Academy and the Academy of the RF Prosecutor General's office. Printed in Vladivostok the manual is directed to training of Primorskiy Krai frontline police officers. The manual materials are based on the premise that well-trained law enforcement officers are an indispensable part of the anti-trafficking response and have a pivotal role in the countering human trafficking. An anti-trafficking response ranges indeed from prevention measures and early detection of cases, to adequate protection and support of trafficked victims, as well as the pro-active investigations.



2) *Training and Seminar on "Identification of Victims of Trafficking"*

The events were organized on December 2nd – 3rd in the format of a Train-of-Trainers session for Primorskiy Krai Interior Department officers, Primorskiy Krai Federal Migration Service representatives and Primorskiy Krai educational establishments' professors. On the basis of the developed manuals ("Human Trafficking: detection, investigation prosecution" and "Human trafficking and legalization of criminal assets: aspects of prevention") a ToT session was conducted by the experts and authors of the manual. The training

conducted by national and international experts; participation of over 25 specialists.



Participants to the Training

**PROJECT CONSOLIDATION OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE
HOTLINE AT REGIONAL LEVEL-PROVIDING
INFORMATION ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF
TRAFFICKING FROM THE CIS REGION**

(February 2009 – December 2009)

Financed by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

This Project has come to an end in December 2009. The project envisaged activities aimed to increase the capacity of organizations running information and consultation hotlines for VoTs in CIS countries and to facilitate the exchange of experience among service providers, such as NGOs. At the same time the project has worked towards increasing the capacity of NGOs in CIS countries to provide direct assistance to VoTs and to strengthen the cooperation among them.

On 12-13 October 2009 representatives of a Non-governmental organization Angel Coalition took part in a study visit to Moldova. The Angel Coalition (AC) received training performed by the NGO La Strada and the NGO Interaction on good practices of Hotline management for at-risk groups and victims of trafficking. The AC also participated in a Technical Coordination meeting held by the OSCE Mission in Moldova. At the meeting international organizations as well as local governmental and non governmental organizations shared their experience and strengthened cooperation in the implementation of counter-trafficking activities. As a result of the visit contacts were strengthened and opportunities for further cooperation were discussed.

Within the framework of the Project a Workshop on Hotline management for NGOs took place on 12-13 November 2009.

The Workshop was jointly organized by the Bureau of IOM in Moscow and the Angel Coalition – project partner organization. The Workshop gathered NGOs from Russia and the CIS Countries, working with victims of trafficking and at-risk groups and providing information and consultation assistance through help lines.

During the Workshop the NGOs exchanged their experience on issues of managing a Toll-Free Hotline and providing information and

consultation assistance to at-risk groups and victims of trafficking in different spheres. The intervened NGOs discussed among others methods of provision of psychological, social and general consultations to inquirers; tools of direct referral of the caller's inquiry to the appropriate service providers; best practices of running hotlines; cooperation between NGOs and governmental agencies. Recommendations for further actions were collected.

The workshop also gave the opportunity to consolidate the experience gathered over the entire project period, and in particular by the Angel Coalition as a result of three study tours.

PROJECT INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON ST. PETERSBURG REGION (November 2008 – November 2009)

The Project is funded by the Government of Belgium

1) Work of the Information and Consultation Center (ICC) in St. Petersburg

The Information Center, which was established in May 2009, continued providing consultation services. The main role of the center is to help increasing awareness among at-risk groups including labour migrants, victims of trafficking, young people, general population. The Center also collects information on trafficking situations and referred them to the concerned authorities also referring victims of trafficking. At the same time the IC has served as a link between victims of trafficking (VOT) or a potential victim from a high-risk group and a government agency or NGO able to provide assistance. From the beginning of the project the Center has provided 888 consultations. According to the statistics, the number of inquiries from Russian nationals (67.12%) prevailed over those by foreign citizens (32.88%).

When contacting the hotline, foreign citizens inquired about issuance of work permits, acquisition of citizenship, violations of the rights of the employee by employers and relations with the law enforcement bodies. Russian citizens were interested in receiving information on the project, on the problem of human trafficking, information on migration legislation as well as information on employment abroad.

Information dissemination activities targeting both at-risk groups and general public have continued throughout the life of the project. An information campaign advertised the work of the ICC.

Over fifteen victims of trafficking referred to/from the Information Center have received assistance (rehabilitation, consultation, information) through the work of the IC.

2) Information campaign

The information campaign continued with the dissemination of visual aids – leaflets for vulnerable groups of population, stickers in public transport and street billboards, containing high impact messages warning on the risks of trafficking and forced labour. The materials also provide contact information for further inquiries or assistance through the hotline number operated by the Information Center.

3) Roundtables for Consular departments on prevention of human trafficking

On 9 and 28 October 2009 two roundtables for representatives of the Consular departments of Embassies jointly organized by IOM and the St. Petersburg Red Cross International Cooperation Center were held in St. Petersburg and in Moscow.

The roundtables aimed at raising the awareness of the diplomatic community in view of their role in identifying potential trafficking cases for destination countries as well as assistance to their own nationals in the case of origin countries. The call for cooperation was welcomed by the diplomatic officers and personnel of consular departments in St. Petersburg and in Moscow.



Panelists at the Roundtable in St. Petersburg

In St. Petersburg the event gathered representatives of the Committee on Law, Order and Security, Representation of the MFA RF in St. Petersburg, Ombudsman, Consulates of the US, France, Norway, Turkey, Sweden, Belgium, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and other consulates as well as representatives of the OSCE, UNHCR, Nordic Council of Ministers and Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the CIS. The sessions were dynamic and all consulate representatives took part in the discussions.

Issues of international cooperation, information exchange and referral of victims of trafficking and assistance were discussed.

At the Round Table the development of the manual for consular departments on prevention of human trafficking was announced.

In Moscow the roundtable gathered approximately 40 representatives. All participants displayed great interest in the initiative of gathering consular departments to discuss the topic of human trafficking and issues of inter-embassy cooperation. Representatives from the CIS countries were present as well and praised the support provided by the project in this sphere, also due to their direct involvement into the issue of assistance to their citizens trafficked to the Russian Federation.



Plenary discussion during the roundtables in St. Petersburg

A ROUND TABLE MEETING: ACCESS OF LABOUR MIGRANTS TO HEALTH SERVICES IN RUSSIA

A roundtable meeting, "Labor Migrants Health Control Mechanism Improvement", discussing the ways of establishing coordinated interagency approach towards estimation of labor migrants' health aspects in the RF, was held on 21 December 2009 in Moscow Institute of Medicine of Labor. The round table meeting was organized by IOM Moscow in cooperation with World Health Organization (WHO) as a follow-on event to the seminar conducted by IOM and WHO in July 2009 (Please see IOM Newsletter #16, of September 2009).

The meeting kept on developing the objective of July roundtable of establishing a dialogue between interested parties and providing support to the main counterparts in the development of comprehensive measures to improve access to TB and HIV prevention and treatment services among labor migrants in the Russian Federation.

It was aimed at strengthening the "academic" component, with an overall objective to develop recommendations for the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the RF on the issues, related to the access of labour migrants to health services in Russia.

The roundtable was attended by representatives of Ministry of Health and Social Development of the RF, WHO, International Labor Organization (ILO), Federal Agency on the CIS Countries Affairs, on Compatriots, Living Abroad and on the International Cooperation ("Rossotrudnichestvo"), representatives of the academic institutions.

The general approach was based on the main guidelines defined during the meeting of Vladimir Putin, the Prime Minister of Russia and Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO on 26 June 2009, aimed at the prevention of spread of infectious and communicable diseases transmitted by labour migrants from a number of Eastern European and Central Asia States.

Participants shared their experience and views on the necessity of development/design and implementation of the unified medical tests in the countries of origin; on establishment of the Centers on Medical Assistance; development of a standard set of medical documents with regard to labor migrants and other topics.

Present state of labor migrants' health control organization in the period of economic crisis was discussed, as well as the long-term perspectives of medical examination system for persons arriving from visa-free regime countries.

Materials of presentations made during the round table will be combined in IOM publication (planned for beginning of 2010), a set of recommendations for the Ministry of Health will be prepared.

4) Six thematic guides were developed:

1. A manual for foreign citizens in Russia and for Russian citizens going abroad (migration legislation): information on issues relating to entry, temporary residence, other issues of migration legislation as well as employment of foreign citizens coming to the Russian Federation and some information for the Russian citizens going abroad.
2. A manual on criminal legislation: there is a general situation of human trafficking in Russia, characteristics of this crime according to the Russian and international legislation, identification of victims of human trafficking and methods of protection of their rights in criminal process.
3. A manual on provision of social assistance: provision of social assistance to migrants (medical, educational, pensions, etc.) according to the Russian legislation as well as social assistance to refugees and forced migrants and assistance to some categories of Russian citizens.
4. A manual for employers on migration and labour legislation: the manual contains information on the order of attraction of foreign labour force as well as the contact information of the state and non-governmental organizations working in this sphere, samples of the documents, legislative acts, etc.
5. A directory of organizations working in the sphere of migration and prevention of human trafficking: general information on governmental and non-governmental organizations that are working in the sphere of prevention of human trafficking in St. Petersburg and on the federal level.
6. A manual on the work of the info centers: analysis and examples of information centers working in the sphere of prevention of human trafficking in Russia and abroad.



Medical check of migrants

REVIEW OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION

The concept of the project was developed within the consultations between the IOM Moscow and the International Alliance "Labour Migration" in November 2009. The project idea was also supported by the FMS Civic Council.

The project goal is defined as the "analysis of legal practices aimed at the development the unified approach in the implementation of the labour migration legislation in Russia".

22 December 2009 the roundtable was conducted within the frameworks of the project. During the roundtable participants discussed the current situation in the area of implementation of migration legislation (related to international labour migration), discussed the measures required for setting up the unified approach of law enforcement agencies in dealing with the cases in the area related to the international labour migration.

Participation of the experts and legal practitioners in the roundtable allowed formulating the practical recommendations for all main players: for the legislation and executive authorities; for international labour migrants and for the employers.

Within the roundtable participants were familiarized with the research implemented by the International Labour Migration Alliance. This research, besides a general overview of the Russian migration legislation, also provides the description of the concrete mechanisms of its' implementation- the problems which are being faced day-to-day by labour migrants and entrepreneurs. In particular, the research pays significant attention to the practices in the area of the process of obtaining of work permission; to the registration process; court cases and other important topics.

It is planned that the results of the research will be published in February-March 2010. We believe that the research findings might be interested for professionals in the area of regulation of the international labour migration and to the people dealing with the labour migration on a grass root level.

MOSCOW MIGRANTS' PROCESSING AND MOVEMENT

IOM Moscow works with the Russian government, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and various UNHCR offices and U.S. Embassies across Europe and the ex-USSR to implement a program of voluntary resettlement to the United States for migrants and refugees. Activities include receipt of applications, initial screening, supporting interviews with the U.S. Immigration Service, and assisting approved applicants with cultural orientation, placement in the USA with resettlement NGOs, arrival documentation, and departure.

The biggest beneficiary groups are (1) religious minorities from the ex-USSR joining immediate relatives already in the United States; (2) refugees referred for resettlement by the United Nations, including Afghan refugees in Central Asia, and Afghan and African refugees in Russia and Ukraine; and (3) African boat people stranded in Malta.

Comprehensive statistics for the period 01Oct 2009 through 31 December 2009 are as follows:

Applications received and processed: 791 individuals
Presented to DHS for status determination: 935 individuals
Departures to the U.S.: 603 individuals

In total, IOM staff traveled to process cases, interview applicants, prepare files for interviews, and assist U.S. government officials in: Almaty, (Kazakhstan), Baku (Azerbaijan), Chisinau (Moldova), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Kyiv (Ukraine), Malta, Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Tbilisi (Georgia), Timisoara (Romania), Yerevan (Armenia) as well as Krasnodar, and Moscow, Russia.

MIGRATION ISSUES

1. The Committee for Culture of the Administration of St. Petersburg is planning to issue the ABC book for new citizens of St. Petersburg. The book will be designed for the migrants and for those who just moved to the city reports Interfax Agency. According to Mr. Anton Gubankov - the Chair of the Committee, the ABC book will introduce its readers to the main city sights and basic traditions and etiquette. Apart from the ABC book by September 2010 the Committee is going to develop the Programme "Cultural Capital" which will be implemented in the year 2011.

2. As of 12th January new entrance regulations came into force in the United States of America. All the guests going to the USA must register through the internet no later than 72 hours before their flight. According to the American authorities the individuals waiving the procedure won't be admitted to the USA. The regulations concern only the nationals entering the USA without visas. The online Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) was developed by the Department of National Security of the USA. The ESTA once approved by the American side will be valid for two years and the visitor to the USA will have to fill it out again in 24 months. (RIA Novosti)

3. The Uzbek and Tajik labour migrants working in Russia established mutual aid-funds with a monthly contribution of 100-150 rubles (New Izvestia).

The money is aimed to cover legal and medical assistance, to buy tickets to the countries of origin of migrants, etc. The first mutual aid-funds appeared at the end of 2008 with the beginning of the world economic crisis.

The head of the Tajikistan Foundation Gavkhar Djurayeva informed that from 300 to 800 of migrants seeking assistance to cover mainly legal and medical services refer to the Foundation every month. Migrants help one another to make their employers pay out contract debts as some labour migrants don't get their salaries for six – eight months. According to Rosstat during the period from January to August 2009 about 192 thousands of labour migrants left Russia whilst according to experts this figure makes about 1,5 million individuals.

4. As of 11th of January the State Duma started its work and considered about 500 proposed laws. One of them caused heated discussions. The Government proposed a law according to which every Russian individual can employ a labour migrant for instance to refurbish an apartment. To do this he should pay 1000 rubles as a monthly fee. Currently only legal entities may contract labour migrants provided it fits the quota. As of now every individual can invite a labour migrant. "Private labour migrants" won't be subjects to quota arrangements. According to the FMS Press Service the procedure of contracting of labour migrants will be significantly simplified. To do it an inviting person must sign a contract with a migrant and pay the fee through the bank. In order to extend the contract the employer must pay another monthly fee and post the receipt to the FMS. The individuals avoiding buying licenses will be fined. (www.KP.ru)

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