



**ACTION PLAN
FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN
BEINGS FOR THE 2015 - 2016 PERIOD**

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Introduction

The Republic of Slovenia engaged in the fight against trafficking in human beings in 2002 by appointing a National Coordinator for this issue and establishing the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter: IWG) to support the National Coordinator. In view of the developments in this field and the increasing scope of tasks, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia approved the status of the IWG in 2003 (Government Decision No. 240-05/2003-1 of 18 December 2003) and again in 2012 (Government Decision No. 1201-7/2012/4 of 5 July 2012), determining the IWG's term and its tasks at the same time.

This was the foundation for the development of action plans, which have been amended and upgraded over the years, including financially evaluated projects implemented by non-governmental and humanitarian organisations chosen on the basis of public tenders. NGOs play an important role in preventive programmes and programmes for providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings and in planning and designing joint actions and activities in this field.

The action plan for the 2015–2016 period is designed so as to continue good practices, especially of the projects which have proven effective and require continuity because of the nature of the work.

In addition to extensive preventive programmes intended for the wider, target and expert publics, a part of the action plan is aimed at the detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings. Comprehensive action is balanced by a series of measures for providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, including child victims. It has become established practice for these activities to be implemented by non-governmental and humanitarian organisations, whose specific projects are financed by the line ministry.

Special attention is given to activities aimed at the implementation of **proposals** to the Republic of Slovenia made by the monitoring mechanism under the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, i.e. GRETA, and approved by the recommendation adopted at the meeting of the Committee of the Parties on 7 February 2014, together with the report on the situation in Slovenia. The time limit for the implementation of the proposals is two years, which is why implementation activities are included in the action plan.

Below is a list of GRETA's 26 proposals, grouped by area.

Comprehensive approach and co-ordination

1. GRETA invites the Slovenian authorities to invest in the human and financial resources of the secretariat of the Working Group and the National Co-ordinator so that they can effectively carry out the full range of tasks within their mandate.
2. GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should pay increased attention to human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, trafficking in children, trafficking in persons from vulnerable groups, including Roma, as well as trafficking within Slovenia.
3. Further, GRETA invites the Slovenian authorities to introduce a periodic independent evaluation of the Action Plan as a tool for assessing the impact of the activities and for planning future policies and measures to combat THB, and to consider the establishment of an independent National Rapporteur or other mechanism for monitoring the anti-trafficking activities of State institutions (see Article 29, paragraph 4, of the Convention and paragraph 298 of the Explanatory Report).

Training of relevant professionals

4. GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should take further steps to provide periodic training on THB and the rights of victims to all relevant professionals (such as judges, prosecutors, lawyers, staff of administrative units responsible for issuing residence permits, labour inspectors, child protection authorities and social workers). Future training programmes should be designed with a view to improving the knowledge and skills of relevant professionals which enable them to identify victims of trafficking for all forms of exploitation and assist and protect them, to facilitate compensation for victims and to secure convictions of traffickers.

Data collection and research

5. GRETA considers that, for the purpose of preparing, monitoring and evaluating anti-trafficking policies, the Slovenian authorities should develop and maintain a comprehensive and coherent statistical system on trafficking in human beings by compiling reliable statistical information from all main actors, including NGOs involved in victim identification, and allowing disaggregation (concerning sex, age, type of exploitation, country of origin and/or destination, etc.).
6. Further, GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should conduct and support research on trafficking-related issues as an important source of information for future policy measures. Areas where research is particularly needed at present to shed more light on the extent and nature of the problem include trafficking for labour exploitation, trafficking in children and trafficking within Slovenia.

International cooperation

7. GRETA invites the Slovenian authorities to continue exploring further possibilities for strengthening international co-operation in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases, as well as developing international co-operation for the purpose of preventing THB and providing assistance to victims.

Measures to raise awareness

8. GRETA considers that future actions in the area of awareness raising should be designed in the light of the assessment of previous measures and be focused on the needs identified. Awareness raising should continue targeting vulnerable groups and inform the public of forms of THB which are on the rise, such as labour exploitation, forced begging and forced criminality.
9. Further, GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should strengthen their efforts to discourage demand for services from trafficked persons, in partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

Identification of victims of trafficking in human beings

10. GRETA urges the Slovenian authorities to:
 - strengthen multi-agency involvement in victim identification by introducing a clear national referral mechanism, defining the roles of all frontline staff who may come into contact with victims of trafficking;
 - provide frontline staff with operational indicators, guidance and toolkits to be used in the identification process; these indicators should be regularly updated in order to reflect the changing nature of human trafficking and types of exploitation;
 - ensure that law enforcement officials, social workers, labour inspectors and other relevant actors adopt a more proactive approach and increase their outreach work to identify potential victims of trafficking, in particular as regards forms of exploitation other than sexual (labour exploitation, forced begging, etc.);
 - pay increased attention to detecting victims of THB among unaccompanied minors and set up a specific identification mechanism which takes into account the special circumstances and needs of child victims of trafficking, involves child specialists and ensures that the best interests of the child are the primary consideration.

Assistance to victims

11. GRETA urges the Slovenian authorities to ensure that access to assistance for victims of THB is not made conditional on their co-operation in the investigation and criminal proceedings. GRETA also urges the authorities to ensure that safe and suitable accommodation is provided to victims of trafficking depending on their needs, which may require the provision of accommodation and assistance beyond the five-day period of emergency assistance.

12. Further, GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should step up their efforts to provide assistance to victims of trafficking and in particular to facilitate the reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and help them to avoid re-trafficking by providing them with access to education, vocational training and the labour market.

13. GRETA also invites the Slovenian authorities to invest in the human and financial resources of centres for social work so that they can effectively provide support and assistance to child victims of trafficking.

Recovery and reflection period

14. GRETA urges the Slovenian authorities to ensure that all possible victims of trafficking are offered a recovery and reflection period, in compliance with the obligations under Article 13 of the Convention. Further, GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should systematically inform victims of trafficking of the possibility of a recovery and reflection period and effectively grant such a period.

Residence permits

15. GRETA urges the Slovenian authorities to remove the condition of the victim's testimony being "important in the opinion of the authority in charge of the criminal case" from the Aliens Act.

16. GRETA urges the Slovenian authorities to ensure that victims of trafficking can fully benefit from the right to obtain a renewable residence permit, particularly when they are unable to co-operate with the authorities.

Compensation and legal redress

17. GRETA urges the Slovenian authorities to adopt measures to facilitate and guarantee access to compensation for victims of trafficking, and in particular to:

- ensure that victims of trafficking are systematically informed in a language that they can understand of the right to seek compensation and the procedures to be followed;
- enable victims of trafficking to exercise their right to compensation by ensuring their effective access to legal aid;
- include all victims of trafficking in the scope of the Crime Victim Compensation Act, irrespective of their nationality and of whether force or violation of the sexual integrity has been used.

Repatriation and return of victims

18. GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should enhance the protection of victims of THB returning to Slovenia and ensure their access to assistance, protection and reintegration measures regardless of whether criminal proceedings have been initiated in the country where the victims were identified.

Substantive criminal law

19. GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should ensure that the commission of THB by a public official in the performance of his/her duties and deliberately or by gross negligence endangering the victim's life as aggravating circumstances are effectively taken into account as aggravating circumstances of THB offence, in order to meet the requirements of Article 24 of the Convention.

20. GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should introduce a specific criminal offence regarding the concealment, damaging or destruction of travel or identity documents in relation to THB.

21. GRETA invites the Slovenian authorities to consider establishing as a criminal offence the use of services which are the object of exploitation as defined in Article 4 of the Convention, with the knowledge that the person is a victim of trafficking in human beings.

Non-punishment of victims of trafficking in human beings

22. GRETA urges the Slovenian authorities to ensure compliance with Article 26 of the Convention through the adoption of a provision on non-punishment of victims of trafficking for their involvement in unlawful activities, to the extent that they were compelled to do so, or by developing relevant guidance for public prosecutors on this issue. While the identification procedure is on-going, potential victims of trafficking should not be punished for immigration-related offences.

Investigation, prosecution and procedural law

23. GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should step up the training provided to judges, prosecutors and other relevant professionals on the issue of THB with a view to improving their knowledge and sensitivity about THB and the rights of victims of trafficking and ensuring practical application of existing anti-trafficking provisions so that traffickers are prosecuted effectively and receive sentences commensurate with the seriousness of this offence.

24. GRETA also considers that the Slovenian authorities should encourage the law enforcement and prosecution services to develop their specialisation in THB with a view to improving the collection of sufficient evidence to successfully prosecute more traffickers.

Protection of victims and witnesses

25. GRETA urges the Slovenian authorities to make full use of the available measures to protect victims during the investigation and during and after the court proceedings. In this context, the Slovenian authorities should take additional measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are adequately informed of their rights and existing remedies and assisted during the pre-trial and court proceedings.

26. Further, GRETA considers that the Slovenian authorities should extend the special protection procedures to cover all child victims of THB up to the age of 18, taking into account the best interest of the child.

I. Prevention

Communication activities designed to raise awareness, inform and train

One of the basic preventive activities is raising awareness about the issue of trafficking in human beings. Preventive activities carried out in the past have to be continued and upgraded with a view to raising awareness among high-risk groups, the general and expert publics, and the consumers and users of services provided by victims of trafficking. We would also like to ensure that the approach to informing the public about the efforts and measures for combating trafficking in human beings is coordinated and comprehensive.

Communication starting points to support prevention of or reduction in trafficking in human beings are the following:

a) Communication objectives

- raising public awareness about the causes, scope and forms of trafficking in human beings,
- raising awareness of vulnerable groups about risks to which they are exposed,
- informing the public about forms of human trafficking that are on the rise (labour exploitation, forced begging, trafficking in children and forced criminality),
- raising awareness, informing and training of the expert public,
- promoting public discussion on measures to effectively combat trafficking in human beings,
- providing information on the work of the IWG and competent institutions.

b) Priority target audiences:

- the general public,
- high-risk groups (young people and migrant workers),
- service users, consumers,
- expert publics (police officers, state prosecutors, judges, labour inspectors, consular staff, diplomats, the staff of the Employment Service of Slovenia, administrative units, the Ministry of the Interior and Social Work Centres, and teaching and counselling staff at primary and secondary schools and student residence halls).

c) Key content and messages:

- trafficking in human beings is a serious violation of human rights, freedom and dignity and is a serious criminal offence,
- the causes, scope and most frequent forms of trafficking in human beings,
- methods of recruiting potential victims and self-protective behaviour,
- risks in labour migration,
- protection of and assistance to victims,
- responsibility of consumers and users of services provided by victims of trafficking,
- measures and activities of competent institutions aimed at prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings.

The visual identity (logo) included in all printed and electronic materials will continue to contribute to the visibility of communication activities to the general public and will serve as the basis for the visual image of events devoted to the fight against trafficking in human beings. Communication tools, such as a web page, various events, information materials, media relations, press releases and press conferences, will be used to achieve the objectives and reach target audiences.

When planning and implementing individual activities, the members of the IWG will cooperate within their line ministries with the media and other stakeholders in an effort to raise awareness of the public and inform it about measures against trafficking in human beings.

1. General public

1.1. Web page

The web page www.vlada.si/si/teme_in_projekti/boj_proti_trgovini_z_ljudmi/ is the basic tool for providing up-to-date information on the fight against trafficking in human beings. The web page contains a presentation of the problem and the various forms of trafficking in human beings, a presentation of the work of the IWG, key

international and national documents, studies and reports, and links to organisations providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings. The web page will have to be edited and updated also in the next two years.

Body responsible: Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
Participating party: Ministry of the Interior
Time frame: Continuous activity

1.2. Press releases, press conferences

Trafficking in human beings is increasingly expanding and, in line with global current events, has acquired new forms due to its ability to adjust rapidly to globalisation. International institutions such as the United Nations and its specialised agencies (the IOM, ILO and UNICEF), the Council of Europe, the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, have been putting a great deal of effort into identifying the phenomenon and fighting against it. There has been noticeable growth in research and the adoption of measures to fight against this phenomenon.

Quality information will continue to be provided to the media and general public about the above-mentioned contents, the work of the IWG and measures for the prevention of trafficking in human beings (press conferences upon the adoption of annual reports, seminars, consultations, successfully concluded cases, etc.).

The National Coordinator and institutions cooperating with the IWG assisted by the public relations offices are responsible for providing information to the media and the public on the work of the IWG.

Body responsible: National Coordinator
Participating party: Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
Time frame: Continuous activity

1.3. Marking 18 October – EU Anti-Trafficking Day

The IWG intends to raise awareness of the general public mainly by organising events (round tables, panel discussions, etc.) to mark the EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October.

Specific activities will be planned and co-ordinated with various government and non-governmental organisations and suitably presented in the media. The Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia will provide approximately **EUR 2,000 per year** for this purpose.

Body responsible: Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
Finance provided by: Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG); other interested organisations
Time frame: October 2015 and October 2016

2. High-risk target groups

2.1. Raising awareness of potential and identified victims of trafficking in human beings within the project "Providing assistance to victims"

Raising the awareness of potential and identified victims of trafficking in human beings is of fundamental importance. Communication activities will mainly be directed towards aliens and young people, with the emphasis on violations of foreign workers' rights in Slovenia.

Information material in languages easily understood by foreigners will be made available at diplomatic and consular missions, border crossings and administrative units, at the Asylum Centre and at the offices of the Employment Service of Slovenia (when issuing work permits and residence permits) intended for foreigners holding work permits for high-risk occupations (e.g. dancers, civil engineering jobs and hospitality jobs), foreign women with regard to forced marriages, foreigners crossing the border and requesting a residence

permit or a visa, and applicants for international protection (with a special emphasis on unaccompanied minors and single women).

For citizens of the Republic of Slovenia, information material will be issued to raise awareness among youths and people working with youths about the dangers and traps of trafficking in human beings. It will be intended for:

- secondary school students, particularly students of vocational schools,
- young Roma, including information on forced marriages,
- participants in programmes for young people who have fallen through the cracks of the educational and welfare system,
- young people, particularly the unemployed.

People who work with youths will help the project provider to reach them. Materials will be published on relevant websites that are the centres of "virtual communities" of young people and at social work centres, schools and healthcare facilities.

Accessibility for these high-risk groups can most efficiently be ensured with the already established mechanisms of assistance and care. For this reason, the production of suitable materials intended to raise awareness among high-risk groups will be included in the project "Providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings". The provider, selected by public tender, will be responsible for raising awareness among this target population. Raising awareness among the high-risk group of foreigners will be included in a tender for safe accommodation, while raising awareness among the high-risk group of youths will be included in a tender for crisis accommodation (see section IV, "Assistance to and protection of victims – Providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings"). Material will be distributed through relevant public authorities and a network of non-governmental organisations.

Bodies responsible: Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Finance provided by: Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Provider: Non-governmental organisations selected on the basis of a public tender
Time frame: Continuous process

2.2. Preventive awareness-raising and education of older primary school children and secondary school students

Raising the awareness of the target population of potential trafficking victims is one of the key preventive activities required to avoid the severe consequences that victims can suffer. The group of particularly sensitive persons, potential victims of trafficking in human beings, includes children and youths. The IWG assesses that the awareness among this extremely vulnerable group about the threats of trafficking in human beings and methods of recruitment needs to be raised in an appropriate manner and that they have to be trained to detect these threats, take appropriate action and behave self-protectively.

As the knowledge and skills in this field are very specific, qualified non-governmental and humanitarian organisations will be included in the awareness-raising. Organisations to provide such preventive activities will be selected on the basis of a public tender published by the Government Communication Office. In view of positive experience in previous years, it is sensible to carry out the activities separately for primary school children and secondary school students. An annual amount of approximately **EUR 10,000** will be ensured and equally distributed between the two groups.

Body responsible: Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
Finance provided by: Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
Participating parties: National Coordinator; Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
Provider: Non-governmental organisations selected on the basis of a public tender
Time frame: Continuous activity in 2015 and 2016.

2.3. Preventive awareness-raising of potential victims of forced labour or labour exploitation

In times of economic crisis there is always an increase in labour exploitation, problems with fair payment for work performed, delays in payment of or failure to pay wages, violations in the field of employment and work of foreigners, threats of losing work permits, the presence of fake recruitment agencies, and illegal

migrations. Economic crises may also be a generator of criminal activity aimed at exploiting the labour force, particularly foreign workers, in various industries such as civil engineering, the hospitality sector, agriculture, the food and textile industries, and the area of nightclub entertainment. This raises the issue of forced labour and its possible interconnections with trafficking in human beings.

Activities will therefore be designed to raise awareness of workers as potential victims in order to protect them against exploitation, to caution against the possible connections between exploitation, forced labour and trafficking in human beings, and to identify possible victims who need additional support and protection. The planning of activities will be coordinated with other stakeholders who endeavour to effectively support and protect the rights of foreign workers.

Providers to carry out these preventive activities will be selected on the basis of an annual public tender for co-financing published by the Government Communication Office, providing funds of approximately **EUR 5,000 per year**.

Body responsible: Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
Finance provided by: Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
Participating parties: National Coordinator; Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs
Provider: Non-governmental organisations selected on the basis of a public tender
Time frame: Continuous activity in 2015 and 2016

3. Discouraging demand for services from trafficked persons

3.1. Raising awareness on the side of demand for services from trafficked persons

The experience of other countries shows that the problem of trafficking in human beings needs to be dealt with on both the supply and the demand sides. Trafficking in human beings has to be prevented by reducing the demand for services provided by the victims of trafficking under various forms of coercion. The IWG plans to promote activities aimed at raising the awareness of the following groups:

- users of sexual services,
- employees in industries indirectly related to sexual exploitation (tourism, hospitality, transport, etc.),
- employers in industries where exploitation is most frequent and there is a great risk of employees becoming victims of trafficking in human beings,
- consumers about goods produced by forced labour, labour exploitation or child labour.

Preventive activities have to be carried out in partnership with non-governmental organisations, unions and the private sector. Providers will be selected on the basis of annual public tenders for co-financing published by the Government Communication Office, providing funds of approximately **EUR 5,000 per year**.

Body responsible: Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
Finance provided by: Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
Participating parties: National Coordinator; interested private sector partners
Provider: Non-governmental organisations selected on the basis of a public tender
Time frame: Continuous activity in 2015 and 2016

4. Training of the expert public whose work is related to the issue of human trafficking

4.1. Training programmes for police officers

The police will attend training and meetings at national and international levels with the aim of acquiring additional knowledge about the fight against trafficking in human beings. The acquired knowledge and experience will be transferred to other police officers and criminal investigators dealing with the fight against trafficking in human beings through training or at work meetings. Non-governmental organisations will be included in the training system as training co-organisers. Given the nature of the issue, the training should be focused on trafficking in children, forced marriages of Roma minors, and trafficking in human beings for the

purposes of labour exploitation or forced labour. Training programmes are upgraded by introducing new methods, particularly role playing and the experiential method. The training will be carried out within the framework of the financial resources of the body responsible for the task.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior – the Police
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG); non-governmental organisations
Provider: Police (Criminal Police Directorate) in cooperation with experts in the field
Time frame: Continuous process, once a year in the autumn

4.2. Professional training of state prosecutors and judges

As state prosecutors and judges also need to have competence and specific knowledge in the fight against trafficking in human beings, it is sensible to continue with various forms of education and training already in place. Thus the issue of trafficking in human beings will continue to be included in the curricula, particularly within schools for judges and state prosecutors of the Judicial Training Centre. In this way, the Ministry of Justice will ensure that training sessions presenting the issue of trafficking in human beings are carried out every year. Funds for the training are provided within the programme of the provider.

Body responsible: Ministry of Justice
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG); State Prosecutor's Office; courts
Provider: Judicial Training Centre
Time frame: Continuous process, once a year

4.3. Training programmes for labour inspectors

During their regular expert consultations, inspectors at the Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia will be informed about the issue of labour exploitation and forced labour as one of the purposes of trafficking in human beings. This issue, including new trends, will be presented to the inspectors by experts in this field at least once a year during regular expert consultations of the Inspectorate.

Because of the upward trend in forced labour and labour exploitation in the EU, this problem is being more intensively dealt with by certain international organisations, which organise training and debates on the issue. Representatives of the Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia will be included in such training, in coordination with the IWG.

Body responsible: Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG); non-governmental organisations
Providers: Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia; other training providers
Time frame: Single implementation in 2015 and 2016

4.4. Informing and raising awareness of consular staff about forms of trafficking in human beings to promote their early detection in procedures for issuing visas and residence permits at consular missions abroad

Raising awareness and providing further information to consular staff at diplomatic and consular missions abroad about potential forms of trafficking in human beings which need to be identified in procedures for issuing visas and temporary residence permits to foreign citizens have proved to be an efficient preventive measure in the past; thus the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will include these themes in the training programme for 2015 and 2016.

By prior agreement, the training will take place within the annual consular consultation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the agenda of which will also include the issue of trafficking in human beings.

Body responsible: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human

beings (IWG)
Provider: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Time frame: Single implementation in 2015 and 2016

4.5. Informing and raising awareness of diplomats prior to their deployment abroad about the forms of trafficking in human beings to prevent it in the hiring of domestic workers for the households of diplomats working abroad

Informing and raising awareness of diplomats prior to their deployment abroad about the forms of trafficking in human beings and the obligation to comply with local labour legislation in order to prevent particular forms of human trafficking in hiring domestic workers for the households of diplomats working abroad will be undertaken.

The training will be carried out within the regular pre-service training of diplomats before their departure to diplomatic and consular missions.

Body responsible: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG)
Provider: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Time frame: Within each pre-service training and yearly consular consultations in 2015 and 2016

4.6. Informing and raising awareness of the staff of the Employment Service of Slovenia about forms of trafficking in human beings to promote their early detection in procedures for issuing work permits

More awareness-raising and training for the early detection and prevention of trafficking in human beings is also necessary for public employees who decide on whether to issue work permits in the administrative procedure. Considering experience from the past, especially at times when the number of permits being issued was higher (including for the category of persons who could be victims of trafficking), we assess that such training is essential.

By prior agreement, the training will take place within the annual regional consultations at the Employment Service of Slovenia, the agenda of which will also include the issue of trafficking in human beings. The content of training should reflect the new legislation governing the single residence and work permit for aliens (the Aliens Act and the Employment, Self-employment and Work of Aliens Act).

Cooperation also needs to be enhanced, particularly by the exchange of information among the police, the Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, and the consular sector of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bodies responsible: Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; Employment Service of Slovenia
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG)
Provider: Employment Service of Slovenia
Time frame: Single implementation in 2015 and 2016

4.7. Informing and raising awareness of the staff of administrative units about forms of trafficking in human beings to promote their early detection in procedures for issuing temporary residence permits

Public employees who in the administrative procedure decide on whether a temporary residence permit will be issued on the basis of a prior work permit will also be included in awareness-raising and training for the early detection and prevention of trafficking in human beings. Considering experience from the past,

especially at times when the number of permits being issued was higher (including for the category of persons who could be victims of trafficking), we assess that such training is essential for the staff of administrative units.

By prior agreement, the training will take place within the annual regional consultations of administrative units, the agenda of which will also include the issue of trafficking in human beings. The content of training should reflect the new legislation governing the single residence and work permit for aliens (the Aliens Act and the Employment, Self-employment and Work of Aliens Act).

Cooperation also needs to be enhanced, particularly by the exchange of information among the police, the Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate, the Employment Service of Slovenia, and the consular sector of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Body responsible: Ministry of Public Administration
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG)
Provider: Ministry of Public Administration
Time frame: Single implementation in 2015 and 2016

4.8. Training of the staff of the Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate at the Ministry of the Interior to promote early detection and prevention of trafficking in human beings

The goal of the training is to raise the awareness of the participants and for them to acquire skills to recognise signs indicating a possible victim of trafficking in human beings and knowledge on how to deal with victims appropriately. The Asylum Centre is the institution intended for the accommodation of applicants for international protection, among whom victims of human trafficking are identified every year.

The IWG maintains a very important connection with the working group established on the basis of the Standard Operating Procedures for the Prevention of and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, which shares its aim, i.e. to identify victims of trafficking in human beings and protect them. Special attention will be paid to the children of applicants for international protection and their rights to protection. Training will be implemented within the framework of the provider's own financial resources.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior – Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG)
Provider: Ministry of the Interior – Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate
Time frame: Consultations or seminars in 2015 and 2016

4.9. Providing information for and raising the awareness of staff at social work centres about the issue of trafficking in human beings

Similarly to the previous forms of providing information to civil servants, providing information and awareness-raising must also be carried out for the staff at social work centres and for legal representatives of underage applicants for international protection. Providing information and awareness-raising will be mainly directed at how to assist the victims of trafficking in human beings and how to recognise this phenomenon when working with individuals from socially endangered groups, in particular with child victims of trafficking. Due to the fact that this category of people is most often encountered precisely by staff at social work centres, the goal of this form of providing information and awareness-raising is also to confront the opinions and seek common, more efficient approaches to preventing trafficking in human beings and to assisting victims. Training will be implemented within the framework of the provider's own financial resources.

Body responsible: Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human

beings (IWG)
Provider: Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Time frame: Once in 2015 and once in 2016

4.10. Providing information for and raising the awareness of teaching and counselling personnel about the issue of trafficking in human beings

The activity is combined with preventive awareness-raising among young people. At regular working sessions, the body responsible for the activity will ensure that this subject, with an emphasis on the preventive raising of awareness of children and youths about the dangers of trafficking in human beings, is presented to principals and, through education seminars, to teachers. To this end, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia are expected to carry out a seminar entitled "Drugs and violence – Intervention and prevention", which will also cover the issue of trafficking in human beings. The seminar is intended for teachers in primary and secondary schools, school counsellors, and teachers at student halls of residence. The goal of the seminar is to inform those working in education on the use and abuse of modern drugs and to connect this issue with violent behaviour, sexual violence, prostitution and trafficking in human beings. The purpose of the seminar is to motivate teachers to include these topics in their school work. The seminar will be implemented in cooperation with experts and IWG members. The funds for such training in the amount of **EUR 5,000** will be provided by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

The body responsible for the activity will carry out appropriate procedures for the formulation of proposals on a teaching curriculum which would incorporate the issue of trafficking in human beings in existing subjects (ethics, human rights, etc.), with the aim of raising awareness among young people.

Bodies responsible: Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
Finance provided by: Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG)
Provider: National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
Time frame: Once a year

4.11. Providing information for and raising the awareness of Slovenian troops before they leave on peacekeeping operations and missions

Staff of the Ministry of Defence and the Slovenian Armed Forces participating in peacekeeping operations and missions may be exposed to the supply of services originating in trafficking in human beings and exploitation of persons, especially for sexual purposes. Due to this exposure, international expert recommendations are directed at raising the awareness of the members of missions on the manifestations of trafficking in human beings. The goals pursued by the experts are to reduce the demand for such services and to detect and report any potential cases which might indicate the existence of trafficking in human beings and exploitation of persons for sexual purposes.

Such awareness-raising and training is part of NATO's policy on combating trafficking in human beings, which is carried out before leaving on NATO operations and missions.

Body responsible: Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia
Participating parties: Organisations and experts from the field of the fight against trafficking in human beings (IWG)
Provider: Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia
Time frame: Once a year, or before the respective posting in international operations and missions.

II. Detecting, investigating and prosecuting trafficking in human beings

1. More effective police action aimed at detecting and investigating criminal offences of trafficking in human beings for the purposes of sexual exploitation

The police will continue to target and effectively implement all their powers in the detection and investigation of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings and carry out activities in the procedures of identification of victims of trafficking at the local, regional and national levels. In so doing, they will closely observe the guidelines of the Specialised Office of the State Prosecutor of the Republic of Slovenia.

Sexual exploitation, forced prostitution and exploitation of prostitution remain the most frequently detected consequences identified as trafficking in human beings. To identify the victims of trafficking in human beings, the police should establish and update the indicators, guidelines and tools for the identification of victims and the various forms of trafficking in human beings. In addition, special attention should be paid to the detection of victims of trafficking among unaccompanied minors. Mechanisms of identification, taking into account the specific circumstances and needs of child victims of trafficking, as well as high-risk groups of women, especially young girls, should be established and implemented. The competent social work centres should participate ex officio in these procedures.

In the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings, the police should cooperate with the competent national authorities that may face the issue of trafficking in human beings in the exercise of their powers (the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, the Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Slovenia Inspectorate for Transport, Energy and Space, the Labour Inspectorate – exercising powers in the prevention of illegal work and employment, health institutions, and competent social work centres), and NGOs involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings. In this context, joint action should be planned and implemented in the field of detection and identification of victims of trafficking in human beings and its prevention.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior – the Police
Participating parties: Specialised Office of the State Prosecutor of the Republic of Slovenia; Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia; Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia; Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia; NGOs; the Asylum Centre.
Time frame: Continuous process

2. More effective police action aimed at detecting and investigating criminal offences of trafficking in human beings for the purposes of forced labour or labour exploitation

In detecting and investigating criminal offences of trafficking in human beings, the police pay special attention to investigations relating to suspected criminal offences committed against employment relationships and social security. In so doing, the police, in cooperation with the competent national authorities, plan and implement activities for the identification of potential victims of forced labour.

Activities are planned and carried out along with the activities of the competent state authorities implemented in the field of the prevention of undeclared work in all economic sectors (the construction sector, the agricultural sector, etc.).

The police and other state authorities shall take a proactive approach and strengthen their field activities with the purpose of identifying any potential victims of trafficking in human beings (forced labour, forced begging, etc.).

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior – the Police
Participating parties: Specialised Office of the State Prosecutor of the Republic of Slovenia; Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia; Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia; Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia; NGOs
Time frame: Continuous process

3. More successful prosecution of perpetrators of criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings

Law enforcement authorities should further increase their specialisation in the field of investigative activities in the fight against trafficking in human beings with the aim of a more successful prosecution of a larger number of traffickers in human beings. Efforts should be directed at reducing the undetected cases of trafficking in human beings and consequently enhancing the trend of criminal offences of this type being investigated and strengthening the orientation towards financial investigations.

The investigation of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings will continue to be carried out by criminal police officers who are specially trained to combat trafficking in human beings and who operate in eight regional Criminal Police Divisions (hereinafter: the SKPs) and the General Police Directorate (hereinafter: the GPU UKP). Investigations of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings in pre-trial procedures are directed by the Specialised Office of the State Prosecutor of the Republic of Slovenia, but such investigations should also include **a financial investigation**. Various police experts in the field of investigation of criminal offences of money laundering and financial investigations should also be involved in the activities.

Within the GPU UKP there is a contact point which should be responsible for coordinating the activities of the regional SKPs and the activities and participation in criminal investigations of trafficking in human beings with the security authorities of other EU Member States. The flow of information and cooperation with other EU Member States should take place via the national EUROPOL unit. Information, reporting and exchange of information between the local and regional units and the state level (the contact point and the national EUROPOL unit) is carried out based on an internal police act.

In the framework of task implementation within its sphere of competence, the GPU UKP continues to closely monitor and record the changing patterns of trafficking in human beings and new forms of recruitment and exploitation of victims.

Body responsible: Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia
Participating parties: Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia; Ministry of the Interior – the Police; Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia; Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Money Laundering Prevention
Time frame: Continuous process

4. Monitoring the cases of prosecution of criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings

During recent years, the police and the state prosecutor's offices have on average considered a few tens of cases annually in their investigation and prosecution of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings, mainly under the headings of "Trafficking in Human Beings" and "Enslavement". Due to the lengthiness and remoteness in time of various cases, the data referring to monitoring the trials until their conclusion were found to be deficient.

Considering the relatively small number of criminal offences prosecuted in the field of trafficking in human beings, each case should be regularly monitored until the final conviction. It is also necessary to further ensure the transparency and merits of the outcome of prosecutions and to periodically inform the National Coordinator thereon.

Body responsible: Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia
Participating parties: Specialised Office of the State Prosecutor of the Republic of Slovenia; Ministry of the Interior – the Police; Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia; Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia; Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia; NGOs
Time frame: Continuous process

5. Monitoring the extent and trend of criminal offences that are indirectly related to the issue of trafficking in human beings

When formulating the definition of trafficking in human beings, the IWG had already defined three criminal offences: "trafficking in human beings", "enslavement" and "exploitation through prostitution". Considering the repeatedly emphasised fact that in some circumstances, the forms of trafficking in human beings extend beyond the scope of these three criminal offences, two additional criminal offences indirectly related to trafficking in human beings either by the similarity of individual elements or the merging of forms were subsequently defined. These two criminal offences are "prohibited crossing of the state border or territory" and "presentation, manufacture, possession and distribution of pornographic material". Consequently, the IWG now believes that it is also sensible to statistically monitor these two criminal offences in order to ensure a more comprehensive picture of forms of trafficking in human beings.

Bodies responsible: Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia; Ministry of the Interior – the Police
Participating parties: Ministry of the Interior; NGOs
Time frame: Continuous process

6. Strengthening the control mechanisms against any potential abuse of mechanisms in cases of the employment of foreigners

With the goal of reducing the potential abuse of work permits in cases of the employment of foreigners, where circumstances could point to the possibility of trafficking in human beings, the mechanisms of issuing such permits should in particular be strengthened, taking account of the new legislation applicable in 2015. These mechanisms refer to:

- Ensuring further intensive cooperation between the police, the **Employment Service of Slovenia** and other administrative authorities in order to exchange information and cooperate, especially in cases of trafficking in human beings;
- Inspections (regular and extraordinary inspections) by **the labour inspection** for work permits issued for employment in the above-mentioned high-risk jobs and ensuring the efficient and rapid punishment of offenders (Labour Inspectorate and judges at local courts responsible for ruling on minor offences);
- Drafting analytical reports on the number of work permits issued in high-risk jobs associated with trafficking in human beings (information on the number of work permits issued, on the nationality of recipients and on employers);
- Supervision by all competent national authorities (prevention of undeclared work and undeclared work) over all high-risk jobs and high-risk employers should be planned and implemented on the basis of the findings of said analytical reports.

Bodies responsible: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs; Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia; Employment Service of Slovenia
Participating parties: Ministry of the Interior – Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate and the Police
Time frame: Continuous process

7. Preparation of a manual to facilitate the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings

The process of the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings and the provision of aid and assistance to these victims in the subsequent accommodation stage is a complex process which requires the involvement of different actors with different substantive powers. Law enforcement authorities and NGOs both play an important role in the process of the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings, either acting in concert or alone. Different authorities and services that can first detect an actual case of trafficking in human beings are competent for various segments of such trafficking. Thus, for example, labour inspectors, due to the nature of their work, may quickly recognise forced labour or labour exploitation as a consequence of trafficking. Consular missions, on the other hand, might detect such cases in the placement service procedures associated with the issuing of appropriate permits to foreign nationals and so forth.

In order to standardise these procedures, a manual should be prepared to define in more detail the role and tasks of each entity or authority in identifying trafficking in human beings and its victims and to determine the proper action to be taken.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior – the Police

Participating parties: Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia; NGO's; the Asylum Centre

Time frame: First quarter of 2015

III. Assistance to victims and their protection

1. Providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings

As one of its priority tasks, the IWG determined the provision of all forms of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings in Slovenia, especially those willing to testify in criminal proceedings. In this context, victims of trafficking in human beings need to be provided with appropriate aid and assistance as defined in international documents binding on the Republic of Slovenia. The implementation of this activity is defined in the Act Ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (*Uradni list RS* [Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia], No. 62/09 – International treaties, No. 14/09 of 4 August 2009). Article 4 of the Act provides a suitable platform for the cooperation of competent ministries with NGOs and for the provision of financing.

The forms of assistance envisaged include assisting victims in their physical, psychological and social recovery, assisting them in the regulation of their status, and assisting them in criminal proceedings. They include:

- the provision of suitable accommodation, food and care,
- psychological assistance,
- assistance in providing primary healthcare services in accordance with the act which regulates healthcare and health insurance,
- ensuring the safety of victims and employees participating in individual cases, if necessary,
- 24-hour availability for victims in crisis accommodation,
- translation and interpretation services, if necessary,
- assistance with ensuring suitable support to child victims,
- counselling and providing information, especially regarding the victims' rights, in a language that the victims can understand,
- assistance in returning victims to their country of origin,
- other measures associated with social rehabilitation and revitalisation,
- raising the awareness of young people and staff working with young people about the dangers and traps of trafficking in human beings,

- assistance with arranging their status in the Republic of Slovenia,
- assistance in informing child victims about their rights, their role, and the content, timeline and course of procedures, and the settlement of their requests,
- assistance in ensuring that the rights and interests of victims of trafficking in human beings are represented and treated at suitable stages of the prosecution of perpetrators of criminal offences,
- assistance in ensuring suitable support to child victims during the entire legal procedure,
- professional training of the providers of assistance and of other parties (the police, workers at social work centres, etc.) participating in the process of assisting victims and prosecuting perpetrators.

Based on international experience, this form of assistance provision to the victims of trafficking in human beings is most efficiently implemented by NGOs, due to their connections and exchange of good practice. Thus continuous training and education of the project provider and the organisations participating in the process of providing direct assistance to victims and in the process of the prosecution and trial of perpetrators of criminal offences is key. Considering the established practice from previous years, the procedure for the selection of the project provider through a public tender should be continued.

The first part of the project includes **crisis accommodation** and/or basic forms of assistance as listed under indents 1 to 11, enabling the victims of trafficking in human beings to withdraw from the environment

encountered.¹ If the victim decides to cooperate with the prosecution authorities, the content of the project is linked to the second part of the assistance activities, i.e. **accommodation in a safe place.**²

The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities will ensure the implementation of and provide the necessary funds for the project "Providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings (crisis accommodation and accommodation in a safe place)" on the basis of a public tender for a two-year period from 2016 to 2017. The project provider(s) must ensure the continuity and interconnection of all procedures whose final goal is to provide assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings. Suitable assistance to child victims of trafficking in human beings is provided at the crisis centres for the young and at other competent institutions.

The project provider selected by public tender is also responsible for raising awareness among the target populations of the young and foreigners (see Project 1.6, Chapter II: "Prevention"). Thus raising awareness among the high-risk group of foreigners will be included in the tender "Providing assistance to victims – Accommodation in a safe place" and raising awareness among the high-risk group of the young in the tender "Providing assistance to victims – Crisis accommodation". To this end, the project provider will be responsible for the production and distribution of suitable materials intended for raising awareness among these high-risk groups in accordance with the Public Procurement Act and as delineated in Project 1.6., Chapter II: "Prevention".

Currently, both ministries have valid contracts concluded with the project providers until the end in 2015. An **annual** amount of **EUR 85,000** will have to be earmarked in the budget of the Republic of Slovenia for this purpose for the next two-year period (2016–2017), of which **EUR 45,000 annually** will have to be provided by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and **EUR 40,000 annually** by the Ministry of the Interior.

Bodies responsible: Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; Ministry of the Interior
Finance provided by: Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; Ministry of the Interior
Provider: NGOs or humanitarian organisations qualified for providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings
Time frame: January 2016

2. Continuation of the project "Introducing a mechanism for the identification of, providing assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings and/or sexual abuse in the procedures of recognition of international protection in Slovenia (PATS)"

The project "Introducing a mechanism for the identification of, providing assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings and/or sexual abuse in the procedures of recognition of international protection in Slovenia (PATS)" is directly intended for potential victims of trafficking in human beings. It offers intensive individual awareness-raising about the dangers of trafficking in human beings in the victim's first

¹Crisis accommodation is usually the first type of accommodation for victims of trafficking in human beings and normally lasts up to five days, whereupon the victim may either express his or her wish to return home or take the period provided for by the law (three months) in order to decide whether to cooperate with the law enforcement authorities. The purpose of crisis accommodation is immediate help.

²In cases where the victims are foreign nationals, accommodation in a safe place includes the regulation of accommodation status (on the basis of the Aliens Act) and assistance in exercising the right to representation and a hearing in the criminal prosecution against the perpetrators. Within the context of accommodation in a safe place, such victims should be given all the protection necessary while testifying before the court. Where necessary, the activities include the continuation of basic assistance referred to in the first six indents, although normally for a smaller number of users. Working with them requires certain knowledge and qualifications to perform assistance as referred to in indents 11 to 16.

language or another language they understand. Potential victims are provided with information on the possibilities of protection and assistance. Procedures of recognition of international protection are often one of the migration channels that can be abused by traffickers to transport "human goods" to countries of destination.

For 2015, the cost of the project is estimated at EUR 17,900, with the share of budgetary costs of the Ministry of the Interior being **EUR 3,350** annually. For 2016, the estimated share of co-financing amounts to **EUR 1,500**.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior – Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate
Finance provided by: Ministry of the Interior (European Refugee Fund and own resources of the Ministry of the Interior)
Provider: NGOs or humanitarian organisations qualified to provide such assistance
Time frame: 2015 and 2016

3. Reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings

Due to the psychological and physical consequences of experiencing captivity and violence, the victims of trafficking in human beings are in danger of becoming victims again if they do not receive the appropriate comprehensive assistance and if they are not provided with long-term, well-planned solutions and opportunities of choice. The assistance is based on establishing a stimulating social context in which the victim can be integrated, as this provides him or her with the opportunities of education or training, of expanding his or her social network, of acquiring an occupation or validating previously obtained education if the victim is a foreigner, and of getting a job. A job enables a person to earn money, have a daily time schedule, make contacts outside his or her family (provided he or her has a family), connect individual goals with joint ones, assert his or her status and identity, and be provided with legality and control. For victims, the (re)integration programme, which is a logical consequence of the project "Providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings", represents the first step towards leading an independent life free from violence, exploitation and violation of human rights.

The solutions for the implementation of a reintegration or social inclusion programme for victims of trafficking in human beings should be provided based on public tenders.

Body responsible: Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Participating parties: NGOs or humanitarian organisations qualified to provide assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings
Time frame: 2015

IV. Cooperation within the framework of regional and international organisations for the prevention of and fight against trafficking in human beings

1. "The introduction of the requirements for establishing joint investigation teams to fight trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans at the local level"

In 2011, the Ministry of the Interior successfully applied for a tender of the European Commission within the ISEC 2010 project with the project "The introduction of the requirements for establishing joint investigation teams to fight trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans at the local level" (JIT THB WB). The implementation of the project, which is a continuation of a previous JIT THB project, started in August 2013. The current project includes seven Western Balkan regions. Bulgaria is Slovenia's project partner; Europol and Eurojust cooperate at the expert level. It is an educational project containing practical examples, aimed at prosecutors and criminal police officers of participating countries.

The project is in the second half of the implementation stage and is planned to be completed in July 2015. Two more workshops and a final conference are still due to take place. The amount of the project contract is EUR 473,326.41 and its funding ratio is 95% funds contributed by the European Commission and 5% by the Ministry of the Interior.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior
Finance provided by: Ministry of the Interior and European Commission
Participating parties: The Police; State Prosecutor's Offices; Europol; Eurojust
Time frame: July 2015

2. Cooperation within the informal EU network of national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms on trafficking in human beings

Based on the Council Decision (8723/09) of 4 June 2009 on establishing an "informal EU network of national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms on trafficking in human beings", the representatives of EU Member States meet annually, mostly in Brussels, under the auspices of the Presidency country and the European Commission. It is necessary to participate in these meetings in order to monitor and implement the common EU policies in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

The conclusions of the meetings are conveyed to the IWG.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior – National Coordinator
Finance provided by: Reimbursement of costs by the EU Commission
Time frame: Twice a year in 2015 and 2016

3. Meeting of the informal network of national coordinators from Southeast Europe to combat trafficking in human beings

Trafficking in human beings in its various forms is also becoming more visible and prevalent in Southeast Europe. As well as forced prostitution and other forms of sexual abuse, forced begging (mainly by children), forced labour and labour exploitation are the key purposes of trafficking in human beings. We should be aware that solving the international cases of trafficking in human beings beyond national borders contributes to reducing this problem in particular countries. The facts show that the problem of trafficking in human beings is multilayered and thus requires proper coordination both between the institutions involved and civil society and between different countries where this issue is recognised. Trafficking in human beings in Southeast Europe is recognised as such an issue.

In this context, the project of regular regional meetings of national coordinators from Southeast Europe to combat trafficking in human beings should be continued. The incentive was supported by the ministers of the interior at their regular meeting at Brdo in October 2010, and the role of the incentive secretariat was entrusted to the international organisation the ICMPD.

Since these are meetings of national coordinators, the activities of such meetings will generally be of a strategic nature (exchange of information, good practices and experience). Discussions will be guided and the themes will be determined in accordance with the most pressing issues in the region. Such meetings will thus require prior preparation in terms of their content, which will be recorded in the form of conclusions following the discussion. The role of the incentive secretariat was entrusted to the international organisation the ICMPD in order to facilitate the process.

Travel expenses to attend the meetings shall be borne by each participant/coordinator him- or herself.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior – National Coordinator
Finance provided by: Ministry of the Interior
Time frame: 2015 and 2016

4. International operational cooperation of Slovenian law enforcement authorities

Another aspect of international cooperation is operational and is predominantly an expression of cooperation of individual bodies (the Police and Public Prosecutor's Offices) in cases of detection and prosecution of criminal offences in trafficking in human beings. These tasks are defined within the EU plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings. Based on this, international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in human beings should be upgraded. It is also necessary to continue certain established forms of cooperation within EUROPOL, INTERPOL and EUROJUST and also to continue the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in this field.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior – the Police
Participating party: Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia
Time frame: Continuous process in 2015 and 2016

V. Support activities

Considering the fact that the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings is constantly being upgraded and consequently constantly changing, appropriate action is required. One of the main methods in this is to appropriately amend the legislation regulating the issue of trafficking in human beings and to seek more efficient legislative solutions.

1. Improvement of systemic solutions

1.1. **More appropriate placement of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings**

In 2002, the Government appointed the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (Decision No. 901-09/200-9 of 26 February 2002), who is also Head of the IWG – an expert consultation body composed of representatives of ministries, government services, the Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and civil society. The Government approved the composition of the IWG (Decision No. 240-05/2003-1 of 18 December 2003) in 2003 and again in 2012 (Decision No. 01201-7/2012/4 of 5 July 2012).

The visibility of the issues involved has been greatly enhanced by the intense activities carried out by the IWG and its Head, the National Coordinator. Searching for new systemic solutions, which have so far been considered well established, reflects the trend of growing problems and their increasing interaction in the world and in Europe. Trafficking in human beings is gaining in dimension and detection. Changes, both systemic and substantive, are dictated by the current international and European instruments acceded to by the Republic of Slovenia. These include the latest proposals of the monitoring mechanism under the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), the new Directive 2011/36/EU, and recommendations in the context of the Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situation in the Republic of Slovenia (a UN mechanism).

– The GRETA monitoring mechanism, whose report and proposals were adopted on 7 February 2014 by the Committee of the Parties of the Convention, indicates in proposal No. 1 that the responsibility of the National Coordinator's role as one person, which is also below the average status of the majority of the IWG members, did not go unnoticed. Among other things, **the proposal also invites the Slovenian authorities to invest in the human and financial resources of the National Coordinator and the IWG secretariat.** The assessors noted that the office of the National Coordinator is not well defined in terms of status and systemic position and that this area is understaffed.

– Furthermore, Article 19 of Directive 2011/36/EU determines the establishment of a national rapporteur system or equivalent mechanism. It refers to the ability to effectively direct all state institutions in the context of issues relating to trafficking in human beings and implies an equal consideration of civil society and an active role in the relationship with the public, the EU institutions and international organisations. (The framework of these tasks and responsibilities is already defined in the instructions of the European Commission).

– Based thereon, in February 2014 a parliamentary initiative was submitted to the Government "*to establish, in accordance with the GRETA proposals, an independent role for the National Rapporteur and/or ensure that this role will be performed by the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings, who is currently placed in one of the bodies in the ministry, and that his placement in the national bodies be ensured accordingly.*" Despite the Government's response to find a solution in the first half of 2014, this has not yet happened.

It is therefore necessary to find a solution that will ensure the comparability of the office of the National Coordinator with that in other EU countries and the National Coordinator's proper placement within the system. The role and responsibility of the National Coordinator in one person does not provide the expected effectiveness and is below the average status of the majority of the IWG members. Therefore, in addition to the appropriate job classification and hierarchical position of the National Coordinator, the necessary staff support should also be provided. One proposed solution is to establish a service of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior
Participating parties: Line ministries; government offices; NGOs; other ministries if necessary
Time frame: First three months of 2015

1.2. Establishing the conformity of the statistical system on the forms of trafficking in human beings in Slovenia

According to international and EU documents, the policies implemented in the fight against trafficking in human beings should be monitored and assessed. Directive 2011/36/EU in particular determines reporting to the European Commission every two years on the indicators and trends in trafficking in human beings in each Member State and on the measures taken to reduce the demand. In order to properly carry out these requirements, a coherent statistical system should be provided by compiling reliable statistical information from all main actors, including NGOs involved in victim identification, and allowing disaggregation (by sex, age, type of exploitation, and country of origin and/or destination). Moreover, statistical data on criminal proceedings instituted against the perpetrators of criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings, including indictment proposals and convictions, should also be gathered. These data should be gathered regularly and an evaluation of the situation should be prepared twice a year.

Body responsible: National Coordinator
Participating parties: Line ministries; Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia; government offices; NGOs; other ministries if necessary; SORS
Time frame: October 2016

1.3. Research on the situation in trafficking in human beings in Slovenia

Because further planning of strategic policies for combating trafficking in human beings is needed, their preparation should be based on facts, measurability of the phenomenon and trends. Thus the IWG assesses that a comprehensive research project on the issues of trafficking in human beings in Slovenia should be conducted periodically every few years. Such an approach is also supported by GRETA proposal No. 6.

Due to the lack of funding, the conducting of such research should be encouraged in cooperation with interested universities.

Body responsible: National coordinator
Participating parties: Line ministries; interested educational institutions (universities etc.)
Time frame: Second half of 2016

2. Amendments to legislation

2.1. Amendments to the Criminal Code

Based on the recommendations of international experts, the provisions of the Criminal Code relating to aggravating circumstances in cases where a criminal offence of trafficking in human beings is committed by a civil servant in the performance of his or her duties, when it is committed with intent or when the life of the victim is threatened by gross negligence should be amended accordingly.

The introduction of a specific criminal offence of concealment, damage or destruction of travel or identity documents relating to trafficking in human beings should also be considered.

As a further proposal towards reducing the demand for services resulting from trafficking in human beings, the introduction of a criminal offence of using services which are a result of exploitation as defined in Article 4 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, in the knowledge that the person is a victim of trafficking, should be examined.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior
Participating parties: Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia; Ministry of the Interior – the Police

Time frame: 2015

2.2. Better access to compensation for victims of trafficking in human beings and non-prosecution of or non-imposition of penalties on victims of trafficking

Sanctioning the perpetrators of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings is legally regulated to a certain extent and is also more or less successfully implemented in practice. The first urgent and safe accommodation for victims of trafficking is also provided for, as well as assistance offered in shelters and/or safe premises. However, considering the cases dealt with so far, claiming compensation by victims of trafficking in human beings has not been current practice. Although the law allows for such compensation, **appropriate access thereto should be studied**; victims should also be informed on this possibility and provided with the relevant legal assistance. Compensation for victims of trafficking is an important factor both in terms of ensuring the rights of victims and in terms of possible restoration of normal circumstances and conditions for their social rehabilitation.

Non-prosecution of or non-imposition of penalties on victims of trafficking in human beings for their involvement in criminal activities which they have been compelled to commit is also a provision transposed from the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (Article 26) and Directive 2011/36/EU (Article 8). The implementation of this provision in practice should be studied and appropriately regulated through the guidelines prepared for the authorities implementing the law.

Body responsible: Ministry of the Interior

Participating parties: Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia; Ministry of the Interior – the Police; NGOs and humanitarian organisations

Time frame: 2015

Table 1: Review of the funding of projects by individual ministries for 2015 and 2016

Budget user	Budget heading	2015	2016	Total
Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	4072 Experimental and development social assistance programmes	45,000	45,000	90,000
Ministry of the Interior	3431 Material expenses	40,000	40,000	80,000
Ministry of the Interior	9275 European Refugee Fund – own funding (25%)	2,600	/	2,600
	14000 Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014–2020 own funding	750	1,500	2,250
Ministry of the Interior	9892 JIT THB WB (5%)	15,000		15,000
Ministry of Education, Science and Sport	716010 Innovation projects	5,000	5,000	10,000
UKOM (Government Communication Office)	1322 Direct Government communication with the public and campaigns	22,000	22,000	44,000
Total:		130,350	113,500	243,850